

AUTISM

THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

First Word

Autism Society of Greater Cleveland

MAY, 2008

Autism Society of Greater Cleveland

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Gus Gallucci
Vice-President

John Hearn
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Joe Glass

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ASGC
P.O. Box 41066
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Greetings, Friends and Members-

Sincere thanks to the over 600 attendees, chili chefs and volunteers that made a huge impact on the future of local autism advocacy on April 8th. The third annual Greater Cleveland Chili Cook-Off for Autism was an enormous success.

Now, I have to level with you. When Joel Hill, his lovely wife Jeanne and Brian Doyle first brought the idea of a Chili Cook Off to Rory and me, my normal optimism was challenged by the notion of putting that first cook-off together in six weeks' time. Rory said, "Calm down". I said, "O.K.". Six weeks later we held the largest event in the history of the ASGC and a tradition was born.

It has now become an outstanding annual event, primarily because of the commitment and pleasant professionalism of everyone who volunteers. It has become a barometer of our chapter's growth in the greater Cleveland area and has allowed us to be a better organization, bringing more choices to our friends and membership.

We will continue to seek individuals who wish to make a difference in area schools of religion and train them when necessary. We will also continue to reach out to first responders by providing seminars to assist them in identifying autistic behavior and dealing with it appropriately. Of course, we

will also continue to bring you the latest in autism breakthroughs and other pertinent information through our monthly meetings and newsletters. Our phone line and email are always open to assist and answer any questions you may have. We plan to bring you more social events as well.

We take pride in being the local leader in autism advocacy and will work diligently to make the Cleveland area a great place to live for those with ASD, from diagnosis to adulthood. Since we have started, many other fine autism organizations have joined us in the area, providing critical assistance in research and raising awareness. These organizations have our support and heartfelt thanks. Because of our neutral philosophy and ability to guide and educate, we remain the first call for so many who find themselves affected by autism. This is all possible because of your generosity and the hard work of many volunteers. All of you have my deepest gratitude and respect.

More information on the Greater Cleveland Chili Cook-Off for Autism and autism news from a broad perspective can be found inside this newsletter. We hope you find value in it. Thanks for making it a part of your day.

Sincerely,

Gus Gallucci
ASGC V.P.

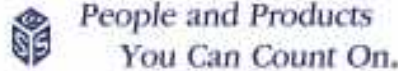




NEWS FROM THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND



THANK TO THE AMAZING SPONSORS OF THE 2008 CHILI COOK-OFF FOR AUTISM!



Join the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland!

Dues for the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland are **only \$5.00** per year.

Checks for dues or donations can be sent to:

ASGC
P.O. Box 41066
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Check out our website at www.asgc.org!

Join us for our next ASGC
meeting: Tuesday May 6, 2008

All are welcome to the monthly ASGC
meetings!

When: 1st Tuesday of each month

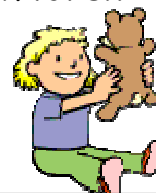
Time: 6:30pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, 8001
Brecksville Rd. in Brecksville, 44141

Info or RSVP (216) 556-4937

Free Childcare is Available for ASGC Meetings

- Provided by staff members from STEPS Behavioral Consulting
- RSVP is requested for childcare by calling (216) 556-4937
- Let us know how many children will be attending



Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are held at 8001 Brecksville Rd., Brecksville, Ohio 44141

May 6th: Mr. Ken Vinikoff of Michael Carter Financial Group, a division of Skylight Financial. His presentation is titled: "Special Care- Financial Planning for Special Needs Families". Ken will be accompanied by Ms. Kerry Agins, special needs attorney of the law firm Siegel and Agins.

June 3rd: Sondra Williams

Please join us!
6:30-8:30 pm

DIRECTIONS TO THE CUYAHOGA
VALLEY CAREER CENTER
<http://www.asgc.org/events.htm>

And the 2008 Chili Cook-Off Winners are.....

Best Overall Amateur

Bill Polewchack 20 Mule Team
Barracho with corn pudding

Best Overall Professional

Mike Piazza, The Piazza Food Company
Vegetarian Mole Chili with Apple Jicama Slaw

People's Choice Award-

Eric Wells, Skye Larae Personal Chef and Catering
Just Like Mom's Chili

Traditional Chili First Place Professional-

Joe Hoover, Good Taste Restaurant, Medina
Coca Cola Brisket Chili

Traditional Chili Second Place Professional-

Pete Dressen, Inn Walden, Aurora
Ohio Grass-fed Beef Chili

Traditional Chili First Place Amateur-

Cowboy George, Pzazz
Caboom Beef Chili

Traditional Chili Second Place Amateur-

Karen Eckenwiler
Finest Chili

Non-Traditional 1st Place Professional-

Mike Piazza, The Piazza Food Company
Vegetarian Mole Chili with apple jicama slaw

Non- Traditional 2nd Place Professional-

Matt Mathlage, Light Bistro, Ohio City, Cleveland
Texas Style Oxtail Chili w/ spicy bean and corn salad

Non- Traditional First Place Amateur-

Bill Polewchak, 20 Mule Team
Barracho w/corn bread pudding

Non- Traditional 2nd Place Amateur-

Luke Purcell & Matt Cole
Jamaica Mistake

Best Sides/Accompaniments-

Pete Dressen, Inn Walden for his 3 cornbreads (traditional, buckwheat and chipotle), pork cracklings, creole pralines, chopped chives and cilantro, Mackenzie Creamery goat cheese balls, Minerva cow's milk cheddar and Oakvale Gouda

Best Spirit/Table

Joe Hoover, Good Taste

Best Spicy Chili

Matt Mathlage, Light Bistro
Texas Style Oxtail Chili w/ spicy bean and corn salad



Thank you to All our Volunteers and Prize Donors!

ASGC Chapter awards and acknowledgements:

Joel and Jeanne Hill Award for Chili Cook-Off MVP: Sandy Bender

ASGC Volunteers of the Year: Kenneth Mucha and Ana Nikolic

Community Service Award: Patrolman Vincent Lucarelli

Community Service Award: Patrolman Andrew Crytzer

Community Service Award: Patrolman Reginald Smith

Award for Bravery: Jaiwain Woodley

Special thanks to:

Laurene Sweet John Hearn Linda Widzinski
Jim McIllwee Rory McLean Ken Vinikoff
Brian Doyle Tom Bregar Marian Helmick
DJ Roy Baker Joe and Sarah Glass Brittany Hawkins
Eileen Hawkins Roberta Fenton & Creative Services Group
Tony Miklos and Home Video Studio Barb and Elizabeth Rutt
Steve and Diane Sikorski Todd Meany and Ace Molar Band
Kristan Dolan, Manager Derrick & the whole Terrace Club team
All of Sandy's volunteer staff

Thank you all so much!

Gus Gallucci, Chair- Greater Cleveland Chili Cook-Off



Momocho
Little Tikes
Indians
Great Wolf Lodge
Beach Club Bistro
Laurice Skin Care & Cosmetics
Saturn of Middleburgh Hts.
Doubletree Hotel
Heinen's Fine Foods
A Unique Weigh
Cleveland Browns
Hope Educational Consulting
Velvet Tango Room
Sherwin Williams Company
World's Fair Culinary
Building Blocks for Autism
Ken Vinikoff



Hyatt Place
Dairy Queen
Hospitality Restaurant
Holiday Inn of Hudson
Courtyard by Marriott
Hampton Inn and Suites
Mitchell's Ice Cream
Chuppas Market Place
Hilton East/Beachwood
Angie's Pizza
Cleveland Magazine
Eddie's Creekside
Homewood Suites and Hilton
River Therapeutic Massage
Romitos Pizza
Pat Catan's
Applebee's
Drug Mart
Lake County Captains
Cleveland Cavaliers
Hard Rock Café
Loretta Paganini School of Cooking
Augie's Pizza
Café Tandoor
Lisa's Lil Nail Shoppe
Cleveland Metroparks
Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls
Akron Aeros
Eat n Park
Vineyards Wine and Merchants
Hyatt Place
P'Zazz Hot Sauces, Rubs, & More
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad
City Budda
Passport to Peru
Mint Café
Inn on Coventry
Red Roof Inn
Gemini Quest
Carrabba's Italian Grill
WAVE
Santo's Italian Restaurant
Hoggy's Restaurant & Catering
Residence Inn by Marriott-
Heavenly Ham
House of Blues
Cinemark Theatres
One Kut Above
Harry's Steak House
The Club House on Mill
Chili's Fire Pit

Calling Cleveland Walkers, Runners or Joggers



RUN FOR AUTISM - Cleveland Style

Cleveland, Ohio – Everybody knows that Cleveland Rocks! Why not start another tradition?

RUN FOR AUTISM – Cleveland style. You and your friends are invited to sign up now before it's too late for the 10K (only 6.2 miles) race scheduled for **Sunday, May 18**. The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) as part of the Rite Aid Cleveland Marathon wants to introduce **AUTISM** as a charitable cause in this year's race. OAR is working hard to field a representative team of 25 participants.

Among the participants in this year's race is OAR's very own Executive Director Mike Maloney. Mike could really use some Cleveland people to join him on the course so he doesn't get **LOST!** Mike's participation in the *RUN FOR AUTISM* – Cleveland is definitely not about running! It's about going the distance, in this case 6.2 miles, walk, run or jog for autism. Mike goes on to say, "It won't be fast or pretty, but I'll cover the distance as will our other participants setting the stage for an even bigger presence in the years to come. I'd like to repeat that 25 times or more with other participants."

You can help by spreading the word! Please pass this message along to autism families and supporters in greater Cleveland. If you know anyone that might be interested in helping establish a tradition, *RUN FOR AUTISM* – Cleveland style, please let them know that this is participation and an awareness event. Remember the 10K race has a special category for walkers and slow pokes like Mike. **So come on be like Mike!**

Members of OAR's *RUN FOR AUTISM* team receive team gear and fund raising support. OAR has a no pressure, "set and meet your own goal" fundraising approach. Sign up now before it's too late. Registration closes on May 1st. So, Get up . . . Get out . . . and join us **Sunday, May 18**. The money you raise for autism research will make difference! SIGN UP NOW! Go run@researchautism.org or call 866-366-9710. Toll Free.

6th Annual Fishing Event for Persons with Disabilities

Saturday, June 7th, 2008

Registration at 8am
Hoover Reservoir with
The Buckeye Boat Club
6510 Walnut Valley Drive
Galena, OH 43201-9614

\$30.00 FEE PER ANGLER
(\$25 per Participant/\$5 per Assistant)
(fee includes breakfast and lunch for participant and their assistant)

Registration forms available at:

FHNB-Central Ohio Chapter
P.O. Box 15364
Columbus, OH 43215-0364
Phone: (614) 432-4726

E-mail: waddlewemeet@yahoo.com



Children and adults, with disabilities, will cast off from pontoon boats and from shore. Special adaptive equipment, and an accessible site, ensures that everyone has an opportunity to fish. All registrants will take home a T-shirt, hat, and "goodie-bag".

Presidential Candidates- Issues relating to Autism

Submitted by Robin M. Kirschenbaum, MSOT, OTR/L.
Occupational Therapist, Cleveland City Schools

The long road to the Presidential elections in November continues. The Democratic candidates presented their positions on health care and education during the March 4 debates in Cleveland without specific information on what might be done for those affected by autism. However, investigation of the web sites of all three Presidential candidates indicates awareness and political action on issues and policies related to autism. Presidential leadership can provide an important impetus to bring about changes and advancement in public policy on key issues that impact individuals with autism, their families and the professionals who serve these individuals. Investigation of the three Presidential candidate's web sites reveals their stated positions on three key areas and current legislation that impact those affected by autism.

Health care

Hillary Rodham Clinton's American Health Choices Plan includes:

- Health insurance choices to insured and uninsured individuals
- Shared responsibility through private and public health insurance
- Affordable, portable health coverage for all without discrimination

John McCain's health care reform proposals include:

- Access to affordable care for all by paying only for quality health care
- Insurance choices that are diverse and can be obtained from a variety of sources.
- Focus on personal responsibility and prevention of chronic diseases

Barack Obama's Plan for a Healthy America includes:

- Quality, affordable and portable health coverage for all.
- Lower costs by modernizing the U.S. Healthcare System
- New Initiatives that include supporting Americans with autism



For a more detailed, side by side summary see: http://pdf.kff.org/health08/compare_5_11_16.pdf All candidates support measures that promote evidenced-based practice. This involves identifying the most effective interventions and treatment protocols and informing consumers for good decision making.

Specific Legislation

John McCain and Hillary Clinton were co-sponsors of the *Combating Autism Act of 2006* which was passed and signed into law on 12-19-06. This Act supports public awareness and early detection of autism, increasing early screening and improving the ability of health care providers to use evidence-based treatments and interventions. It also establishes Centers of Excellence for Autism Spectrum Disorder Research and Epidemiology.

Hillary Clinton sponsored and **Barack Obama** co-sponsored the *Expanding the Promise of Autism of 2007* on March 20, 2007. This Act "Amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to: (1) convene, on behalf of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, a Treatments, Interventions, and Services Evaluation Task Force to evaluate evidence-based biomedical and behavioral treatments and services for individuals with autism; (2) establish a multi-year demonstration grant program for states to provide evidence-based autism treatments, interventions, and services. (3) establish planning and demonstration grant programs for adults with autism; (4) award grants to states for access to autism services following diagnosis; (5) award grants to University Centers of Excellence for Developmental Disabilities to provide services and address the unmet needs of individuals with autism and their families; (6) make grants to protection and advocacy systems to address the needs of individuals with autism and other emerging populations of individuals with disabilities; and (7) award a grant to a national nonprofit organization for the establishment and maintenance of a national technical assistance center for autism services and information dissemination" (retrieved 3-20-08 from: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?tab=main&bill=s110-937>).

References: (Further information can be found about Education and Civil Rights)

Hillary Clinton's website. Retrieved 3-15-08 from: <http://www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/>

Plan to address those affected by ASD: <http://www.hillaryclinton.com/news/release/view/?id=4342>

John McCain's website. Retrieved 3-14-08 from: <http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/>

Statement on combating autism in America. Retrieved 3-15-08 from:

<http://www.johnmccain.com/content/?guid=24dc9c37-e739-4aa3-8a88-ebae650a2f11>

Barack Obama's website. Retrieved 3-15-08 from: <http://www.barackobama.com/issues/>

Plan to address those affected by ASD <http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/AutismSpectrumDisorders.pdf>

Autism Society of Greater Cleveland

P. O. Box 41066
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Phone: 216-556-4937

"The mission of ASGC is to serve the autism community by providing information, coordinating support services, and facilitating communication for the benefit of those with Autism Spectrum Disorder from diagnosis through adulthood."

The ASGC is a 501(c)3 non-profit, all volunteer organization.

Your donations are tax deductible and we welcome your support!

To learn more, call us or log on to:
www.asgc.org

The information in this newsletter is for educational purposes only. The Autism Society of Greater Cleveland does not endorse any specific product, method of therapy or organization. Our aim is to provide information that assists our membership in making educated decisions.

Thank you for your support!



Autism Conferences and Courses

PECS for Parents

Sponsored by the Achievement Centers

May 17th (Saturday)

9am-12 Noon

Westlake, Ohio

\$10 Registration fee

216-292-9700 x248

Helen.mack@achievementctr.org

Milestones 6th Annual Autism Asperger's Conference

Monday June 16th

8:45-4:45 pm

Landerhaven in Mayfield

Keynote Speaker Dr. Jed Baker
http://www.milestones.org/news_conferences.htm

Continuing Education Credits are available for many professionals.

Autism Summit

Sponsored by Autism Today and Rainbow/UH

October 10-12, 2008

Cleveland Renaissance Hotel

Carol Gray, Jed Baker, Andy Bondy, Barry Prizant, Stephen Shore, Diane Twachtman-Cullen, and more

<http://www.autismcleveland.com/>

Early Bird Registration by May 30th.

