

Hello, September!

If not now, when?



2019 September Edition

# Community Connection

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

## Newsletter

### Important info from DDS about the Autism Waiver



### An Important Message to Massachusetts Families with Children Under Age 9 Diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder

#### Open Registration October 17, 2019 to October 31, 2019

The Autism Division of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) runs an Autism Waiver Program that provides one-to-one interventions to help children with autism who exhibit severe behavior, and social and communication problems through a service called **Expanded Habilitation, Education** (intensive in-home services and supports). This service occurs in the child's home or other natural settings under the supervision of trained clinical staff and is available for a total of three years. The waiver also provides related support services such as community integration activities, individual goods and services, and respite. At the conclusion of the three years of intensive services, a child may access supplemental services that meet the child's needs and help with the transition out of the intensive Autism Waiver Program until the child's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday.

While the Autism Waiver Program is near capacity at this time, there are always children who leave the Program because they turn 9 or for other reasons. Therefore, we want a current applicant pool to draw from when these spots become available for the Program.

Therefore, the Autism Division is offering an opportunity to apply for the waiver through an open request application period. The Autism Division held its last open request registration in October, 2018. **The open request period runs from October 17 - October 31, 2019. Please be sure to MAIL or EMAIL the application between October 17 and October 31. The Autism Division will discard submissions outside of this timeframe.**

The Autism Program maintains reserved capacity for children who are age 3 and transitioning out of Early Intervention. This means that the Autism Division reserves 20 statewide slots for children who are age 3. These children will still need to meet all relevant financial and clinical eligibility standards required for entry into the Program.

The Autism Waiver serves children up until their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday, with an autism spectrum disorder who meet the eligibility criteria for the Waiver Program. All waiver services require that the child continues to meet the financial and clinical eligibility requirements for the Waiver Program.

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#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Easthampton, MA 01027  
 413.529.2428

**Berkshire Office**  
 75 South Church Street, Suite 402  
 Pittsfield, MA 01201  
 413.443.4780

*Our Mission: To help families, schools, professionals, agencies, and communities understand autism, promote the well-being of individuals with autism, and foster their inclusion in the community.*

**donate**  
 Thank You!



# NEWS & UPDATES

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## Berkshire County Activities

### Autism Collaborative of Berkshire County (ACBC), November 5

ACBC meetings will resume this November with an exciting new format of 3 half-day professional development opportunities throughout the year, spanning North, Pittsfield, and South counties. The first meeting is on November 5 in South County and will focus on emergency preparedness and fire safety. **Email us** to receive info.

If you have questions about The Autism Collaborative of Berkshire County, download an informational flyer [here](#), or contact Erica Donovan at 413-443-4780 X19 or [Erica.donovan@pathlightgroup.org](mailto:Erica.donovan@pathlightgroup.org).

### AANE Parent/family Support Group in Lenox, starts October 3

This is a new, fee-based support group designed for parents or adult family members of adults with Asperger/autism profiles. The group meets at 69 Church Street in Lenox and is limited to 10 participants. Register by 10/1 at [AANE](#). **Email** Stephanie Birkdale for more information or call 617-393-3824.

### Halloween Party, October 9

Join us to celebrate a rockin' Halloween with the Berkshire County ARC at the Social Development Center, 65 Depot Center in Dalton! The party is on Wednesday, October 9 from 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. **RSVP to Danielle** to register for the all ages event. Enjoy food, dancing, and social opportunities! You are welcome to wear your favorite costume, but costumes are optional.



### IOKA Family Fun Day, October 5

Join us for our Family Fun Day at IOKA Family Farm in Hancock, MA. There will be tent based (all weather) activities, wagon rides, and a TON of other things to do. **RSVPs to Danielle** are required for registration. Contact Erica Donovan at 413-443-4780 X19 for more information.



### Upcoming classes

**FREE SWIM:** Gladys Allen Brigham Center, Pittsfield on Thursdays 6-7pm. Starts 10/3.

**Swim Safety and Skills:** This class will be offered in October at the Pittsfield YMCA on a weekly basis. Stay tuned for start date!

**Navigating Social Nuances:** Orientation 9/27. Classes start 10/3 on Tuesday and Thursdays at AC office. For young adults who will explore social and interpersonal topics.

**Sensory-Friendly Gym:** Starts 10/2 at Autism Connections' office. **Email Lizzie** for info.

**Teen group:** Starts 9/27 on Fridays. **Email Ben** for info.

**Asperger's Support Group:** 10/16 and every third Wednesday of the month. **Email Lizzie** for info.

### Berkshire Family Picnic

On August 22 we held our Family Picnic at the Pittsfield State Forest Ski Lodge...cool! The picnic offered an all ages picnic opportunity,

which also doubled as the planning session for our teen group members.

Thanks to all who helped us celebrate the summer!



## Center News: Autism Waiver

Continued from page 1

**This message is to notify you about the eligibility requirements for the Autism Waiver Program:**

**Eligibility:** the following requirements are necessary for participation in this program:

1. *The child must have a **confirmed diagnosis** of an Autism Spectrum Disorder, subject to verification by the Department of Developmental Services.*
2. *The child has not yet reached his/her 9th birthday. Children birth through age 8 may participate.*
3. *The child is a resident of Massachusetts.*
4. *The child meets the level of care required for services in an Intermediate Care Facility for persons with an Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID) as assessed by DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.*
5. *The family chooses to have the child receive services in the home and community.*
6. *The child must be able to be safely served in the community.*
7. *The child must have a legally responsible representative able to direct the services and supports of the Waiver.*
8. *The child must be found by the MassHealth agency to be eligible for MassHealth Standard coverage, based on family income. **For families who have not yet applied for MassHealth, this must be done at the time of the filing of the Waiver Program Eligibility Request Form.***

**How to Apply for MassHealth:** You can submit your application for MassHealth in any of the following ways:

- **Sign on** to your account at [MAhealthconnector.org](http://MAhealthconnector.org). You can create an online account if you do not already have one. Applying online may be a faster way for you to get coverage than mailing a paper application.
- **Mail your filled-out, signed application to:**  
Health Insurance Processing Center  
P.O. Box 4405  
Taunton, MA 02780
- **Fax** your filled-out, signed application to 1-857-323-8300.
- **Call** the MassHealth Customer Service Center at 1-800-841-2900. (TTY: 1-877-623-7773 for people who are Deaf, or hard of hearing) or 1-877-MA ENROLL (877-623-6765).
- **Visit** a MassHealth Enrollment Center (MEC) to apply in person. See the Member Booklet for Health Coverage and Help Paying Costs for a list of MEC addresses.

### How to Participate in the Eligibility Process:

#### 1. Get a copy of the Autism Program Request Form

- Please contact your local Autism Support Center to request the Application Form (**Autism Connections**).
- The Autism Support Centers are available to help you complete Application Form.
- The Autism Division will post all forms on the DDS website: [www.mass.gov/DDS](http://www.mass.gov/DDS) under "Autism Spectrum Services"

#### 2. Complete the Autism Program Application Form

To complete this Form you will need:

- your child's date of birth
- your child's social security number
- your child's MassHealth ID number

#### 3. Submit the Autism Program Eligibility Application Form

- All Applications must have a Postmark or Date Stamp **between October 17, 2019 and October 31, 2019.**
- The Autism Division will discard forms outside of this designated time period.
- Please complete the Autism Waiver Request Form in pen and print clearly.
- Please sign the Form in pen.
- **ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER CHILD**—The Autism Division will discard multiple forms
- Please mail form (The Autism Division is not accepting hand delivered forms) to:

**AUTISM DIVISION of DDS**  
**Att. Autism Program Application Form**  
**500 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118**

It is a priority of the Autism Division of DDS to ensure that the process for requesting eligibility for the Autism Waiver Program is fully accessible to families and children with autism who are from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds.

***Translation and interpretation is available free of charge to all participants.***

This Notice and other waiver information is available on the DDS web-site at [www.mass.gov/DDS](http://www.mass.gov/DDS) under "Autism Spectrum Services" and at the DDS funded Autism Support Centers. Materials are available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Haitian-Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, and Vietnamese. For additional information, contact your local Autism Support Center (**Autism Connections**) or email [AutismDivision@state.ma.us](mailto:AutismDivision@state.ma.us), or call the Autism Division at DDS at 617-624-7518.

## Center News

### Resource Directory

This summer we introduced our new Resource Directory on our website. We will continue building this resource for your convenience in finding providers and information that will help you and your family.



There are two sections of the Directory. The first part is the searchable data, located [here](#) on our website. There are many options to narrow down the search, but we recommend choosing the minimal number of limiting fields. This way you will receive the maximum number of results.

The other element of the Directory is the Provider Portal, which is found [here](#). This section is designed to be used by service providers only. If you are a service provider, you can upload your information directly. We will review for a match to our designated categories, and will then activate your listing.

Please be sure to fill in all fields. For example, if you serve people of a certain age, or all ages, choose the answers that apply in the age field. If no field is chosen, your organization will not be shown to a searcher if they have chosen all ages, or a specific age range (since your field was blank). We will send out a yearly email to give you a chance to update your listing.

If you have worked with providers that you feel would be a good addition to the Directory, please email us with the name and contact of the organization and we will invite them to participate, or you can direct them to the site to upload their information [here](#).

### Easthampton Halloween Party

**October 25, 2019, 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.**  
**Eastworks Events Space (1st floor near Riff's)**  
**116 Pleasant Street, Easthampton, MA**



Join us for karaoke, Mad Science, other activities and pizza! All ages are welcome and

costumes are optional. [Email Danielle](#) to register for the party—we want to make sure we have enough supplies for activities and enough pizza!

### Easthampton Holiday Party

**December 6, 2019**  
**6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.**  
**Eastworks Events Space (1st floor near Riff's)**  
**116 Pleasant Street,**  
**Easthampton, MA**

Save the Date for our Annual Holiday Party with our amazing sensory-friendly Santa! We will have our usual array of karaoke, activities and pizza and snacks. Stay tuned for more info, but be sure get us on your calendar!



### Easthampton Summer Picnic



On August 17 we gathered at Stanley Park in Westfield for our annual family picnic. The weather was perfect and we had a chance to visit in a

super relaxed environment. We had some jugglers and hula hoop masters to keep us entertained, some lawn activities, and great food! Check out our picnic photos on our [Facebook page](#). See you next year!

## WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS

### Transition Resource Fair, Free

October 16, 2019

5:00-6:00 p.m.: Presentation Panel (RSVP required)

6:00-8:00 p.m.: Exhibitor Fair, Hadley Farms Meeting House, 41 Russell Street, Hadley

Family Empowerment, The United ARC, and the Department of Developmental Services - Franklin Hampshire office, have created the newly formed **Family Support Collaborative of Franklin and**



**Hampshire Counties** to combine our resources and expertise for select regional projects. Together, as the

Family Support Collaborative of Franklin and Hampshire Counties, we will host the 2019 Transition Resource Fair in Hadley.

The Transition Resource Fair highlights future options for high school students as they plan and prepare for their next steps once out of school. The event provides an opportunity to meet exhibitors from local and inspirational adult support service providers, and to hear from a panel of people from a variety of organizations who will share their individual expertise. The Fair is a free resource event open to the entire community.

The Panel Discussion will highlight service options available to young adults during and after the transition years of 14-22. RSVP to [FScollaborative19@gmail.com](mailto:FScollaborative19@gmail.com) if you would like to reserve a spot for this presentation. We want you to get a seat, and the room fills up quickly.

If you are an exhibitor and would like to reserve a table, register **HERE**. There is limited space so please sign-up early.

## WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS

### Programa de Liderazgo para Padres Latinos

los jueves 9:00am – 2:00pm

Apartir del 26 de septiembre al 14 de noviembre de 2019

Holyoke Community College

330 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke

El Programa de Liderazgo para Padres Latinos (PLPL) es un programa de capacitacion intensiva de 40 horas. Los presentadores incluyen abogados, expertos en el area de educacion especial, lideres de la comunidad, personal de la Federacion y un funcionario de Audiencias de la Oficina de Apelaciones de Educacion Especial (*Bureau of Special Education Appeals*). [Haga clic aqui para registrar!](#)

### Basic Rights: Evaluation and Eligibility, FREE

October 3, 2019, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Westfield Technical Academy, 33 Smith Avenue, Westfield

October 21, 2019, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Amherst Regional Middle School, 170 Chestnut Street, Amherst

A comprehensive introduction to special education laws and procedure; purpose of the law, when and how to make a referral, evaluations, the Team meeting process, standards for determining eligibility, services and placement, what to do if the Team decides the student is not eligible, what happens after the close of the Team meeting, parent's response options to an IEP, and procedural due process rights for resolving disputes.

For more information or to register, visit [here](#), contact the Federation for Children with Special Needs at (617) 236-7210, (800) 331-0688 (in MA), or email [info@fcsn.org](mailto:info@fcsn.org).

### DDS 101 Workshop, FREE

October 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Pathlight's

Greenfield Office, Greenfield Corporate Center, 101 Munson Street

Join us and the [Special Needs Family Alliance](#) of Greenfield to meet our DDS panel of professionals and learn more about what help is available, and how you can make the most of DDS services.

RSVP to [caroline.wenck@pathlightgroup.org](mailto:caroline.wenck@pathlightgroup.org). We expect a crowd for this workshop so please register early since space is limited.

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# AUTISM CONNECTIONS CALENDAR: September

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**CBDS Workshop**  
6:00pm-8:00pm  
Pathlight's Greenfield office at the  
Greenfield Corporate Center,  
Munson Street

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10  
**Building Bridges Workshop**  
6:00pm-8:00pm  
Family Empowerment  
41 Russell Street

11  
**Autism Connections  
Parent Support Group**  
5:30pm-7:30pm, Holyoke  
CALL FOR INFO: 413-529-2428  
  
**Asperger's Support Group**  
Autism Connections, Pittsfield Office  
5:00pm-6:00pm

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# September 2019

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**Burger Friday** 20  
Otto's Kitchen Comfort  
Fundraiser for Autism  
Connections, 4pm; 25%  
of proceeds benefit AC

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**Teen Group** 27  
5:30pm-7:00pm,  
Meets at Autism Connections,  
Pittsfield Office and then  
proceeds to community activi-  
ties

28

# EVENTS & CLASSES

## Workshops and Trainings

### **Child Safety in Today's World, FREE**

*Wednesday October 2, 6:00 p.m. –7:30 p.m.*

*Baystate Franklin Medical Center, 164 High St, Greenfield*

*Tuesday October 22, 6:00 p.m. –7:30 p.m.*

*Athol Public Library, 568 Main St., Athol*

*Thursday November 7th, 6:00 p.m. –7:30 p.m.*

*Mohawk Regional HS, 26 Ashfield Rd, Shelburne Falls*

The workshop will discuss internet safety tips, healthy relationships, and communicating about the tough issues.

Facilitators are Jackie Humphreys LICSW, and Joanne Leonard, CSEC Coordinator of the Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin, Inc.

Register with Joanne Leonard at 413-475-3401 or

[Jleonard@cacfranklinnq.org](mailto:Jleonard@cacfranklinnq.org).

## Conferences

### **MA Independent Living Conference, FREE**

*September 27, 2019, 8:00 a.m. —4:30 p.m.*

*Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center  
Marlboro, Massachusetts, REGISTER (required)*

The Statewide Independent Living Conference is hosted by the Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council in collaboration with Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and the Independent Living Centers of Massachusetts.

The conference offers workshops, Key note speakers, information tables, and the opportunity for the IL Community to learn from each other and reconnect with colleagues.

### **Shared Living & Adult Family Care Conference**

*Thursday, October 3, 2019, 8:00 a.m. —4:30 p.m., Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center, Marlboro, Massachusetts, Fee based*

The Shared Living and Adult Family Care Conference's mission is to provide and exchange practical information and innovative ideas that promote community living as model of choice where people can live in a dignified, normative arrangement. Visit [here](#) for registration and more information about the schedule and workshops.

## Conferences

### **Talking Tech 2019, ADDP and DDS**

*(for professionals)*

*Thursday, October 17, 2019, 8:15 a.m. —4:00 p.m.*

*Boston Marriott Newton, 2345 Commonwealth Avenue, Auburndale, MA Fee based, Register and information*

The event celebrates the promise of technology for empowerment and social inclusion of individuals with disabilities. The event will feature experts in the field of technology—including remote monitoring, staffing solutions, assistive technologies, cybersecurity, and more. There will be exhibitors and vendors in attendance, continental breakfast and a served lunch provided. Register and find more information [here](#).

### **The Arc of Massachusetts 2019 Transition Conference: *Charting the Life Course during transition years***

*Saturday, November 16, 2019*

*College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, Fee based, Register and workshops*

This full day conference will feature the [LifeCourse Frameworks and Tools](#) from the Institute for Human Development at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Co-founder and parent Jane St. John will lead us through the frameworks and tools to use in transition planning.

### **30th Annual Autism Conference**

*Thursday, April 2, 2020*

*(World Autism Day!)*

*Springfield Sheraton Monarch Place Hotel*



Save the date for the 30th annual Autism Connections Conference on World Autism Day! Autism Advocate and nationally renowned speaker [Kerry Magro](#) will deliver the keynote, and we will have a full selection of vendors and breakout sessions.



## Webinar

### AANE: Preparing for College

A webinar for parents, adults and professionals

**September 25, 2019, 7:00 p.m. –8:30 p.m., online, \$25**

Join presenters Jane Thierfeld Brown EdD, and Lorrain Wolf PHD, co-authors of "A Parent's Guide to College for Students on the Autism Spectrum", as they talk about key steps needed for success after high school. Register by 9/24 [here](#).

## Sensory-friendly

### Special Needs Ministry, Trunk or Treat, Free

**October 26, 2019, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., First Congregational Church of Chicopee, 306 Chicopee St., Chicopee**

First annual Trunk or Treat. This event is a sensory special needs family event and open only to special needs families in the community. No loud noises, or bright or flashing lights. For more information call 413-233-4689 or email [wedreamfccc@gmail.com](mailto:wedreamfccc@gmail.com) or visit [here](#).

## Family and community events

### Berkshire County School Fair, FREE

**September 24, 2019, 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.**

**Miss Hall's School, 492 Holmes Road, Pittsfield**

Join us to explore the excellent PreK-12 school options available in the Berkshires and surrounding area.

Meet with school representatives, learn about programs, and collect some giveaways!

Ample parking is available and the venue is accessible. Light refreshments will be provided. More information [here](#).

### Special Olympics Day at the Big E, FREE

**September 29, 2019, 8:00 am.-6:00 p.m.**

**The Big E, West Springfield**

All SOMA athletes receive free admission, but you must contact SOMA ahead of time.

Please contact [Matt.Vaghi@SpecialOlympicsMA.org](mailto:Matt.Vaghi@SpecialOlympicsMA.org) for more information.

## YOUNG ADULTS

### Potluck Social/Video Game nights, FREE

**Fridays, October 4 and November 22, Milestones, 41 Russell Street, Hadley, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., (all ages),**

Live music, food, karaoke and video games. Call 413-585-8010 for more information. **HALLOWEEN PARTY IS 10/25. CALL FOR INFO.**

### Milestones

**41 Russell St., Hadley, MA**

Recreational programs for young adults. Fall session starts September 30. See catalog [here](#).

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

### Whole Children

**41 Russell St., Hadley, MA**

Recreational programs for young children. Fall session starts September 30. See catalog [here](#).



## Additional activity resources

**Springfield JCC, Springfield:** The mission of **Kehillah, the JCC Special Needs Program** (*Kehillah means "community"*), is to provide quality social and recreational enrichment programs for children, teens, and adults with social challenges, cognitive delays, and physical limitations.

**CHD:** adaptive recreational opportunities in the greater Springfield area. View calendar [here](#).


**CSO:** The Bridge Family Resource Center: center based family activities - **Amherst calendar**. Wellness activities: **Athol calendar**, **Northampton calendar**.

**The 413 Mom:** community based events in western Massachusetts for all children and families: **September calendar**.

**All Out Adventures:** All Out Adventures promotes health, community, and independence for people with disabilities and their family and friends through outdoor recreation. View calendar [here](#).

**Northampton Music Center:** Music Together Supportive Family Class. Call 413-585-0001 for more information.

# SUPPORT GROUPS

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	MEETING DETAILS	CONTACT/MORE INFO
<b>AMHERST</b>			
<b>Clinical &amp; Support Options (CSO) Parent Support Group</b>	For parents of children/youth with high functioning autism (Asperger's). Come share your experience, learn about resources, and hear from experts in the field. Childcare available. This is a parent led support group.	1st Saturday of the month 10:00am-11:30am Bridge Family Resource Center 101 University Dr, Suite A3, Amherst	Group meets on Saturdays. Childcare available, refreshments served. Please call 413.549.0297 with questions.
<b>ATHOL</b>			
<b>Autism Caregiver's Support Group</b>	This is a monthly support group for parents, caregivers, grandparents and siblings of autistic children. RSVP is required.	4th Sunday of the month, 6:00pm-8:00pm, Athol Memorial Hospital, The Hillis Board Room 2033 Main St., Athol	Please contact Amanda Gallant at <a href="mailto:Amanda.gallant@heywood.org">Amanda.gallant@heywood.org</a> with questions or to RSVP.978-257-5143
<b>North Quabbin Caregiver's Resource Group</b>	Socialize with other caregivers and help support each other through all of the ins and outs of being a caregiver or parent to a person with intellectual or developmental disabilities.	2nd Monday is for conversation and networking. 3rd Thursday of the month, presentations, workshops and more. 6:00pm-8:00pm, 361 Main Street, April	Refreshments will be provided. RSVP is not required, but is helpful for planning purposes. Call Karen Parker at 978-249-4052, x 1047.
<b>CHICOPEE</b>			
<b>HOPE Autism Support Group</b>	This group is designed for parents and caregivers of family members on the autism spectrum to meet and talk with others that are on the same journey in a positive and confidential environment.	Group meets on the 2nd Friday of each month. .	For more information or to RSVP, please contact Cathy at <a href="mailto:camorgado@verizon.net">camorgado@verizon.net</a> .
<b>GREENFIELD</b>			
<b>Special Needs Family Alliance</b>	This support group is a new, very committed and welcoming group for anyone who is caring for a loved one with a disability, no matter the age. The group's goal is providing support, advocacy, education and resources	3rd Thursday of each month, 10:00am. Pathlight Office, Greenfield Corporate Center, 101 Munson St., Greenfield	For more information please call or email Caroline Wenck at 413-585-8010 x122 or <a href="mailto:carolinewenck@pathlightgroup.org">carolinewenck@pathlightgroup.org</a>
<b>HOLYOKE</b>			
<b>Autism Connections Western MA Support Group</b>	This support group is open to all family members of children and young adults with autism. The group is designed for parents and other caregivers to come together for support and to share information.	2nd Wednesday of the month 5:30pm-7:30pm MCS 260 Westfield Road, Holyoke	Email Linda Manning at <a href="mailto:wynne92@aol.com">wynne92@aol.com</a> for RSVP and more info. Childcare is offered and requires a reservation one week in advance. 413.529.2428.
<b>Parent/Professional Advocacy League</b>	Moving Forward: Our Journey. A group for empowering families through transition planning.	Please contact PPAL for locations and times.	For more information visit <a href="http://www.ppal.net">www.ppal.net</a>
<b>Rainbow Support Group of Western Mass.</b>	This group provides support and info to individuals with intellectual challenges who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or those who are questioning.	Fourth Wednesday of the month. Western Mass Training Consortium 187 High Street, Suite 2303, Holyoke	For more information, call Ness at 413-997-4205 or emailed at <a href="mailto:nbellini@wmtcinfo.org">nbellini@wmtcinfo.org</a> .
<b>Leadership Through Advocacy (LTA)</b>	Come have your voice heard, learn and develop skills to speak up for yourself, grow individually and make the world better by participating in legislative advocacy.	First and third Wednesday of the month, Holyoke Community College, Frost 309 5:30-7:30pm	For more information, call Ness at 413-997-4205 or emailed at <a href="mailto:nbellini@wmtcinfo.org">nbellini@wmtcinfo.org</a>
<b>LENOX</b>			
<b>Parents/adult family members of adults on the spectrum (AANE)</b>	This parents of adults support group series is designed for parents/adult family members of adults with Asperger/autism profiles. Through this group, parents can build an ongoing connection with a small community of other parents to create an environment where parents of adults can ask questions, voice their concerns and frustrations, and acknowledge hard-won victories. Space is limited and registration closes on October 1.	1st Thursday of the month 6:30pm-8:00pm Office of Liz Roberts, 69 Church Street, Suite 4, Lenox Fee for all 10 sessions is \$120, 2nd person \$60.	Register and find more information <a href="#">here</a> or email <a href="mailto:Stephanie.Birkdale@aane.org">Stephanie.Birkdale@aane.org</a> with questions.
			

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	MEETING DETAILS	CONTACT/MORE INFO
<b>NORTHAMPTON</b>			
<b>Valley ADHD Parent Support Group</b>	This group is for parents and caregivers to receive ADHD information and support. It is a place where you can be heard and not be judged.	First Monday of the month, 6:30-8:00pm Northampton Area Pediatrics 193 Locust St.	For more information call 413-584-8700 x226
<b>Northampton Women's Drop-In Support Group</b>	Support group for women with Autism, ages 18+. This free group is being offered by the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE).	Second Monday the month, Forbes Library, 20 West Street	For more information or to join this group, contact Stephanie Birkdale at <a href="mailto:stephanie.birkdale@aane.org">stephanie.birkdale@aane.org</a> .
<b>Wire Monkey Mama's Coffee Club</b>	A bi-weekly meetup and solidarity circle like grand, step, foster, and any mama who cares for a child.	Every other Monday evening 6:00pm-7:00pm, 1 Market Street,	At The Roost in Northampton. For more information, text Yoshi at 413-347-2517
<b>PITTSFIELD</b>			
<b>Asperger's Support Group of the Berkshires</b>	This group is for individuals with Asperger's syndrome to come together and offer friendship, fellowship and support.	Wednesdays, 5:00pm-6:30pm Group will meet in various locations.	Please contact Elizabeth Flaherty at 443.4780 x16 or <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Flaherty@pathlightgroup.org">Elizabeth.Flaherty@pathlightgroup.org</a> to RSVP.
<b>Berkshire Teen Group</b>	This group is for teens and young adults who live in Berkshire County and are on the autism spectrum. The group meets regularly for conversation and community based activities.	Will meet regularly, every other Friday evening, throughout the community.	Please contact Kelly Summers at <a href="mailto:Kelly.summers@pathlightgroup.org">Kelly.summers@pathlightgroup.org</a> or 413.529.2428 x121 for monthly group schedule and outing details.
<b>SPRINGFIELD</b>			
<b>Impact Center Support Group</b>	A monthly support group for parents and caregivers of youths' with social/emotional/behavioral challenges. El Support Network en colaboración con Gandara ofrece un grupo de apoyo mensual para padres y cuidadores de jóvenes con problemas sociales / emocionales y de	English Group: 1st Friday of the month 12pm-1:30pm Grupo Español-Y el tercer Viernes de 10am-11:30am 41 Taylor Street, Springfield	For information and to RSVP, please contact Cynthia Santiago at <a href="mailto:csantiago@wmtcinfo.org">csantiago@wmtcinfo.org</a> or 413-218-5055 Informacion de RSVP: Cynthia Santiago at <a href="mailto:csantiago@wmtcinfo.org">csantiago@wmtcinfo.org</a>
<b>Self Advocacy Network (SAN)</b>	Come have your voice heard, learn and develop skills to speak up for yourself, grow individually and make the world better by participating in legislative advocacy.	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of every month, 11 Wilbraham Rd, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor in the SC@N 360 Conference room, 5:30pm-7:30Ppm	For more information, call Ness at 413-997-4205 or emailed at <a href="mailto:nbellini@wmtcinfo.org">nbellini@wmtcinfo.org</a>
<b>WESTFIELD</b>			
<b>Support Group for Adults with Asperger's Syndrome</b>	This group is an opportunity for support and discussion among adults on the autism spectrum. We provide a "safe space" and as such are not recommended for friends and family members except in a support role.	Building Autistic Community, Inc 507 Southampton Road #1	For more information, contact the group at <a href="mailto:info@bacautism.org">info@bacautism.org</a> or call BAC at 413.359.0222.
<b>WILLIAMSBURG</b>			
<b>Support Group for Adults with Asperger's Syndrome</b>	This group is an opportunity for support and discussion among adults on the spectrum. We provide a "safe space" so this is not recommended for friends and family members except in a support role.	Building Autistic Community, Inc. 507 Southampton Road #1 Westfield, MA	For more information, contact the group at <a href="mailto:info@bacautism.org">info@bacautism.org</a> or call BAC at 413.359.0222.

**Please confirm group information with the contact person before attending any group for the first time as information may change.**

2019 September Edition

# Community Connection Newsletter

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

## Buddy's Sunshine Angels Golf Tournament



We would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge Jennie and Joe Clark for making this year's golf tournament a huge success. Every year, on top of raising a son with autism who has many needs, they plan and execute the Buddy's Sunshine Angel's Golf

Tournament to raise money to support programming right here in the Berkshires. We are fortunate to have you all in our lives. See more golf photos on our [Facebook page](#).

## Sip to Support Fundraiser

On August 31 the Berkshire Autism Initiative sponsored Sip to

Support, a musical and wine fundraiser to benefit Autism Connections. It was a beautiful evening at Balderdash Cellars. **Berkshire Bradley Architects** was our generous event sponsor. Thank you to all sponsors, donors, attendees, and especially the BAI for their consistent support of Autism Connections and local families. Visit our [Facebook page](#) for more photos of the wonderful event.



♥ Thank you to our amazing supporters Joe and Jennie Clark, and the Berkshire Autism Initiative! ♥