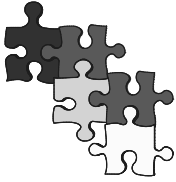


# BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM

*Supporting organizations and individuals who fund research and or provide training, resources, services and aid to individuals living with autism spectrum disorders and their families.*

**Bailey's Team is helping to put the pieces together!**

FALL 2011 Newsletter



Dear Friend,

Welcome to the sixth edition of our BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM newsletter! We have included updates on our fundraising success, our life with Bailey... his successes and challenges; our upcoming event schedule, as well as other plans for the future. We thank you for your continued interest and support and hope you enjoy our newsletter!

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## **BAILEY'S TEAM OFFERS A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS FROM 2005 TO THE PRESENT...**

*See page 4 for a special tribute...*

### **BAILEY'S TEAM HOSTS FIRST FAMILY DAY AT ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO!**

#### **BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE!**

On Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, Bailey's Team hosted its first Animal Adventure family event at Roger Williams Park Zoo. There were 150 people in attendance representing 40 families from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. The program included a visit to the zoo, an "up close and personal" visit with four animals including a hedgehog, chicken, lizard and turtle...as well as a hot barbecue lunch...all in a private tented setting. It was a great day for families with children of *all* abilities to enjoy the zoo and be a part of their community!



The Webster family (above) admiring a hedgehog.



The Smith family from Avon, MA; and Ella & Kylee (pictured above - left to right) enjoying a day at the zoo.

### **JOIN US FOR OUR THIRD**

### **WINE & BEER TASTING**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2011**

**7:30 pm**

**CBS SCENE - PATRIOT PLACE  
FOXBORO, MA**

**\$50.00 per person**

Enjoy a variety of wine & beer selections  
featured by:

**HORIZON BEVERAGE &  
KELLEY BOULEVARD WINES & LIQUORS**

For more information, please visit  
[www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org)

### **BAILEY'S TEAM HOSTS ITS FIRST RESOURCE FAIR AT THE CHATHAM COMMUNITY CENTER-CAPE COD**

Forty people were in attendance at the Chatham Community Center including exhibitors representing support agencies from all over the Cape and southeastern Massachusetts. Cape residents and vacationers were invited to learn about the resources available to those who support loved ones with autism and other developmental disabilities. Refreshments were

provided and many of our guests won free raffle items including local restaurant gift certificates, handcrafted pottery and autism awareness items... all donated by local merchants and exhibitors.



For more information about BAILEY'S TEAM, please visit [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org)

## **A Message from the President FAMILY UPDATE...**

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of 2011, once again there is so much to report... Bailey's Team has embarked on a few new projects and I am happy to announce that our efforts were well received! This year, we introduced our first Bailey's Animal Adventure event inviting families with children of *all* abilities to join us for a day at the zoo. It was important to us that everyone feel welcome regardless of the challenges they might typically face while trying to enter the community with their loved ones with autism.

We also hosted our first Resource Fair in Chatham, MA in an effort to introduce Bailey's Team to Cape Cod. We invited support organizations from all over the Cape and southeastern Massachusetts to display information for both residents and vacationers to acquaint them with the resources available to individuals with special needs and their families.

As Bailey's Team continues to evolve we will continue to keep you posted about our goals and success as we look forward to another great year with your support!

\* \* \*

As for the family... it has been "peaks and valleys" as Doug likes to say. Bailey graduated from elementary school in June and we all enjoyed a summer filled with programming and some local travel. Bailey was in his summer school program as usual, and Rachel and Spencer were involved in their respective activities including zoo camp and musical theater; and most of our weekends were spent at the Cape. Not too much to report...except Bailey's perseverations (or obsessions) seemed to worsen.

He celebrated his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 2<sup>nd</sup>... a bittersweet event... and is now in Middle School in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade! Turning 12 was easy... it's getting him to remember to answer that he is 12 years old and no longer 8 or 10 that is difficult! Not to mention, his interests these days are Lion King Plush Dolls, Sesame Street characters and those good ole' SING-A-MA-JIGS – not exactly favorites among typical 12 year olds! Anyway, our days now begin with his very persistent questioning about if (and when) he will get MORE toys – his recent requests are for... "Elmo, Supergrover, Murray, Zoe, Snuffleupagus and Big Bird Sesame Street Action Figures?!" I'm 44 years old and I'm constantly saying words like "Sing-a-ma-jig" and "Snuffleupagus..." and in public! Anyway, life has been definitely trying our patience. And we mustn't forget ... "*Johnny the Mailman*" as Bailey now anxiously awaits the mail truck and often greets Johnny at the door! If Bailey sees Johnny drive away or if he has not delivered a package, then the sobbing begins...and Bailey often becomes inconsolable. It's very hard to set the stage in an update such as this, but it is truly heartbreaking as we try to help Bailey through his frustration and sadness. In spite of these challenges, however, we are very lucky because Bailey is *usually* very happy as he loves his family and relies on us all for love and support.

He has transitioned nicely to his middle school program; although we continue to work hard to identify the best placement and curriculum for him. We collaborate with his teachers to determine if and how he can (and WILL) be included with his typical peers even for a short time each day; after all, he had made such wonderful progress last year with them. He has very good academic skills but retrieving them is not easy; and it is often his behavioral challenges that can become disruptive inhibiting his opportunities for inclusion. This is the ongoing process with each new school year... hoping that he makes progress and that his program, his teachers and his peers all help to ensure that his needs are met and that there are always opportunities for him to grow.

[Continued on page 3]



Rachel, Bailey & Spencer  
celebrating Bailey's 12<sup>th</sup>  
birthday! – October 2, 2011



Spencer, Bailey, Lindsay & Rachel  
In Chatham – August, 2011



Bailey chillin' in a tree at  
Bailey's Animal Adventure  
May 14, 2011 – RWP Zoo



Bailey's lasting legacy  
displayed at  
Community School

## FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

As for the rest of us, Rachel is a freshman at North Attleboro High School (YIKES!) and is now consumed with friends, boyfriend, school and her cell phone... and NOT in that order.

Spencer is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and "rules the school!" He participated in a musical theater camp this summer and seems to have found his calling; and he is now participating in a celebrity arts camp in an effort to increase his chances of becoming a *star!* ☆

Lindsay & Brent will celebrate their first wedding anniversary in a few short weeks and are awaiting a new arrival... yes, they are expecting in February!! Lindsay is currently in Law School and plans to finish her final semester next fall. We will report on "Baby GIRL Garrels" in our spring edition next April!

Doug and I are still taking care of kids... working hard and did I say taking care of kids? ☺

We continue to do our best to grow Bailey's Team and support individuals living with autism and their families like ours. It's hard to believe we have come this far, but there is still so far to go...

We thank you for your dedication to us and to Bailey's Team and we look forward to reporting more progress and success in the year ahead!

*The Robertson Family*

## TRIBUTE CARDS

In 2008, we introduced our Tribute Card Program, providing individuals with the opportunity to make a donation in honor of a special someone, in celebration of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. To date, this initiative has raised over \$1,800 for Bailey's Team.

If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of someone special, please visit [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org) and download our tribute form for more information.



## THANK YOU TO KEVIN POWERS



A special thank you to KEVIN POWERS, our very own *Marathon Man* who recently raised \$3,000 for Bailey's Team running in the Boston Marathon!

Kevin has participated in our annual golf tournament since 2007 and asked if he could support Bailey's Team while fulfilling a lifelong goal – to run in the Boston Marathon. "I would like to take advantage of this opportunity and raise money on behalf of

Bailey's team," he said. "I wanted to pick a local charity that meant something to me and Bailey's Team was the perfect choice!"

*Thank you Kevin for making us a part of your special day and for thinking of us and supporting our mission!*

## MEET AMY TONKONOGY... FUNDING COORDINATOR FOR BAILEY'S TEAM



Amy Tonkonogy is Executive Producer, Educational Productions, responsible for department oversight and strategic planning, project management, and new project development for WGBH in Boston. She supervises production teams and research staff, oversees budgets and timelines, works with advisors and experts to maintain content integrity, hires and trains new project staff, and represents projects within the foundation and to the broader education community. It is her expertise in the non-profit sector in professional development and her knowledge of the funding process that enables her to coordinate this function of our Board so effectively.

Amy has been with WGBH since 1990 and has numerous other education-related productions to her credit. She holds a B.S. in Speech Communication from Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, and a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Lesley College, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Amy has played an integral part in developing our funding process and her understanding and ability to disseminate pertinent information to the Board has allowed us to formulate decisions most efficiently. As we continue to evolve, process improvement and quality control are both very important to our growth and development. Having Amy coordinate this function of our Board ensures our ability to maintain the integrity of our funding process.

Please note that our funding schedule has changed since the printing of our last newsletter and is as follows:

**Applications are accepted from Aug. 1 to Oct. 15 and should be sent to:**

**Amy Tonkonogy, Funding Coordinator**

**Bailey's Team for Autism – 164 Westside Avenue, North Attleboro, MA 02760**

**Please visit our website ([www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org)) and click on "Forms" to download our Funding Application**

**Funding decisions will be made at our January Board Meeting.**

# A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS...

Bailey's Team would like to offer a sincere THANK YOU to all those who have generously contributed to our special events helping to make them successful and extraordinary!

## BAILEY'S PAR CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS (2005 – 2011):

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The Poplis Family  
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Wayne Ricci  
The Tucker Family  
Sally White  
Richard D. Zompa  
...And our Friends at Visual Creations

### FRIEND

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Sheila & Joseph Burgess, William B. Chan, D.M.D., Inc., Rugby Building Products, Kim Rothenfluch, Sherry Innis & Cathy Lyons

**WE ALSO EXTEND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE HUNDREDS OF FOLKS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED PRIZES, GOODS AND SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF OUR FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE REVENUE – MAKING OUR EVENTS EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL!**

**WE COULDN'T DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!**

## 2011 EDUCATION SERIES HIGHLIGHTS

In 2011, Bailey's Team hosted its second EDUCATION SERIES offered to parents and professionals supporting individuals living with autism. Our goal was to offer guidance and support to families, educators, child care providers and other members of the community on the subjects of autism, advocacy and what steps to take after diagnosis.

We hosted two lecture events in an effort to raise awareness and held our first in April in recognition of Autism Awareness Month. The first of our two speakers, Dr. Paul LaCava, welcomed nearly two hundred patrons and spoke about autism & empathy; and in May, Amy Laurent spoke on the subject of sensory integration dysfunction and what it feels like to have autism.

### **APRIL 13, 2011 - AUTISM & EMPATHY: FACTS & FICTION**

#### **UNDERSTANDING EMPATHY IN INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM AND ASPERGER SYNDROME**

*Presented by Paul G. LaCava, Ph.D.*



**Paul G. LaCava** is an Assistant Professor of Special Education at Rhode Island College (RIC) in Providence. He teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in special education, research and autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

Paul is also a Program Coordinator for RIC's Exceptional Learning Needs Masters Degree Program and the Certificate of Graduate Study in Autism Education. He is currently a principal investigator of several research projects that focus on improving social/emotional skills in children with ASD.

At RIC's *Paul V. Sherlock Center for Disabilities*, Paul is part of a team working with the National Professional Development Center on ASD to help disseminate evidence-based practice at the early intervention level in Rhode Island.

He has presented both nationally and internationally on several topics in the field of autism including understanding ASD, social/emotional methods, seclusion and restraint, using positive behavior supports to address problem behavior, and using technology to help improve social/emotional skills.

His publications have included entries in ASD, psychology and special education encyclopedias and handbooks, journal articles and other print and web sources. He has also coauthored several book chapters on ASD.

Paul has worked in the disability field for 20 years as a special education teacher, inclusion facilitator and consultant in the public school setting.

### **MAY 11, 2011 - SENSORY INTEGRATION DYSFUNCTION:**

#### **WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO HAVE AUTISM?**

*Presented by Amy Laurent, EdM, OTR/L*

**Amy Laurent** is a pediatric occupational therapist who holds a Master's degree in Special Education. Currently in private practice, Amy specializes in the education of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and related developmental disabilities.

The majority of Amy's work involves collaborating with and supporting school teams and families. Her consultative services focus on the creation of educational programs and environments that facilitate children's active engagement and learning at home, in schools, and throughout their communities. The SCERTS Model, of which she is a co-author, along with differentiated instruction and developmental theory guide her practice. She works with educational teams in K-12 schools, pre-schools, and early intervention programs.



In addition to her role as a consultant, Amy serves as an adjunct faculty member for the Department of Communicative Disorders at the University of Rhode Island and for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Emerson College in Boston, MA. At these institutions, she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses focused on preparing graduating clinicians to meet the needs of children with ASD and the needs of their families. Additionally, she is a co-developer of the SKIP (Super Kids Interactive Play) Program at the University of Rhode Island.

Her publications, including a chapter in the Handbook of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) have focused on emotional regulation in children and adolescents with ASD and its impact on later social competence. She frequently lectures and provides training throughout the United States and internationally on the SCERTS Model and other topics related to therapeutic and educational intervention for children with ASD.

Her private practice is affiliated with Communication Crossroads, Childhood Communication Services, and Childhood Communication Seminars.

At our May Education Series event, we raffled off an IPAD 2 in an effort to give our patrons an opportunity to contribute to Bailey's Team while ALSO providing the chance for one lucky winner to go home with a device that would be helpful for their student - or their own child - with autism! As a result...

**WE CONGRATULATE CAREN SKURKA...  
OUR LUCKY IPAD2 WINNER!!!**



Enjoy pictures from our seventh annual  
**BAILEY'S PAR for AUTISM**  
 Charity Golf Tournament



Pictured left:  
 Founding Board Members and  
 Golf Tournament Event Chairs,  
 Sammi & Doug Robertson

Pictured below (left to right):  
 Bailey shouting "Hit 'em straight!"  
 just before the shotgun start  
 "Dr. Bill" Conroy of Atwill-Conroy  
 Dental Associates... Long time  
 friend and patron of Bailey's Par  
 Charity Golf Tournament



2011 Winning Foursome pictured below (left to right):  
 Al Vadala, Kevin Paulhus, Tate Asselin & Greg Gagne



Bailey's Team Outstanding Volunteers (left to right):  
 Ruth Hoshino\*, Doug Robertson\*, Dan Joyce\*,  
 Sheila Burgess,\* Steven Chapman, Pam Robertson,  
 Danielle Desrosiers, John Tierney & Janet Barros



\*Bailey's Team Board Member

**2012 UPCOMING EVENTS &  
 COMMUNICATIONS**

**NEW EVENT!!!**

**MARCH 25** BAILEY'S RUN FOR AUTISM  
 More Information to come!



**APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

[PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION  
 ABOUT AUTISM AWARENESS PROGRAMMING.]

**APRIL 2** WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

**APRIL 11** EDUCATION SERIES – PART 1  
I HAVE ASPERGER SYNDROME; AND SO DO I

Living with Asperger Syndrome...  
A Father's and Daughter's Perspective  
*Presented by Michael & Elizabeth Bishop*  
 Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro  
 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA

**APRIL 26** SILPADA DESIGNS JEWELRY FUNDRAISER  
 164 Westside Avenue, North Attleboro, MA

**MAY 12** Second Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE  
 Roger Williams Park Zoo  
 Providence, RI

**MAY 16** EDUCATION SERIES – PART 2  
AUTISM & MINDFULNESS  
Helping Individuals with Autism Understand  
The Connection between their Thoughts,  
Feelings & Behavior

*Presented by Dot Lucci, EdM, C.A.G.S.*  
 Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro  
 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA

**JUNE 10** Eighth Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM  
Charity Golf Tournament  
 Crystal Lake Golf Club  
 Burrillville, RI

**AUGUST 1** ANNUAL DIRECT MAIL CAMPAIGN BEGINS

**NOVEMBER 2**

Fourth Annual WINE & BEER TASTING  
Hosted by BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM  
 CBS Scene - Patriot Place, Foxboro, MA



Watch for our next BAILEY'S TEAM NEWSLETTER  
 to be distributed in March, 2012

**Please note date change!**

For more information about BAILEY'S TEAM, please visit:  
[www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org)