

# 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.

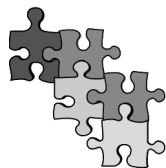
Bailey's Team is helping to put the pieces together!

FALL 2019 Newsletter – Prepared by Sammi Robertson

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the twenty-second 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 CONTINUES TO THRIVE RAISING AWARENESS BY INTRODUCING NEW EVENTS TO THE COMMUNITY BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES!**



## Officers

Sammi Robertson  
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Amy Laurent  
Vice President

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Bright Horizons  
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Douglas Robertson  
Visual Creations, Inc.

Betsy Roche  
Amego, Inc.

Amy Tonkonogy  
Educational Media  
Consultant

## Honorary Board Members

Irwin & Roberta Chafetz

Stephen Shore

### ANOTHER GREAT YEAR ...

WE HOSTED OUR FIRST AUTISM FAMILY DAY  
AT FRANKLIN PARK ZOO IN BOSTON

\*\*\*\*\*

WE RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THE  
THEODORE ELIOTT CHARITABLE TRUST  
FOR \$5,000

\*\*\*\*\*

ONCE AGAIN, VANTEL PEARLS SELECTS  
BAILEY'S TEAM AS ITS AUTISM DONATION  
RECIPIENT, CONTRIBUTING \$7,200 IN  
SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH  
AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES  
[See page 4 for more information]

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WE ARE EXCITED TO INTRODUCE NEW  
BOARD MEMBER, SUE LINEHAN  
[See page 5 for more information]

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BOARD MEMBER, DAN JOYCE RECEIVES  
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD  
FROM BRIGHT HORIZONS  
FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN  
[See page 4 for more information]

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WE ARE INTRODUCING A  
NEW EVENT IN 2020  
[See page 5 for more information]

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THE BOSTON EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES RELIEF ASSOCIATION DONATES  
\$2,100 TO BAILEY'S TEAM AFTER RAISING  
FUNDS THROUGH THE SALES OF EMS  
AUTISM AWARENESS T-SHIRTS AND HATS  
[See page 6 for more information]

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**WINE TASTING & ART SHOW**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019**

**AT SKYLINE AT WATERPLACE  
PROVIDENCE, RI**

[See page 3 for more information.]

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

*Bailey's Run for Autism*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020**

**Foxborough, MA**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**EDUCATION SERIES**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2019**

**COMPLIANCE IS NOT THE GOAL:  
RETHINKING SUPPORTS FOR  
AUTISTIC INDIVIDUALS**

Presented by Amy Laurent, Ph.D., OTR/L &  
Jacquelyn Fede, Ph.D., CV

[LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED]

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,

What a great summer with Bailey! He seemed to be happier and more content and enjoyed his day program as well as his time at home. It feels as though he continues to mature and mellow, as he gets older and passes through adolescence. He will be twenty by the time you read this and his temperament continues to be happy and affectionate, with only a few interruptions resulting from Internet connection issues and when he is losing while playing a video game. We spent a lot of time at the Cape where he likes to retreat to his bedroom spending little time outside and most of his days and nights on the computer.

We continue to work with the state on receiving his social security as well as other state funded support. His allocations recently decreased so we are in the midst of pursuing an appeal to better understand why his income was reduced nearly 25%. We are also continuing to obtain guardianship as well as maximize all opportunities for both emotional and financial support relative to his care... a time consuming process, but a very necessary one... all for Bailey's future and well-being.

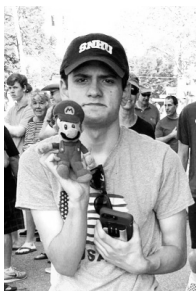
Bailey continues in his "12 plus" program, meaning that his school program continues after the 12<sup>th</sup> grade until he turns 22. He takes the same school bus to school at 7:00 every morning, and shortly after reaching school, his group travels to different programs and activities in the community. They visit several programs practicing vocational and social skills as well as a program at Bridgewater State University, where Bailey like to report that he goes to college.

Although typically smiling and content, Bailey continues to struggle when frustrated. His level of anxiety remains the same; however, his coping skills and ability to de-escalate continue to improve with time. He often sings certain songs and recites commercials to calm himself although we quickly recognize his demeanor based on the song he is singing. If he hums loudly he needs space; and if he sings, "Sing a song"... run for the hills!

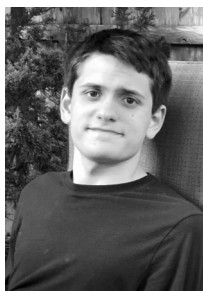
He often apologizes when he begins to yell. He will shout and it will immediately be followed by a loud "I'm sorry" especially if he hears us approach. This represents his tremendous effort in remaining self-regulated, however, he is also demonstrating that at times it is very difficult for him to keep it together – not so different than any of us on a bad day!

His improved language has also enabled us to prepare him for change. His brother, Spencer, recently left for college and we worked hard to prepare him for this as Spencer is one of his biggest supports. While Bailey was sad to see Spencer leave, he understood that he would see him again and that he could talk to him on the phone.

Bailey continues to amaze us as he has a warm sense of humor (mostly toward his dad)... and is most affectionate (mostly toward his mom). He is a joy and a kind young man. He has learned to be polite at times saying "excuse me" when appropriate and asking "are you all right?" when someone coughs or sneezes. Although not always seemingly observant, just when you think he is not paying attention, he might laugh or contribute in some way to let you know he *is* present. As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, it reminds us of how grateful we are for him and all of those around us who support him and the rest of our family.



Bailey with Mario  
July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade  
in Chatham



Bailey happy at  
the Cape



Mom & Bailey



Bailey at the dentist



Dad & Bailey



Bailey chilling in the sun

## FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

And now for the others...

Rachel graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU)! She is working at Performance Physical Therapy in Smithfield, RI and is very happy! Her fiancé, Jeff, is in his third and final year of Law School at New England Law and plans to graduate in May. Oh and did I mention, they have moved in? So far so good!

Spencer is off to American University where he is enjoying his new surroundings and his time away from home. Mommy, not so much! He is at the Kosgood School of Business and is a Business and Entertainment major with a focus on film. We attended orientation in July and then moved him in in August! Our next visit will be in October during parents' weekend.

Lindsay, Brent and the girls came in for Spencer's graduation celebration in June... and we saw Lindsay and Brent again when they paid a surprise visit to Doug in Nashville where we celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday! The girls are growing up fast and are enjoying school and horseback riding among other activities.

It's been a very busy summer with kids, traveling to and from the cape and getting Spencer ready for college. We've spent a lot of time in Chatham... our happy place. We look forward to seeing you at our events throughout the year and wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season!

*With love from Sammi & Doug Robertson*



Rachel, Spencer & Bailey at Spencer's graduation



Brent & Lindsay in Nashville



Georgie & Bernadette at home in Newtown, PA



Spencer & Doug at orientation at American in Washington DC



Please join us for the eleventh annual  
**WINE TASTING & ART SHOW**  
 To benefit  
**BAILEY'S TEAM FOR AUTISM**



**FRIDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 1, 2019**  
 7:30 pm  
 \$75.00 per person  
 Includes Valet Parking

*Skylines*  
 AT WATERPLACE  
 1 Finance Way  
 Providence, RI  
 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

*Event includes a Light Savory Menu, Cash Bar, Raffle, Silent Auction, Creative Art Display, Live Magic and More!*

All proceeds from this event will support Bailey's Team for Autism, raising funds and awareness in support of individuals living with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

Sponsorships are available.

## 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 **\$14,450** for Bailey's Team.

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



Bernadette & \*


**VANTEL PEARLS DONATES A TOTAL OF \$27,200 TO BAILEY'S TEAM SINCE 2017!**

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 \$5,000 in support of individuals living with autism and their families! Their representatives are charged with selling autism awareness items from their catalogue and on line in an effort to raise funds. The top three sales representatives are then recognized at their annual conference to which we are invited to celebrate. This year, they not only presented Bailey's Team with a check for \$5,000, but in an effort to raise more money, they had a small drive for more donations during the conference and raised an additional \$1,100, which the company decided to match (adding \$1,100) making this year's total \$7,200!



Pictured L-R:  
Bailey's Team  
Board Members  
Doug Robertson,  
Dan Joyce &  
Sammi Robertson;  
with Bailey and  
Vantel Pearls  
President,  
Joan Hartel and  
her assistant,  
Sugar Frates

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, The Jewish Family & Children Services of Greater Boston will recognize five advocates for people of ALL abilities.



Bailey's Team President, Sammi Robertson will be among those honored for providing community support through grant making.

**BAILEY'S TEAM FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER AND TREASURER, DAN JOYCE, WINS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FROM BRIGHT HORIZONS FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN!**

Bright Horizons provides on site child care centers at the work place reimagining the connection between work and home, and creating new ideas for the way people work, live, and learn today. Working with both employers and families, their curriculum has been designed with milestones in mind, with teachers who give children the important skills they need in a convenient location that provides the schedule needed to accommodate the whole family.



In an effort to increase the company's impact on the community, Bright Horizons provides grants to the causes that matter to their employees. Employees are selected to receive a Community Service award which recognizes individuals who demonstrate a commitment to raising the quality of life for children and families in their own community through exemplary leadership. The winners are then offered a \$100 grant to the nonprofit organization of their choice, and Dan Joyce generously chose Bailey's Team. Dan not only serves as the Treasurer for Bailey's Team, but he is always present at events and often coordinates volunteer support to see that our events are managed and executed successfully. We could not do what we do without Dan..., **CONGRATULATIONS TO DAN** on his award and thank you to Bright Horizons for recognizing Dan in this way!

**BAILEY'S TEAM SUPPORTS THE MIRACLE PROJECT - NEW ENGLAND FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW!**

The Miracle Project - New England is a camp that provides opportunities for self expression in the arts through music, movement and acting to young adults on the autism spectrum.

After watching the 2007 Emmy-Award Winning HBO film, Autism the Musical, profiling this very special program founded by Elaine Hall of Los Angeles, CA; 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.



Bailey pictured left very happy to be at camp!



Campers and volunteers taking a break



Dr.'s Amy Laurent and Jacquelyn Fede provide support and direction to all campers.

## BAILEY'S TEAM WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER, SUE LINEHAN!



Sue Linehan is the mother of an adult son, Patrick, diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Since Patrick's diagnosis, she has made it her mission to educate herself about autism treatments, outreach, and advocacy. She immersed herself in case studies, research literature and a variety of the resources as well as attended numerous educational conferences about the field of autism. During her son's younger years, she worked with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health as a Metrowest Coordinator for the Parent Leadership Project. She also served as a parent advisor in a MA inter-agency task force that focused on assessing autism resources statewide.

Sue was also President of the Sharon Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SSEPAC) for 4 years and developed and coordinated an elementary disability awareness curriculum called "Experiencing Differences." She has been trained as a Parent Consultant by the Federation for Children with Special Needs and has spoken at various conferences and events about her family's journey.

Sue has also facilitated several parent support groups in different settings. She is currently a member of the steering committee for the Family Autism Center in Westwood, MA; and for the past 12 years, she has served on the executive committee for Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts (AFAM).

For the past 16 years, she has been the Office Manager for F.J. Linehan & Associates, Consulting Engineers, a family business. She is married to Paul Linehan and is the mother of three children—David, Patrick, and Christina as well as proud grandmother of three beautiful grandchildren.

## 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 with Bailey's Team, our leadership consists of 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.

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

## BAILEY'S TEAM IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW EVENT COMING IN 2020!

We will be bringing a new awareness and celebration event to the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood MA on Thursday evening, October 1, 2020. **We will feature the work of artists with autism from Massachusetts and Rhode Island.** Previously we have featured artwork at our Wine Tasting event and in an effort to continue this tradition, this year's wine tasting will feature a smaller inventory as we plan to separate these two events in 2020 to provide a single focus on our artists!

We are excited to feature the talents of these men and women of all ages who have wonderful skills and gifts to share. All artwork will also be available for sale.

We do hope you will join us! We will have more information to share in early 2020. Please enjoy the small sampling below – all created by individuals with autism.



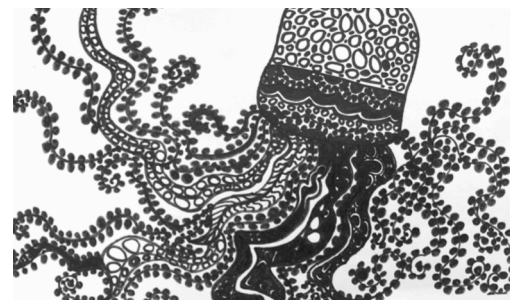
Painted scene by Bailey Robertson



Dominic Killiany



Flower and jellyfish pen & ink drawings by Julia Sposato



## Enjoy Pictures from November, 2018 – June, 2019



Bailey's Team Board Members celebrating the Honor given to Sammi Robertson from the Arc of South Norfolk



Bailey's Team Golf Tournament Volunteers:  
Standing (L-R): Ruth Hoshino, Danielle DesRosiers,  
Kathy Rohrman & Spencer Robertson  
Sitting (L-R): Sheila Burgess & Alice Conroy



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



The Boston Emergency Medical Services Relief Association donated \$2,100 to Bailey's Team after raising funds through the sales of EMS autism t-shirts and hats. Pictured are four EMS workers and three individuals with autism.

## 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

### NOVEMBER 1



#### 11<sup>TH</sup> Annual WINE TASTING & ART SHOW

Hosted by **BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM**  
Skyline at Waterplace – Providence, RI

## 2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH 29 9<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S RUN FOR AUTISM

Neponset Avenue, Foxboro, MA  
After Party at Bar Louie

## APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

### APRIL 2 WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

### APRIL 15 11<sup>th</sup> Annual EDUCATION SERIES COMPLIANCE IS NOT THE GOAL: RETHINKING SUPPORTS FOR AUTISTIC INDIVIDUALS

A positive shift in focus supporting the development of emotional skills is the goal.

*Presented by Amy Laurent, Ph.d, OTR/L & Jacquelyn Fede, Ph.d, CV*

*Location to be determined*

### MAY 2 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual



#### AUTISM FAMILY DAY AT FRANKLIN PARK ZOO

Franklin Park Zoo  
Boston, MA

### MAY 9 10<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE

Roger Williams Park Zoo  
Providence, RI



### JUNE 14 16<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM

#### Charity Golf Tournament

Crystal Lake Golf Club  
Burrillville, RI

### OCTOBER 1

#### CELEBRATING ART AND AUTISM

Hosted by **BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM**

Four Points by Sheraton – Norwood, MA

**NEW EVENT!**

### NOVEMBER 6



#### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual WINE & SPIRITS TASTING

Hosted by **BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM**  
Skyline at Waterplace – Providence, RI

Watch for our next BAILEY'S TEAM NEWSLETTER  
to be distributed in March, 2020

*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



Beth Jerskey  
Clerk &  
Funding Coordinator

## DIRECTORS



Tom Buckley



Sheila Burgess



Keith Duclos



Paul LaCava



Sue Linehan



Doug Robertson



Betsy Roche



Amy Tonkonogy

**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

*At least 1 in 59 children will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder this year!  
Help us put the pieces together by joining our team!*