Register online:
www.autismresourcecentral.org/fundraising

Register offline:
Contact Wanjak at wanjak@hmea.org
or call 508-298-1607

Saturday April 29, 2017
DCR’s Quinsigamond State Park, 284 Lake Ave, Worcester

Family Fun Activities, Games & Live Music!
Prizes for top three male and female finishers!
USATF certified route!

7:30 – 9:30 AM  5K Run and Walk Registration
10:00 AM     Run and Walk Begin
10:50 AM     Award Ceremony
11:15 AM     Energy Monster, Inc.
              Kids Fun Run Begins
Floortime™ for Parents

HMEA’s Autism Resource Central in partnership with Astra Foundation is pleased to offer the workshop, Floortime™ for Parents.

When:
Six Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00, on Mar 9th, Mar 16th, Mar 23rd, Mar 30th, Apr 6th and Apr 20th (snow day Apr 27th) with two individualized mentoring sessions on Saturday 18th March and Apr 1st. (Family times to be selected).

Where:
Autism Resource Central, 71 Sterling St, West Boylston MA

Tuition:
In this Floortime™ workshop, you will learn DIR® techniques developed by Stanley Greenspan, MD and Serena Wieder, PhD. DIR® focuses on the child-parent (or caregiver) relationship as the heart of learning and development. You will learn how to play with your child to better support his/her development and emotional growth. The individualized family mentoring sessions tightly couple theory and practice to help you master specific skills to help your child. This class is suitable for parents of children ages 2 to 10, with issues of behavior, regulation, communication or developmental delays.

We will discuss child development and watch videotapes of child play to understand how Floortime™ may help your child:

✓ Improve attention.
✓ Engage with you more strongly.
✓ Be more calm and organized.
✓ Communicate more effectively.
✓ Play with more complexity.
✓ Better understand themselves and others.
Participants for all groups MUST be DDS eligible, and under the age of 18. Parents must register within 30 days of request for funding.

Social Skills
We’ve a limited amount of funds left for those who would like to enroll their child in a Social Skills Groups with a clinician. If you have NOT been funded this year you may apply for funding, up to $300.00 towards a group session. Funds will be sent directly to providers, and families would be responsible for any fees beyond $300.00. If a provider charges less than $300.00 the fee will be covered in total by the funding. Funding for social skills groups is limited to eligible candidates under the age of 18 who meet the criteria for participation as set by the clinician. Contact the Resource Center to secure possible funding by calling Donmarie Smith at 508-298-1609. Once your DDS status has been verified your provider may invoice the Center for payment of $300.00 for your child

IEP, ADL & VISUAL CLINICS
To book all clinics please call Donmarie Smith at (508) 298-1609.
ADL and Visuals Clinics are by appointment
ADL Clinics are booked only upon request. For Visual Clinics, parents may drop by the Center at any time during regular business hours to access the Boardmaker Program and material to create visuals.

1 Hour IEP Clinics with Elaine Rabbitt
Meet with an Advocate to discuss your child’s IEP, concerns and needs and how best to advocate for changes with your school
Dates available for consultation are as follows:
April 27, 2017
Leominster Public Library
9:30, 10:30, 11:30am, 12:30 & 1:30 PM
May 2, 2017
Seven Hills Family Support Center Sturbridge MA
9:30, 10:30, 11:30am, 12:30 & 1:30 PM
May 4, 2017
Autism Resource Central
9:30, 10:30, 11:30am, 12:30 & 1:30 PM

Sensory Clinics with Mary Loughlin MS OTR/L
Autism Resource Central:
Clinic will provide consultation to families in the area of Sensory Processing Dysfunction. Child and Parent will meet with Mary for four (4) 1 hour sessions across 4 weeks. A Sensory Profile Assessment will be done which will identify any sensory specific needs their child may or may not have. Parents will be provided with resources including websites, DIY sensory equipment, sensory play and activities. At the conclusion of the sessions parents will be given a "sensory diet" for their child.
Dates
March 15, 22, 29, April 5th
Snow date : April 12th
May 10, 17, 24, 31st
Times 3PM, 4PM, 5PM

YMCA Membership
Inclusion Grants
We’ve a small amount of funding we can use this spring for Inclusion grants. YMCA Memberships will be for 4 months and end June 30th.
The YMCA branches currently working with us are as follows
Greendale YMCA in Worcester
Montachusett YMCA in Fitchburg
Tri Community YMCA in Southbridge
Hockomock YMCA, Franklin Branch, The Clark YMCA in Winchendon

Children who qualify may be accompanied by 1 parent or a 1:1 aide.

Save The Date
Save the date September 24, 2017 for Autism Acceptance Day at Great Wolf Lodge, generously sponsored by our friends at BCI.
Families may book a room for up to five family members at a deeply discounted rate of $139 for Saturday night. (excluding tax. Limited number of rooms availableCall Wanja for Discount Code at 508-298-1607)
Donations & Memorial Gifts

UNITED WAY DONORS
- Gregory Facteau
- Robert Pastor
- Wegman’s Food Market Employees
  - Janet Albert
  - Alvara Gjylapi
- Hanover Insurance
  - Brian Kelly
- Margo McCaffrey Bishop
  - Maria Panerelli
  - Coreen Gaffney
  - John O’Leary
- Liberty Mutual
  - Matthew Desimone
  - Brittany Tirozzi
  - Michael Couturier
  - Chelsea A. Olson
- Benevity Community Impact Fund
  - Ameriprise Financial, Inc.

To designate the Autism Resource Center as the recipient of your United Way Donation use the name Autism Resource Central and the code UN 00365

DONATIONS
- Shrewsbury Fire Fighters Association
- The Manor Restaurant
- Stephen & Susan Agneta
- William & Colleen Blair
- Donna Boucher
- David & Eleni Braley
- Celia Brown
- Bonnie Budd
- Sarah Campbell
- Wayne & Kelly Carey
- Kris Cariglia
- John & Dominique Carpentier

- Alex Chan
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- Diane Cox
- Dianne Crossley
- Cid DeLeo
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- Kenneth Henderson
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- Jennifer Kremer
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- Rachel Judkins
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- Brian Kovalski
- Timothy & Karen Kowalik
- Roger & Joan Levasseur
- Allison Loring
- Susan & Bill Loring
- Mary Loughlin
- Patricia & Michael Lynch
- Dwight Martin
- Dominique Mastrototoro
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- Jacqueline & James Murphy
- April A. Murray
- Sandra & Richard Osborne
- Stephen Quill
- Kathleen Ricciardi
- David Robbins
- Heidi Robbins
- Joyce Rosenfeld
- Tom Schofield
- Stacey Singleton
- Wiley & Scarlet Singleton-Dommarie Smith
- James & Joan Sundstrom
- Sanjay & Priya Tikku
- Scott Townsend
- Thomas Tribastone
- Christopher Vance

In Honor of Bob Richardson
- Christine Torphy

In Honor of Sam & Henry Champey
- Mary Hadda
- Souls Mortion Fitness Studio

In Memory of William J. Keevan Sr.
- Robert Conway
- Marcia Shelbourne

In Memory of Elaine Henderson
- Mary E. Nally

CARS FOR AUTISM
You can donate a used car and support your Center. A professionally licensed, bonded and insured towing company will pick-up your car donation and provide you with a vehicle donation receipt. Car Donations are accepted at http://www.donateacar.com/ or call 800-240-0160 to speak to a representative of Car Program LLC

Our Thanks to the following who donated
- Jeffery Hogan
- Derek Pais
The 3rd Annual Central Massachusetts Autism Summit presented by HMEA, Inc.

TUES APR 11 17
8:30am to 3:15pm

HIRE AND HIGHER:
Leveraging the ‘Autism Advantage’ to Meet the Region’s Workforce Demands

College of the Holy Cross ✧ Worcester, MA

The 3rd Annual Central Massachusetts Autism Summit will focus on:
- Workforce shortage in Central Massachusetts
- National Trends in Employment for People with Autism
- Innovative approaches to Employment Services and Training
- Helping employers recognize the unique and valuable skills of people with autism
- Central Massachusetts Workforce Needs Assessment results

Summit Presenters:
- Autism Speaks
- The Arc of Philadelphia
- AANE Speakers Bureau
- Flutie Spectrum Enterprises
- Autism Higher Education Foundation
- Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
- TILL, Inc.
- HMEA, Inc.
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce

Keynote Speaker

John Elder Robison, Neurodiversity Scholar in Residence at The College of William & Mary and author of some of the most widely read stories of growing up on the autism spectrum and living with Asperger’s syndrome, including Switched On, Raising Cubby, Look Me in the Eye, and Be Different. John’s writing has been translated into 18 languages and is sold in over 60 countries.

For more information or to register, visit:
www.hmea.org/autismsummit2017
When you first receive an autism diagnosis it can be overwhelming. There’s the initial emotional shock, which is quickly followed by feelings of inadequacy as there is no manual for parenting itself, let alone parenting a child with an autism spectrum disorder. And there is SO much to learn. Our Autism 101 series is designed to help families who are new to the diagnosis gain a solid footing to begin their journey. It includes an overview of autism, the medical management of ASD, how to access public supports, an overview of sensory issues seen in ASD, a workshop on SPED Law and an organizational workshop.

Autism 101 will take place in April and May at the Seven Hills Family Support Center 1460 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg MA from 7 PM- 9 PM

April 25, 2017: Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders and Center Supports—Donmarie Smith
May 2, 2017: Autism and Sensory Processing Disorder, Mary Loughlin OTR/L
May 9, 2017: Let’s Get Organized, Barbara Donati , Family Ties
May 16, 2017: Special Education Law: Elaine Rabbit
May 23, 2017: Medical Management of ASD, Sue Loring RN

Location: Seven Hills Family Support Center 1460 John Fitch Highway Fitchburg MA

Register online at our website or call 508-298-1610 to register.

SPRING FLING

A Semi-formal for Teens and Young Adults with ASD and Teen Siblings

May 26, 2017
The Manor Restaurant
242 West Boylston Street
West Boylston 6:30 PM- 9:30 PM

Italian Dinner Buffet with GFCF options
Dancing & Karaoke with D.J. Gregg

Parent Night Out at The Manor 7-9 PM
Name(s)_________________________ Age________GFCF?
Number of adults for Parent Night Out ——
(Dinner on your own—we’ll make a reservation for the group. This allows teens easy access to parents during the event if they need you.)

Tickets for dance @ $15.00 each (Family cap $30.00)
Register at www.autismresourcecentral.org
SAVE THE DATE

Join us for AFAM’s Annual Autism Spectrum Awareness and Acceptance Day at the State House

Monday, April 10th, 2017
Great Hall
And Grand Staircase
The State House
Boston, Massachusetts

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Questions - Contact:
Judy Zacek - 781-891-6270, Ext 6102
Or visit: www.afamaction.org

Come, join other families and make an impact!
Central Massachusetts Forum on
Shaping Our Future

Join us for an interactive conversation and panel presentations to help shape the future of adults on the Autism Spectrum.

What are your skills & interests?

- Getting and Keeping a Job
- Education & College
- Home Life
- Health & Wellness
- Having Fun
- Transitioning into Early Adulthood
- How Do You Want To Live Your Life
- Relationships

Wednesday, April 19, 2017
9:30 am - 3:00 pm
Registration Begins at 9:00 am
Continental Breakfast & Lunch Provided

Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School
65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA 01568
Parking: Anywhere

RSVP by Friday, April 14, 2017 to Awilda Ayala
at Awilda.Ayala@state.ma.us or (413) 205-0859

Sponsored By the DDS Central West Community Systems Department
SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, April 7, 2017

Autism Awareness & Acceptance CELEBRATION

UMASS Medical School
Worcester, MA

5:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Family Activities and Provider Fair, Medical School Lobby, First Floor

For more information contact:
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
UMass Medical School
ChildResearch@umassmed.edu
774-455-4100
or
Autism Resource Central
508-835-4278
March 1, 2017
Parents of Adults Support Group
Your Team To Carry On
Alex Nadworny
7-9 PM

March 6, 2017
Family Fun & Fitness
St. Vincent Hospital—Atrium
123 Summer Street, Worcester, MA
Walk 6-7 PM

March 8, 2017
Parents Night Out At Margaritas
10006 Shops Way Northborough
(see page 6)
7-9 PM

March 13, 2017
Family Fun & Fitness
3 Bartlett Pond Way, Sterling, MA
Core Training 6-7 PM

March 15, 2017
Parent of Teens Support Group
Teen Pizza & Social Group runs
Concurrently 7-9 PM

March 16, 2017
Grupo de Apoyo
Centros - 11 Sycamore St. Worcester
10AM – 1 PM

March 18 2017
Sibshop
United Parish of Lunenburg
Mass Ave, Lunenburg MA
10 AM -2 PM
$10.00/per child $15.00 family cap

March 20, 2017
Parents & Tots
4:30 –5:30 PM
Family Fun & Fitness
Healthy Eating
Basil & Spice—Worcester

March 22, 2017
FAMILY FUN TEEN & ADULTS
Paint Night
Turner Hall
60 Branch St. Clinton MA
6:30-9:30 PM

March 27, 2017
Family Fun & Fitness
3 Bartlett Pond Way, Sterling, MA
Core Training 6-7 PM

March 29, 2017
Parents of Girls Support Group
pizza & Games for girls runs
Concurrently 7 –8:30 PM

April 3, 2017
Family Fun & Fitness
St. Vincent Hospital—Atrium
123 Summer Street, Worcester, MA
Walk 6-7PM

April 5, 2017
Parents of Adults Support Group
7-9 PM

April 7, 2017
Light It Up Blue
UMass Medical School
5:30—8 PM

April 10, 2017
CENTER CLOSED
Autism Awareness Day
at the Statehouse
10 AM

April 11, 2017
CENTER CLOSED
Autism Summit

April 12, 2017
Parents of Children Support Group

April 14, 2017
Visit with the Bunny & Egg Hunt BYOB (basket)
3 Bartlett Pond Way, Sterling, MA
4-5 PM

April 17, 2017
PATRIOTS DAY
CENTER CLOSED
Family Fun & Fitness
St. Vincent Hospital—Atrium
123 Summer Street, Worcester, MA
Walk 6-7PM

VACATION FAMILY FUN
April 18, 2017
Southwick’s Zoo
2 Southwick St Mendon, MA
1 pm meet at gate at 12:45pm
$3.00/pp

April 19, 2017
Bowling
Harvard Lanes
Ayer Road, Harvard MA
10 AM
$3.00/pp
April 19, 2017
**DDS WORLD CAFE**

Central Massachusetts Forum on Shaping Our Future
9:30 am - 3:00 pm
See page 8

April 19, 2017
**Teens & Young Adults**
Movie & pizza
6pm $2/person

April 20, 2017
**A Day at Edaville**
5 Pine St Carver MA
10AM $5.00/pp

April 21, 2017
**Friends & Family Movie**
West Boylston Cinema
101 W. Boylston St, W. Boylston, MA 10AM $2.00/person

April 24, 2017
**Parents & Tots**
4:30PM—5:30PM
**Family Fun & Fitness**
Healthy Eating
Noodles & Company Shrewsbury MA 6PM

April 29, 2017
**Annual 5K Walk & Run for Autism Acceptance**
(see front page)

May 1, 2017
**CENTER CLOSED**
**Family Fun & Fitness**
3 Bartlett Pond Way, Sterling, MA
Core Training 6-7 PM

May 3, 2017
**Parents of Adults Support Group** 7-9 PM

May 8, 2017
**Family Fun & Fitness**
St. Vincent Hospital—Atrium
123 Summer Street, Worcester, MA
Walk 6-7 PM

May 10, 2017
**Parents of Children Support Group** 7-9 PM

May 15, 2017
**Family Fun & Fitness**
3 Bartlett Pond Way, Sterling, MA
Core Training 6-7 PM

May 17, 2017
**Parents of Teens Group**
Teen Pizza & Social Group runs Concurrently 7-9 PM

May 20, 2017
**Sibshop Year End Family Cookout Purgatory Chasm**
198 Purgatory Rd, Sutton, MA
11:30 -1 PM

**Family Fun at Purgatory Chasm**
1:30 PM

May 22, 2017
**Family Fun & Fitness**
St. Vincent Hospital—Atrium
123 Summer Street, Worcester, MA
Walk 6-7 PM

May 24, 2017
**Parents of Girls Support Group**
Pizza & Games for girls runs Concurrently
6:30—8:30 PM

May 26, 2017
**Spring Fling Dinner Dance for Teens and Young Adults**
(see page 6 )

May 29, 2017
**MEMORIAL DAY CENTER CLOSED**

June 3 – June 4, 2017
**Mother's Retreat**
Colonial Hotel
630 Betty Spring Road
Gardner MA
Check in 3PM on Saturday
Check Out 11AM Sunday
Double Occupancy
Includes Dinner and Breakfast Buffet
Afternoon Program & Evening Crafts
Fee: $90.00
($45 refund upon arrival )
We are the CENTER of the autism community

The Resource CONNECTION is a quarterly publication of HMEA’s Autism Resource Central

The Autism Resource Center does not endorse any treatments, programs or products. Articles, announcements and resources are provided for information purposes only.

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Wanja Kiraguri - Event & Development Manager

HOURS
Monday through Thursday 9 AM–9 PM  Friday 9 AM–3 PM

Some evenings activities outside the Center result in the closing of the office, call ahead to verify that the office is open.