

POWERED BY
NBC 4 **AUTISM SOCIETY**
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism

THE autism puzzle

Linking information for the Autism Community
June 2010

Summer Happenings

- Camp Listings
- Events Around Ohio

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Welcome

Welcome to the June-July edition of The Autism Puzzle! We are thankful that you have picked up this publication and hope you'll find the information provided useful and enjoyable.

While we've tried to educate through our series, we've also wanted to listen. Listen not only to parents, doctors and therapists... we wanted to listen to the people directly affected by autism.

I recently met with students from Aspirations, a group of young people diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome. The

group is based at the Ohio State University, and its mission is to assist people with high-functioning forms of autism to better understand their diagnosis and to help them improve in their professional and social connections.

Just being honest here... I've never been so surprised after an interview in my life. Before we started, I wondered if we could get the students to really talk about their lives, despite the TV lights and huge cameras surrounding them. By the finish, our planned half-hour shoot ran over an

hour. One young man from Grove City talked about his hopes one day to meet a girl and enjoy a romantic relationship. Melanie, a grad student at OSU, talked about her anger over how some autism support groups treat people with autism. A 17-year-old high school student talked about her fears of talking at school and her struggles to meet friends. We talked about the difficulties in landing a job that meets their abilities, their social interactions with the public, etc.

Obviously, these were among the

people on the spectrum who function at the highest levels. But I learned, sitting with them that day, that all our friends with autism communicate beautifully—autism really does “Speak.” We just have to listen closely.

Many thanks!
Jerod Smalley, NBC 4



I Suspect My Child Has Autism: A Four-Step Guide for Ohio Parents on What to Do Next

Step 1:

Ask for an Evaluation

There are three types of evaluations:

- 1 - Medical/Clinical Evaluation — from your doctor.
- 2 - Education Evaluation — from your local school.
- 3 - Evaluation for Additional Services — from local County Board of Developmental Disabilities or other public entity.

Step 2:

Educate Yourself

Get Ohio's Parent Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorders at www.ocali.org. Contact the Autism Society of Ohio for information resources at www.autismohio.org.

Step 3:

Research Getting Services

Each individual with autism is “uniquely autistic.” There is no “one-size-fits-all” treatment. The burden of determining what will work best, falls on the family and the professionals who work with them. See Chapter 4 of Ohio's Parent Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorders for more information on types of interventions.

Step 4:

Record Management

You will be gathering a lot of information that you will want to keep handy, so you will need to create a filing system that you can maintain.

For the complete Next Steps guide, visit www.autismohio.org and click on the Parent's Manual icon.



Summer is here! Have fun, enjoy the weather and talk to Candidates about autism!

Summer is finally here and it's a great time to kick back and enjoy the great weather and time off from school. Although that may be easier said than done if you are the parent of a child with autism. Our children thrive on routine and structure and have difficulty with change, so transitioning from the structure of school days to the sometimes chaotic days of summer can be difficult. However, there are plenty of opportunities for our children with autism to participate in camps and other recreational activities this summer to provide some structure and fun. Here are a couple of resources that you can use to find opportunities in your area:

- Check out the Recreation and Camps listing on the Autism Society of Ohio's website under "Resources," "Web links"
- Contact your local Autism Society chapter for local resources on the Autism Society of Ohio's website under "Local Chapters"
- Search the OCALI Resource Database under Recreation and Leisure category



Michael and Cari Yavorcik. Michael, 21, has autism.

- Contact your local county Board of Developmental Disabilities – most maintain a list of opportunities in the county

This summer is also campaign season, as all of Ohio's State Representatives and half of Ohio's State Senators are running for election or re-election. This is a great time to talk to legislators and candidates about autism related issues that are important to you – like autism insurance coverage – and find out their positions on these issues. Legislators want and need to know how constituents feel on these issues, so this is an opportunity to make

your voice heard. For more information, check out the Update on Autism Issues in this issue.

The Autism Society also provides information and referral services, an information packed website (www.autismohio.org), a weekly e-newsletter and an information phone line. Contact us any time.

Barbara C. Yavorcik
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Linking information for the Autism community

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Update on Autism Issues in Ohio

From Barbara C. Yavorcik, Executive Director, Autism Society of Ohio

Here is a brief update on issues of concern from the state level:

Summer Campaign Season Underway – Talk to Legislators and Candidates about HB8: Autism Insurance Coverage

The Ohio General Assembly is now in recess and will remain so, most likely, until after the elections in November. All of Ohio's State Representatives and half of Ohio's State Senators are up for election/re-election. Candidates will be out campaigning all summer at county fairs, parades, festivals, dinners and other events. These are great opportunities to ask candidates and current office holders about their position on HB8 – Autism insurance coverage.

HB8 prohibits health insurers from excluding coverage for specified services for individuals diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. This bill was passed by the Ohio House on December 14, 2009.

Covered services under the bill include:

- Habilitative or rehabilitative care (which would include therapies like Applied Behavior Analysis)
- Pharmacy care if the policy, contract, or agreement provides coverage for other prescription drug services
- Psychiatric care
- Psychological care
- Therapeutic care
- Counseling services

The bill also includes a \$36,000 annual cap on benefits, requires providers to be licensed or work

Autism Insurance Facts

- Autism affects one in 110 children
- Autism is an excluded condition in most health insurance policies in Ohio – this is discrimination
- Without insurance coverage, many children forego services
- Autism treatments are proven and effective
- Cost increase is less than one percent of current health care policy premiums
- Insurance coverage will reduce reliance on state aid

under a licensed provider, delays the effective date of the legislation until January 2011 and allows for six-month reviews of treatment plans by health insurance companies.

You can also write or call candidates to find out their position on autism insurance coverage. Provide them with the Autism Insurance Facts listed in the box at left – or download the Autism Insurance Frequently Asked Questions sheet for them from the Autism Society of Ohio website at www.autismohio.org. Support the candidate of your choice either financially or by helping their campaign. Encourage friends and relatives to do the same.

The Autism Society has also organized the Ohio Autism Advocacy Network – advocates in districts around Ohio willing to call write and meet with legislators. If you are willing to help with this effort, just send your name and address to askASO@autismohio.org.

Legislators want and need to know how constituents feel on this important issue so make your voice heard.

Ohio's Family and Children First Council Committed to Family Engagement

Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) is statutorily defined as the Governor's Cabinet for children and families that was established in 1993 by Section 121.37 of the Ohio Revised Code. The OFCF Cabinet Council is comprised of 11 state agencies (ODOA, ODADAS, ODODD, ODE, ODH, ODJFS, ODMH, ODRC, ODYS, ORSC, and OBM) and the Governor's Office. It is currently chaired by the First Lady of Ohio, Frances Strickland. Locally, the county commissioners regulate the 88 county Family and Children First (FCF) Councils.

The OFCF formed the Family Engagement Committee last year to address the lack of coordination among existing family involvement efforts. The committee came up with two priorities that address cross-agency communication, alignment, efficiency, and effectiveness and training, education, activities and resources. The first strategy is to develop a universal family engagement and empowerment website to serve as a "network for parents and professionals" by raising awareness, promoting and aligning parent trainings, educational resources, supports and events. Work has begun on this effort and the Autism Society is co-



chairing one of the subcommittees on this effort. The website will contain all types of resources for families including parent training, educational resources, supports, and events and for professionals including professional trainings focused on family engagement, education resources, supports, and events. The website is expected to launch late this year. Visit the Autism Society of Ohio website at www.autismohio.org and register to receive our weekly e-newsletter the DIGEST for continued information about this project.

Energizing Individuals & Families Committee formed by DODD

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council has formed and is chairing the Energizing Individuals and Families Committee at the request of the Department of Developmental Disabilities. The purpose of the committee is to facilitate cooperation and resource sharing around individual and family advocacy and support among several statewide advocacy groups – including the Autism Society of Ohio, the Arc of Ohio, the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio League and People First of Ohio. While the committee is just getting started, the groups are looking to collaborate on legislative advocacy training, better communication regarding events and conferences and developing a statewide network of family advocates. The Autism Society will keep you posted on any new developments.



DODD Continues to Work on Implementing Recommendations of the Futures Committee

The Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Futures Committee was created by Governor Ted Strickland, members of the Ohio General Assembly and the DODD community as a result of language including in the budget bill passed in 2007. Among other tasks, it was charged to review the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of current uses of funding for the state's mental retardation and developmental disabilities system. In March, 2008 a final report was issued with a variety of recommendations for

Autism Issues

Continued from page 4

system improvements. Since then, the DODD has been work to implement the recommendations. The department has been working with representatives of stakeholder organizations on the implementation of the recommendations, including Barb Yavorcik, executive director of the Autism Society of Ohio, who was also a chair of one of the subcommittees of the original Futures Committee. Areas of concentration include streamlining the process for assuring the quality of services, upgrading and integrating information systems infrastructure, planning for fiscal sustainability of services, foster community involvement of Ohio's developmental centers, create a positive culture around delivery of services, address waiting lists and foster collaboration among County Boards of DD. For complete information on progress that DODD is making in these areas, visit their website at www.odmrdd.state.oh.us and click on "DODD Priority Work" under "News."

2010 OCALI Conference – Autism Society subsidizing Parent/Family Registrations

The 2010 Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) statewide conference will be held Nov. 17-19, 2010 in Columbus at the Columbus Convention Center. Registration is now open. Registration for parents and family members is only \$100 for the three day conference, courtesy of the Autism Society of Ohio. Featured speakers for the conference are David Hamrick and Lindsey Nebeker. David Hamrick is a 30-year-old meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Jackson, Mississippi. Lindsey Nebeker is a 28-year-old pianist, songwriter and advocate. Both are diagnosed with high-functioning autism. Together, they will share their stories of growing up with autism, with a special focus on relationship

and employment issues. Both were featured on Good Morning America and in Glamour magazine. For complete information on the conference, visit www.ocali.org.

For more information on these or any other topics related to autism, visit the Autism Society of Ohio website at www.autismohio.org or call (614) 487-4726. Your input and feedback are extremely important, as the Autism Society advocates at the state level on behalf of all affected by autism.



2010 OCALI Conference

November 17-19
Greater Columbus Convention Center

The nation's premier event in autism, assistive technology and low-incidence disabilities.

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Featured Speakers

Lindsey Nebeker and Dave Hamrick

Featured in *Glamour* magazine
and ABC's *Good Morning America*

conference.ocali.org

614.410.0321



OCALI New Tech Tools

The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) is pleased to announce the release of several new tools that connect users with free information and resources on autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Through iTunes U, YouTube and a forthcoming iPhone App, OCALI is providing new opportunities that take advantage of these popular and evolving technologies.

iTunes U is an online learning environment available through Apple's iTunes application. Colleges/universities, non-profit organizations, K-12 schools and others have posted lectures, videos, documents and more. Users can access and download the posted content for free. Ohio was an early pioneer in iTunes U and maintains a portal that connects to education, government and community providers from across the state.

OCALI can be found within the Ohio portal under Autism Resources. Posted videos include *Advice*



for Families New to ASD, *Early Signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder* and *The Importance of Social Skill Development*. Documents include the *Parent Guide on Autism Spectrum Disorder* and *I Suspect My Child Has Autism: A Four-Step Guide for Ohio Parents on What to Do Next*. Additional videos and documents will be posted to the

OCALI page in iTunes U in the coming weeks and months. iTunes is a free application for Mac and PC users. Download information is available at www.apple.com/itunes/download.

"We are excited about the flexibility and possibility these technologies provide and will continue to explore and adopt new tools and methods that help parents and professionals succeed."

Shawn Henry, executive director

The OCALI YouTube channel includes video vignettes on key topics and issues, including visual supports, social skills and personal perspectives from individuals with ASD.

Dr. Christi Carnahan of the University of Cincinnati describes her development

of a successful visual support system in *The Importance of Visual Supports*. Special educator Kristin Kaifas discusses the critical need for understanding social skills in *The Importance of Social Skill Development*. Dr. Stephen Shore, a writer and speaker who has been diagnosed with ASD, debunks popular misconceptions and misunderstandings about individuals with ASD in *Autism Advocate*.

Each video is less than five minutes in length, providing high-quality narratives for viewers with limited time or who are streaming video to their phone or mobile device. Additional videos will be posted on the OCALI YouTube channel in the coming months. Access the OCALI YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/ocalivideos

OCALI will soon release its Services and Supports App for the iPhone and iPod Touch. OCALI's online Services and Supports Database provides users with a listing of companies and organizations who serve individuals with ASD and other disabilities. Providers are organized by category, including Parent/Family Support, Products/Services and Legal Information. Users can search by zip code to find organizations and companies within their immediate area.

The Services and Support Database iPhone App



will provide the same functionality for users on their iPhone or iPod Touch. Users will be able to search for providers in the OCALI Services and Supports database while on the go and can also directly contact these providers with the provided telephone number or email address. New product and service providers will be available as soon as they are added to the database. The Services and Supports app will be available in summer 2010 through the iTunes store or App store.

"OCALI continues to pursue and develop new means of educating and connecting parents and professionals with ideas, examples and strategies for serving individuals with ASD," said executive director Shawn Henry. "We are excited about the flexibility and possibility these technologies provide and will continue to explore and adopt new tools and methods that help parents and professionals succeed."

More information about OCALI products and services is available at ocali.org.



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The Autism Bowl-A-Thon

I want to invite you to join our mission at NBC 4 to better understand autism and support autism awareness efforts. Please join us Sunday, July 11 at Columbus Square Bowling Palace in Columbus for our first The Autism Puzzle Bowl-A-Thon. We are partnering with central Ohio companies and families in this effort to show support for Autism Speaks, the nation's largest autism charity. We are pitting our lane sponsors against each other in a bowling tournament and encouraging our friends to raise money on their own and bring it to the Bowl-A-Thon. We are conducting a huge silent auction that day, with the proceeds benefitting Helping Hands Center, an outstanding Columbus-based academy that focuses on early intervention therapies for children with autism. We'll award prizes for the top teams and, of course, we'll honor the person wearing the ugliest

bowling shirt.

But that's just part of our plan. We are inviting children with an autism diagnosis to come and learn how to bowl... for free. We will have lanes set up that day with bumpers, so our friends can learn the game (remember, bowling is among the most popular sports in Special Olympics and can be played for a lifetime). Our space is limited, so please contact me at jsmalley@wcmh.com to register your child ASAP.

All our bowlers receive special event T-shirts and a number of surprise goodies you will not want to miss. If you'd like to get your company or family involved, there's still time. Just call 614-261-4413 or email me at jsmalley@wcmh.com and we'll get you the



information. Let's fill the Square this summer and make a unified stand for our friends with autism. Let's be the next piece to help solve the puzzle!

Jerod Smalley, NBC 4

Thank You to our Sponsors



CAMPERS

Camp Arye Ohavim

Columbus
columbusjcc.org/summercamps
614.231.2731

Camp Can Do

Worthington/various
www.ymcacolumbus.org/pdf/camp-can-do-brochure.pdf
614.543.9000

Deaf Adventure Camp

Worthington
<http://www.dsc.org/DKTC/camp.html>
866.841.1991 (v/tty)

Easter Seals Camp Challenge

Marietta
800.860.5523

Easter Seals Summer Day Camp

Hilliard
614.228.5523

Ohio State School for the Blind Summer Camps

Columbus
www.ossb.oh.gov/SummerCamps.php
800.310.3317

Owl's Acre Equine Center

Lancaster
www.hockinghills.com/blessedmeadow/equine-center
740.687.5570

Recreation Unlimited (Prader-Willi, Epilepsy, Autism)

Ashley
www.recreationunlimited.org
740.548.7006

Robert K. Fox Family YMCA

Lancaster
<http://www.ymcalancaester.org/CampAnd-Childcare.aspx#summerdaycamp>
740.654.0616

S.T.A.R. (Sensory*Training*And*Relaxation)

Rio Grande
sjshort22@suddenlink.net
740.645.3160



GET MORE STORIES THAT MATTER ON NBC 4

THE autism puzzle

THE NEXT EDITION
Wednesday, October 6, 7:00pm



Jerod Smalley
Ellie Merritt

Colleen Marshall
Cabot Rea

NBC 4 HD
WHERE ACCURACY MATTERS

Step By Step Academy

Continued Success



**Assessment and
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Step By Step Academy

Building a Community One Step at a Time

Gabriel Thomas Valley

Murphy knows how to make an entrance. At seven years old, he bursts into rooms where adults are gathered and yells at the top of his lungs, "Hi guys!" If there is someone unknown to him amongst familiar people, he is sure to greet them and introduce himself: "Hello, my name is Murphy," he says, extending his hand for a handshake. "It's nice to meet you." It's hard to imagine that just two years ago, the little charmer was almost totally nonverbal – harder still to believe that Murphy has autism, a developmental disability characterized by deficits in social interaction and communicative abilities.

A few hours after Murphy was born, he was diagnosed with Down syndrome – a diagnosis that stunned his family, as they had been told, after prenatal testing, that Murphy likely did not have the chromosomal disorder. "He's always been full of surprises," says Tina, his mother. "We were not prepared to raise a child with special needs. I questioned everything I did as his mother, questioned everything he did, developmentally. I wasn't sure what should concern me. I felt very lost." Indeed, Murphy's entire family felt lost as he grew, watching as he played alone with small parts of toys, rather than playing with the toy as a whole. "I think what really alerted me was the way he treated [his sister] Katie," says Tina. She describes the relationship between the siblings as "troubled": "She would try to hug him and he'd hit her, as hard as he could. He'd bite her, headbutt her, then go back to playing by himself. I kept thinking, 'this isn't right, this isn't Down syndrome' – there had to be another answer." Chris, Murphy's father, states, "Tina was worried, and said to several people that [Murphy's behavior] wasn't 'typical' Down syndrome behavior; they insisted it was. She refused to believe that

we had the whole story – [his diagnosis] didn't explain everything we were seeing. We took him to Dr. Janet Hansen in Dublin, and she agreed: Murphy also had autism. The next day, Tina began to research and found Step By Step nearby, and we enrolled him."

Just after his autism diagnosis was made, Murphy began receiving one-on-one intensive behavioral intervention through Step By Step Academy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving children with autism spectrum disorders. Since 2007, Murphy has received 35 hours of one-on-one treatment five days a week, and has been taught a growing number of skills. He was initially taught to communicate using a picture exchange system, and has graduated to using full, expressive sentences not only to express his needs, but to converse. "Murphy has blossomed at Step By Step," Tina says, smiling. "I ask him what he did in school, and he says, 'blocks and puzzles'. His behavior has improved so much that we vacationed in Mexico for Thanksgiving and it was the most relaxing time any of us could remember. Our family life has changed. Step By Step has transformed Murphy's life."

Founded in 2002, Step By Step Academy's center-based program is dedicated to improving the lives of not just the clients they serve, but the lives of their families, as well. Using research-based methods of teaching and the science of applied behavior analysis, Step By Step Academy strives to become a model program for autism treatment, bringing clients to their highest potential. "I have never wondered whether Step By Step was the right fit for us," says Tina. "I can remember one morning, as we were getting ready, Murphy looked me right in the eyes, and said, 'Mommy, I love you.' I cried. And Step By Step, they gave that to me."

EVENTS

2010 Autism Society National Conference

July 7-July 10, 2010
Hyatt Regency Dallas
300 Reunion Boulevard, Dallas, Texas

Contact - Sarah Mitchell
301-657-0881, ext. 9010
conference@autism-society.org
www.autism-society.org/conference

Governor's Council on People with Disabilities 12th Annual Ohio Youth Leadership Forum

July 19-22, 2010
Embassy Suites Airport Hotel
2886 Airport Drive, Columbus, OH

Contact - Donna Foster-Sillanpaa
614-438-1394
Donna.Foster@rsc.state.oh.us
<http://gcpd.ohio.gov/YLF/>

Mark Your Calendar Today!

Motorcycle Ride Now for Autism

July 31, 2010 – 9:30am-5pm
A.D. Farrow Harley Davidson
7754 State Route 37 East, Sunbury, OH

Contact - Mike Hoover
614-580-7300
boydsgoodyear@aol.com

Wright's Law Training – Special Education Law, IEPs, Collaboration

August 12, 2010 – 9am-4pm
State Support Team Region 7
1495 W. Longview Ave., Suite 200, Mansfield, OH

Contact - Kate Kandel
419-747-4808
kkandel@ncoesc.org
<http://www.ncoesc.org/SST/downloads/wrightslawflyer.pdf>

Effective Programs for Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorders

August 16, 2010 – 8am-4:30pm
August 17, 2010 – 7:30am-4:30pm
August 18, 2010 – 7:30am-11:30pm

Hilton Columbus- Polaris
8700 Lyra Drive, Columbus, OH
1.800.995.2464
brywick@adihome.org
www.adihome.org

All About Autism Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show

August 21, 2010 – 11am - 5pm
Quaker Steak and Lube
8500 Lyra Drive, Columbus, OH

Contact - Mike Hoover
614-580-7300
boydsgoodyear@aol.com

OCALI Conference

November 17-19, 2010
Greater Columbus Convention Center
400 North High St., Columbus, OH

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<http://conference.ocali.org/>

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A Beauty to Be Found: Dave Hamrick and Lindsey Nebeker on Life, Love and ASD

Dave Hamrick is a 30-year-old meteorologist with the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center. Lindsey Nebeker is a 28-year-old musician, photographer, writer and disability rights activist. Both live in Washington, D.C. Both were diagnosed with high-functioning autism.

The Autism Puzzle: When did you first find out you were on the autism spectrum?

Hamrick: I was about eight years old when I first found out that I had autism. I attended Camp Easter Seals in Virginia. I noticed that most of the other campers were in a wheelchair or had some other type of disability. The camp counselor told me that everybody who attended camp had a disability. I protested that I did not have a disability. It was at this point that my mother explained to me my disability was called autism.

Nebeker: I found out by accident. I was about 10 years old when I found the records in my family's home office. I knew about autism early on in life since my younger brother was also diagnosed with autism. However, when I saw my own evaluations, I was in disbelief. Shortly after, my parents sat me down and reconfirmed my diagnosis of autism. Initially, I was in denial. After intensive early intervention treatment, I tried to go through childhood and young adulthood pretending I was typical. However, it wasn't until the final semester of college that I accepted that autism is always going to be a part of who I am. To me, autism is like a rose – sharp thorns, tough stem . . . but when the flower is in full bloom, there is a beauty to be found.

The Autism Puzzle: Tell us about your high school experience.

Hamrick: I attended a private high school in Williamsburg, Virginia. The biggest challenges I faced were trying to be universally accepted by all of my peers and getting decent grades in English class. Once I was in high school, I was pretty much IEP-free except for 12th grade. The accommodations I received were extra time on tests, testing in a distraction-reduced environment and access to notes. My main accomplishments were making the honor roll, being elected school secretary and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.



Lindsey Nebeker and Dave Hamrick.

Nebeker: I was never on an IEP, and I didn't have a 504 plan. I didn't know I qualified for accommodations and wish I could have benefitted from them. Transitions were not pleasant, but I was used to them. Every two to three years, my family would move to a new state or country. I also moved out at the age of 15 to attend boarding school, where I received my high school diploma. Because of all that, my transition to college was a breeze. I was in the National Honor Society and received the John Philip Sousa Award upon graduation.

The Autism Puzzle: What was your college experience like?

Hamrick: I initially attended Christopher Newport University before transferring to North Carolina State University. I was able to work with the Office of Disabilities Services to receive permission to take tests in a distraction-reduced environment, such as out in the hallway or in a vacant classroom. However, there were many times when I did not need these accommodations.

I graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in meteorology, and I was awarded a teaching assistantship during graduate school.

Nebeker: I applied to five different colleges and universities, and to my surprise, was accepted to all of them. I finally decided on the College of Santa Fe. Like my previous schools, I did not disclose my diagnosis to the college or work with their office of disabilities. I wasn't aware of the accommodations that were available to me. Also, even though I was beginning to accept my autism, I never really brought it up to my friends or instructors, because I wanted to go through the college experience like any typical person. By then, I had an easier time making and keeping friends, so I was able to "blend in" better than I did in high school. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Technology with a minor in photography.

The Autism Puzzle: What was it like seeking employment after college?

Hamrick: Trying to find a steady job was a challenge. It took me about a year of searching before I was hired by the National Weather Service in 2006. I do not have to deal with the public directly, which makes the job less stressful. I am currently a surface analyst and have aspirations of becoming a forecaster. I thoroughly enjoy this work and plan to stay with the National Weather Service for the rest of my career.

Nebeker: Locating ideal employment has been an issue for me. I have worked

in the education, retail, and investment/banking industries, but continue to dream of a career as a recording artist. Since moving to Washington, D.C. I have met with legislators on Capitol Hill, attended meetings sponsored by disability organizations, and participated in advocacy training programs. I also sit on the Board of Directors for the newly formed Autism Women's Network.

The Autism Puzzle: Tell us about your relationship.

Hamrick: Lindsey and I have a wonderful romantic relationship. We do have very different lifestyles. For example, we like to eat meals at different times, go to bed at different times and have different tastes when it comes to interior decorating. One of the compromises we have had to make is regulating the apartment temperature. Because of that, we each have separate bedrooms. Our relationship has helped to make me less introverted and more open to making compromises.

Nebeker: Dave and I have a strong love for each other. We have different interests, rituals, and sensory tolerances, but are willing to accommodate, which comes from a deep and authentic understanding of where the other person is coming from. Having a partner who's autistic was never on my list of dating requirements, but there certainly is a benefit to finding a partner who can really relate to you. We give each other permission to maintain an individual lifestyle. The work involved in maintaining a healthy relationship serves as a constant reminder for me to be less self-centered and less introverted.



WALK NOW FOR AUTISM SPEAKS

Sunday, October 10
Value City Arena
at the Jerome Schottenstein Center
Registration opens 8:30am Walk begins at 11am

Register today at:
www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/columbus
call: (609) 228-7317

Did you know...

- 🧩 Today, a shocking 1 in 110 children is diagnosed with autism.
- 🧩 1 in 70 boys is on the autism spectrum.
- 🧩 A new case is diagnosed every 20 minutes.
- 🧩 There is no medical detection or cure for autism.

Family Teams, Corporate Teams, Individual Walkers, Agencies and Organizations, Virtual Walkers... Join us as we walk in support of research and awareness to bring hope to everyone affected by autism.

Walk With Us | Form a Team | Volunteer | Sponsor



Everybody needs to be heard



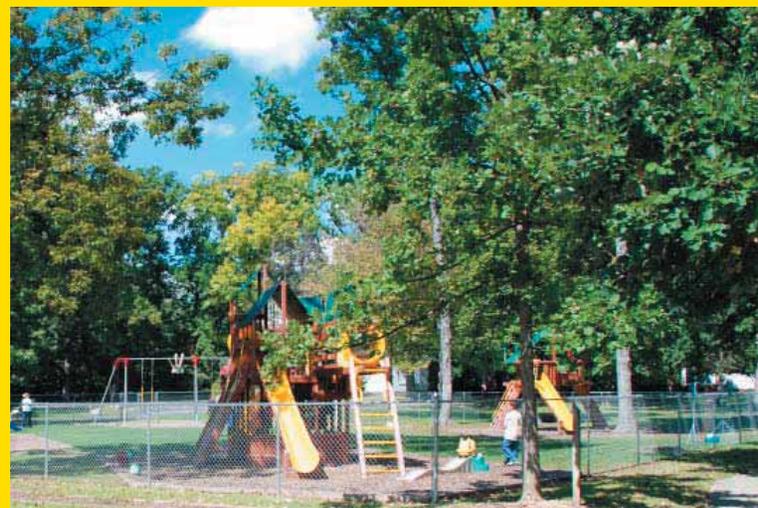
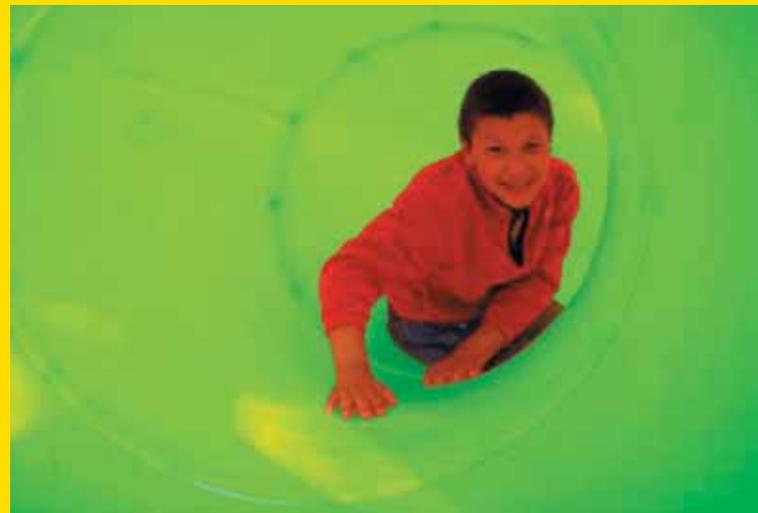
Step By Step Academy

Established in 2002, Step By Step Academy (SBSA) is a private, non-profit treatment center for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) that specializes in Applied Behavior Analysis. On campus we offer full-time 1:1 and small group services for children ages 2-21. As part of our treatment philosophy, we aim to bridge the gap between intensive service settings and the public classroom environment. Working closely with a child's school district, our Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Special Education team offer transition support including classroom pre-teaching, paraprofessional shadows, professional trainings, IEP collaboration, and long-term placement planning. Visit or call us today for more information.

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43085



www.stepbystepacademy.org

The mission of the Autism Society of Ohio (ASO) is to improve the lives of all affected by autism in Ohio. The ASO includes persons with autism, parents and professionals working to improve services and support at the state level.

The ASO acts as an information resource for persons with autism, their families, and the professionals who serve them in Ohio and neighboring states. A chapter of the Autism Society of America, the ASO makes information and ideas accessible to interested families and professionals.

On a regional effort, the ASO links families throughout the network of 8 local Autism Society chapters in Ohio, including:

Central Ohio
Dayton Area
Greater Akron
Greater Cleveland
Greater Cincinnati
Northwest Ohio
Southeast Ohio
Tri-County - Youngstown

The ASO hosts a website where you will discover local, state and national news, medical information, local calendar of events, and other useful information. To learn more, log on, email or call.

website

www.autismohio.org

email

askASO@autismohio.org

phone

614-487-4726



The Voice for Autism in Ohio

 **AUTISM SOCIETY**

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism

Ohio