

# 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 2018 Newsletter – Prepared by Sammi Robertson

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the twentieth 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.

## BAILEY'S TEAM CELEBRATES ITS 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION!

### Officers

Sammi Robertson  
President

Amy Laurent  
Vice President

University of Rhode Island

Dan Joyce  
Treasurer

Bright Horizons  
Family Solutions

Amy Tonkonogy  
Clerk

Educational Media  
Consultant

### Directors

Thomas Buckley  
Foxborough  
Fire & Rescue

Sheila Burgess  
Hockomock YMCA

Keith Duclos  
Dare Family Services

Beth Jerskey\*  
\*Funding Coordinator  
Boston Child Study Center

Paul LaCava  
Rhode Island College

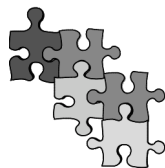
Douglas Robertson  
Visual Creations, Inc.

Betsy Roche  
Amego, Inc.

### Honorary Board Members

Irwin & Roberta Chafetz

Stephen Shore



### ANOTHER GREAT YEAR ...

WE HOSTED OUR FIRST PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP TO EDUCATE OUR APPLICANTS ABOUT HOW TO SECURE FUNDS FROM BAILEY'S TEAM!

\*\*\*\*\*

OUR 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISED OVER \$32,000 IN SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH AUTISM!

\*\*\*\*\*

THANK YOU TO JIM HALLAL OF J'S DELI FOR HIS ONGOING SUPPORT OF PEOPLE WITH AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES!



\*\*\*\*\*

NEW ENGLAND JEWELRY COMPANY DONATES \$10,000 TO BAILEY'S TEAM!

\*\*\*\*\*

BAILEY'S TEAM TO PARTNER WITH THE FRANKLIN PARK ZOO & AFAM (Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts) TO HOST AN AUTISM FAMILY DAY AT FRANKLIN PARK ZOO - APRIL 27, 2019

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**WINE & SPIRITS TASTING**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018  
AT SHOWCASE LIVE - PATRIOT PLACE  
Foxborough, MA

[See page 3 for more information.]

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

*Bailey's Run for Autism*

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019  
Foxborough, MA



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**EDUCATION SERIES**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019  
HOLIDAY INN MANSFIELD - FOXBOROUGH  
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,

Well, once again I am very happy to report that we have had a good year both for Bailey's Team and for our family. These last few months especially have seemed to be "uneventful," which in the world of autism is a good thing! Bailey has had a good summer receiving a lot of support both in his day program at the High School as well as at home with numerous providers taking him out into the community. He returned to work at his job at the real estate office, which I spoke of last year and they were happy to welcome him back!

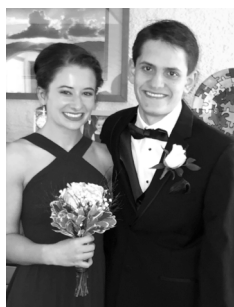
This fall newsletter is always circulated around his birthday (October 2<sup>nd</sup>) and this year he will turn 19. Phew! We made it through his first year of adulthood without any major setbacks. We have already received the long-awaited determination that states that he does, in fact, qualify for adult services. Imagine that? Having to wait for this decision after having him in substantially separate special education programming since the age of three! Nonetheless, receiving this notice from the state was an essential part of the process to ensure that his support will continue.

Bailey is now in what is called a "12 plus" program, meaning that his school program continues after the 12<sup>th</sup> grade until he turns 22 – it pays to live in Massachusetts as Rhode Island law only provides programming through the age of 21. He takes the same school bus to school at 6:45 am every day just as he did last year, but shortly after reaching school, his group travels to different programs and activities in the community. They go to Attleboro Enterprises, Inc., a program supporting adults with diverse developmental challenges, empowering them to become contributing members of society, while also helping them to live more independently in everyday community settings. They also go out for lunch during the week, which enables them to practice ordering a meal while also learning to handle money.

Although typically happy, Bailey continues to struggle and it is important that we remember how hard he works to maintain his composure when feeling anxious. If something interrupts a routine or if he is not forewarned about a change in schedule, or prepared for a visit, he can become quite agitated. He has, however, made incredible gains in this area relative to learning to de-escalate on his own.

His language continues to improve which is something we celebrate every day. This also helps him to manage his anxiety by voicing his frustration. Sometimes it is as simple as him saying, "oh man!" or "FINE!" as teenagers do. This tells us that he is on the edge and he needs support. Or, it can mean he needs space and time to get control of his feelings. His ability to accomplish this is a sign of maturation. Although impaired cognitively by his autism, he continues to mature and grow into a fine young man. He is affectionate, he loves his family and we also believe that he knows that he is loved.

Last year, as a senior, Bailey attended his prom with a beautiful young lady, Meghan. She was a sophomore at the time but was delighted to attend with Bailey as she was in the Best Pals program at the High School. He loved preparing for the big day, going with mom to rent (and try on) his tuxedo and practicing his dance moves for the big night. It was a happy experience for him as he has learned to participate in special events understanding that it was an important evening. Just a few short weeks later, he did participate alongside the entire senior class at the North Attleboro High School graduation. Yes, he walked with his class! ...A very important milestone for us all... and not a dry eye in the place as he walked to receive his... certificate. Although he did not technically graduate receiving a diploma, he was a part of the community, which in his case was far more important.



Bailey & Meghan  
NAHS Senior Prom  
May, 2018



Bailey with Celya & Elijah  
Attleboro Day Games, Special Olympics  
May, 2018



Bailey with his friend  
"Katie Leeco"



Bailey with his classmates and  
fellow graduates, Celia & Elijah

## FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

And now for the others...

Rachel is a senior at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) and will graduate on May 11, 2019! She's unsure of the plans that will follow – but our goal now is to get to May 11<sup>th</sup>!

Spencer is also a senior... in High School! He is applying to a number of colleges including American University, NYU, Emerson, Hofstra and URI to name a few! Thus far, his first choice is American University in Washington DC where he would double major in Communications (Film Studies) and Business / Entertainment. It is a very exciting time!

This summer Lindsay, Brent, Georgie and Bernadette made another long trek to Chatham! Georgie (6) and Bernadette (4) love to come to Mimi & Pops' house where they receive undivided attention from their Auntie Rachel & Uncle Spencer. Even Uncle Bailey fits them in sporadically!

Doug & I recently celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! Quite a milestone – especially among families raising and supporting a child with special needs, specifically autism! We spent Labor Day weekend at the Charles Hotel where we were married and spent our 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. It is a very special place for us and we love to reminisce in such a beautiful setting.



Overall, it has been a good year and we are happy to celebrate with you!

L to R:  
Wedding Day, 9/5/93;  
25 years later...2018!

*With love from Sammi & Doug Robertson*



Above L to R:  
Bernadette,  
Rachel & Lindsay,  
Bailey with Lindsay

L to R:  
Georgie  
Spencer with the girls



# WINE TASTING & ART SHOW

TO BENEFIT  
BAILEY'S TEAM FOR AUTISM

FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 2, 2018

7:30 PM

SHOWCASE LIVE  
PATRIOT PLACE  
FOXBORO, MA

\$ 75.00 PER PERSON



With special presentation featuring:  
**The Miracle Project— New England**, a program sponsored by Bailey's Team

**Event includes a savory menu, cash bar, silent auction, raffle, creative art display and more!**

Wine & Spirits selections presented by  
**Route 106 Wine & Spirits**  
377 Chauncy Street, Mansfield, MA

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.

## 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 \$11,400 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.



Bernadette & "

## WE ARE ALL MIRACLES!

### BAILEY'S TEAM COLLABORATES WITH THE MIRACLE PROJECT & BROWN UNIVERSITY FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW TO OFFER A SPECIAL CAMP PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF EXPRESSION IN THE ARTS!

The Miracle Project New England is a camp offering music, movement and acting to young adults on the autism spectrum.

After watching the 2007 Emmy-Award Winning HBO film, Autism the Musical, it has been a dream to bring such an innovative and effective program to New England. Many individuals on the autism spectrum respond to the arts, such as movement, music and expression. Although they may not have extensive language, individuals with autism can still express themselves when given the opportunity in a supported environment. Borrowed from the original program founded by Elaine Hall in Los Angeles, CA, The Miracle Project New England was first piloted in June of 2017 serving individuals from age 6 to 30. This year, our week-long program was for ages 14 – 25.



**Left:** (L to R) Classmates Ryan, Bailey & Andrew

**Immediately below:** Young adults celebrating at the Miracle Project New England

**Bottom:** (L to R) Circle Time; The Miracle Project New England Team of Staff & Volunteers



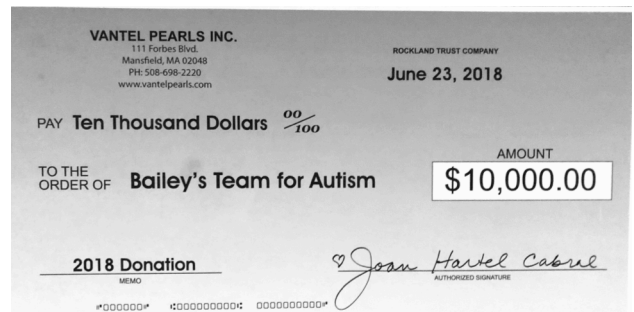
### VANTEL PEARLS MATCHES THEIR 2017 GIFT DONATING \$10,000 TO BAILEY'S TEAM AGAIN IN 2018!

We are delighted to report that Vantel Pearls, a national direct jewelry sales company located in Mansfield, decided to support Bailey's Team again this year donating \$10,000 in support of individuals living with autism and their families! We were asked to join them for lunch at their annual conference to speak to their sales force about living with and supporting a person with autism. Following our presentation, both the company's Founder and CEO, Joan Hartel, and Sugar Frates, also of Vantel Pearls, presented Bailey's Team with a very generous check (see pictured below)!

Vantel Pearls imports oysters grown for pearls, from Japan and the South Pacific. Each oyster, when opened, contains at least one genuine pearl. The company then sets the pearl into a piece of jewelry of the customer's choice.

We had the pleasure of meeting several people at this event who also have children on the autism spectrum and worked very hard to raise money during their autism awareness campaign to donate to Bailey's Team.

**BAILEY'S TEAM THANKS VANTEL PEARLS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



## BAILEY'S TEAM OFFERS FIRST GRANT APPLICATION WORKSHOP TO HELP APPLICANTS WIN GRANTS!

After working hard to improve our funding process in an effort to make it simple and efficient, while collecting all pertinent information from our applicants, we decided to offer the grant seeking public an opportunity to learn how to write effective grant proposals. Our second goal was to also share our specific process in a collaborative and most transparent way. In other words, we were educating our applicants about how to write a proposal that would most likely help them to secure funds from Bailey's Team!



We invited Diane Gedeon-Martin, President of The Write Source (pictured left), to share her expertise in the area of developing successful grant proposals for non profit organizations. Diane is a nationally recognized grant consultant and respected instructor. She started The Write Source in 1993 and her clients include medium to large nonprofits throughout the country, national and regional human service organizations, institutions of higher education, hospitals and healthcare systems, as well as prominent performing arts groups, museums, and cultural centers. Her clients have achieved great success winning grants from foundations, corporations, and government agencies ranging from \$5,000 to \$5 million.

We concluded the program by sharing our updated forms and offered details regarding what we typically like to fund. We shared our newly developed rubric, which we now use to maintain our consistency and integrity throughout the funding process. And, as a result, we are very excited to review all proposals received in our upcoming funding cycle!

---

### THIRD PARTY FUNDRAISERS... A WIN WIN! HELP SUPPORT BAILEY'S TEAM BY DOING YOUR BEST TO RAISE FUNDS AND AWARENESS!

Third party fundraisers are a wonderful way to increase revenue for non-profit organizations. In many cases, such as the case at Bailey's Team, our leadership consists of incredible and dedicated volunteers – most of whom have full time jobs. As a result, it is difficult for board members to work full time and also apply themselves to the workings of the board, while also raising money. Third party fundraisers can provide additional revenue without taxing the same people over and over again. This is done by seeking other volunteers, or groups, who might choose to host an event, selecting Bailey's Team as the beneficiary, and then marketing their event as their own while supporting a good cause.

Bailey's Team has benefited from numerous third party fundraisers throughout the years including:

- Home shopping or catalogue parties
- Family yard sales
- Fashion Show
- Dress down day at the office
- In place of wedding favors with a contribution made by the bride and groom in honor of their guests
- Hat day at school
- Photo with Santa
- Amazon Smile
- Pawsox game
- Restaurant Night

And some of these fundraisers represent a collaboration with the following companies:



bloomingdale's

amazon smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.



TOUCHSTONE  
CRYSTAL BY SWAROVSKI



These events have been the source of over \$20,000 in revenue donated to Bailey's Team since 2008! We thank all those who have helped to raise money and awareness for Bailey's Team!

If you would like to partner with Bailey's Team, helping to support our mission, while reaching out to the community, please contact [sammirbertson@comcast.net](mailto:sammirbertson@comcast.net) or visit our website and enter your information.

#### THANK YOU TO FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER, TONY CALCIA



We offer a heartfelt thanks to Founding Board Member, Tony Calcia who has decided to step down from his Board position with Bailey's Team. Tony served as a Director since 2008 and will finish out his term next month (October).

We can't thank him enough for his commitment and dedication to Bailey's Team as Tony added tremendous value to the Board since it's inception. But most importantly, we thank him for his ongoing friendship and support!

## Celebrating Bailey's High School Graduation



Bailey with "Mr. T." – NAHS Graduation  
June 8, 2019; waving to mom & dad



Spencer, Bailey & Rachel



Spencer, Sammi, Bailey, Rachel & Doug  
After graduation ceremonies!



Bailey with his High School support staff  
(L to R): Julie Johnson, Sandy Greve, Jenn Graveline,  
Janet McTarnaghan, Chad Turcotte,  
Baby Vince with new mom, Rachel Kalalas & Kim Ralph

## 2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2

**10<sup>TH</sup> Annual WINE TASTING & ART SHOW**

Hosted by **BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM**  
SHOWCASE LIVE - Patriot Place, Foxboro



## 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2 **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY**

APRIL 7 **8<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S RUN FOR AUTISM**

Neponset Avenue, Foxboro, MA  
After Party at Waxy O'Connor's Irish Pub

APRIL 10 **10<sup>th</sup> Annual EDUCATION SERIES**

*Program To Be Determined*  
Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro  
31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA

APRIL 27 **AUTISM FAMILY DAY AT FRANKLIN PARK ZOO**

Franklin Park Zoo  
Boston, MA

MAY 18 **9<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE**

Roger Williams Park Zoo  
Providence, RI

JUNE 9 **15<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM**

**Charity Golf Tournament**  
Crystal Lake Golf Club  
Burrillville, RI

AUGUST 1 **ANNUAL CAMPAIGN BEGINS**

NOV 1 **11<sup>th</sup> Annual WINE & SPIRITS TASTING**

Hosted by **BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM**  
Location to be announced.

Watch for our next **BAILEY'S TEAM NEWSLETTER**  
to be distributed in March, 2019



*We hope you  
will join us  
throughout  
the year!*

# BAILEY'S TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS



Sammi Robertson  
President



Amy Laurent  
Vice President



Dan Joyce  
Treasurer



Amy Tonkonogy  
Clerk/Funding Coordinator

## DIRECTORS



Tom Buckley



Sheila Burgess



Keith Duclos



Beth Jerskey



Paul LaCava



Doug Robertson



Betsy Roche

**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 payments]

*Thank you!*



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