

Community Connection

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

Newsletter

Join us for our Family Picnic/Luau on August 4!

Celebrate our wonderful network of Autism Connections families!

Grab your Hawaiian shirt and sunglasses and gather the family to join us for a summertime Luau celebration at Stanley Park on August 4! This is an all ages event for our extended community of families. You do not have to be working with Autism Connections.

We will be grilling up hot dogs and hamburgers with all of the fixings, and will be set up for lawn games and some special picnic activities.



Picnic Potluck for side dishes and desserts. Bring your favorite if you can!

Please help us with our **Side Dish Picnic Potluck** and show off your favorite family picnic recipes. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a cold dish to share, or if your last name starts with M-Z, please bring a dessert if you can!

Our theme is a Luau and we are even going to try a limbo activity—good luck to those of us with great flexibility! Tropical attire is

welcome, the more tropical the better.

Enjoy an afternoon of family, friends, food (someone ELSE cooking), and relaxation. An RSVP to Danielle is required so we can be sure to have enough food for everyone. Thank you and see you there!



Date: Saturday August 4
Time: 3:30-6:00
Location:
Stanley Park
Westfield Bank Pavilion
400 Western Ave., Westfield
RSVP :
Danielle.plasse@pathlightgroup.org
413-529-2428, x115

New time this year!

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Easthampton Office

¡Hola! Hablamos español

116 Pleasant Street, Suite 366
Easthampton, MA 01027
413.529.2428

Berkshire Office

100 North Street, Suite 322
Pittsfield, MA
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.



NEWS & UPDATES

STAFF DIRECTORY

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Autism Support Broker

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Easthampton Program Manager

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Educational Advocate

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Autism Support Broker
Habla español

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Habla español

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Autism Specialist

Kim Wyckoff (x127)
Autism Support Broker

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Paula Fredericks
Bill Loomis
Pamela Sandler
Michael Wilcox
Jeanne Zobel-Lachiusa

Upcoming events and activities

NEW, ADDITIONAL
EVENING MEETING

The Autism Collaborative of Berkshire County



The Autism Collaborative of Berkshire County (ACBC) will meet on Friday, September 21, 2018, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the BCARC Training Room, Berkshire Common, 2 South Street, Suite 370, 3rd Floor, in Pittsfield for the first meeting of the new school year.

Our topic will be about resource sharing. Bring along information for any resources you would like to share with the group. We will also be distributing our schedule for the rest of the year.

We have a new feature to the group starting in September! We've had requests for an evening meeting time, so this month we will be offering an additional meeting on Tuesday, September 25, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Our speaker will be Educational Advocate Karen Mowry. Please spread the word and come check out this new meeting time!

If you are a professional, someone with autism, a family member of someone with autism, or a concerned community member please email us at emailacbc@gmail.com or visit our website (<http://bit.ly/AutismCollaborative>) or our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ACBCBerkshire/>) to tell us about your ideal wishes for collaboration! Please check our website for any last minute meeting changes.

Buddy's Sunshine Angels Golf Tournament

This year Buddy's Sunshine Angels Golf Tournament is September 15 at Bas Ridge Golf Course in Hinsdale, MA. The event is organized yearly by Jennie and Joe Clark and the proceeds benefit Autism Connections through the Berkshire Autism Initiative. Funds from this event support families in Berkshire County.

The format for the day is a 4-person scramble. Check in is at 11:30 a.m. and Shot-Gun start at 12:00 p.m. The cost of \$100 per person and \$400 for a 4-person team includes 18 holes with a cart, door prize, \$10 drink coupon, hamburgers and hot dogs at the turn,

a buffet catered by Ozzie's Steak and Eggs, raffles and contests on the course. Prizes for both 1st and 2nd place are golf for 4 at Bas Ridge, and the winner receives a 1st place trophy.

For more information, to sponsor, or to sign up, contact Joe Clark at (413)212-2443 or joelclarkcamp@gmail.com about this community charitable event.



It is never too early to start preparing for the start of school!



Summer is a wonderful time to relax with your family and enjoy vacations and hopefully a little downtime. Thinking about getting back to

school in a few weeks can be hard, and probably the last thing on your mind. It can be tough to remember how much even a little preparation can make the transition to a new school year easier for your child.

Back to school time is challenging for everyone, but can be exceptionally difficult for children with autism. We've traded in our long nights and flexible summer schedules for the daily grind of bed times and morning routines. The many potential stresses associated with starting a new school year, including new teachers, new classrooms and new peers, can translate to anxiety with the transition.

Here are a few tips to help smooth the transition.

Countdown

Two to three weeks prior to the start of school, start daily conversations about what is coming. Create a visual calendar for the refrigerator with a countdown. Include little celebrations for the end of summer to add to the list!

Visit

Contact your school to see about visiting a new classroom and the new teacher before school starts.

Prepare

Adjust bedtime and strengthen the nighttime routine well in advance of the first day of school.

Practice

If your child has had difficulties getting off to school in the past, create a visual morning task list and put it into action a few days prior to the first day of school.

Once school starts:

No surprises

Minimize anxiety by using your kitchen calendar to mark all upcoming activities and important dates. Identify any upcoming important changes to his/her schedule. Have your child be an active participant in talking about preparation leading up to the activity or event.

Routines

Most students with autism respond well to routines. Keep them updated on daily expectations and have regular check-ins to see how they are coping with the new school year as it progresses.

Meet and Greet

Schedule a meeting with team members within the first 8 weeks of school to review IEP/504. This allows a great opportunity for everyone to share your child's successes and strategize on any areas of concern.

Visit

In addition to the team meeting, consider setting up a time to meet the additional staff that your child interacts with daily. This should include as many people as possible, kitchen staff, janitors, specialists, teachers and administrators!

Sensory Ready

If your child has sensory concerns, consider putting together a sensory "tool box". The school can help you with this accommodation within the IEP, so do not be afraid to ask! Things like noise cancelling headphones, a special toy, silly putty, a special piece of clothing, or anything else that your child



Continued on page 4

School prep continued from page 3

responds well to may be considered. If needed, have one for home, transport and the school.

Check in

In some cases a home/school log will help keep everyone up to speed. If you do not use a log, remember you can call or email your child's teacher at any time to check in on their progress. The anxiety of a new school year can affect you as much as it can affect your children. You can curb that anxiety by reaching out to your own support network.

Volunteer

Remember that in most schools, parents are encouraged to volunteer whenever they can. Look into that possibility and find out if you can become an active participant in your child's classroom or in the greater school community.

Ask for Help

If you get to a point where you are feeling overwhelmed by the school year, reach out to your extended social network to ask for help.

Celebrate

Although transitioning back to school can cause anxiety, it is important to celebrate all the little successes with your child. Recognize daily with them through verbal praise or a reward system. And again, remember it's just as important to take care of yourself. So, take those precious quiet moments to reflect on how hard you have worked!



Center News

Welcome Kim!



Autism Connections has a new addition to our team! Kim Wycoff is our newest Autism Waiver Broker. She joins us with a diverse background in supporting both children and adults with autism and intellectual disabilities. Kim is

already a member of the Pathlight community, as she volunteered her dance expertise for Pathlight's "Let's Dance" fundraising event last fall, and helped to make it a great experience for all! Please join us in welcoming Kim!

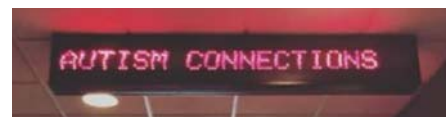
Autism Connections also wishes a fond farewell to Leeanne Hadsel. Leeanne has been part of our Autism Waiver team and the IFFS program, and we wish her the best with her future goals!

Recent activities

Our end of school year activities were hopping this year! We started off the week with another sensory-friendly hour at [Bounce Trampoline Sports](#) in Springfield. It was wonderful to see both new and familiar faces.



We were also excited for the "Incredible" turn out at a sensory-friendly showing of "The Incredibles 2." Autism Connections finally got to see its name up in lights!



Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating the end of school year and the start of summer with these fun activities. We hope to see you at our Annual Picnic on Saturday, August 4th!

Upcoming Events

Sensory-Friendly

“Especially for Me” Sensory-Friendly Museum event

Saturday, August 11, 2018, 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Discovery Museum, 177 Main Street, Acton, MA
Free with required pre-registration.

Tonight’s program is Harmonize! Jam with us at 5:30pm and again at 6:30pm. A music therapist will be on site to play and perform with you. Free with pre-registration. *Registration is required: [Register Now](#).*

Come explore the new Discovery Museum building and Discovery Woods! Join us during this special free evening, especially for families with members with autism. In our new, ADA-compliant building you can play, explore, and learn with new and renovated exhibits. Dinner, including a gluten free option, will be provided courtesy of Not Your Average Joe’s.

Pre-registration required at <http://bit.ly/ASDEveningAug2018> as space is limited.

Please Note: Discovery Woods closes at dusk. You may want to prepare for your visit by downloading the Story Guide to Discovery Woods at <http://bit.ly/dwstory4> and by visiting the Exhibits section of our website. We are also happy to answer any questions about our new Museum building by phone.

Sensory-Sensitive Sundays at Chuck E. Cheese

First Sunday of the month, 9am-11am,
Chuck E. Cheese, 1716 Boston Road, Springfield



Chuck E. Cheese in Springfield now offers a sensory-sensitive experience on the first Sunday of every month.

Young Adults

AANE Holyoke Pizza and Game Night

Thursday, July 26, 2018 6:00pm-8:00 p.m.
260 Westfield Rd, Holyoke

Have dinner, socialize, and play games (feel free to bring and share your own favorite games). This event is \$12.

*Please note that attendees now have the option to pay online or at the door. We encourage people to pay online but it is not required.

**Please note that AANE reserves the right to cancel this event if the minimum number of registrants (4) is not met by the deadline

Please call 617-393-3824 for more information.

CONFERENCE

Special-Needs Conference for Parents

Wednesday, July 25, 2018, Fitchburg
Fitchburg, MA

This free conference will focus on the latest information for parents regarding special education law, sensory processing, accessing public support, and sibling support. Learn information about how to best support your child.

RSVPs are required. Please contact Susan Loring at Sloring@hmea.org or 508-835-4278. You can visit www.autismresourcecentral.org as well.

Raise the Bar, HIRE 2018 Conference

Wednesday October 10, 2018

Four Points Sheraton, Norwood, MA

Registration opens July 2.

More information: www.workwithoutlimits.org

Keynote Speaker Mandy Harvey presents during the exciting day with exhibitors and networking. Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) and Work Without Limits partner to bring this conference to employers seeking to be disability inclusive, employers who are currently inclusive and all others!

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MON

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WEDS

JULY 20 18

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Sensory Sensitive Sunday at Chuck E. Cheese
9:00 am-11:00 am
Springfield

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Autism Connections Western MA Support Group
5:30-7:30pm
Multicultural Community Services

15

16

17

18

22

Free School Supply Day
1:00-4:00pm
Wireless Zone
Check for your closest location

29

23

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25

Ice Cream Social and Meet & Greet with Hampshire County Candidates
5:00-7:00pm
Family Empowerment



THURS

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AUTISM CONNECTIONS

CALENDAR

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**Athol United Arc
Caregivers' Resource
Group**

10:00am-12:00pm or
6:00-8:00pm
Athol

19

Potluck Social
6:30-8:30pm
Milestones

Video Game Night
6:30-8:30pm
Whole Children

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JULY 2018

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

PATHLIGHT PARTNER EVENTS

Whole Children: Programs for school age children and teens (ages 3-16). Visit www.wholechildren.org/ for more information.

Milestones: Enrichment classes for older teens and adults. Visit <https://www.wholechildren.org/milestones-classes/> for more information.

Potluck Socials (Ages 18+)

July 20, August 24, 6:30pm—8:30pm

Milestones, 41 Russel Street, Hadley, MA

Whether you come to meet up with old friends or to meet new ones, you are sure to have tons of fun! There will be music, karaoke, and food. Please bring a nut-free snack or drink to share.

Summer Bowling Party

Saturday August 11, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Spare Time Entertainment

525 Pleasant Street, Northampton, MA

Escape the heat and enjoy a fun afternoon of bowling with friends from Whole Children and Milestones. There will be a \$25 entrance and shoe rental fee. Please call (413) 585-8010 to register or for more information.

COMMUNITY/FAMILY EVENTS

Adaptive Cycling

July 28 and August 18, 2018 • 10am-12pm

180 Pleasant Street, Easthampton

446 Damon Road, Northampton

Open to members, friends, and family ages 4+. Please bring your own helmet. You must [register](#) to participate (see other events on this site). You can also call 413-733-2624 for more information. When you sign up please indicate which bike you would like to use (hand-cycles, mini trike, adult trikes, freedom riders, adult mountain/road bike, and more)!

Cost: \$4 per outing for members, \$7 per outing for non-members. See site for additional costs.

COMMUNITY/FAMILY EVENTS

Gluten-Free and Allergen Free Expo

July 21, 2018 - July 22, 2018

DCU Center, 50 Foster Street, Worcester, MA

For the special diet consumer, including the Celiac community, those with gluten sensitivities, autoimmune, inflammatory diseases and autism, including a vendor fair with over 100 exhibitors.

Autism Connections Family Picnic Luau!

Saturday August 4, 2018

3:30pm-6:00pm

Stanley Park, Westfield Bank Pavilion, Westfield

**NEW TIME
THIS YEAR!**

A luau theme awaits your creative attire! Join us for a potluck picnic (we supply the burgers and hot dogs) and you are invited to bring your family favorite recipes for side dishes. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a cold side dish to share. Bring dessert if your last name starts with M-Z. Fun and games for all! RSVP to Danielle required at 413-529-2428 or email Danielle.plasse@pathlightgroup.org.

Fall Baseball: Miracle League of Western MA

Registration closes August 17. Season 9/16 -10/28.

All games played at Springfield College

Register: www.miracleleaguwestma.org

Fall Ball is a modified 6 week program and all games will be played "pick-up style". Games are on Sunday and will last for 2-3 innings.

Berkshire Community Action Council Open House

Friday August 24, 2018. 11am-2pm

1531 East Street, Pittsfield

The BCAC is committed to self-sufficiency and dignity for all and is sponsoring a free community event with activities, food and information. Free Lunch and Snacks, the Climbing Wall, Kids' Activities and lots of information about opportunities in our community!

TRAININGS

Autism Connections' Trainings

Autism Connections is dedicated to educating the community about the strengths and challenges commonly associated with autism. Our knowledgeable team offers a variety of professional development opportunities to educators and human service organizations. The trainings we currently offer are:

- **An Insight into Autism**
- **Asperger's 101**
- **The Hidden Curriculum**
(*unwritten social rules and expectations*)
- **Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviors**
- **IEP**

Trainings are about 2 hours and can be modified to better fit the needs of your team. Please email Katie.drumm@pathlightgroup.org for more information.

Autism Family companion community

A group of parents in the Amherst area are seeking to find and train companions that can offer services to different individuals in the group (ages 22+). They would like to organize themselves and a group of companions to provide common training and information about their family member to increase community opportunities and expand social networks. For more information please contact dr.k@trianglefamilydental.com or peltiersings@gmail.com.

Research Studies

Brandeis

Is your teen or young adult with autism visiting a NEW adult primary care doctor this summer? These study will investigate the strategies that are used to make for a successful physical examination with a new doctor. Participate online and on the phone. Contact mew@brandeis.edu for more information.

Research Studies

Boston University

Boston University researchers are recruiting parents and high school students with autism to participate in an 18-month longitudinal study. They are looking for students with autism who are in their last year of high school and who will graduate with a regular high school diploma. Participation should take 30-60 minutes at each time point. Parents will receive a \$25 gift card at each time point and youth will receive a \$15 gift card at each time point. For more information, email buroad@bu.edu, call (617) 353-2060 or visit <http://sites.bu.edu/roadahead/>.

Boston University is also looking for siblings, service providers and adults with autism for another study to develop a new program to increase siblings' involvement with future planning for their brother or sister with autism. For more information contact forward@bu.edu.

UMASS

UMass Amherst is conducting a speech, language and listening study for teens with autism between the ages of 13-18. One of the requirements for the study is the ability to communicate verbally.

The study consists of one session of about 2 hours, and takes place on the UMass Amherst campus. Short breaks will be provided as needed and test findings will be forwarded to parents upon request. Participants will receive a \$40 Target gift card upon completion of all testing. Please contact Colleen Gargan (cgargan@umass.edu) or Mary Andrianopoulos (mva@comdis.umass.edu or 413-545-0551 for more information.

Researchers at UMass are also looking for children 3.5-5 years old to join a research study investigating the developing brain. The study includes two visits. Parents will complete a questionnaire while kids play games on a touchscreen. A \$60 stipend is provided for each visit. Call 413-545-23992 or email seedlab@umass.edu for more information.

SUPPORT GROUPS

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	MEETING DETAILS	CONTACT/MORE INFO
AMHERST			
Clinical & Support Options (CSO) Parent Support Group	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.	Saturdays 10:00am-11:30am Bridge Family Resource Center 101 University Dr, Suite A3 Amherst, MA	Group meets on Saturdays. Childcare available, refreshments served. Please call 413.549.0297 with questions.
ATHOL			
The United ARC, Caregivers' Resource Group	Come 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. Join us to discuss ideas and gain valuable resources. Daytime and evening sessions available.	3rd Thursday of the month 10:00am-12:00pm 6:00pm-8:00pm 361 Main Street, Athol, MA	Refreshments will be provided. RSVP is not required, but is helpful for planning purposes. Call Karon Parker at 978-249-4052, x 1047.
CHICOPEE			
HOPE Autism Support Group	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.	If interested in joining, please contact Cathy.	Group will meet on the 2nd Friday of each month. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Cathy at camorgado@verizon.net .
EASTHAMPTON			
Asperger's Social Night for Adults	Autism Connections is happy to provide this social night twice a month for folks 18+ who identify as having Asperger's.	Autism Connections 116 Pleasant Street, Suite 366 Easthampton, MA	This group will resume in the near future. Please contact Kimberly LaMothe at 413.529.2428 x118 with any questions.
GREAT BARRINGTON			
Adult Discussion Group	This group is being offered by the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE). There is an attendance fee of \$5.	Mason Library 231 Main Street, Great Barrington	For more information please contact Stephanie Birkdale at stephanie.birkdale@aane.org .
HOLYOKE			
Autism Connections Western MA Support Group	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, MA	For more information and to RSVP, please email Linda Wynne at wynne92@aol.com . Child care is available—you must call our office at least one week in advance at 413.529.2428 if you need child care.
Mom's Night Out	Moms of people with different abilities are invited to bring their problems, triumphs and their need to laugh. Jericho will supply drinks and refreshments. Bring something to share!	Jericho 537 Northampton Street Holyoke, MA	For meeting times and to RSVP contact Linda LaPointe at lindal@jerichobeca.org or calling 413.538.7450
Parent/Professional Advocacy League	Moving Forward: Our Journey. A group for empowering families through transition planning.	Please contact PPAL for locations and times.	For more information visit www.ppal.net or email eszela@ppal.net .

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	MEETING DETAILS	CONTACT/MORE INFO
Rainbow Support Group of Western Massachusetts	This group provides support and info to individuals with intellectual challenges who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or those who are questioning.	Western Mass Training Consortium 187 High Street, Suite 202 Holyoke, MA	For questions or to find out meeting times contact Tammy Nothe-Hebert at 413.536.2401 x3036
NORTHAMPTON			
Growing Strong Skills Training For Children and Their Caregivers	The group will use the Attachment Regulation and Competency Framework to help children learn different skills.	CSO Outpatient Clinic 8 Atwood Dr, Suite 201 Northampton Tuesdays 4:45-6:15pm	For more information and to register please contact Dave at 413.582.0471 ext. 5080 or Kim ext. 5032
Valley ADHD Parent Support Group	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,	1st Monday of every month 6:30pm-8:00pm Northampton Area Pediatrics 193 Locust St., Northampton	For more information contact ValleyADHDFamilies@gmail.com .
Women's Group	Support group for women with Autism. This group is being offered by the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE). There is no attendance fee.	Lilly Library 19 Meadow Street Florence, MA	For more information or to join this group, contact Stephanie Birkdale at stephanie.birkdale@aane.org .
Wire Monkey Mama's Coffee Club	A bi-weekly meetup and solidarity circle for all mams like grand, step, foster, and any mama who cares for a child.	Every other Monday evening 6:00pm-7:00pm 1 Market Street, Northampton	At The Roost in Northampton. For more information, text Yoshi at 413-347-2517
PITTSFIELD			
Asperger's Support Group of the Berkshires	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 places throughout the community.	Please contact Elizabeth Flaherty at 443.4780 x16 or Elizabeth.Flaherty@pathlightgroup.org to RSVP and find out location.
Berkshire Teen Group	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 Ben Breton at benjamin.breton@pathlightgroup.org or 413.529.2428 x121 for monthly group schedule and outing details.
SOUTH HADLEY			
LGBTQ and the Autism Spectrum	This group is being offered by the Asperger/Autism Network (AANE). There is an attendance fee of \$5.	S. Hadley Public Library Conference Room 2 Canal Street South Hadley, MA	For more information or to join this group, please contact Stephanie Birkdale at stephanie.birkdale@aane.org .
WESTFIELD			
Westfield Support Group for Adults with Asperger's Syndrome	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 Westfield, MA	For more information, contact the group at info@bacautism.org or call BAC at 413.359.0222.
WILLIAMSBURG			
Families of Spirited Children (It Takes a Village)	This is a group for parents, grandparents and caregivers of children with special needs, autism, ADHD or physical, sensory, or medical challenges. Free childcare and refreshments provided.	Tuesdays, 10:00am-11:30am, starting November 7, 2017 Anna T. Dunphy School 1 Petticoat Hill Road, Williamsburg	For more information, contact It Takes a Village at 413-650-3640 or Kat at info@hilltownvillage.org or www.facebook.com/hilltownvillage

2018 July Edition

Community Connection Newsletter

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

Ice Cream social and meet the candidates!



Family Empowerment is sponsoring an Ice Cream Social on July 25 from 5:00pm—7:00pm at their office at 41 Russell Street in Hadley. Some of the candidates running for office in the upcoming elections in Hampshire county will be attending to hear your concerns. If you live in the towns of the

Hampshire voting districts, you are invited to attend! Those towns are Amherst, Belchertown, Chesterfield, Cummington, Easthampton, Goshen, Granby, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Northampton, Pelham, Plainfield, South Hadley, Southamptton, Ware, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington. Please RSVP to michelle.mendes@pathlightgroup.org, or call 413-5854-8010 for more information, or visit the event page here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/308274103047678/>.

Free School Supplies

Keep an eye out for local backpack and school supply giveaways. Some have been posted already (below), and please let us know at autismconnection@pathlightgroup.org if you hear of any others so we can share the info. Please check info on all events before attending.

Springfield schools on August 25 and 26: <https://www.springfield.k12.or.us/supplies>

Wireless Zone at most of their retail locations on **Sunday July 22 from 1pm-4pm**: <http://wirelesszone.com/backpack-giveaway/>

United Way of Tri-county: call to find out where their donated backpacks will be distributed - <https://www.uwotc.org/backpack>