

# BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM

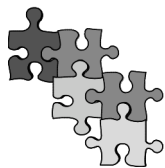
*Raising funds and awareness in support of individuals living with autism spectrum disorders and their families, with a focus on research, education and programming.*

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

FALL 2016 Newsletter – Prepared by Sammi Robertson

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the sixteenth 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 RUN AND GOLF TOURNAMENT BRING IN A COMBINED 50K IN SUPPORT OF PEOPLE WITH AUTISM!**

**OUR 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BAILEY'S PAR FOR  
AUTISM CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT  
RAISES OVER \$38,000 IN SUPPORT OF  
INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH AUTISM!**

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, we 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 pictures from the event!)

\*\*\*\*\*

**OUR 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BAILEY'S RUN FOR  
AUTISM RAISED \$12,000 IN SUPPORT  
OF OUR MISSION... although no one ran!**

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, as several of us arrived in Foxboro to set up for our race, we were hit with unseasonably, unfortunate and most inconvenient whiteout conditions. As a result, we were forced to call off the race. HOWEVER, we asked that our patrons and their families join us for a celebration at Waxy O'Connor's Irish Pub as the weather improved. Thankfully, many of our runners, friends and families showed up and a celebration it was! (See page 5 for a few team pictures.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to **Ocean State Job Lot** for making another most generous donation to Bailey's Team with help from their customers! (See page 4 for more information.)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**WINE & SPIRITS TASTING**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016**

**AT SHOWCASE LIVE - PATRIOT PLACE  
Foxboro, MA**

[See page 3 for more information.]

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

*Bailey's Run for Autism*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017**

**Foxboro, MA**

Information about this event will be on  
our website by December 1, 2016.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**EDUCATION SERIES**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017**

**HOLIDAY INN MANSFIELD - FOXBORO  
Mansfield, MA**

[PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED]

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,

2016 has been a good year for Bailey's Team and for our family. However, it has not been without its challenges. Although we have continued to experience much success raising funds AND awareness in support of people on the autism spectrum, our own family continues to go through some difficult transitions as Bailey moves through puberty.

Bailey's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday is October 2<sup>nd</sup> and he is growing into a very handsome young man. He stands approximately 5' 6" tall and continues to charm us all. It's funny to see us walk out to the school bus at the end of our driveway each morning with him towering over me (not hard to do)... with his arm over my shoulder and his boyish grin as he starts his day. These are the precious moments! Thankfully, it seems that he will never embarrass from hugging his mom or dad – no matter who is watching!

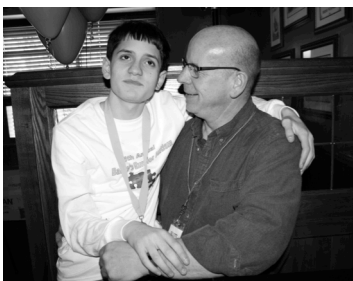
With his growth, however, has come much strength. At times, when he becomes frustrated, his strength can become overpowering causing it to be difficult for us to help him de-escalate. As always, his biggest challenges (STILL) revolve around the Internet, video gaming and YouTube videos. His age and puberty does affect his temperament and as a result, his outbursts are louder and his reactions to his frustration or disappointment can be hard to manage.

We've had several experiences this summer that reminded us of just how difficult life can be supporting someone with autism. One example was the day that there was a sudden loss of Internet on the ferry to Martha's Vineyard, where Bailey's upset caused a very public display. It had been a long time since we experienced such a loud outburst as he continued to throw his ipad and phone, calling attention to us all and scaring those around us. On this day, however, it felt as though we took many steps backward and it was a "renewed" wake up call, that his autism was unmanageable and perhaps getting more and more difficult inhibiting our choices to spend time as a family in the community. Only weeks later, there was the sudden loss of Internet at home resulting in yet another devastated response as he was unable to continue watching his favorite YouTube videos. He became so agitated that he remained up through the night and threw a table across his bedroom. And most recently, there was his tremendous disappointment that resulted from his receiving a wrong edition of a Baby Bach video. We watched him as he worked so hard to manage his sadness, but his temper got the best of him and he sobbed for hours, exerting his strength and attempting to hurt himself and break toys and other items in his path. These are the hard parts and only a few examples of what has transpired this summer.

Bailey has entered his junior year at North Attleboro High School (NAHS). His use of language continues to increase, however, he constantly uses words and phrases from movies and youtube to communicate. He spends a lot of his time in the community with support from his teachers and aides. He works at our local Food Pantry, St. Vincent DiPaul's and the Wrentham Development Center labeling towels in their laundry room. He goes to the supermarket and prepares meals at school with his classmates. He enjoys his time at school and has learned how to behave there.

Every morning is the start of a brand new day when we embrace our son, accept and love him for who he is and hope for only good things to come. Most days continue this way. And although this summer proved to be more difficult, we are hopeful that as he learns more skills, he will become more manageable at home.

We know that he loves us very much and never means to hurt anyone. His autism is what controls his behavior and although in many ways he has learned to respond as teenagers do, we must remember that he is often like a very young child continuing to grow into a man's body. However, no matter how hard it gets, we will do our best to support him and make sure that he remains happy and always knows that he is loved.



Bailey with Uncle Scott  
At the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Bailey's Run for Autism after party



Bailey's at home Skills Trainer,  
Lisa or "Buster Baxter"  
as he affectionately calls her



Bailey & Mrs. Kalalas,  
his Classroom Teacher



Bailey with Nana-Barbara & Grandpa!  
Father's Day, 2016

## FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

And now for the others...

Rachel has begun her sophomore year at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). She was anxious to return following a great summer working as a camp counselor at the YMCA supporting children with special needs.

Spencer is now a sophomore at NAHS and continues to work hard at his studies. He continues to volunteer at a local park/petting zoo in North Attleboro and hopes to secure a paying job there or at the YMCA like his sister next summer. We are very proud of him and enjoy watching him continue to grow (EVEN TALLER) into a remarkable young man!

Lindsay, Brent, Georgie and Bernadette returned to the Cape to share another wonderful "Cape Cod vacation with us... it was so nice to see them as the girls have grown so much (ages 4 and 2)! Although the distance makes it so difficult, we do enjoy looking forward to the next time we can all be together!

Doug and I are still holding down the fort as we continue to prepare as Bailey enters adulthood – not to mention trying to support the others as they continue on their respective journeys as well. We thank you for your ongoing support of our family and of our work supporting individuals with autism and their families!

*Sammi Robertson*



Bailey & Doug



Rachel & Bernadette



Uncle Spencer & Georgie chillin' on the hammock!



Please join us for the eighth annual  
**WINE & SPIRITS TASTING**  
 To benefit  
**BAILEY'S TEAM FOR AUTISM**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016**

7:30 pm

**SHOWCASE LIVE**

PATRIOT PLACE – FOXBORO, MA



\$75.00 per person

**Sponsorships & VIP Seating Available!**

Evening Hosted by Boston's Favorite Comic

**"TONY V."**

Wine & spirits selections presented by:

**ROUTE 106 WINES & SPIRITS**

377 Chauncy Street, Mansfield, MA

Including a Savory Menu, Cash Bar, Silent Auction,  
 Raffle, Creative Art Display and Live Entertainment!

*All proceeds from this event will go to 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.*



## 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 \$10,600 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.





## OCEAN STATE JOB LOT PARTNERS WITH BAILEY'S TEAM RAISING \$30,000

Once again, our friends at Ocean State Job Lot kindly selected Bailey's Team for Autism to be a recipient during one of their weekend charity campaigns offering their customers the opportunity to support individuals with autism and their families. Last year, following the success of this campaign, Bailey's Team was presented with a check for \$24,500. This year, they surpassed last year's number and presented Bailey's Team with **\$30,000** including a match from the company!

**THANK YOU TO OCEAN STATE JOB LOT AND THE THOUSANDS OF PATRONS WHO SHOPPED AT THEIR STORES DURING JUNE 10<sup>th</sup> THROUGH JUNE 12<sup>th</sup> AND GAVE TO OUR CAUSE!**



## BAILEY'S TEAM DONATES 10 IPAD MINIS TO THE MAY INSTITUTE!



In March of this year, Bailey's Team donated ten (10) iPad Minis along with durable cases to the May Institute, a center and provider of education, rehabilitation and behavioral healthcare services. The iPad Minis will be used by students with autism spectrum disorders for instructional support while at school. This initiative was first introduced in 2012 at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Wine & Beer Tasting hosted by Bailey's Team. Each year, an organization or school is selected by the Board to receive these iPads all in an effort to help enhance the learning process for individuals on the autism spectrum. The prior recipients include the Arc of Bristol County, the Groden Center and the Bradley School.

Pictured above (L to R): Ethan Kichura, Education Technology Specialist, Dr. Beth Jerskey, Vice President of Professional Training and Research, both at the May and Bailey's Team President, Sammi Robertson



## BAILEY'S TEAM FUNDS SURFER'S HEALING THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

Bailey participated in Surfers Healing (SH) at Narragansett Beach in Rhode Island on September 19<sup>th</sup> with hundreds of other individuals with autism. 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 in an effort to foster an understanding and acceptance of autism; and with the help of dedicated volunteers and a team of amazing surfers from around the world, SH has provided this incredible experience to nearly 5,000 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: Bailey is supported by surfing coach's 10 year-old son. Surfing tandem 5 times getting Bailey up on the Board!



**BAILEY'S TEAM FUNDS A NEW INITIATIVE AT THE J. ARTHUR TRUDEAU MEMORIAL CENTER**



Earlier this year, Bailey's Team funded a special new project at the Pathways Strategic Teaching Center, a comprehensive education and treatment program serving children with autism and related disorders. Founded in 1998 through a collaborative effort between the J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center and local parents of children with autism, Pathways is committed to utilizing scientifically validated teaching strategies in improving the lives of children with autism and their families.

The funds from Bailey's Team were put forth to open a school store, "Pathways Place" (pictured at left) on the Coventry campus, to provide a structured environment where transition students could work on skills needed for employment. This includes understanding money, counting, communication and stocking shelves as well as going into the community to purchase supplies for the store. In addition, the school store will give all Pathways students a chance to work on life skills when purchasing items.



Bailey's Team was happy to participate in this initiative as it supports young people with autism and helps them to acquire the skills they will need to become valued and contributing members of their respective communities. Dave, pictured left with a support staff professional and a customer, enjoys his job and works at Pathways Place 10 hours per week.

**FOXBORO'S OWN WAXY O'CONNOR'S SELECTS BAILEY'S TEAM AS THE RECIPIENT OF FUNDS RAISED FROM THE RESTAURANT'S FIRST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT!**

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Waxy's held it's first annual Charity Golf Tournament in a generous effort to contribute to their community. The event was held at Wentworth Hills Golf Club in Wrentham, MA where nearly 60 participants spent the day in support of this inaugural event. After the round, the party continued at Waxy's for lunch and an exciting raffle! Waxy's will host an evening and check presentation ceremony in October with Board members from Bailey's Team to celebrate this special event.

**ENJOY PHOTOS FROM OUR 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RUN FOR AUTISM**



Beth Robinson & her team, "The Sons" s supporting Anthony & Michael



Our friends from the Autism Project "TAP Rhode Runners"



Radio voice of the New England Patriots, Bob Socci & his son, Gio

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR RUN SPONSORS FOR MAKING OUR CAUSE THEIR CAUSE TOO!**

Bay Colony Group  
David & Donna Frieze  
Douglas A. King Builders, Inc.  
Visual Creations, Inc.  
Conroy Developments

The Eagle Leasing Company  
Matteo Industries  
Foxborough Fire Fighters – Local 2252  
Foxborough Police Relief Fund  
Mannington

Spillane & Spillane – Attorneys at Law  
Chace Building Supply  
FGX International  
Waxy O'Connor's Irish Pub  
Walsh Brothers Building

Enjoy pictures from our 12<sup>th</sup> Bailey's Par for Autism



Joe Cotoia & Doug Robertson



Kathy Rohrman & Danielle Desrosiers



Sean & Tom Buckley



Sheila Burgess & Ruth Hoshino



Martin Conroy & Sammi Robertson

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!

**2016 UPCOMING EVENTS**

**NOV 9 - 10 AUTISM, COMMUNITY SAFETY & FIRST RESPONSE TRAINING**  
 Hosted by **BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM & Autism Society of Rhode Island**  
 The Rhode Island Shriners Imperial Room  
 Cranston, RI

**NOVEMBER 18**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> Annual WINE & SPIRITS TASTING**  
 New Location **Hosted by BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM**  
 SHOWCASE LIVE - Patriot Place, Foxboro



**2017 UPCOMING EVENTS**

**APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

- APRIL 2 WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY**
- APRIL 2 6<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S RUN FOR AUTISM**  
 Neponset Avenue, Foxboro, MA  
 After Party at Waxy O'Connor's Irish Pub
- APRIL 12 8<sup>th</sup> Annual EDUCATION SERIES**  
TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED\*  
 Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro  
 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA
- MAY 13 7<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE**  
 Roger Williams Park Zoo  
 Providence, RI
- JUNE 4 13<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM**  
 New Location **Charity Golf Tournament**  
 Metacomet Country Club  
 Providence, RI
- AUGUST 1 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN BEGINS**
- NOV-TBD 9<sup>th</sup> Annual WINE & SPIRITS TASTING**  
 Hosted by **BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM**  
 Showcase Live - Patriot Place, Foxboro, MA

Watch for our next BAILEY'S TEAM NEWSLETTER to be distributed in March, 2017

\* We are currently working with the Arc of South Norfolk's Family Autism Center to confirm a screening of the newly acclaimed documentary film, Life Animated featuring the inspirational story of Owen Suskind, a young man with autism who was unable to speak as a child until he and his family discovered a unique way to communicate by immersing themselves in the world of classic Disney animated films.

# BAILEY'S TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS



Sammi Robertson  
President



Doug Robertson  
Vice President



Dan Joyce  
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Amy Tonkonogy  
Clerk/Funding Coordinator

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Tom Buckley



Sheila Burgess



Tony Calcia



Danielle Desrosiers



Beth Jerskey



Amy Laurent



Julie O'Brien

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT BAILEY'S TEAM...**  
**DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME ☺**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card (*Please circle one*): MasterCard / Visa / AMEX / Discover

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form along with your payment to:

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

[A receipt will be returned for all credit card payment]

*Thank you!*





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