

# BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM

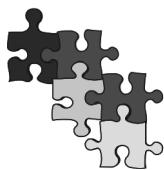
*Raising funds and awareness in support of individuals living with autism spectrum disorders and their families, with a focus on research, education and programming.*

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

FALL 2020 Newsletter – Prepared by Sammi Robertson

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the twenty-fourth 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

Amy Laurent  
Vice President

Autism Level UP!

Dan Joyce  
Treasurer

Bright Horizons  
Family Solutions

Beth Jerskey  
Clerk / Funding Coordinator  
Boston Child Study Center

## **DIRECTORS**

Thomas Buckley  
Foxborough  
Fire & Rescue

Sheila Burgess  
Hockomock YMCA

Keith Duclos  
The Edinburg Center

Paul LaCava  
Rhode Island College

Sue Linehan  
F.J. Linehan & Associates, Inc.

Douglas Robertson  
Visual Creations, Inc.

Betsy Roche  
Amego, Inc.

## **HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS**

Irwin & Roberta Chafetz

Stephen Shore

**BAILEY'S TEAM WORKS HARD TO RECOVER FROM THE IMPACT COVID HAS HAD ON THE NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY, MAKING IT VERY CHALLENGING TO RAISE MUCH NEEDED FUNDS!**

### **THE IMPACT OF COVID**

Like many other organizations, Covid-19 has effectively interrupted much of our operations including fundraising. As a result, we did not send out requests for proposals (RFP's) to kick off our funding process this year. We have alerted our colleagues and grantees that we were choosing not to invite them to request funds as per usual when we have limited resources available to distribute.

In accordance with our mission, however, we do intend to distribute these limited resources and plan to finalize our process following our Annual Meeting at the end of October.

In our effort to remain transparent, we want to alert our donors of our current position while also reassuring everyone that we will not compromise the integrity of our process nor the use of your generous donations and support.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**A FAREWELL AND THANK YOU TO  
FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER  
AMY "T." TONKONOGY...**

[See page 4 for more information]

\*\*\*\*\*  
**THANK YOU TO VANTEL PEARLS  
FOR DONATING \$7,000 TO BAILEY'S  
TEAM IN SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS  
WITH AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES!**

[See page 5 for more information]

### **WE ARE INTRODUCING A NEW EVENT IN 2020**

[See page 4 for more information]

*Celebrating  
Art &  
Autism*



*It is with much disappointment that we  
announce the cancellation of our  
Wine Tasting Event scheduled for  
November 6, 2020.*

**We will resume hosting this event on  
Friday, November 5, 2021!**

**We hope to see you next year!**

\*\*\*\*\*

*Also, due to the pandemic, we have  
cancelled our Education Series scheduled  
for October 7, 2020. We plan to host this  
event in April of next year. Please watch  
for more information about all Bailey's  
Team programs in the months ahead.*

**A SPECIAL TRIBUTE  
TO OUR FRIEND  
AND FOUNDING  
BOARD MEMBER,  
TONY CALCIA**

[See page 5  
for more information]



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 – DURING COVID TIMES**

Dear Friends,

What a crazy time it is! Although for a person with autism, perhaps a welcomed new normal. Social distancing... little to no interaction with people, staying isolated at home... Bailey has been in his glory. If autism is defined as a serious developmental disorder that impairs the ability to communicate and interact with others..., then this might be what it feels like to be on the spectrum. For those of us who crave interaction, this has been a challenging time; but for Bailey, he is in his happy place.

Ironically, he spends much time on the computer or playing video games, yet he has not easily engaged in online learning or computer time with his teachers and peers. He has had almost no interest in this. After all, according to Bailey, his computer time is for him only; interacting with others is not what it is for. As a result, it has been hard to engage him on a zoom call and when we are successful at having him attend for a few moments at a time, he quickly says "I'm outta here," and leaves the room.

Although his demeanor and temperament have been balanced and relatively positive, he has regressed as his ability to communicate has begun to deteriorate, having less demands put upon him. Doug feels that his language has worsened significantly, while I feel that it is simply harder to pull it out of him. He is not motivated by Doug and me. Like other children, he seems to be more compliant for other adults. Therefore, having been around only us, he does not interact or communicate as much as before. However, Bailey has been a joy to be with. He has been content at home and as long as we are able to share details of our schedule or schedule changes before they happen, he is able to transition more easily. We have traveled to the Cape nearly every weekend since March and as long as he knows our plans to stay and when we will return home, he is satisfied.

Bailey has one year left in his program in North Attleboro. He will "age out" of the system one day before his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday, giving us one year to secure a program for him when he turns 22. We are beginning to work with the state and other support agencies to research our choices for a day program for him, preferably one that provides some vocational training, in addition to some sort of job in the community. There will be opportunities, although transportation and independence are important factors when finding a placement. After all, Bailey will require constant supervision and care to keep him safe and on task.

There will be much to learn in the months ahead relative to finding a place for him, but we are hopeful and comforted as we have built a very special network of people who care about Bailey and our family, and will ensure that we find the best program for him.

Bailey continues to be happy and is often smiling and is able to amuse himself whether he is on the computer, drawing or while role playing with his many plush characters. He does, however, continue to struggle when frustrated. When his anxiety becomes heightened, he has learned to de-escalate by reciting commercials or scripts to regulate himself.

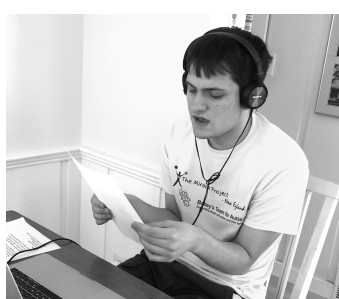
Bailey continues to amaze us every day, whether a new word enters his vocabulary, or we find that he has drawn a new masterpiece. When he approaches for a hug, you feel his presence and know you have made an important connection. He inspires us as he continues to work hard to live in "our world" and with each day that passes, he teaches us so much of how to only care about the important things... that we are all safe and happy.



Bailey with Dad on the ferry to Martha's Vineyard



Bailey happy at dinner with mom in Chatham



Bailey participating in the online expressive arts camp, "The Miracle Project – New England"



Mom & Bailey masked for a day out in the community

## FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

And now for the others...there is much to report...

Rachel switched jobs after COVID began, she now works at Maxim Healthcare Services in Taunton. She recruits home health care workers to support families who require support at home for their loved ones. Her fiancé, Jeff, graduated from New England Law School and is studying relentlessly for the Bar Exam, which he will take in October. He continues to work at Callahan-Barraco in Westborough and looks forward to continuing his career with them. We are also planning their September (2021) wedding now that we are approaching the one-year mark. Thankfully, we had scheduled a long engagement or else we would have had to reschedule their nuptials as most others have done who were scheduled to get hitched in 2020.

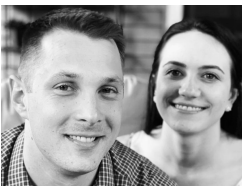
Spencer finished his first year at American University with a 3.8 grade point average. While he loved DC, he is considering transferring to the Boston area to attend a school with a stronger film program. However, in the midst of it all, he opted to take a semester off due to COVID. Why remain isolated in off-campus housing – in a hotel – to take all on-line courses?! Instead, he is living in Chatham at the Cape and working at The Black Dog, while also helping at home with Bailey's care.

Lindsay's family is keeping busy in Pennsylvania – also quarantined – and the girls continue to enjoy horseback riding and dance classes. It has been a difficult stretch not getting to see them, but we are hopeful that we can be together again before the end of the year.

It's been a very different summer – making decisions about what is safe, when to quarantine, and traveling to and from the Cape. We've been fortunate to have our home in Chatham and have spent a lot of time there. We look forward to putting these quarantine and social distancing obstacles behind us. We miss spending time with family and friends and hope to be together again soon.

Be well and stay healthy.

*With love from Sammi & Doug Robertson*



Jeff & Rachel



Spencer



Georgie & Lindsay



Georgie, age 8



Bernadette, age 6



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



**CANCELLED THIS YEAR; WE  
 WILL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR...  
 NOVEMBER 5, 2021**

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

\$75.00 per person  
 Includes Valet Parking

*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.

**WE WILL RESUME EVENTS ON  
 SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021 WITH OUR  
 10<sup>th</sup>-ish ANNUAL**

***Bailey's Run for Autism***



## TRIBUTE CARDS

Our Tribute Card Program provides 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 **\$14,750** for Bailey's Team.

If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of someone special, please visit our website, and download our tribute form for more information.



# Celebrating Art & Autism



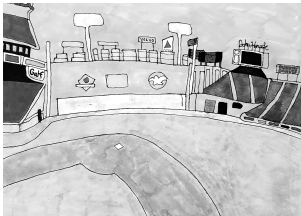
Bailey's Team for Autism is pleased to announce our inaugural art show event, *Celebrating Art & Autism*, hosted virtually beginning October 1, 2020 and ending Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Our show will feature artists with autism ranging in age and presenting a variety of art mediums, drawing from across Southern New England.

Bailey's Team is honored to support the arts and individual artists with autism by highlighting the work of so many talented and creative individuals in our community. We are excited to add this new event to our portfolio in an effort to further support individuals and families living with ASD. We hope you will join us as we launch this new annual event.

All artwork will be available for auction, with proceeds supporting both the individual artists and Bailey's Team for Autism. Funds collected by Bailey's Team will be allocated to our general funding pool to supporting research, education, and programming; all to benefit the autism community.

We will host a **Kick-Off Cocktail Hour** via zoom on **Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm**. Please watch our website and Facebook page for more information on how to connect to this special event. We will explain the format for the auction and introduce Bailey's Team; and you will also have the opportunity to meet some of the artists! For questions, please contact Amy Tonkonogy at [amytonkonogy@gmail.com](mailto:amytonkonogy@gmail.com).



Fenway Park created by Patrick Linehan



Moonlight created by Johnny McKenna



Dancing Figures created by Juia Sposato



Muenster & Gouda created by Emily Coppola

## FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER, AMY "T.", LEAVES THE BOARD BUT WILL REMAIN A BIG PART OF BAILEY'S TEAM



A heartfelt thank you to Amy Tonkonogy, one of our founding Board Members, as she has decided to step down from her Board position. Before sharing her plans moving forward, I wanted to recognize her numerous achievements as not only a founding Board Member, but also an Officer and Funding Coordinator dedicated to our mission.

Amy played an integral part in establishing our funding process, sharing her insight, knowledge and perspective both as a grant writer and grant recipient. Working for a non-profit, she contributed to our process at a professional level guiding us as we revisited our procedure time and again to make necessary improvements while also helping us to remain grounded as a grassroots organization. She worked closely with our grantees while always challenging our practice in an effort to help us grow.

Amy has recently changed jobs and now works for Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts as the Director of Institutional Giving. Her new role follows a successful 30-year career working at WGBH as an Executive Producer, developing and shaping media to support all levels of formal and informal education through digital storytelling and authentic documentation.

Amy will continue to be an active member of Bailey's Team chairing our newest event, Celebrating Art & Autism. Although this year's Art Auction will be a virtual program hosted on-line; it is our hope that we will have a live event in 2021.

Thank you, Amy, for your ongoing dedication and support of Bailey's Team and individuals with autism and their families. But most of all, thank you for your ongoing life-long friendship!

## MY FRIEND TONY...WITH LOVE FROM SAMMI

It still feels so surreal that my friend, Tony Calcia, passed away so suddenly in March. Although he was memorialized warmly and his numerous accolades were referenced time and time again, one important and unmentioned commitment was his role as a founding Board Member of Bailey's Team for which he served for the last eleven years of his life.

Tony took great pride in this commitment and valued his place on our Board and among his peers. He enjoyed learning about autism and helped establish our policies and procedures and especially liked that it strongly supported his work with the Hockomock YMCA's Integration Initiative, a nationally recognized – first of its kind – program.

My friendship with Tony began in 2004 when I stormed into his office seeking help for my son with autism. I had made many efforts to enroll him in YMCA programming, but even as a result of the Y's best efforts, Bailey was unable to have meaningful experiences. His autism got in the way. Tony's thoughtful and most sincere response was to meet to discuss building the right program for Bailey and for people like him. This was the birth of what we know now as the Integration Initiative, a very special program of inclusion.

Tony was a champion for those with special needs and people of all abilities. He was always most respectful, and he appreciated those who were not always valued. Not only did they inspire his work, as we partnered to develop the Integration Initiative, but his affiliation with Bailey's Team and The Arc of Bristol County were also very important to him.

We had a special banter between us – sometimes offering painfully blunt criticism of one another – yet growing closer for it! It was during a board meeting when he challenged my opinion and poked fun – as we all did – but felt he may have gone too far. The following day I had flowers on my doorstep. Tony was that kind of guy!

I miss my friend. I miss his laugh. I miss his smile. I miss our lunches (and his napkin bibs). Most of all, I miss his warmth and friendship and his ability to always do right by everyone.

The world lost a kind man with a heart of gold and I am truly thankful for having had the opportunity to know him.



10 Year Anniversary Dinner for Bailey's Team - October 2018  
[Tony Calcia -1<sup>st</sup> row far right]



Tony - 2019

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## VANTEL PEARLS SUPPORTS BAILEY'S TEAM AND PEOPLE WITH AUTISM FOR THE 4<sup>th</sup> YEAR

In 2017, Vantel Pearls, a national direct jewelry sales company located in Mansfield, Massachusetts contacted us wanting to support people with autism and their families... it was a dream come true! Each year, to raise funds, Vantel Pearls introduces autism awareness jewelry for sale through their catalogue. The Vantel Pearls sales representatives have warmly embraced this initiative as well as Bailey's Team!

During this year's PearlFest Annual Conference, which was held virtually, both Sammi and Bailey were invited to address the attendees via video. The enthusiasm and compassion of the sales representatives is so inspiring to experience! Recently, Vantel Pearls presented Bailey's Team with \$7,000 as a result of their fundraising success! The picture to the right was taken during our visit with Vantel's President, Joan Hartel when she presented us with their very generous donation! Thank you, Vantel Pearls!



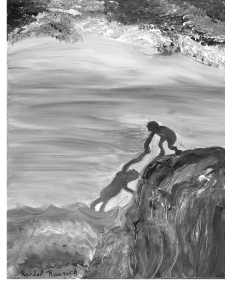
Enjoy some of the artwork to be featured in our upcoming ART SHOW



Swan Reflecting Perfect  
photographed taken by Conner Thompson



A Stroll in the Park

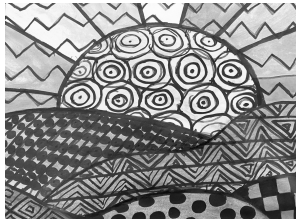


Helping Hand

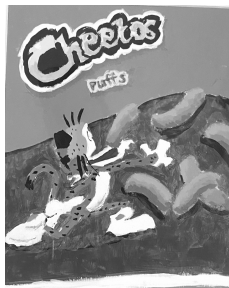
Both pieces created by Rachel Rasnick



Menacing Tiger painted by  
Dominic Killiani



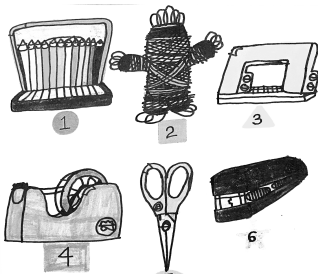
Deco Sunrise drawn by  
Patrick Linehan



Cheetos painted by  
Elisabeth Bishop



Hip Hop Life painted by  
Stephanie Sacks



Office Supplies drawn by Bailey Robertson

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 26

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

Roger Williams Park Zoo  
Providence, RI



OCTOBER 1

CELEBRATING ART AND AUTISM

This event will be held online only with a special Kick-off event to be held October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm

NOVEMBER 6

11<sup>th</sup> Annual WINE TASTING

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID! ☹️

2021 UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2 WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

APRIL 11 10<sup>th</sup>ish Annual BAILEY'S RUN FOR AUTISM

Neponset Avenue, Foxboro, MA  
After-Party location to be determined

APRIL 14 12<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

[DATE TO BE DETERMINED] 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
AUTISM FAMILY DAY AT FRANKLIN PARK ZOO  
Franklin Park Zoo  
Boston, MA

MAY 8

11<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE  
Roger Williams Park Zoo  
Providence, RI

JUNE 13

17<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM  
Charity Golf Tournament  
Crystal Lake Golf Club  
Burrillville, RI

OCTOBER [DATE TO BE DETERMINED]

CELEBRATING ART AND AUTISM

Four Points by Sheraton – Norwood, MA

NOVEMBER 5

11<sup>th</sup> Annual WINE TASTING

Skyline at Waterplace – Providence, RI



*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

**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 54** children will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder this year!  
Help us put the pieces together by joining our team!*