

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

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



*Tuesday, December 1, 2015*

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

## #AUT2KNOW

### "Why must property tax reform come at the expense of appropriate special education for our special children?"

Pennsylvania's state budget still has not been approved by our elected leadership in Harrisburg. The last attempt to do so involved a backdoor piece of legislation introduced by State Senator David Argall in late November, Senate Bill 76. If passed, it would have destroyed the State Act I Special Education exemption, which enables school districts to quickly obtain funds in order to accommodate fluctuations in special education costs. This would have caused permanent harm to appropriate special education for our special children.

Thanks to twenty-four of our Senators and our Lieutenant Governor, Senate Bill 76 was defeated - *this time*. But Senator Argall has vowed to still fight to get it through, so that he and his uninformed colleagues can say they have passed the budget and eliminated property taxes in Pennsylvania. Sad fact of the matter is that in his rush to get it to the floor, Senator Argall did not take the time to submit it to the independent fiscal office or any accounting expert to see if its passage would work as promised - that is, if it would actually raise enough in taxes to eliminate the state property tax.

Rumor has it that Senate Bill 76 and similar property tax legislation might be "off the table". Nevertheless, the entire autism community is urged to telephone or write their State Senators and Representatives to ensure that it's no longer being on the table doesn't mean it lands on the floor...

## NEWS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

Timely news on events and issues affecting those living with autism in the Greater Pittsburgh area and Pennsylvania.

### New for December:

- **#GIVINGTUESDAY: Please Support the PVGP Charities**
  - **Autism Society of Pittsburgh Sponsors Art and Autism**
  - **Autism Society of Pittsburgh Helps Joey Travolta Film Camp Bring Art to Pittsburghers with Autism**
  - **Central Catholic Scores Big for Autism**
  - **Important Holiday Travel Tips from TSA**
- ...and more!*



[Click here to view our recent articles](#)

## 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.

[Click here to view our December calendar](#)



## 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 some places to contact when faced with crisis situations or for information and referral services, and have also provided 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.

### **Autism Society of Pittsburgh**

Advocacy, information and referral, programs and services. Visit [www.autismsocietypgh.org](http://www.autismsocietypgh.org)

### **AutismResources.com**

The "Autism Friendly guide to Pennsylvania" allowing families and individuals living with autism to easily look for and recommend a range of autism services throughout the state.

### **Autism Center of Pittsburgh**

Specialty autism clinic meeting the needs of children with autism and their families, offering evaluations, social skills groups, support groups, and more.

[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.

## Blessed and Happy Holidays



***Give us a call today!***  
**412-856-7223**

Visit [www.autismsocietypgh.org](http://www.autismsocietypgh.org) or call us for more information and resources.

