

# BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM

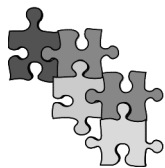
Raising funds and awareness in support of individuals living with autism spectrum disorders and their families, with a focus on research, education and programming.

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

FALL 2015 Newsletter – Prepared by Sammi Robertson

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the fourteenth 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.



## Officers

Sammi Robertson  
President

Douglas Robertson  
Vice President  
Visual Creations, Inc.

Dan Joyce  
Treasurer

Bright Horizons  
Family Solutions

Amy Tonkonogy  
Clerk/ Funding Coordinator

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Foxborough  
Fire & Rescue

Sheila Burgess  
Special Education  
Consultant

Anthony Calcia  
Hockmock Area YMCA

Danielle Desrosiers  
Licensed Massage Therapist

Beth Jerskey  
May Center for Evaluation &  
Treatment

Amy Laurent  
University of Rhode Island

Julie O'Brien  
MGH for Children  
The Lurie Center for Autism

## Honorary Board Members

Irwin & Roberta Chafetz

Stephen Shore

## A BANNER YEAR FOR BAILEY'S TEAM FOR AUTISM... GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES 38K AND OCEAN STATE JOB LOT JOINS OUR TEAM!

OUR 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES A RECORD BREAKING \$38,000 IN SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES!

On June 14<sup>TH</sup>, we surpassed last year's record breaking fundraising revenue and raised over **\$38,000** in support of our mission! This event continues to be our largest and most successful fundraiser and the day is filled with fun and laughter – a little competition and much love and support from and for our patrons! (See page 6 for more pictures from the event!)

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**Ocean State Job Lot** makes a most generous contribution as a result of their customer giving campaign during their back-to-school shopping weekend! (See page 5 for more information.)

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A farewell and thank you to Board Member **Dr. Todd Levine** and a welcome to new Board Member **Dr. Beth Jerskey**! (See page 3 for more information.)



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**WINE & SPIRITS TASTING**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2015

AT CBS SCENE - PATRIOT PLACE  
Foxboro, MA

\$60.00 per person

Enjoy a variety of wine & spirits  
selections presented by:

**ROUTE 106 WINES & SPIRITS**  
Mansfield, MA

Event will also include a Savory Menu, Cash Bar, Silent Auction, Raffle, Annual iPad Appeal, Special Presentation... and more!



WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR OUR  
5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**Bailey's Run for Autism**

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016

Foxboro, MA

Information about this event will be on  
our website by November 1, 2015.



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

## **A Message from the President**

### **FAMILY UPDATE**

Dear Friends,

2015 is proving to be our best year yet already having raised over \$70,000 with three (3) more months to go! We continue to host well attended programs – both in an effort to raise funds AND awareness in support of people with autism spectrum disorders and their families!

\* \* \*

October 2<sup>nd</sup> is approaching quickly and this year it is rather bittersweet. Our handsome Bailey will be 16 years old. Although it has been and continues to be a happy time for us all, it is always difficult to celebrate a milestone birthday, as it reminds us of what Bailey can't or will never do. At 16, most teenagers would be preparing and anxious to get their learner's permit to drive before their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. We are spoiling him with birthday gifts that include the recent Disney/Pixar movie characters from "Inside Out." The bright side... one less kid we have to worry about behind the wheel, out at all hours, and driving all over! Not really the bright side for us, but that is what we tell ourselves.

Bailey continues to grow taller; yet he thinks he is very small. He will not hesitate to enter a room and drop his 100 lb. body on either one of our laps. He curls up in a ball, although still manages unintentionally to crush us. He has always been so affectionate and yes, he still asks for butterfly kisses at age 16!

Bailey has entered his sophomore year at North Attleboro High School (NAHS) where his brother, Spencer, recently joined him as a freshman. It was perfect timing that Rachel was nearby for Bailey's first year with Spencer arriving immediately following her departure. It certainly gives us a level of comfort knowing that he does not feel alone. His use of language continues to increase, however, he constantly uses words and phrases from movies and youtube to communicate. He also has a tendency to mix up phrases and when called from another room he will yell "I'll be right *here* mom..." instead of "I'll be right *there* mom!" The first time I heard this – it was so wonderful to hear what was nearly a typical response; but still he got it wrong – of course something we do not plan to correct... it is simply a "Baileyism." Other Baileyisms include "action finger" ("action figure"), "100 sodas – be right back – go get them" (when we are out of his favorite diet root beer and orange soda), "Do you like McDonald's" (this means "I want McDonalds for dinner!")... and there are many more.

Just two weeks ago we returned to Narragansett Beach for a day of surfing! We were introduced to this wonderful program last year and this year Bailey had much success getting up on the surfboard. "Surfers Healing" is a spectacular event developed to support individuals living with autism and their families. It was created by a father of a son with autism and it is now giving children with autism an opportunity to learn to surf on the waters of more than 15 different beaches throughout the United States creating a wonderful sensory experience (read more about this program on page 4).

This year, Bailey's at-home services therapist, who comes to us through a grant from the state, has taught him many daily living skills. Lisa seems to work almost effortlessly with him as he has a tremendous respect for her and reponds well to her direction and teaching. He has learned to make his bed, clean his room, sort through his favorite (hundreds of) drawings and at age 16, I am happy to say he can tie his shoes! He showers almost independently, yet still has difficulty staying on task.

He is almost always happy – still frustrated, however, by the sudden loss of Internet service at home, at the Cape, in the car and in the community. If he is unable to access Youtube or complete and WIN an online game, we are all at risk of his very loud outbursts. As he nears 17, we will begin the process of obtaining guardianship for him as at age 18 we no longer have the right to act as his guardian. He will become a ward of the state as an adult even though at times he functions as a child. We do look forward to our wonderful years and experiences ahead with him, but it is imperative that we are also always prepared for what lies ahead.



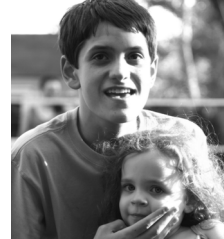
Rachel, Bailey & Spencer at  
Spencer's graduation from  
North Attleboro Middle School (NAMS)



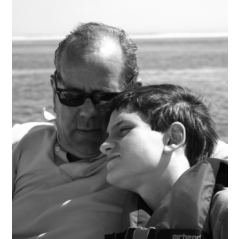
Bailey & his surfing instructor



Bailey & Brent in Cape Cod  
(Bailey's brother-in-law)



Bailey & Georgie



Bailey snuggling with  
his Dad on a seal tour  
in Chatham

## FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

Rachel graduated from NAHS in June and began her freshman year at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). She spent her summer working as a camp counselor at the YMCA in Franklin and bid us all a fond farewell at the end of August. We are so happy for her as she seems to have found her happy place in the world!

Spencer entered his freshman year at NAHS and continues to work hard at his studies. He volunteers at a local park/petting zoo in North Attleboro during the summer and throughout the year. He helps care for the animals and cleans the grounds along with a terrific group of kids who he calls his friends. On a separate note, his height has skyrocketed as he is 5' 9" tall and has a size 10 shoe... clearly taking after his dad.

Lindsay, Brent, Georgie and Bernadette returned to the Cape to share some special summer fun with us... it is so hard to be so far away from them but we keep the Internet busy with photos and videos flying back and forth!

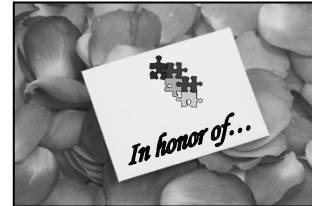
Doug and I are doing just fine and thank you for your ongoing dedication, commitment and generosity and we thank you for your help supporting individuals living with autism and their families!

*Sammi Robertson*

## 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 \$10,000 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.



Rachel graduated NAHS!



Spencer & Lindsay



Georgie & Bernadette

## THANK YOU TO TODD LEVINE



A heartfelt thank you and farewell to Dr. Todd Levine, who has decided to step down from his Board position with Bailey's Team. He is an Instructor in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and he provides clinical services at the Autism Spectrum Disorders Clinic at the Brown Center for The Study of Children at Risk where he treats children and adults with ASDs and behavior difficulties. He has also recently joined the Advisory Board for the Asperger's Association of New England.

We thank Todd for his dedication and commitment to Bailey's Team and more importantly we thank him for his ongoing friendship and support!

## WELCOME TO BETH JERSKEY



Beth A. Jerskey, Ph.D., is the May Institute's Vice President of Professional Training and Research and Director of Clinical Training for its APA-accredited doctoral internship program in Clinical Psychology. Trained as a neuropsychologist, Dr. Jerskey graduated from Boston University with a doctorate in Clinical Psychology. She completed her clinical internship at Massachusetts General Hospital, and a postdoctoral fellowship through the Alpert Medical School of Brown University's Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior Clinical Psychology Training Consortium.

Beth brings a wealth of experience in autism evaluation, intervention, and research. She is the past coordinator for the Rhode Island Consortium for Autism Research and Treatment (RI-CART).

She lives in Massachusetts with her husband, Eric and their two children.

## BAILEY'S TEAM DONATES 7 IPAD MINIS TO BRADLEY SCHOOLS!



In April of this year, Bailey's Team donated seven (7) iPad Minis along with durable cases to the Bradley Schools to be used by students with autism spectrum disorders for instructional support while at school. This initiative was first introduced at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Wine & Beer Tasting hosted by Bailey's Team and the first set of iPads were donated to the Arc of Bristol County which were distributed by way of a lottery to families of children with autism. In 2013, the second recipient chosen by the Board was the Groden Center, another important program serving children with autism spectrum disorders. This year, we were delighted to contribute iPads to the Bradley Schools in an effort to support their students with autism.

Pictured above (L to R): James A Chung Brcaak, PsyD, Clinical Director, Bradley School - Providence; Karen T Cammuso, PHD, Clinical Director, Developmental Services Lifespan School Solutions/Bradley School; Amanda M Lupien, Bradley School; and Sammi Robertson



## BAILEY'S TEAM FUNDS SURFER'S HEALING

Bailey participated in a special program on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, Surfers Healing (SH) at Narragansset Beach in Rhode Island. It was the second time that we attended this event. This program provides the exhilarating experience of surfing to individuals with autism and their mission is to change all pre-conceived notions about what kids with autism can and cannot do. SH introduced this program 15 years ago in an effort to foster an understanding and acceptance of autism; and in 2013, with the help of dedicated volunteers and a team of amazing surfers from all over the world, SH has provided this incredible experience to over 4,500 kids at 16 locations up and down the east and west coasts of the United States... at no charge to families!

Bailey's Team, once again, was happy to sponsor the Rhode Island event donating \$1,000.



Pictured above (L to R): (1) Bailey with SH Volunteer, Elisabeth Bishop, (2) Bailey's up on the Board! (3) Coming in to shore!

## AUTISM AWARENESS JEWELRY FOR SALE TO SUPPORT BAILEY'S TEAM

Did you know that Bailey's Team has been selling autism awareness jewelry since 2010? Our awareness jewelry, designed by Sandy Chapman of Chappy Girls, contains colorful beads representing autism in red, blue, aqua and yellow and is displayed at our Education Series and at autism events throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island. You may also contact us at [sammirobertson@comcast.net](mailto:sammirobertson@comcast.net) if you would like more information about how to purchase our beautiful handcrafted jewelry.



Bling Bracelet (left) \$22.00



Spiral Bracelet (left) \$16.00



Cuff Bracelet (left) \$12.00

Handcrafted jewelry featuring Miyuki glass beads with heavy silver - plate rings or rods [nickel free]; with sterling silver puzzle piece charm.

## OCEAN STATE JOB LOT PARTNERS WITH BAILEY'S TEAM

We are excited to announce a new partnership with Ocean State Job Lot that began years ago as a result of our annual campaign. Our very special friend and honorary Board Member, Irwin Chafetz, reaches out to his friends each year to ask that they support people with autism and their families. Over the years, Marc and Alan Perlman, founders of Ocean State Job Lot, have donated in excess of \$25,000 to Bailey's Team in response to Irwin's request.

This year our friends at Job Lot went one step further by offering their customers the opportunity to be part of the Autism solution by contributing at the counter of Job Lot's stores in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. "The outpouring of generosity was overwhelming," according to David Sarlitto, Job Lot's marketing executive put in charge of executing the program. "The success of the program illustrates in a profound way how many lives and families have been touched by Autism, and underscores how much more is needed -- and we're more than proud to be part of the solution," says Sarlitto.

Following the success of their efforts and the generosity of their patrons, Bailey's Team was presented with a check for \$24,500 and we have since partnered with OSJL to execute this program again next year. Please be sure to frequent an OSJL near you and keep us in your thoughts when asked to support people with autism and their families!

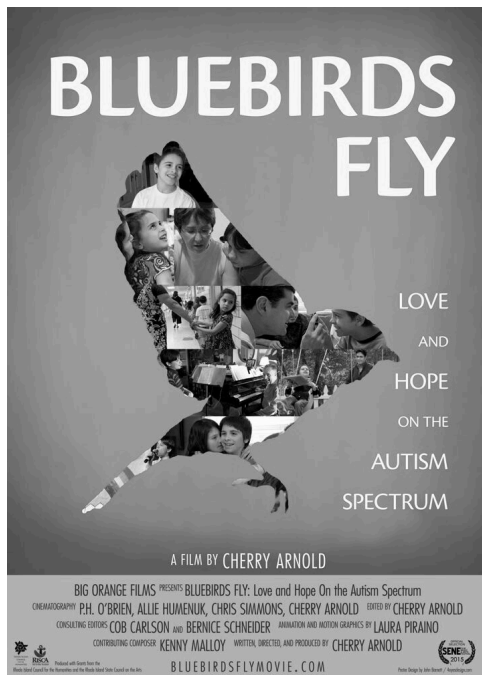
**THANK YOU TO MARC & ALAN PERLMAN!**

**THANK YOU TO IRWIN CHAFETZ!**

**...AND THANK YOU TO THE THOUSANDS OF PATRONS WHO SHOPPED AT OCEAN STATE JOB LOT DURING AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH 23<sup>RD</sup> AND GAVE TO OUR CAUSE!**

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**BAILEY'S TEAM KICKS OFF IT'S SEVENTH ANNUAL EDUCATION SERIES WITH AN IMPORTANT FILM BY BIG ORANGE FILMS, DIRECTED BY CHERRY ARNOLD  
APRIL 13, 2016 - HOLIDAY INN MANSFIELD - FOXBORO**



**Bluebirds Fly is a film presented by Big Orange Films, Directed by Cherry Arnold and funded in part by Bailey's Team.**

According to the CDC, 1 in 68 children are being identified with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Whether it's a sibling, cousin, neighbor or co-worker, we all know someone living with autism; yet many of us lack a clear understanding of what autism is.

Does autism impact the brain or the body? Are you born with autism or does an environmental trigger cause it? How are families, schools and communities meeting the challenges of autism?

**Bluebirds Fly** follows three families, each with a child on the autism spectrum, with the goal of shedding light on these questions and more. In this deeply moving and informative film, the families share their stories - from the shock of the initial diagnosis, to navigating the health care and school systems, to finding appropriate therapies - we witness their dedication, resilience, humor and acceptance.

**Bluebirds Fly** leaves audiences with a better understanding of autism, along with a newfound awareness of what can be done to help individuals with autism live happier, more productive lives.

Enjoy pictures from our 11<sup>th</sup> Bailey's Par for Autism



Come and get your golf bags!



Vinnie & Luke Porcaro



Jay Long of Visual Creations  
Doin' a little dance!

*To those who participated as a golfer, a sponsor, a dinner guest or a volunteer, we could not do what we do... without all of you!*

## 2015 UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 6

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual WINE & SPIRITS TASTING**  
Hosted by BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM  
CBS Scene - Patriot Place, Foxboro, MA



## 2016 UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

- APRIL 2** **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY**
- APRIL 3** **5<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S RUN FOR AUTISM**  
Neponset Avenue, Foxboro, MA
- APRIL 11** **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual GRODEN NETWORK SYMPOSIUM**  
& **12** **\* MORE INFORMATION TO COME! \***  
Crown Plaza Hotel  
801 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI
- APRIL 13** **7<sup>th</sup> Annual EDUCATION SERIES – PART 1**  
**BLUEBIRDS FLY: [Movie]**  
**LOVE AND HOPE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM**  
*Presented by Big Orange Films*  
*Directed by Cherry Arnold*  
Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro  
31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA
- MAY 14** **6<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE**  
Roger Williams Park Zoo  
Providence, RI
- MAY 18** **7<sup>th</sup> Annual EDUCATION SERIES – PART 2**  
**AUTISM: 67 MILLION HITS ON GOOGLE -**  
**WHERE DO I BEGIN?**  
**WHAT DOES GOOD RESEARCH SAY ABOUT**  
**TREATMENTS & PROGRAMS?**  
*Presented by Jane Carlson, Ph.D., BCBA-D*  
Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro  
31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA
- JUNE 12** **12<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM**  
**Charity Golf Tournament**  
Crystal Lake Golf Club  
Burrillville, RI
- AUGUST 1** **ANNUAL CAMPAIGN BEGINS**
- NOV 4** **8<sup>th</sup> Annual WINE & SPIRITS 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, 2016