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Autism Advocates of Indiana.... Working for Indiana families touched by Autism

WINTER 2010

Autism Advocates of Indiana

Working for Indiana
families touched by
Autism

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In This Issue:

1. Answers for Autism Fall 2009 Grant Cycle
2. Answers for Autism Golf Outing
3. Your donations at work
4. Special Education Training
5. Access Pass Program
6. Proposed Changes to First Steps program
7. Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion Act
8. Sensory Friendly Film – Bloomington, IN

Autism Advocates of Indiana Approves \$34,083.52 in Grants to Community Organizations in Indiana

Autism Advocates of Indiana (AAI) has approved **\$ 34,083.52** to be distributed through the [Answers for Autism Grant Program](#) to non-profit organizations working with individuals affected by autism throughout the state of Indiana. This brings the total to **\$294,430.52** donated through this program. AAI's Answers for Autism Grant Program is funded through proceeds from the annual Answers for Autism Walk and other fundraising programs sponsored by Autism Advocates of Indiana. The 10th Annual [Answers for Autism Walk](#) will be held **Saturday, September 18, 2010**. For more information about the walk or the work of Autism Advocates of Indiana please visit the organization's website: www.aaiwalk.org. The following grant applications organizations were approved for the Fall 2009 Answers for Autism Grant Cycle:

North Elementary School	Autism resource library
HSM Joint Services	Using iPod Touch for Communication and Education
MSD Warren Township	Classroom communication equipment
Gibson Pike Warrick School Corporation	Training for teachers/families/caregivers & private school staff
MSD Lawrence Township	Sensory Items for Elementary & Middle Schools
FUSE	Inspiring Abilities Expo - Speakers
Arc of Tippecanoe Co.	Law Enforcement Training
DAMAR	Training Series - 7 Sessions
Wayne Township Preschool	Sensory Equipment
Disability Legal Services	Special Education Advocacy services
Hamilton Heights Autism Resource Team	Flip Cameras and iPod Nano to be used for Video Modeling/self modeling program
About Special Kids	Provide info to families related to education, health insurance, community/State and Federal programming
Westfield Autism Team	Resource Library
Washington Township Schools	Sensory Material Resource Center at the Preschool

Your Donations at Work... News from recipients of the Answers for Autism Grant program



Autism Advocates of Indiana appreciates all the donations received through its various fundraising events. We are proud of what we have been able to do with your donations and would like to share with you some examples of your donations at work for the Indiana autism community. We would like to bring attention to two programs that have benefited from your donations to Autism Advocates of Indiana.

Jacob's Place announces a new Autism Recreation Center

Jacob's Place' Youth Sports for Autism Program is a past recipient of an *Answers for Autism Grant* from Autism Advocates of Indiana. Thanks to a building donation that Jacob's place received this past Christmas they will be able to open a new Autism Recreation Center soon. The grant received from Autism Advocates of Indiana will be put to use at the new Recreation Center.

"We are so very thankful to Autism Advocates and all the many families across Indiana who participate in the walk!" said Kristine Barnett, Jacob's Place director. "Without the grant donation we would not have had many of the supplies that made the Youth Sports for Autism program a huge success! Autism Advocates played a huge role in getting Youth Sports for Autism on its feet!" The grant money was used to give awards to hundreds of kids and allow them to participate in team activities that were otherwise unavailable to them. Kristine wants families to know that programs offered through Youth Sports for Autism are free and there is open enrollment right now. Once the recreation center is open, Youth Sports will host sports teams, movie and game nights and open gym as well as parent support programs. If you would like more information on Jacob's place and the Youth Sports for Autism Program please contact kristinesthouse@yahoo.com or visit myjacobsplace.org.

FUSE Inspiring Abilities Expo



FUSE (Families United for Support and Encouragement) was a grant recipient during the Fall 2009 *Answers for Autism* grant cycle. "The grant from Autism Advocates of Indiana will help expo organizers reach new families and professionals by expanding the advertising and marketing of the event," said FUSE's Executive Director, Denise Arland. The upcoming **4th annual Inspiring Abilities Expo** will be held on **Saturday, March 13**,

from 9 am to 3 pm at Greenfield-Central High School. At the expo, parents of children with disabilities of all types will have the opportunity to connect with service providers, non-profits agencies and other organizations that will benefit their child.

Nine training sessions are planned to address topics such as state funded services, future planning/special needs trusts, Medicaid waivers, mental health for children, speech/language, sensory integration and more. A full schedule for training will be posted on the FUSE website at www.fuseinc.org as soon as final confirmations are received from the speakers.

Admission is free of charge to anyone who wants to learn about resources and supports for children with disabilities. On-site child care is available at no cost to parents while they browse the exhibit area or attend training sessions. Papa John's will be onsite providing a pizza buffet for \$5.

Pre-registration helps ensure that vendors have enough materials on hand for the event. You can register on the FUSE website by visiting the "What's New" page at www.fuseinc.org or by calling 462-9064. Pre-registration for child care is required.

Mark Your Calendars!

2009 Answers for Autism Walk Video

The video for the 2009 Answers for Autism Walk has been posted on the AAI website. Please take a moment to watch the video and remember what a wonderful event this was for Indiana families touched by autism. Follow the link to [watch the video.](#)

Autism Advocates of Indiana is excited to announce its 1st annual "**Answers for Autism Golf Outing**" to be held **July 23, 2010** at Maple Creek Country Club. This fundraising event will increase Autism Advocates of Indiana's ability to help Indiana families touched by autism. You can support this event by volunteering before and at the event, being a participant, having your family or company sponsor a hole or being a corporate sponsor through in-kind or monetary donations. Additional information will be available shortly on our website at www.aaiwalk.org. To obtain more information contact [Donna Simerly](mailto:donna@aaiwalk.org) at donna@aaiwalk.org or 317-523-3796.



Special Education Advocate Training and Certification Program

The Autism Education and Training Center, Inc. (AETC) will be starting Tier 2 of their Special Education Advocate Training and Certification Program. This program has been designed by Catherine Michael Special Education Attorney, and Sheila A. Wolfe, Special Education Advocate & Executive Director of AETC. This program consists of a 3-tiered training program designed to train parents, education professionals, therapists and professional advocates to provide competent support and assistance in designing and implementing special education programs to serve the needs of students with disabilities.



AETC has successfully trained the first group of parents and professionals on Tier 1 and will be starting Tier 2 with its **first session scheduled for January 25, 2009**. Each of these training sessions can be taken individually for those who just want to learn more about a particular special education topic. Those who successfully complete Tier 2 can then move on to Tier 3 in order to complete the certification program to become a professional advocate. Dates for the first five of the eight Tier 2 trainings are as follows: 1/25, 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22. Registration is required before the training. The topics for Tier 2 training are: Writing Appropriate FBA's and BIP's (1/25), Assistive Technology, The Bell Curve, Filing State Complaints, Reading Instruction and Remediation, Life Skills vs. Academics: Appropriate IEP Content, Social Skill Development and Transition Planning. For more information about this program or to register for any of the trainings please visit the AETC website: www.aetcinc.org.

Second Public Hearing Scheduled on Suspension of First Steps Services

The state of Indiana has proposed a revision to First Steps, early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities or at risk of disability if their family has a past due amount on co-payments of 60 days or more. ***The proposed revision will suspend services to infants and toddlers receiving First Steps services if families have a past due amount on co-payments of 60 days or more.***



A hearing to accept public comments on the proposed changes was held January 20, 2010 and a second hearing has been scheduled for **Monday, February 15, 2010**. Families of children with disabilities are encouraged to attend the hearing and comment on the importance of First Steps services. Proposed revisions are on file with the Bureau of Child Development Services (BCDS). Interested persons may download copies via the "[What's New](#)" section at www.firststeps.in.gov, or review them at First Steps System Point of Entry (SPOE) offices.

Public Hearings

Monday, February 15, 2010, 3:00 p.m.
Indiana Government Center South (IGCS) Auditorium
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis

Oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes per person. A written copy of comments is requested.

*If you are unable to attend the hearing, please consider submitting a **written comment**.* Written comments will be accepted now through February 22, 2010 (postmark or email date), and should include your name, title, address, specific concerns, and recommended actions.

Written Comments:

First Steps Early Intervention System, Bureau of Child Development Services
402 W. Washington St., Room W-364, MS-51
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Attn: FS Cost Participation.

Email submissions can be sent to: <mailto:firststepsweb@fssa.in.gov>

If an accommodation is required to allow an individual with a disability to participate in this hearing, please contact Cathy Robinson at 317-233-6094 or Cathy.Robinson@fssa.IN.gov.

Access Pass Program for Children's Museum and Conner Prairie



Conner Prairie and The Children's Museum of Indianapolis are joining forces to make fun, family learning more accessible to Indiana families. For just \$1 per family member per visit, you



and your kids can make lasting memories while exploring new ways to learn. Both museums offer innovative, interactive learning tools designed to foster curiosity and exploration.

Indiana families with at least one member who is 18 years of age or older and who are part of the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), food stamps or Hoosier Healthwise Insurance are eligible to participate in the Access Pass program. These families can visit The Children's Museum and Conner Prairie and present a Hoosier Works card or Hoosier Healthwise Insurance card, together with photo identification, at the box office to receive **\$1 admission for immediate family members**. They will be issued an Access Pass card that is renewable annually and provides family members the reduced rate throughout the year. [Download a printable application](#). For more [information](#) contact Conner Prairie at (317) 776-6006 or (800) 966-1836 or The Children's Museum at (317) 334-4000 or (800) 820-6214.

Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion Act

The [Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act \(H.R. 4247\)](#) was introduced in Congress on December 9, 2009 in order to prevent unnecessary restraint of special education students in schools. It is sponsored by Congressman George Miller (D-CA), Chair of the House Education and Labor Committee and Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Vice Chair of the House

Republican Conference and Co-Chair of the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus. Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) introduced an almost-identical Senate bill, S. 2860.

The *Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act* will establish minimum standards for the use of restraint and seclusion in schools. It will also support educators and schools by providing resources for training and support. Finally, it will improve data collection and identification of effective practices to prevent harmful restraint and seclusion in schools.

The Prevention of Abusive Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act will ban:

- The use of mechanical and chemical restraints
- Restraints that impede breathing
- Aversives that compromise health and safety
- Using restraint and seclusion for "educational disruptions"

The bill permits physical restraint and locked seclusion **only** when there is an imminent risk of physical injury and requires direct face-to-face monitoring of children, enabling quick detection of distress and illness.

The bill will prohibit physical restraint and locked seclusion from being included in IEPs, BIPs, or other student educational plans.

H.R. 4247 requires:

- a strong positive behavioral intervention component
- the reporting of data
- the systematic training of staff

It also requires personnel to always ensure that less-restrictive measures are used, rather than using a plan that always ends in restraint/seclusion. The Department of Education must issue regulations six months after the bill is enacted, and the states must provide assurances of compliance to the Department within 2 years.

Sensory Friendly Film Event in Bloomington, IN

Kerasotes ShowPlace Theaters, in collaboration with the Indiana Resource Center for Autism at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, announce the sensory friendly showing of **"The Tooth Fairy"** film event in Bloomington, IN on **January 30, 2010**.



- ◆ Time: Doors open at 9:00 am; Movie starts at 9:30 am. No previews
- ◆ Location: Kerasotes ShowPlace Theatre – East 11
- ◆ Address: 1351 South College Mall Road
- ◆ Cost: \$7.75 for children and adults
- ◆ Movie: The Tooth Fairy, Rated PG. Preview movie at
<http://www.toothfairy-movie.com>

- ◆ Lights will be up and sounds will be down.
- ◆ Snack bar will be open. Families can bring in gluten-free, casein-free snacks.

For more information contact Pam Anderson via e-mail at pamander@indiana.edu or (812) 855-6508

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Our Mission....



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Our Mission is to increase and broaden public knowledge and awareness of the behaviors, social issues and emotional needs of individuals on the autism spectrum so that all individuals can participate in and contribute to our community without fear or bias or loss of individuality.

AAI accepts grant requests that are consistent with our mission. Grants will be considered in two categories: the Public Awareness Program, and the Individual and/or Family Support Program. The grant program would like to encourage new and innovative ideas to support our mission throughout the state of Indiana.

Working for Indiana families touched by Autism.

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