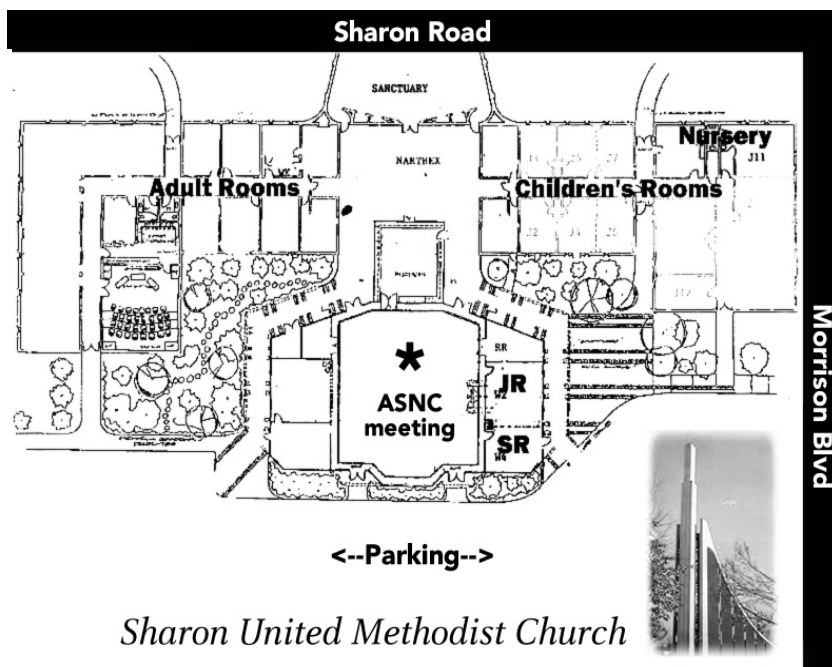


Mark your Calendar for our October 4th Meeting!

Ann Palmer & Maureen Morrell will discuss Parenting Across the Spectrum.

*These Award Winning authors will share their insight on growing and loving your child no matter where they fall on the spectrum! Bring your book or buy one at the meeting. **THIS IS A MEETING FOR EVERYONE!** Don't forget our support groups after the speakers.*

Doors open at 7:00, announcements: 7:10, program 7:15- 8:00. The rest of the evening will offer support group break out sessions with topics of your choice.



Sharon United Methodist Church

IMPORTANT CHILDCARE

NOTICE: Childcare is available for the first 12 children registered.

Those not registered will be turned away. We must insure the safety of all children under our care during the meeting, so we must know how many will be in attendance before each meeting. It will be important to Contact Kathy Snyder by Oct. 2nd 704-341-0199 or kos101@earthlink.net

Meeting Location: Sharon United Methodist Church-4411 Sharon at Morrison Blvd, Charlotte 28211. (Across from South Park Mall – Cheesecake Factory side) Use Morrison Blvd. Entrance to park around back. Our room is near the middle of the building. Enter our room via the doors near the portico.



Autism Society
of NORTH CAROLINA
Mecklenburg County Chapter

President's Note:

Sometimes being the President of ASNC-MCC offers me thought provoking opportunities, as well as, some experiences that are just plain fun. During the past few days, I have thought about autism, how things have changed- how lucky we are to live here and now, and the positive things that have happened recently. Of course, a couple of events in my life have produced this: Sunday we spent the day at the Victory Junction Gang's Autism Day Camp; Monday I went to Charlotte Speech and Hearing's 40th Anniversary; and yesterday, I boo-hooed it out with many of you, as I watched Jenny McCarthy and Holly Peete on Oprah talk about how autism has impacted their lives. I know no one who has found their life with autism to be a total delight.

Watching Jenny and Holly brought back my own pain: seeing the neighbor kids sneak through my backyard so that Paul would not see them and try to come play; feeling isolation from old friends who become too busy to call and turn the other way when they see our family in public; hearing the words of former teachers who felt I needed a reality check because they knew Paul Nestor would never learn to read. Of course, we have learned to be happy with our neighbors whenever they feel comfortable enough to play with Paul, we have made new friends, and Paul *has* learned to read! Just like Jenny McCarthy's Evan, Paul *has* blossomed into a sweet, courteous, friendly boy who can talk your leg off; however, I would hardly call him "rescued" from autism. I must admit I quite enjoy some of his bizarre obsessions and interesting manner of speaking and for myself, I am happy. But for every Paul Nestor, there are other children who will not be "rescued through the window" and those who will only slowly develop some of the social interests and language skills that we all prize so much. Over the summer I met some wonderful Moms with older kids, who have little language, but these children are delightful and their Mom's love them dearly. In our social group, these kids were just as much the glue that held us together as anyone else and when they did not show up, everyone missed them. I think sometimes we put too much emphasis on our kid's ability to talk and we must be careful celebrating the joys of our child's "victories over autism". Our celebration can be just as painful to our fellow parents as when the parents of typical kids shun us. When we brag about how our kiddo is doing now, they must swallow the pill of how their kiddo is not doing the same as ours. It is true in time, we all adjust to our children and learn to enjoy them for the wonderful gift that we brought into the world, but that does take time. We need to be respectful of everyone's path; we are not all in the same place even though we carry the same burden. Okay, I will get off that soapbox now!!

Just as it takes time for us to become happy with our lives, it takes time for life (services, society, schools) to become comfortable and competent with us. At the Charlotte Speech and Hearing 40th Anniversary Party, I learned that their agency was created by local professionals with funding through the Junior Women's League in 1967. At the time, there was no TEACCH in Charlotte and it would be several years before the school system would have classes that were mandated by the federal government. Despite this, in our community even back then, our children were embraced and nurtured. This was not the case everywhere. Where I grew up, I remember in my own second grade class taking a test with the rest of the second graders and certain students disappearing from our school because they had not "made the grade". We are so lucky to live here now in a community that has a long history of embracing our children, even if the services are not as perfect as we feel we need. Please do not think I am an advocate of complacency when things are not working, know that in order to appreciate where we must go, we must also realize how far we have come. Oh no, I think I am on another soapbox.

Now for the just plain fun. You simply must treat yourself and your family to the Victory Junction Gang Camp. The place was incredible! It is the best place north of Disney World when it comes to catering to our needs! It is close-by and FREE. For all you parents whose kiddos have other health concerns along with autism, relax- those are the kinds of kids this camp serves in the summers on a regular basis. The camp is new to autism; however, the staff has done some wonderful work learning about our population, with special consideration to their social and sensory needs. The camp will be offered again for families next year, so keep checking their website. They will probably have a lottery, so be prepared. If we show enough interest, maybe they will be motivated to expand. Hmmm, looks like another project...

Nancy Nestor: ASNC-MCC President
704-545-1902; nnestor@carolina.rr.com

October Events

Oct. 4th (Th) ASNC Monthly Support Meeting

Parenting Across the Spectrum with Ann Palmer and Maureen Morrell 7-9:00 PM; Sharon United Methodist, 4411 Sharon Rd. Charlotte, 28211



Oct 6th: **Walk Now for Autism Research** Lowes Motor Speedway; www.autismwalk.org

Oct 6th: **PACT Nature Walk at Marion Diehl**; cost- \$20 per family; contact Vernice Gallon 704-432-3049 vernice.gallon@mecklenburgcountync.gov

Oct. 7th **Shine**: Church for people with ASD Huntersville United Methodist 3:30 – 3:50 pm contact: Rev. Monica Humpal at 704-875-1156 monica@huntersvilleumc.org.



Oct. 13th- **Autism Ribbon Run**; Downtown Raleigh, 9:00 AM. For registration- contact: Gillian Hayden at 1-800-442-2762 or www.autismsociety-nc.org
Virtual Runners- go to www.asncmeck.org

Oct. 15th- Nov. 12th **Parent Education for Parents of Charlotte TEACCH Clients.** 3:00- 4:30 and 5:30-7:00; contact Donna Little at 704- 563-4103.

Oct. 16th (T) **Coffee Time** - 9:30 Caribou Mallard Creek Church Rd.; 10:00 Caribou Rea & Colony
Call 704-545-1902 to RSVP

Oct. 22nd (M) **Gastonia TEACCH** Fundamentals of HFAutism/Asperger's Syndrome & Structured Teaching with Vivian Mc Intyre- 704-833-1294 ext. 12

Oct. 23rd (T) **DAN Doctor, Gail Szakac** will see new and existing patients at Cyzner Institute, go to www.cyznerinstitute.com

Oct. 23rd (T) **Star Biomedical Support Group**
7:00 Longhorn Steakhouse, Pineville-call Pam McCarthy (704-849-7991) pammccarthy@carolina.rr.com

Oct. 29th/ 30th (M/T)– **School's Out Club, October Tricks & Treats Trip** to Carrigan Farms youth reservations call Angela Conti at 704-527-0237; teen reservations call Karen Howard at 704-336-2344

November Events

Nov. 1st (Th) ASNC Monthly Support Meeting

Safety in the community for teens with Karen Samuels of the ARC of Mecklenburg 7-9:00 PM; Sharon United Methodist, 4411 Sharon Rd. Charlotte, 28211

Nov. 4th (S) **Shine**: Church for people with ASD

Huntersville United Methodist 3:30 – 3:50 pm contact: Rev. Monica Humpal at 704-875-1156 monica@huntersvilleumc.org.

Nov. 12 (M) **School's Out Club Remember Our Veterans** -Marion Diehl Recreation Center, 2219

Tyvola Road, youth reservations: Angela Conti- 704-527-0237; teen reservations: Karen Howard at 704-336-2344

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$35.00 per date

Registration deadline: Nov. 9th (F)

Nov. 15th (Th) **Dr. Fred Volkmer; Workshop –**

Asperger's Syndrome, High Functioning Autism, and Related Disorders in Winston-Salem. Contact Laura Gorycki at 336-714-9136.

Nov. 21st (W) **School's Out Club Turkey Trot-**

Marion Diehl Recreation Center, 2219 Tyvola Road, youth reservations: Angela Conti- 704-527-0237; teen reservations: Karen Howard at 704-336-2344

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$35.00 per date

Registration Deadline: Nov. 19th

Nov. 26th (M) **Star Biomedical Support Group**

7:00 Longhorn Steakhouse, Pineville-call Pam McCarthy (704-849-7991)

pammccarthy@carolina.rr.com

Nov. 27th (T) **DAN Doctor, Gail Szakac** will see

new and existing patients at Cyzner Institute, go to www.cyznerinstitute.com



SAVE the SNAIL

Don't use mail! Get your newsletter at www.asncmeck.org



ATTENTION: Parents & Caregivers of TEACCH Clients

During the fall, the Charlotte TEACCH Center will offer Parent Education Groups for Charlotte TEACCH clients. These offerings are also available to caregivers who have called to request initial screening but whose children have not been formally evaluated. All sessions are an hour and a half long, and each group meets for five weekly meetings. The goal of the Parent Education Groups is to share information about strategies and tools that may be useful in helping your child. Also, our groups are small and informal, which allows the opportunity to ask questions and meet other parents of children with autism in Mecklenburg County.

Next Offered:

Section 1: (M) Oct. 15th, 22nd, 29th,
Nov. 5th & 12th from **3: to 4:30PM.**

Section 2: Full

Section 3: Nov. 7th, 14th, 28th, Dec. 5th & 12th
from **9:30AM to 11:00 AM.**

Section 4: Nov. 7th, 14th, 28th, Dec. 5th & 12th
from **3:00PM to 4:30PM.**

The cost is FREE, but space is Limited! Enrollment is on a first-come, first serve basis. No childcare will be available. Call now! Donna Little @ (704) 563-4103



Coffee Time

Tuesday, October 16th

9:30- Caribou on Mallard Creek

10:00 Caribou on Colony & Rea

RSVP by Oct. 15th (704) 545-1902



From the Desk of Kathy Fallin

Inclusive Practices Update:

As many of you are aware, CMS has begun shifting to a model which is more inclusive of our students. In 2007-2008 all schools will have completed training in inclusive practices. Each school has designed its own implementation model. These models are based on the needs of the students with disabilities at the school. Each school may be different in their implementation of inclusive practices. In some schools, students with disabilities at a separate level of service may be assigned to a general education homeroom. However, if a student needs transition time in the morning and requires support from the EC teacher, this will still be available. Inclusive practices are based on the concept that special education is not a location but an amount of time. Students with disabilities benefit from opportunities to interact with general education peers. The teachers and IEP team for each student will determine the appropriate amount of special education time that each student will need to be successful. Remember special education is not a location.

To further assist with the implementation of inclusive practices, the EC Department has been working diligently to achieve the reduction of caseloads for teachers in the resource classes from the state level of 35 students to 1 teacher to 18 students to 1 teacher. Projections indicate that schools will have teacher to student ratios between 18 to 1 and 22 to 1.

Thank you for allowing me to be on your team. Through teamwork 2007-2008 will be a successful year for our children. If you have additional questions, please contact me at 980-343-2680 or k.fallin@cms.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,

Kathy L. Fallin- CMS Program Specialist for Autism

Once again, we truly appreciate Ms. Fallin's expertise and willingness to guide us as we adjust to the changes being implemented within CMS.



Autism Society
of NORTH CAROLINA

Providing Support...
Promoting Opportunities...

Some Easy Ways to Support ASNC



- Join our Book Club- buy your books through ASNC for a discount.



- Become a Virtual Runner in the ASNC Ribbon Run- go to www.ASNCMeck.org and follow the links.



BUY PLATES!

ASNC will receive an annual donation when you renew your specialty plates.



- Open a deposit account at SunTrust Bank before Oct. 12th and name ASNC as your charity. SunTrust will send \$100.00 to ASNC for every deposit account you open. Call Stephanie Roarke for details @ 704-543-9919.



- Put on your Dancin Shoes!
Go to www.asncmeck.org for details.

Why should you???

ASNC uses funds to support families and teachers in Mecklenburg County...including support for this chapter. So if you've recently received a CAP slot or other therapies, gained assistance from our parent advocates, read a copy of "Autism Matters", received assistance from First In Families, gotten your event published in this newsletter, if you have received a teacher grant, been part of a chat group, attended a support meeting or social event, you've enjoyed a benefit of ASNC for FREE!



Come to Our Puzzle Shop!

Visit Kathy Snyder at our monthly support meeting. We have some nice items to choose from, including:

- Would you Know Autism pencils - \$1.00
- Would you Know Autism pens - \$2.00
- Autism Handout Cards- 25 per set Parent, Teacher, Spanish - \$4.00
- Silicon Autism Bracelets - \$4.50
- Autism Ribbon Enamel lapel pin - \$5.00
- Autism Ribbon Key Tab - \$5.00
- Autism License Plate frame - \$8.00
- Blue Beaded Charm Bracelet* - \$8.00
- Stretch Autism Bracelet* - \$8.00

~Prices are set at our cost~

Emergency Preparedness

September was Emergency Preparedness Month and October is Fire Safety Month. It is time to change the batteries on your smoke detector and to update your local emergency workers on your family member with autism. You can use one of your leftover school pictures to make flyers for your vehicle glove compartment, as well as, local Fire, EMS, and Police. Along with the typical useful information (name, address, phone/cell, age, height, weight, and eye color) list the following details:

- Communication skills (Is s/he verbal, can s/he communicate by writing gestures, or pointing)
- Does your child have other medical conditions
- Is your child on medications- if so list the name, dose and schedule
- Who can be quickly gotten for help
- How does your child typically act when calm and when upset
- What comforts your child

In the case of a car wreck, medics will need to make sure not to give medicines that might create further health problems. They would also like to know the words to use when talking with your child to accurately determine if your child is hurt and where. Some of our kids will not admit to being in pain, but if asked to show where they are hurt, they can point to the place. Having this information will be valuable to fire and rescue workers; having personal knowledge and interactions with your child will be invaluable.

To find your local firehouse and first responder unit, you may check on-line at: www.charmeck.org/Departments/Fire, Scroll down and click on Charlotte Fire Station Locator. County residents or small town residents should go to: <http://www.firedepartments.net/county/NC/MecklenburgCounty>. Many Medic stations and fire departments have monthly meetings and would welcome a visit at these times to meet your family member. Medic staff also advises keeping a copy of this flyer in your vehicles for emergencies during travel.

To prepare rescue personal for an emergency in your home contact: **Mecklenburg EMS Agency, 4525 Statesville Rd., Charlotte, NC 28269, phone: 704-943-6000**. Emergency personnel can "red flag" your home address so that those responding to a call for help at your address will be prepared for a family member on the spectrum.



Recreational Activity with Discovery Place

Do you think your son or daughter might be interested in a weekly workshop with Discovery Place learning about Robots? The Autism Society is working on developing a 6 week program for our kids with Discovery Place. The workshop would be held once a week for about a month. The activities are highly visual and active; although participants may not necessarily need to interact with each other. Parent participation is required. Right now the details are in the planning stages and we are trying to determine whether there is an interest. The location may be in the Mint Hill area, classes may be in the evening or on Saturday afternoon, and the price has not been determined. Please e-mail Nancy Nestor, nnestor@carolina.rr.com if your family is interested.



Open Play for Children with Autism

Bring your special needs child to Monkey Joe's every third Wednesday of the month beginning September 19th for one hour of playtime. Monkey Joe's is opening its doors from 9am until 10 am every third Wednesday of the month exclusively for all special needs children with Autism. What Monkey Joe's is doing is opening up their stores to families of children on the spectrum so they can play in a quieter environment. This is wonderful since so many of our kids can't deal with loud echoes on top of other sensory stimulation. All families, schools and groups with Autistic children are welcome to enjoy the facility at the **regular walk in price** during that hour. See www.monkeyjoes.com for more information.

Congratulations!!

Two lucky teachers received restaurant gift cards at the last ASNC-MCC Chapter Support Meeting. Elizabeth Goins of Blythe Elementary received a \$25 gift card from Mc Alister's Deli for being the first teacher to respond with class headcount for "Autism Matters". Adeleide Spizer. The new teacher at East Mecklenburg High School's Self-contained Autistic class received a \$25 gift card from Brixx! Thanks to all of the teachers who have turned in their class sizes. We would love to hear from all teachers so that we can insure everyone who wants a newsletter can receive one.

A Special Thanks...

It is a difficult topic to think about, but we would like to thank **Ryan Platt**, MBA, Certified Special Care Planner with Hinrichs Flanagan Financial for the informative and helpful presentation during our September Support Group Meeting. For those of you who missed the meeting, Mr. Platt can be reached at 704-557-9630, ~RPlatt@FINSVCS.COM. Additional planning information can be found on this special needs planning website: www.specialneedsworkshop.com

Mission Statement:

The Autism Society of North Carolina is committed to providing support and promoting opportunities which enhance the lives of individuals within the autism spectrum.

Updated Information-

ASNC Parent Advocates New Address:

Kim Tizzard or Nancy Popkin
209 Delburg St., Suite 109
Davidson, NC 28036
Phone: **704-894-9678**



Research Opportunities

The Psych. Department at UNC School of Medicine is involved with research on the following studies. Some studies are in collaboration with research departments of other universities. If you are interested, please use the contact information listed below:

- *Babysibs Study- This research hopes to build on new findings which reflect that clinical onset of autism may occur after a baby is 6 months old and could possibly correspond with brain overgrowth which happens during that time. Scientists will study MRIs and behavioral development of 400 infant siblings of those with autism at ages 6 months, one year, and two years of age. To learn more go to www.ndrc.unc.edu/babysibs*
- *Family Tree Study- The function of this study is to look at the autism susceptibility genes by examining the gene code of Asperger's syndrome, HFA, or PDD individuals with more than once occurrence of autism in their extended family. To learn more go to www.ndrc.unc.edu/familystudy .*

If you're interested in these studies or others not listed, please contact the department at www.ndrc.unc.edu



What: *Victory Junction Gang Camp
Day long Weekend Camp*

Who: *Families with ASD Kids*

Where: Randleman- by Greensboro

When: Sept. 15th , 16th , 29th , or 30th

It was Incredible!!

- Activity photos available ahead of time- welcome picture schedule!!!
- Your own personal "Crew Chief" to help in any way you need and guide you through the camp to your next activity, watch the kids so you can relax, get your lunch, take the sibs...
- Autism Friendly Environment- stimming and streaking are not frowned upon!
- Delicious GFCF meals and snacks whenever you're hungry- Great regular food too!
- Your own private, quiet cottage for cool down. Loved those tire chairs and gas pump dressers!
- Lots of fun stuff to do: heated water park and Jacuzzi; animal interaction area with horse painting- sheep, and llamas to pet; archery, arcade; gym; arts and crafts; giant maze; rock wall climbing; mini golf; theatre with dress-up costumes; fishing; tree-house; bowling alley; Adam's Body Shop with race car encounter zone- it can bring the NASCAR out in anyone!

What? You missed it??? Sorry, maybe next year. Want more info? Go to:

www.victoryjunction.org

ASNC-MCC Book Club

Although we our plans have not been finalized yet, our chapter is hosting a book club which will feature books with autism intertwined in their plot. If you are interested in joining our book club, you may buy purchase books through Kathy Snyder, director of Merchandising for our chapter, and receive a discount. In order to accommodate all interested parties, our book club will be an on-line chat group. Beth Fields has graciously offered to host this group. The club is open to any interested person. Look for more information in the near future.

Thanks to Autism Speaks: Just for you on YouTube

Broadcast Yourself: Autism Speaks Vids.
Go to www.youtube.com/autismspeaksvids
At this point, the site has 21 different videos created for parents, as well as, those by parents. Most viewed: Developing a Great IEP with Gary Mayerson Pt. 1 and Pt. 2. Other good picks: Educational Techniques for Children with Autism. You can even create your own. Check out: www.whatkindofworldyouwant.com/videos/view/id/264868.

Words by Amy Baker
Song: Five for Fighting
Tissues by Kleenex

Offerings from Mecklenburg Therapeutic Park and Rec:

Star Bowlers

Session Dates:

Tuesdays: Sept 11, 18, 25;

Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30;

Nov 6, 13, 20, 27

Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Location: AMF University Lanes

5900 North Tryon St

Fee: \$6 per week - includes two games, shoe rental, & bowling souvenir!

Contact: Vernice Gallon; 704-432-3049

vernice.gallon@mecklenburgcountync.gov

Golf 4 Fun

For youth/teens, 8-21, with disabilities

Location: Revolution Public Golf Course

2661 Barringer Rd. Charlotte

Date: Sept 6, 13, 20, 27; Oct 4, 11, 18, 25

(Thursdays) Time -4:00pm - 5:30pm

Fee: \$40 -No Experience Necessary

Contact: Vernice Gallon; 704-432-3049

vernice.gallon@mecklenburgcountync.gov

Parents And Children Together

An exciting new program that promotes interaction between parents and/or caregivers and children through fun recreational activities. Each session may offer crafts, cooking, outdoor adventures, music and dancing while discovering new past-times and bonding experiences with your child. For children 6 and over.

October 6 (Sat) – Nature Trek

Marion Diehl Center

Cost: \$20. Per pair

Contact: Vernice Gallon; 704-432-3049

vernice.gallon@mecklenburgcountync.gov

Our November 1st Support Group Meeting- *A meeting especially for our HFA teens and young adults or those with Asperger's who might find themselves in the community without adult supervision. Karen Samuels will present her program on Staying Safe in the Community. Plan on bringing your high functioning/ Asperger's child along to participate in the meeting.*