





May 2018

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

## #AUT2KNOW

**"It is so very disconcerting to me to watch as our government continues to delegitimize programs that work for some, but not for all."**

**--Micki Edelson**

Ms. Edelson nails it and in a very few words that say it all - adaptation of which should henceforth be our exhortation, at every opportunity, to statist policy makers, uninformed elected officials, advozealots, CMS "final rulers" and their useful idiots - Tell them: "STOP DELEGITMIZING PROGRAMS THAT WORK FOR SOME, BUT NOT FOR ALL".

This applies to those who support the unreasoning, unrealistic elimination of:

- Public / private institutional settings
- Group homes
- Congregate living housing, farms, communities
- Sub-minimum workshop wages
- Segregated classes / classrooms
- Special schools
- ICF eligibility status
- Guardianship
- Necessary discipline
- Necessary restraints
- Locked Doors
- Ongoing Individualized Evaluation
- Complete continuum of services
- Family primacy in decision making



## NEWS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

### **Helen and Ed Hoolahan - Gone, But Forever With Us...**

Two members of the Autism Society of Pittsburgh assembled in the early 1960s to create the special needs Monroeville Development Center, the combined parent / legislator action committee, Monroeville's own Camp Chipeewee for special needs kids, and then in 1967, with Connie and Dan Torisky, the Autism Society of Pittsburgh. Both passed away within 2 weeks of one another. We know Helen and Ed are together enjoying comfort and the loving presence of our Lord.

[Helen Hoolahan Obituary](#)

[Edward Hoolahan Obituary](#)

### **PARENTS & IEPs - BE PREPARED!**

#### **Supreme Court Ruling Alters IEP Landscape**

Disability Scoop | Courtney Perkes | April 19, 2018

As parents begin discussing individualized education programs for their children this spring, disability legal experts say a U.S. Supreme Court ruling will set the stage for stronger goals and higher expectations.

But even with the backing of the highest court in the land, parents should still educate themselves and come prepared for a successful meeting, attorneys said. [Read more](#)

### **There's Still Time to Register for the 2018 SPEAK Program!!**

There are still a few spots available for the 2018 SPEAK Program. Summer will be here before we know it so be sure that your child can be a part of the learning, activities, and fun at Camp S.P.E.A.K.!

S.P.E.A.K. is an Extended School Year (ESY) program founded by the Autism Society of Pittsburgh in 1974 to ease transitioning between school years by preventing or reducing learning regression common to children with autism.

S.P.E.A.K is a program for children ages 5 through 21 who have a primary diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum, are in good health, mobile, and able to participate in community activities. S.P.E.A.K. provides Community Based Instruction (CBI) and addresses each child's ESY goals and objectives. The program also provides music therapy, speech services, swimming, CBI classroom trips, field trips, art activities, and adapted physical education.

Download the 2018 SPEAK application below and email it to: [mwaibel@autismsocietypgh.org](mailto:mwaibel@autismsocietypgh.org) to reserve your child's spot on our roster. If you have questions or would like to request a paper application to be mailed to you, please contact the Autism Society of Pittsburgh at 412 - 856 - 7223.

**[Click here to download a 2018 SPEAK application](#)**

## Sensory Display, Designer, Award Winner!!



North Park displayed its new sensory playground on May 5, 2018. Designer, Maria Ciao (2nd from right) is shown with proud supporters: (left to right) Dan Torisky, Autism Society of Pittsburgh; Tina and Gary Ciao (Maria's parents), and Alisha Templeton, Western PA Council, Girl Scouts of America. Maria is the recipient of the "Girl Scouts Gold Award" and was further named the "2018 Girl Scout Humanitarian" by the Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania and was also presented with a special recognition award for her work from the Autism Society of Pittsburgh. Maria is also the author of a limited-edition book for children with autism.

## **SPECIAL FROM AUTISM RESEARCH INSTITUTE - PARENTS' PRIMACY**

### **Moving Forward in Our Understanding of Autism**

Autism Research Institute | Stephen M. Edelson, PhD

Fifty years ago, when Dr. Bernard Rimland founded the Autism Research Institute (ARI), he challenged virtually every accepted belief about autism. At a time when most authorities believed that autism stemmed from bad parenting, he stated unequivocally that parents were in reality their children's strongest allies. In addition, he made the following assertions - all considered radical at the time:

- The majority of individuals with ASD have one or more co-morbid medical conditions.
- Many "autistic" behaviors are clues to underlying medical and/or sensory issues.
- Many forms of autism result from an interaction between genes and environmental insults.

These three premises, which we now know to be true, revolutionized research in the field of autism. ARI has been at the forefront of this research, focusing our efforts on uncovering the underlying causes of autism and establishing an evidence-based standard of treatment.

**[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL EDITORIAL](#)**

## CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY COMBATS SSI / SSDI FRAUD

### Trump Signs Bill Adding Protections For Social Security/SSI Recipients

Disability Scoop | Shaun Heasley | April 17, 2018

Individuals tasked with handling Social Security payments for people with disabilities will be subject to greater scrutiny under a new law signed by President Donald Trump.

The president signed the measure known as the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2018, or H.R. 4547, late last week after it was unanimously approved by Congress. [Read more](#)

### Judge Grants Class-action Status to Parents in Developmental Disabilities Lawsuit against Ohio Institution Destroyers

The Columbus Dispatch | Rita Price

A 2-year-old court battle between the state of Ohio and legal advocates for Ohioans with developmental disabilities can proceed as a class-action lawsuit, a federal judge in Columbus ruled Friday. [Read more](#)



#### Sibling Scholarships

Many people who are not impacted by autism fail to realize how expensive it is for a family to raise a child who is on the autism spectrum. Often as a family's limited income must be used to obtain the needed services and support for the family member with autism, the other children in the household are directly affected. The impacts may include lack of funds for summer camps, college tuition, or vocational training. Siblings of Autism is dedicated to supporting the siblings of individuals on the autism spectrum through scholarships for education, and is now holding its 3rd annual scholarship contest - winners will receive one \$10,000 scholarship, one \$5,000 scholarship and five \$1,000 scholarships. The deadline for submission is 8/31/18.

**Win a scholarship!**  
**Go to [siblingsofautism.org](http://siblingsofautism.org)**

Submissions should include one high-res photo of you with your sibling, paired with one powerful, thought-provoking sentence as to what **Autism Is** to you.

[LEARN MORE](#)

#### 18 or Older - Get Guardianship!

### Critics Say Insiders Dominate Committee Working on Guardianship Reforms

Journal Investigative Reporter | Colleen Heild

With a new law taking effect July 1, the state Supreme Court has appointed a rules committee to get down to the details of reforming the state's adult guardianship system - but the group's composition is drawing criticism for including guardianship professionals but excluding critics and family members of incapacitated people. [Note: This is NOT Pennsylvania, but New Mexico, but this certainly is a good reminder of the importance of obtaining guardianship as soon as possible.] [Read more](#)

## ARC Chapter to pay Nearly \$2.3 Million over Medicaid Billing!

Disability Scoop | Annie Zak | May 1, 2018

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - An Anchorage nonprofit that serves people with developmental and intellectual disabilities has agreed to settle allegations about false Medicaid claims.

The Arc of Anchorage will pay the Alaska Medicaid Program nearly \$2.3 million, according to a statement from the Alaska Department of Law. [Read more](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Community Home Vacancies in Verona

# COMMUNITY HOME VACANCIES

**Missouri Gardens has four immediate openings in its licensed enhanced 6400 community home facility**

**WHERE**  
Verona Pennsylvania

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**  
**LISA WASHINGTON, RN, MSN**  
**[lisa.washington@123phhc.com](mailto:lisa.washington@123phhc.com)**  
**Phone: 412-377-9102**  
**[WWW.123PHHC.COM](http://WWW.123PHHC.COM)**

PA LICENSED HOME HEALTH AGENCY  
UPMC IN-NETWORK PRIVATE DUTY NURSING PROVIDER

#### AGES OVER 18

#### WAIVER PROGRAMS

Bureau of Autism  
Office of Developmental Programs

#### SERVICES

Employment Assistance  
Community Socialization  
Personal Care  
Nurse Aides  
Skilled Nursing  
Personal Assistance  
Companion Services  
Nurse Aide Care  
Skilled Nursing  
Transportation

#### FEATURES

Staffed 24/7/365  
Private Bedrooms

#### SPONSOR

Autism Society of Pittsburgh

## EASE Research Study: Managing Emotions for Teens with ASD



# EASE

Tools for Calming the Chaos

### WHAT:

Researchers at Virginia Tech and the University of Pittsburgh are interested in learning whether a new program helps teens and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) manage emotions.

- Participants are randomly assigned to one of two therapy programs
- Participation involves individual sessions and online resources
  - Sessions provided at no cost

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Individuals age 12-21 with autism spectrum disorders and IQ above 80

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the Center for Excellence in Autism Research:

autismrecruiter@upmc.edu

866-647-3436

Website: [www.react.pitt.edu](http://www.react.pitt.edu)



[Click here to view "Perspectives" brochure](#)

35th Anniversary Party on June 6th



# 35th Anniversary Party

Wednesday, June 6th | 5:30 PM | \$25 Admission

You and your guests are invited to our 35th Anniversary Party and Charity Classic! Dance the night away celebrating 35 amazing years at the Rivers Club.

**Your night will include:**

- Entertainment from the bands, No Bad JuJu and Band Together Pittsburgh.
- Chef Jim's delicious food and drinks
- Fabulous door prizes and raffles

The proceeds will be going to the following charities:  
**ALS, Austim Society, and EPCF.**



Call to RSVP: 412.391.5227



**RIVERSCLUB**  
*A Member of the ClubCorp Family*

Upcoming Autism Open Mic Events



Alcohol Not Permitted  
Family Friendly Environment



Sundays 3-6pm  
June 17, July 29, Aug. 26, Sept. 30, 2018

# Autism Open Mic

Hosted by the Autism Society of Pittsburgh

Everyone Welcome to come and have fun,  
regardless of musical experience!

We have all mics, keyboards, guitars,  
amps and percussion available!

Pizza and soft drinks will be provided

Donations Gladly Accepted.



4967 WILLIAM FLYNN HWY  
GIBSONIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
(ACROSS FROM ALLISON PARK HOME DEPOT)

[www.steamworkscreative.com](http://www.steamworkscreative.com)

## **2018 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Race Week is Here!!**



### **Kick-off Rallye**

Sunday, July 1: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

### **Black Tie & Tailpipes Gala**

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

### **PVGP Historics at Pitt-Race Complex**

Weekend July 6-8 - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

### **Invitational Car Show on Walnut Street**

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

### **Waterfront Car Cruise**

Tuesday July 10 - 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

### **Downtown Parade & Plaza Display**

Wednesday, July 11: 10:30 - 2:00 pm

### **Grand Prix Tune-Up Party**

Wednesday, July 11: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

### **Countryside Tour**

Thursday, July 12: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

### **"Passport to Elegance" Jet Center Party**

Thursday, July 12: 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

### **Forbes Avenue of Speed - Parade and Driver Reception**

Friday, July 13: 6:30 pm - 8:30 PM

## **Schenley Park Car Shows and Race Qualifying**

Saturday, July 14

**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 15: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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



## **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**

##### **Deadpool 2**

Tuesday, May 22nd at 7:00 pm

##### **Show Dogs**

Saturday, May 26th at 10:00 am

##### **Solo: A Star Wars Story**

Saturday, June 9th at 10:00 am

##### **Solo: A Star Wars Story**

Tuesday, June 12th at 7:00 pm

Please visit [www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films](http://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films) for more information

## Exceptional Adventures Events

**Red, White, & Blue Salute Dance**  
**Bridgeville Fire Department**  
Friday, May 25th from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

**Carnival Night**  
**Bridgeville Fire Department**  
Friday, June 8th from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

**June Bingo Bonanza**  
**Bridgeville Fire Department**  
Friday, June 22nd from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

**"Let's Go Pirates" Dance**  
**Bridgeville Fire Department**  
Friday, June 29th from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Please visit [www.exceptionaladventures.com](http://www.exceptionaladventures.com) for more information

## Sensory Day at Splash Lagoon

**Splash LAGOON**  
INDOOR WATER PARK RESORT

# SENSORY DAY

## May 25, 2018

Providing a fun, judgment-free day at the waterpark for individuals to enjoy fun with family and friends.

- A quiet room will be available should a break from the excitement become necessary
- Reduced sound throughout the park
- Pool lifts and extra staff available
- Options to bring your own snacks for those with special dietary needs, or enjoy some of our allergy-friendly offerings from the Laguna Grill
- Opportunities to network with other families and make new friends.
- Limited ticket sales for a more pleasant experience

**10am - 9pm  
Special Pricing  
\$29.95**

Tickets Available at  
[tickets.splashlagoon.com](http://tickets.splashlagoon.com) Code: SGD

**or  
Stay the Night\***

**\$159.80**

Call (866) 3-SPLASH  
FOR OVERNIGHT PACKAGE

\*Waterpark will resume regular operations on May 26, 2018

Peach Street, Erie, PA | [SplashLagoon.com](http://SplashLagoon.com) | 1-866-3-SPLASH



## 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](http://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 #1106, Wexford, PA 15090

#### **STAY CONNECTED**

