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Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Autism Society of Pittsburgh.

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June 2017

*Every cent raised is spent in our region
to help improve the lives of those among us
with autism and their families.*

#AUT2KNOW

Calling All PVGP Volunteers... Urgent!

We value each and every one of our volunteers - Thank you for your dedication!

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix's mission is to hold a world-class vintage race event to raise funds for the Autism Society of Pittsburgh & Allegheny Valley School. Since 1983, \$4.75 million has been donated!



The Grand Prix would not be celebrating 35 years if it wasn't for incredible volunteers like you! 1,000 dedicated individuals working year round to plan and stage the country's largest vintage motorsport event. Many thanks to all of our volunteers, past and present.

We want to fully acknowledge each and every volunteer, so in an effort to build a more accurate volunteer database we are asking all current PVGP volunteers to register here. It only takes a few minutes and will help us to better communicate via email and obtain vital information.

We have expanded the volunteer categories to include more race-side, show-side and Race Week areas to help us better track the many areas where you volunteer.

Our current database contains some invalid email addresses and old contact information - so please take a moment to go on-line and register. Moving forward, only this new list will be used so please pass this information along to any current volunteers you know. Volunteers can sign-up using the same email address as family members, but each person will need to enter their information separately - only one person per entry please.

We apologize for the inconvenience but we hope to have a more complete list of volunteers and the year they started so that we can publish on the website and in this year's Race Program.

[Click Here to Register to Volunteer!!](#)

This year we have an especially urgent need for strong men and women to help us unroll and put up snow fencing around the spectator viewing areas along the Schenley Park race course. If you can, give us a morning or an afternoon or two during the week of July 10. PLEASE, if you can, call Cathy Denorsek at 412-956-4129 or email her at mkcathy1@yahoo.com, so she can schedule you in. Thank you!



NEWS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

New PA ABLE Program Helps Disabled Save Funds Without Risking Penalties
(Autism families have been waiting years for this!)

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE - Since Pennsylvania in April began letting people with disabilities like Mr. Anderson open PA ABLE accounts, he has not had to worry that he had so much money in his checking account that it would result in him losing state or federal benefits. Without such an account, or a special needs trust, having more than \$2,000 in cash on hand can cut a person with a disability off from many programs, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or disability payments. [Read more](#)

Hiding in Plain Sight: Mercury Still Lurks in Many Common Pharmaceutical Products

While most people have heard that the mercury based preservative thimerosal was used in infant vaccines and continues to be used in several vaccine preparations, most consumers have no idea that mercury is also a commonly used ingredient in other pharmaceutical products including nasal sprays, eye drops, ear drops, and injectable testosterone.

Several hundred peer-reviewed scientific studies have been published over the last seven decades by leading research scientists and public health agencies confirming that thimerosal is a potent neurotoxin. It has never been proven safe for medical use - and cost-effective alternatives exist. [Read more](#)

Every Special Needs Family's Worst Fear

You won't want to watch the video - the text of the following article says it all, and will be enough to convince anyone of the need for continued residential care, living and work settings to include security and safety for our trusting and most vulnerable special needs family members of all ages. Our world will always be polluted with many sub-human cowards who get their kicks by victimizing such good people like Mark Smith. [Click here to read the article](#)

Spectrum Charter School Students Benefit from Weekly Yoga Class

Students at Spectrum Charter School participate in weekly yoga instruction provided by OpenUpPittsburgh and many have already experienced benefits. [Click here to watch the video](#)

Local Girl Scout Develops Sensory-Friendly Playground in North Park

Girl Scout Maria Ciao developed a sensory-friendly playground upgrade to a section of North Park as part of her Gold Award project. Maria is pictured below with Autism Society of Pittsburgh President Jesse A. Torisky and Allegheny County Department of Parks Director Andrew Baechle.

In presenting the \$5,000 donation to launch this initiative, Torisky stated "The Autism Society of Pittsburgh is pleased to present this donation on behalf of the many young men and women with autism and other developmental disabilities who will benefit throughout their lifetimes from this specially designed community-based recreational initiative of your Girl Scouts organization. We hope this the beginning of many more such innovations for our autism community, and are grateful to Maria for this idea and for her outstanding work on this project."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Race Week Calendar Now Available



Kick-Off Rallye

Sunday, July 2: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Black Tie & Tailpipes Gala

Friday, July 7: 6:30 pm - 11:00 pm

Racer Test & Tune at Pitt-Race Complex

Thursday, July 6

PVGP Historics at Pitt-Race Complex Weekend

July 7-9: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Invitational Car Show on Walnut Street

Monday, July 10: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Waterfront Car Cruise

Tuesday, July 11: 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Downtown Parade & Plaza Display

Wednesday, July 12: 10:30 - 2:00 pm

Grand Prix Tune-Up @ Atria's

Wednesday, July 12: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Countryside Tour

Thursday, July 13: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

"Passport to Elegance" Jet Center Party

Thursday, July 13: 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Forbes Avenue of Speed - Parade and Driver Reception

Friday, July 14: 6:30 pm - 8:30 PM

Schenley Park Car Shows and Race Qualifying

Saturday, July 15

International Car Shows & British Car Day: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Vintage Race Practice and Qualifying Heats: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Schenley Park Race Day

Sunday, July 16: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

[Click here to purchase tickets or for more information](#)

**Pittsburgh Blues and Roots Festival Coming July 22 and 23rd
Benefiting Autism Society of Pittsburgh**

The Pittsburgh Blues and Roots Festival will be held July 22 and 23, 2017 at the Syria Shrine Center in Cheswick, PA.

The Festival will feature two days of exceptional music, good food and most importantly an inclusive environment that recognizes, respects and celebrates the lives of those with autism and their families.

[Click here for more information](#)

Early Screen for Autism a Must

The Autism Society of Pittsburgh most emphatically supports the opposition expressed by Scott Badesch, President of Autism Society of America, to the illogical conclusion of the U.S. Preventive Service Task Force early this year that universal early screening of infants for autism is not recommended!

Further, how the American Academy of Pediatrics could support this position is equally mystifying. Any parent of a child with autism, any family living with autism, will attest to the fact that the earlier autism symptoms are detected the more effective are interventions in reducing their disabling effects.

Mandatory autism screening will ensure that many fewer of those at risk will "slip through the cracks" and miss out on necessary early intervention. In addition, it will instantly beget, among all pediatricians and the full range of medical professionals, increased awareness of the numerous signs of this complex disorder. It also will spur ongoing research into other environmental and clinical factors that might trigger its onset.

Just as one might question any research findings based on a small sampling, it is difficult to accept - from a single panel of medical doctors - a judgment with such sweeping implications.

Like so many diktats from non-elected regulators, this one by a "preventive" panel, begs the question as to who and what they are preventing - those at risk from the autism disability? Or the inconvenience of some in pharmacology, medicine and insurance industries being made to learn more about and serve them better?

The USPSTF 16-member physician panel was authorized by Congress and overseen by a division of the Department of Health and Human Services. It is unlikely that our elected Congressional Senators and Representatives understand its implications. Since those of us living and dealing with autism have no recourse with nameless non-elected regulators, it is urged that all those affected by autism - families, providers, autism advocacy and interest groups - write, email or phone their elected Congressional Senators and Representatives, and insist that they overrule and reverse this irrational decision.

Top Notch Autism Referral

The Winter 2017 edition of the Kingsley Publishers collection of autism reference publications is available. Call 412-856-7223 for your complimentary copy. Limited supply.



EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

We offer a range of services, including workshops and support groups, training and educational programs, fundraising events, and community awareness building activities. We stay up-to-date on relevant happenings throughout our local autism community.

Upcoming Events

Sensory Friendly Movies at AMC Lowes Waterfront 22

Cars 3

Saturday, June 24th at 10:00 am

Transformers: The Last Knight

Tuesday, June 27th at 7:00 pm

Despicable Me 3

Saturday, July 8th at 10:00 am

The House

Tuesday, July 11th at 7:00 pm

Spiderman: Homecoming

Saturday, July 22nd at 10:00 am

War for the Planet of the Apes

Tuesday, July 25th at 7:00 pm

Please visit www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films for more information

Exceptional Adventures Events

Island Breeze Adult Dance

Bridgeville Fire Department

Friday, June 23rd from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Western Yee-Haw Event

Bridgeville Fire Department

Friday, July 14th from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Summer Fun Adult Dance

#4 Monroeville Fire Department

Friday, July 21st from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Through the Decades Adult Dance

Bridgeville Fire Department

Friday, July 28th from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Please visit www.exceptionaladventures.com for more information

Sensory-Friendly Programs at the Children's Museum

Sensory-Friendly Tuesday Afternoon on July 11th

Please contact vshaffer@pittsburghkids.org for more information



AUTISM RESOURCES

We know that parenting a child with autism comes with many challenges and a solid support system is essential. We have highlighted below two places to contact when faced with crisis situations as well as a link to a comprehensive list of suggested resources in our region.

Resolve Crisis Network

Crisis intervention services through UPMC available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to Allegheny County residents at no cost. Call 1-888-796-8226 or 1-888-7-YOU-CAN

IRES (Information, Referral, and Emergency Services)

Emergency assistance available from Allegheny County 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 412-350-4457 or 911, TTY 412-350-3467.

[Click here to download our complete resource list](#)



WAYS TO HELP

Our programs and services would not exist without the help of the caring individuals, businesses, and volunteers that support us. Contributions of any size are our lifeblood - vital to our existence and effectiveness - providing the means for us to help children with autism, their families, and professionals who work with them.

[**Donate**](#)

Please consider visiting [our donations page](#) today to make a contribution through PayPal or learn about other ways to donate.

Volunteer

From time to time we need caring volunteers to help with our programs and fundraising events. If interested, please complete [our contact form](#) and we will be in touch when a volunteer opportunity arises that meets your interests and availability.



About Us

The Autism Society of Pittsburgh has comprised the local chapter of the Autism Society of America since 1967. We are volunteers, parents and professionals, working on behalf of children with autism and those of adult age on the autism spectrum throughout the Greater Pittsburgh area struggling with this neurological disorder of behavior and communication.

Our Goal

The goal of our Chapter is to help parents and professionals grow by providing as much relevant information on autism spectrum disorders as is known to us.

We cannot take your place. Parents are with their children for a lifetime; professionals for a career. Our efforts are aimed at helping both become as proficient as possible in evaluating and choosing the services, options and approaches that will enhance the growth and development of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Options, A Basic Right

The right of a family to learn about and then select options they feel are most appropriate for their family member with autism is as basic as the family itself. It is rooted deeply in the very foundation of our American democracy and is the guiding philosophy of the Autism Society of America. An advocacy organization such as ours that holds such a position is then compelled to devote its highest priorities to:

1. encouraging, expanding and developing excellence in a continuum of service options, and
2. providing unbiased information for ALL such options to parents, families and to the caring professionals who work with them to reduce or overcome autism's disabling characteristics.

Visit www.autismsocietypgh.org or call us for more information and resources.

Give us a call today!
412-856-7223

NOW AT TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS!

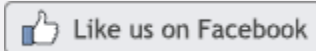
Monroeville Office:

4371 Northern Pike, Monroeville, PA 15146

Wexford Office:

11676 Perry Highway #1206, Wexford, PA 15090

STAY CONNECTED



Autism Society of Pittsburgh, 4371 Northern Pike, Monroeville, PA 15146

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