



Community Connection

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

Newsletter

Autism Waiver Program, important dates!

Important message to Massachusetts families with children under age 9 with autism

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, social and communication challenges. The program provides 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.

The waiver also provides related support services such as community integration activities 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 9th birthday.

This year, the Open Request dates are October 17, 2017 - October 31, 2017. All applications must be postmarked and /or submitted within these dates or they will not be considered.

How to Participate in the Eligibility Process:

1. Get a copy of the Autism Program Request Form

a) Please contact Autism Connections to request the Application Form (forms can also be found online) or for help in completing the form.

b) The Autism Division will post all forms on the DDS website:

www.mass.gov/DDS under “Autism Spectrum Services”

2. Complete the Autism Program Application Form

3. Submit the Autism Program Eligibility Application Form

- a. All applications must have a postmark or date stamp between October 17th, 2017 and October 31st, 2017. **ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER CHILD**—The Autism Division will discard multiple forms.
- b. Please mail the form to: (The Autism Division is not accepting hand delivered forms):

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

This Notice and other waiver eligibility information is available on the DDS web-site at www.mass.gov/DDS under “Autism Spectrum Services” and at the Autism Connections office. Materials are available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Haitian-Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, and Vietnamese. For additional information about the Autism Waiver Program, contact Autism Connections or email AutismDivision@state.ma.us. You can also call the Autism Division at DDS at 617-624-7518.

Autism Connections is the Autism Support Center facilitating the waiver process for families in western Massachusetts.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Autism Waiver Services..... 1
- Staff directory.....2
- Berkshire Collaborative and Recaps.....2
- Upcoming activities.....3
- Team interview.....4
- Events!.....5
- Calendar of events.....6-7
- Events & workshops.....8-9
- Support groups.....10-11
- Thank you!.....12

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.



STAFF DIRECTORY

Karen Serra (x123)
Director

Ben Breton (x121)
Autism Specialist

Lora Cortis (x124)
Autism Specialist

Erica Donovan (413.443.4780 x19)
Berkshire Program Manager

Carla Doyle-Florence (x119)
Autism Support Broker

Katie Drumm (x111)
Easthampton Program Manager

Nancy Farnsworth (x113)
Educational Advocate

Elizabeth Flaherty (413.443.4780)
Autism Specialist

Leeanne Hadsel (x122)
Autism Support Broker

Kimberly LaMothe (x118)
Behavioral Specialist

Joanne Lucey (x116)
*Development & Communications
Coordinator*

Joyce Paige (x110)
Office Coordinator

Gaby Santiago (x125)
*Bilingual Autism Specialist
Habla español*

Rhonda Setkewich (x117)
Autism Specialist / IFFS Coordinator

Tanya White (413.585.8010 x127)
Autism Specialist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Betsy Benton	Jeanne Zobel-Lachiusa
Lisa Crouser	Paula Fredericks
Carrie Lemelin	Bill Loomis
Pamela Sandler	Michael Wilcox

Autism Collaborative Meeting and summer picnic

Berkshire Autism Collaborative Monthly Meeting. October 20



The Berkshire Autism Collaborative is a community meeting open to both service providers and parents, to communicate resources and bring together professionals and families. Our October meeting will be held at Berkshire County Arc Training Room, 2 South Street, Suite 370, third floor, Pittsfield. This meeting is open to all that would like to learn about Autism services provided throughout Berkshire County. Each month a Spotlight Speaker from an agency in Berkshire County will present their services to families and individuals with Autism. The

Spotlight Speaker will have about 15 minutes to talk about their programs and then answer questions from the audience. October's Spotlight Speaker will be the Berkshire County Disabilities Response Team. Please contact Erica Donovan at 413-443-4780 ext. 19 with any questions regarding the meeting or if your agency is interested in being a Spotlight Speaker, or if you would like to attend the meeting.

Family Picnic at Westfield's Stanley Park

It's hard to believe that we are well into fall! As we look back on the summer, one our favorite memories is our Annual Picnic on Saturday, July 29th. The weather gave us a beautiful sunny day. We were delighted to reconnect with so many of our longstanding community members, and to see some new faces too! Children enjoyed playing parachute games and the bubble station, and explored the attached playground. The Radiant Circles Hoop Troupe was on hand to ensure that hula hooping hijinks abounded and everyone got the chance to show off their dance moves. We cannot thank Big E's Super Market in Easthampton enough for their generous contribution of hamburgers, hot dogs and rolls and Dave's Soda and Pet City for donating water and soda. Thank you to everyone who brought their own dish to share. We hope to see you at our Halloween parties and Fall Open House! (see pages 3 and 5)



Upcoming events



Easthampton Halloween Party Eastworks Party Space, Friday October 27

Something is brewing at Autism Connections and you are invited for pizza, cupcake decorating, crafts, karaoke, a "scary" selfie station and lots of fun! This is a family friendly, community friendly event for all ages. All we ask is that you RSVP to [Joyce](mailto:joyce) at 413-529-2428 ext 110, or joyce.paige@pathlightgroup.org (so we can have enough of everything).

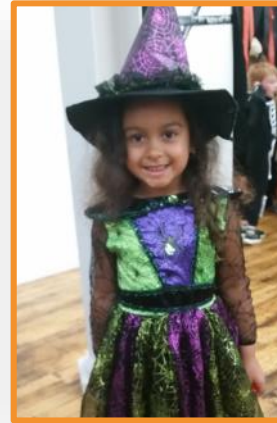
Friday October 27, 2017

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Eastworks Event Space (near Riff's Joint in the first floor)

116 Pleasant Street, Easthampton

RSVP: Joyce at 413-529-2428, x110



Pittsfield Halloween Harvest Party Social Development Center, Wednesday October 18

Central and Southern Berkshire Family Support Group invites you to a Halloween Harvest Dinner Party! Bring a dish to share if you like, wear your favorite costume, join in the music, dancing prizes, laughter and fun!

Wednesday October 18, 2017

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Social Development Center

65 Depot Street, Dalton

RSVP: Nancy Willey at 413-464-7262, x13, or nwilley@bcarc.org



The [Wings for Autism](#) events are designed for families who have children with autism to practice a trip to the airport. Every member of the family is issued a boarding pass. They practice going through a fully staffed security checkpoint and then wait at the terminal before boarding their plane. Everyone has the opportunity to board a plane and sit down for a snack. The families can talk with flight attendants and pilots and provide

their children with a real life, air-travel experience.

Some families attend to find out if air travel is possible. Other families attend to give their children practice with the travel process. Whatever the reason is, we welcome everyone to join us!

Date: November 4, 2017

Location: Logan Airport, Terminal E Boston, MA

Registration is required at:

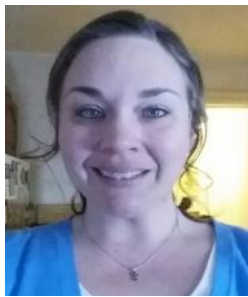
www.charlesrivercenter.org

Email Jen Ryan, Wings for Autism Coordinator, Charles River Center wingsforautism@charlesrivercenter.org with any questions.

Spotlight on trainings, and team interview

Autism Connections offers several different trainings to help families, professionals, and community members better understand and support people with autism.

Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviors continues to be our most popular. The training reviews the strengths and challenges of children and adults on the autism spectrum and how these factors may result in challenging behaviors. It delves into the possible intent behind these behaviors and strategies on how to teach desired behaviors, with a review of helpful positive interventions.



Our trainer for Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviors is Rhonda Setkewich, an Autism Specialist and Coordinator for our Intensive Flexible Family Supports program. Rhonda has almost twenty years experience in supporting children, and an

extensive history as a preschool teacher at Headstart. She has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education, a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, and a Master's in Special Education from Bay Path University.

Learn more about Rhonda in our interview below!

What sparked your interest in working with in human services?

I have always wanted to work with children, beginning during my days in Girl Scouts, when I began helping with the younger troops around the age of 11 or 12. From as long back as I can remember, I have always wanted to be a teacher of some type. When I started work at Head Start, I became the teacher that all the 'hard' kids were sent to. After a few years of experience, I realized these kids were hard for a reason, and that reason was that they learned differently than the other kids in the classroom. That experience is what really sparked my interest in special education and eventually led me to return to school.

What's your favorite thing about your job?

It's almost hard to pick one favorite thing about my job. I really dig the people I work with and I love the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the families I work with. But I guess if I had to pick a favorite, it would be almost like a mosaic, composed of small moments that remind me why I do what I do. It would be made up of the moment I sat at a kitchen table and a mom shared that I was "the first person that really understands the autism" or the moment when a parent trusted me enough to pick their child up and bring them to an Autism Connections event when "I have never let him go in a car with anyone other than family before" or the moment when I hadn't been to teen group in almost a year and one of the young ladies saw me and ran to me and hugged me and said "Rhonda it's been so long, I have been waiting to tell you..." and told me about every important moment since the last time I saw her or the moment I finally convinced a mom to bring her son to the park, with lots of visuals and prep and when we got there she said "I don't remember the last time we just played together."

It's so very meaningful to me that I am able to help families have meaningful experiences with their children, when every other service in their lives revolves around fixing or fine tuning.

What do you find to be the most important aspect/find most rewarding in your role as a trainer?

My training has many aspects to it. It has that understanding of behavior and how autism affects that behavior, which is sometimes an ah-ha moment for the people I am training. But I think the best part is the conversation that is always generated. I love when a parent raises their hand and asks a question that resonates with other people in the group. I love when conversation leads down a road that has people saying "wow, I'm not the only one." I love that as a trainer I have the opportunity to facilitate a sense of community that many people have a hard time finding.

What's a fun fact about you? I was a Girl Scout for 18 years and got my Gold Award which lead to a scholarship to Bay Path.

Upcoming events

Open House, November 4

OPEN STUDIOS EASTWORKS

Eastworks Open Studios takes place on November 4-5. More than 45 artists, entrepreneurs, businesses and organizations are opening their doors to the public, offering studio visits, shopping,

workshops, demonstrations, crafting, children's activities and more. Special events including musical performances will be happening all over the building. Food trucks will offer snacks and meals.

Autism Connections' office will be open on Saturday November 4 to greet you while you attend this amazing event. Families are welcome to stop by the office and connect with some of our team members and participate in family activities. We look forward to the opportunity to meet you in a fun, festive setting.

Save the dates!



Stepping Out for Autism returns in 2018 with *A Night at the Museum*, and a new location at the [Museum of Springfield History](#) on **January 27, 2018** at 6:00 p.m., brought to you by presenting Sponsor Dowd Insurance Agency. Join us for an evening of food, cocktails, music and dancing, live and silent auctions, and an exploration of all of the museum's exhibits, which will be open to all attendees!



2018 Annual Autism Conference

Our Annual Autism Conference returns for the 18th year on **April 27, 2018** at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. Join us this year as [Steve Silberman](#), the author of *NeuroTribes* will be the keynote speaker, along with a panel discussion. Stay tuned for more information.

DDS Art show, November 16

Artists in our Midst 2017

The Holyoke/Chicopee DDS office would like to invite you to our 6th annual Art Show. The opening night will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2017 from 4:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. located at 88 Front Street, Holyoke, MA.

We hope to see you there!

Warm Regards,
Holyoke/Chicopee DDS

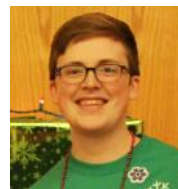
(413) 535-1022

Please note: Cash is preferred/No Credit Cards Accepted

Transition Resource Fair, October 18

The Transition Resource Fair takes place October 18 at Northampton High School. Keynote speaker Michael Plansky takes the stage at 5:00 p.m. and the Resource Fair highlights more than 30 exhibitors from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. This is a free community event and addresses the needs of students in the transition year of 14-22+ with a wide range of abilities and learning differences. Email Donna from Family Empowerment at Donna.Kushi@pathlightgroup.org to register.

A farewell to Iris Scott!



Autism Connections wishes a fond farewell to Iris Scott, our Autism Resource Center Coordinator. Iris has been the contact person for most of our events over the past two

years, and her cheerful attitude and thoughtfulness towards others has made a positive impact in many lives. We wish her well on her new adventures!

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MON

TUES

WEDS

OCTOBER 2017

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

Western MA Parent
Support Group
5:30pm-7:30pm
Holyoke, MA

8

9

10

11

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

Asperger's Support Group
5:00pm-6:30pm
Pittsfield, MA
Holyoke Support Group
5:30pm-7:30pm
Holyoke, MA

15

16

17

18

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

Transition
Resource Fair
5:00pm-8:00pm
Northampton High School
Northampton, MA
Halloween Harvest Party
5:30pm-7:30pm
Social Development Ctr.
Dalton

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THURS

FRI

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AUTISM CONNECTIONS

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2017

5

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

6

7

12

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

13

Berkshire Teen Group
Pittsfield

14

19

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

20

Berkshire Collaborative
Monthly Meeting
10am-12pm
BCARC Training Room
2 South Street, Suite 370
Pittsfield

21

26

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

27

Halloween Party
5:30-7:30
Eastworks Party Space
116 Pleasant Street
Easthampton, MA

28

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

COMMUNITY/FAMILY EVENTS



Pittsfield Halloween Party

Wednesday, October 18 • 5:30pm-7:30pm
Social Development Center
65 Depot Street, Dalton, MA

RSVP: Nancy Willey, nwilley@bcarc.org

Central and Southern Berkshire Family Support Group invites us all to a Halloween Harvest Dinner Party. Enjoy dinner (bring a dish to share if you like), music, costumes, dancing, prizes, laughter and fun!



Easthampton Halloween Party

Friday, October 27 • 5:30pm-7:30pm
Eastworks Event Space
116 Pleasant Street, first floor near Riff's
Easthampton, MA

RSVP: Joyce Paige—joyce.paige@pathlightgroup.org

Whether you're sporty, princessy, ghoulish, or wear a mask, join us for our Halloween party, that's all we ask!

Wear your best costumes for a night full of fun, including pizza, cupcake decorating, crafts, karaoke and a "scary" selfie station at our family friendly, all ages party!

To make sure we don't run out of pizza, please RSVP to Joyce Paige at joyce.paige@pathlightgroup.org



Pittsfield Open Swim

Thursdays • 6:00-7:00pm
Gladys allen Brigham Community Ctr.
165 East Street, Pittsfield, MA

RSVP: 442-5174 ext. 25

Open and free swim to all individuals and families affiliated with UCP and Autism Connections. Registration is required to ensure adequate number of lifeguards. Please note there will be no staffing for this swim. All children must be accompanied by an adult and any adults needing personal care or supervision must come with a caregiver.

PATHLIGHT PARTNER EVENTS

Whole Children, Milestones Recreation opportunities

41 Russell Street,
Hadley, MA

Whole Children

Programs for school age children and teens (ages 3-16). Visit wholechildren.org or get [more info](#).

Milestones

Enrichment classes for older teens and adults. Visit wholechildren.org or get [more info](#).

Potluck socials, ages 18+: Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., games, music, and food! Please bring a nut-free entree, dessert or appetizer to share and register at 413-585-8010. Date for Potlucks: October 13, 20; November 17; December 1

All ages Halloween Dance: Friday October 27, 6:30-8:30 Costumes are welcomed and encouraged!

All ages Winter Dance: Friday December 8, 6:30-8:30 Semi-formal attire (no jeans please).

Check website for more info on all of the above events.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

Special Needs Bounce

Bounce! Trampoline Sports

1250 St. James Avenue, Springfield, MA

Bounce! Trampoline Sports offers a sensory friendly opportunity twice a month for kiddos and adults with special needs. Enjoy the facility in a quiet setting, designated exclusively for jumpers with special needs and their families.

These opportunities take place on the first and third Saturday of each month from 9:00am-10:00am. The cost is \$10 per jumper, and the parent or guardian jumps free! Call 413.351.3535 with any questions.

TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS

Family Empowerment Transition Fair

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

5:00pm-8:00pm

Keynote: 5-6, Exhibitor Fair: 6-8

Northampton High School, Northampton, MA

The Transition Resource Fair (similar to a college fair) addresses the needs of students with a broad range of abilities. The Fair highlights more than 30 exhibitors who offer opportunities and post-high school options for all students with learning differences who want to explore college, employment and support possibilities. This is a free community event.

Keynote speaker (and exhibitor) Michael Plansky, founder of [You're with us!](#) discusses his organization which provides inclusion opportunities for young adults with disabilities. The program identifies and trains college clubs, groups, and teams to be welcoming and supportive peers to the differently abled. The college group then creates a Positive Experience Design (PED) customized for the young adult to help him or her transition from school to an adult life in the community. You're With Us! believes that a meaningful life includes a home, a job, family, friends and social opportunities with their peers - able and otherwise.

Hear Michael explain more about his organization here: <https://>

**The Massachusetts Developmental Disability Council Family Empowerment Funds can provide grants for family members to attend conferences and trainings. Visit www.mddc.com for details.*

TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS

School Evaluations and Assessments: What they are, when they should be done, why they are important and how they can help

Wednesday, November 15 • 6:00pm-8:00pm

Family Empowerment

41 Russell Street, Hadley, MA

RSVP: donna.kushi@pathlightgroup.org

At this free community training, Come learn about standard 3-year evaluations, including transition assessments, adaptive functioning, independent living skills, and a range of skill evaluations.

Statewide Transition Conference

Saturday, November 24, 2017

College of the Holy Cross

Worcester, MA

A statewide all-day conference for families, introducing state-of-the-art, best practices around Transition, covering topics focused upon creating seamless, successful transitions into the adult world. Workshops will cover education in the school system, employment, post-secondary education, community involvement, self-determination, independent living skills, financial and legal considerations, eligibility for services and many others!

For more information: <http://thearcofmass.org/conference/>



= Autism Connections
Event

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.
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 or to join this group, 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. Participants are welcome to 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.	Meets at Jericho in Holyoke as well as one other location, different each month. Please contact PPAL for locations and times.	For more information visit www.ppal.net or email eszela@ppal.net .
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

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	MEETING DETAILS	CONTACT/MORE INFO
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 .
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.

Contact us

Not seeing what you want? We do our absolute best to deliver you all the news and events related to autism in Western Massachusetts (and beyond).

Contact Joyce Paige (joyce.paige@pathlightgroup.org) or 413.529.2428 and let us know how we can better serve you and your family through our monthly newsletter!

Help us go green! Contact Joyce Paige if you are receiving a hardcopy of this newsletter and would prefer receiving an electronic edition.



Autism Connections

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2017 October Edition

Community Connection Newsletter

Autism Connections: a Pathlight program

Thank you to our community partners

Berkshire Autism Initiative and Buddy's Sunshine Angels

The Berkshire Autism Initiative coordinated a very successful (and super fun) **Gypsy Layne** benefit for Autism Connections at Cranwell Resort in September. The event was very well attended and raised significant funds from ticket sales, sponsorships and live and silent auctions, all to benefit local families. In particular, Robin MacPherson and Sharon Chapman, along with the entire BAI team of dedicated volunteers worked very hard to create this outstanding evening of entertainment and support.

Jennie and Joe Clark, founders of **Buddy's Sunshine Angels** held their yearly golf tournament to benefit Autism

Connections in August at Bas Ridge Golf Club in Hinsdale. The community turnout was wonderful and Joe and Jennie and their entire group produced an exceptional and meaningful event to support local families. Thank you to Joe and Jennie for their loyal fundraising efforts over the years.

Many of the unique and popular programs we offer to our families are 100% dependent on community support and we appreciate every amount we receive that helps us continue these important programs. A sincere thank you to all sponsors, volunteers, attendees and supporters of these sustaining events.