

Community Connection

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

Newsletter

Early summer activities, sensory friendly!

Join us for a sensory friendly showing at Rave Cinema!

Join the Autism Connections' team on Thursday, June 28 at 10 a.m. at Rave Cinemas in West Springfield for a sensory friendly viewing of *Incredibles 2*, the sequel to the hit 2004 film about a



loveable family of superheroes. Watch the trailer [here](#). Tickets are \$5:00 and are available at the door, but reservations are required with Danielle.plasse@pathlightgroup.org. This showing is limited to the first 100 reservations. **PLEASE NOTE THAT DISNEY HAS RECENTLY ISSUED A SEIZURE WARNING ABOUT THIS FILM. More info [HERE](#).**

Everyone's favorite family of superheroes is back – but this time Elastigirl Helen is in the spotlight, leaving Bob, Mr. Incredible, at home with kids Violet and Dash to navigate the day-to-day heroics of daily life. It's a tough transition for everyone, made tougher by the fact that the family is still unaware of baby Jack-Jack's emerging superpowers. Check here for some *Incredibles 2* Trivia [http://bit.ly/Incredibles2trivia!](http://bit.ly/Incredibles2trivia)

Bounce is opening for an hour of fun just for us!



Looking for something to do between the end of school and the start of summer activities? Come unwind and have fun with us!

This event has been so popular, we're putting a bounce in our step yet again this June. Join us on Tuesday, June 26th, at Bounce Trampoline Sports in Springfield for a Sensory-Friendly hour. Bounce will be open only to us from 9am – 10am. The cost is \$10 per child. There is no charge for one caregiver for each child. Required RSVP to Danielle.plasse@pathlightgroup.org.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- June activities..... 1
- Staff directory..... 2
- Events and activities review..... 2
- Summer vacation tips..... 3
- Buddy's Sunshine Angels 4
- Sensory Friendly Events/Conferences.....5
- Calendar of events.....6-7
- Family events, research studies.....8-9
- Support groups.....10-11
- Thank you!.....12

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413.529.2428

Berkshire Office
100 North Street, Suite 322
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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

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Upcoming events and activities

Berkshire Autism Collaborative



The Autism Collaborative of Berkshire County (ACBC) met Friday, June 15, 2018 at the BCARC Training Room, Berkshire Common, 2 South Street, Suite 370, 3rd Floor, in Pittsfield.

ACBC has had a productive year highlighting various organizations from the Berkshires and afar to educate the community and motivate us to deepen our collaborative efforts.

This last meeting reviewed the past year's highlights and focused on our strategy for

meetings starting in September of 2018. We are interested in thoughts you may have about our topics for upcoming meetings. If you are a professional, someone with autism, a family member of someone with autism, a concerned community member or folks already in the ACBC group, 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!

Teen Group picnic

The teen group finished up the year with a final outing to Hancock Shaker Village.



This has been an important opportunity for social experiences for all of the participants this year, and we look forward to more fun starting in September.

If you know a teen who may be interested in joining this group, please contact Ben for more information at Benjamin.breton@pathlightgroup.org.

Hiking Group

The North County Autism Friendly Hiking Group met in early June for a hike of Mount Greylock Glen and had a wonderful time!

Please contact Ben for info at Benjamin.breton@pathlightgroup.org. He can tell you more about this group and future trips.



Tips for great summer vacations



For many of us, summer brings to mind sun and sand, road trips, camps, family vacations and breaks from the daily grind. This can be a lot to navigate for a person with autism. Changes in routine can be difficult to

navigate, as well as exposure to new sensory experiences, encountering new social situations and visiting new places. This doesn't mean that summer can't be a rich and rewarding experience, but planning and preparation can make all the difference! Below are just a few safety tips for to for a safe and fun summer.

We're all outside more in the summer, which can increase your child's chance for wandering.

Children with autism are often attracted to water, and drowning is a real danger. Swim lessons are strongly advised (talk to your local YMCA or reach out to us for resources about swim classes in your area). Summer is also a great opportunity to have a chance to get to know your neighbors better, and for your neighbors to get to know you and your child. It may help those nearby remember to cover and lock their pools when they're not in use, and build a great sense of community. Take this opportunity to talk to your neighbors about your child, and to ask them to notify you immediately if they do wander.

If you have a child who is at ongoing risk of wandering, there are several tracking devices developed for children with autism specifically in mind – SafetyNet, AngelSense, and Project Lifesaver, to name a few. There are also free resources in The Big Red Safety Box, at <http://nationalautismassociation.org/big-red-safety-box>. The toolkit includes door alarms, medical alert bracelets, and other safety visuals and resources. Make sure that the first responders in your town are aware of your child's needs as well. You can do this by calling your local police station and to file important

information about your child there. Use this great resource as well to develop your Family Wandering Emergency Plan: <http://awaare.nationalautismassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/FWEP.pdf>. Your child may benefit from a Medical Alert bracelet or temporary tattoo with contact information on it ("Tattoos With A Purpose").

Your child may be spending time with new caregivers this summer, whether it be a school summer program, a camp, or with visiting relatives and friends.

Have a document that summarizes your child's needs, likes/dislikes, triggers and accommodations. Contact us at Autism Connections for a copy of the **Autism Acute Care Questionnaire**. This document was created with the Autism Collaborative at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in order to help facilitate appropriate supports in an emergency and is a useful way to spark awareness about your child's needs in other unfamiliar settings as well. Many parents take a photo of their child on their cell phone every morning when going on an outing, as they are certain to have a current photo with their child in the clothes they're wearing that day. Keep several copies of an emergency plan or emergency contact card with you, especially when traveling. It can be helpful to leave copies in the vehicles you regularly use, including rentals.

Plan ahead when traveling out of town.

If going to an amusement park or other large public space, identify the exits and entrances, public restrooms, and areas that may have sensory triggers for your child. Many destinations have accommodations for special needs which are on their websites. Amusement parks are beginning to designate sensory-friendly areas, and if they don't yet

Continued on page 4

Summer safety continued

have one, requests from families may nudge them along.

If you're taking a flight, the TSA can assist with check-



in. Contact the Transport Security Administration's (TSA) [TSA Cares line](#), 855-787-2227, at least 72 hours in advance if you and your child will need help navigating the security lines and the trip. **The Wings for Autism** program has also been developed to allow people with autism to visit airports to rehearse check-in and going through screening and lines. The next event is expected to be at Logan International Airport in the fall of 2018, but Bradley International Airport has also arranged individual "rehearsal" visits for children with autism who are planning a trip.

Help prepare your child for new experiences or trips.

Create a new visual schedule to help your child adapt to change in their morning routines as school ends, to accommodate for leisure time or school programs.

Create a social story to help them understand what to expect when they are meeting new people or traveling to places they haven't been before. Several sites have templates for social stories on them, or apps where you can insert your own photos, including but not limited to: [Twigtale](#), [Kid in Story](#), and the [Autism Speaks](#) webpage. If you are staying overnight somewhere or going to a new day camp, request that pictures of the location be sent to you before the first day to help prepare your child. You may be able to get photos of a destination's website as well. Remember to include the "little" things that may be significant sensory challenges, such as putting on sunscreen or bug spray. Doing this before leaving the house before you arrive at your destination may be easier.

Let people you're traveling with know that you may need to go at your own pace.

If you're on vacation with extended family or a bigger group, don't be afraid to let others know that you may need to go at a different pace than them, and to ask for help when you need it. The pressure to "have fun" during vacation and make sure everyone's needs are met may be overwhelming. Give yourself permission to not have to do it all!

Resources used include: [research autism.org](#), [atypicalfamilia.org](#), [thearc.org](#)

Community Partner Highlight

Buddy's Sunshine Angels Golf Tournament

Jennie and Joe Clark and have been raising funds for children and adults with autism in Berkshire County for more than 12 years!



Jennie began her journey by running the Boston Marathon in 1997, donating her team's proceeds to the Leukemia Society. She wanted to bring her race fundraising closer to home, so she created a team run to donate money to the Berkshire office of Autism Connections (then known as Community Resources for People with Autism). Jennie's team name, Buddy's Sunshine Angels, was in honor of her children – Buddy, "my sunshine", and his twin sister Ellie "my angel"!

After a few years, Joe decided it was time to change up the activity to a Golf Tournament, currently held at Bas Ridge Golf Course in Hinsdale. The Buddy's Sunshine Angels Team is going strong, making more connections for autism awareness and continuing to raise money to help local families living in Berkshire County. Jennie and Joe are true fundraising heroes!

This year Buddy's Sunshine Angels Golf Tournament is September 15, 11:30 a.m. registration, at Bas Ridge Golf Course, Hinsdale MA.

For more information contact Joe Clark at (413)212-2443 or joeclarkcamp@gmail.com about this community event benefiting the Berkshire Autism Initiative and Autism Connections.

Upcoming Events

Sensory-Friendly

Sensory Friendly Hour at BOUNCE TRAMPOLINE SPORTS

Tuesday, June 26, 2018 9am-10am

Bounce Trampoline Sports

1250 St. James Ave., Springfield MA

Come on over and BOUNCE! Our super popular family friendly activity is back. The facility will be closed to the public during our special reserved hour. Please contact Danielle at Danielle.plasse@pathlightgroup.org to RSVP. Tickets are \$10 per child, and one caregiver per participant is free of charge. Email Danielle at Danielle.plasse@pathlightgroup.org to RSVP.

Sensory Friendly Showing of Incredibles 2

Thursday, June 28, 2018 10:00 a.m., Rave Cinemas
864 Riverdale Street, West Springfield

Join the Autism Connections team on Thursday, June 28 at 10 a.m. at Rave Cinemas in West Springfield for a sensory friendly viewing of *Incredibles 2*. See page 1 for more information. Email Danielle at Danielle.plasse@pathlightgroup.org to RSVP.

“Especially for Me” Sensory-Friendly Museum Afternoon

Saturday, July 14, 2018, 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Discovery Museum, 177 Main Street, Acton, MA

Explore the all-new and accessible Discovery Museum and Discovery Woods at your own pace during this free event. Dinner, including a gluten free option, will be provided courtesy of Not Your Average Joe's.

You may want to prepare for your visit by viewing or downloading the [Story Guide](#) to Discovery Woods and by visiting the [Exhibits](#) section of their website. Pre-registration required. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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.

New Group

North Quabbin Caregivers' Resource Group

Come socialize with other caregivers and support each other as you continue to help a parent, or a person with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The group meets on the third Thursday of the month for a morning AND an evening session to accommodate different schedules.

Refreshments are provided—RSVP to Karen Parker, 978-249-4052, x 1047.

This group is hosted by the United ARC, and meets at 361 Main Street, Athol, MA, at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

CONFERENCE

Mental Health and Law Enforcement Conference

June 27, 2018, Fitchburg State University
160 Pearl Street, Fitchburg, MA

This is a free event. Police and First Responders, Emergency Service providers, Department of Mental Health, NAMI, Legislators, Criminal Justice system, and other interested parties are invited to this conference hosted by the The Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. Click [HERE](#) for more information. **Event REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED, please email Heidi.Dileone@Massmail.state.ma.us.**

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!

SUN

MON

TUES

WEDS

JUNE 2018

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

3

4

Social Skills Gym Class
4:00pm-5:00pm
Pittsfield

5

6

10

11

Social Skills Gym Class
4:00pm-5:00pm
Pittsfield

12

Making Sense of Health Care Financing
6:00pm-8:00pm
Family Empowerment
Hadley

13

17

18

Social Skills Gym Class
4:00pm-5:00pm
Pittsfield

19

20

Understanding Transgender Teens-Parent Work Shop
4:00pm-5:30pm
Northampton

24

25

Bounce! Trampoline Hour
9:00am-10:00am
Bounce! Trampoline Park
West Springfield

26

Mental Health and Law Enforcement Conference
Fitchburg State
University

27

31

THURS

FRI

SAT

AUTISM CONNECTIONS

CALENDAR

JUNE 2018

7

1

2

8

9

Berkshire Teen Group End of Summer Trip
1:00pm-3:00pm
Contact Ben Breton at Benjamin.Breton@pathlightgroup.org for more information

14

Open Swim
6:00pm-7:00pm—
Gladys Allen Brigham
Community Center
165 East Street, Pittsfield

North County Autism Friendly Hiking Group
1:00pm
Contact Ben Breton at Benjamin.Breton@pathlightgroup.org for more information

15

16

21

Open Swim,
6:00pm-7:00pm
Gladys Allen Brigham
Community Ctr.—165 East
Street, Pittsfield

22

Potluck Social
6:30-8:30pm
Milestones

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

12

28

Sensory Friendly Viewing-Incredibles 2
10:00am
Rave Cinemas
West Springfield

29

30

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

Family Fun Day, FREE!

Saturday, June 23, 2018 • 12:00pm– 3:00pm

Heritage State Park, 221 Appleton Street, Holyoke

More information: Maritza at 442-5174 ext. 25

Check out Heritage State Park in Holyoke, home of the The Children's Museum, the restored antique-Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, and the Volleyball Hall of Fame. Activities include 2 puppet shows at 1:30 and 2:30, Home Depot building activities, Story Walk (and free books), and Water Derby with the Boy Scouts!



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. There will be a vendor fair with over 100 exhibitors, classes related to the gluten free and allergen-friendly lifestyle, and authors, bloggers and workshops. Speakers include Vanessa Weisbrod, Kim Koeller, and Jenna Drew.

Center For Human Development (CHD)

Kayaking, Thursdays starting June 14, 2018

3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. , Jones Ferry River Access

Martial Arts, Tuesdays starting July 10, 2018

Kids' Session (ages 4 to 12): 5:45 p.m.– 6:30 p.m.

Young Adults' Session (13-22): 6:30p.m.-7:15p.m.

Adaptive Rock Climbing

June 26, July 7 & 31, August 21

Central Rock Gym, 165 Russell Street, Hadley, MA

Hip Hop Class For Adults (18+)

July 10, 17, 24 and August 7, 14, 21

85 Interstate Drive, West Springfield, MA

Sign-ups and online payments are due for all events at least one week before each program at <https://chd.org/adult-services/community-based-programs/disability-resources/>. Call Jess at 413-788-9695 with any questions.

Autism Connections Family Picnic

Saturday August 4, 2018

3:30pm-6:00pm

Stanley Park , Children's Pavillion B, Westfield

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 at 413-529-2428 or email Danielle.plasse@pathlightgroup.org.

NEW TIME!

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

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. 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

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. You may join us for one or both monthly sessions!	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 (previously Holyoke 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 . Group will meet 2nd Wednesday of each month. 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 to Mom's Night Out. Jericho will supply drinks and refreshments. Bring something to share!	Call Linda LaPointe for meeting times. Jericho 537 Northampton Street Holyoke, MA	Must RSVP to 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			
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 mamas coffee club	A bi-weekly meetup and solidarity circle for: foster mamas, stepmamas, guardians and adoptive mamas. Or anymama who takes care of another mama's child.	Every other Monday evening 6:00pm-7:00pm The Roost 1 Market Street, 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" for our community 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 new 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

Please help us go green. Contact **Danielle** if you are receiving a hardcopy of this newsletter and would prefer an electronic edition only.



Autism Connections
A Program of Pathlight, Inc.
116 Pleasant Street, Suite 366
Easthampton, MA 01027

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EASTHAMPTON, MA

2018 June Edition

Community Connection Newsletter

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

Thank you to all of our donors, partners and supporters.

Our fiscal year ends June 30, and we have been graciously supported by so many people in our community this year.

Individuals and families have recognized the need for our services, or have benefited directly and have chosen to honor their neighbors with a donation to Autism Connections. There are so many of you. We are very appreciative of each and every gift. Thank you.

Our community partners have stepped up to support our fundraisers and conference. They include Dowd Agencies LLC, Rich Tetterer and WWLP-22 News, 94.7 WMAS, Berkshire Bank, Balise Auto, The Keady Foard Montemagni Wealth Management Group, Trinity Health, Northampton Pediatrics, Quinn Family Dental, Aaron Smith P.C., Sunshine Village, Fathers & Sons, Bay Path University, The Springfield Museum

of Science, The Log Cabin, Radcliffe is the Reason and Arthur Too Fight for Autism, Elms College, Berkshire Hills Music Academy, Bonnie Alpert, Cynthia Montano, Crystal Springs, AFAM, Communication Therapy Associates, the Home Modification Loan Program, Cambridge College and our many exhibitors and event vendors.

The Berkshire Autism Initiative organized several dynamic events which helped us to significantly support families connected to Autism Connections in the Berkshires.

Many more businesses and individuals have donated items and service to our family activities. We could not support our community without the help of all of you.

thank you