

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 programming, education, and research.

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



FALL 2023 Newsletter – Prepared by Sammi Robertson

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the thirtieth 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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Elaine Hall
Stephen Shore

BAILEY'S TEAM CELEBRATES 15 YEARS INCORPORATED AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN 2023!

BAILEY WAS DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM ON JUNE 13, 2001... LESS THAN 4 MONTHS BEFORE HIS 2ND BIRTHDAY

We began raising funds for the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) in September 2001.

In 2005, NAAR merged with Autism Speaks.

In 2008, Bailey's Team became a non-profit organization, formed a Board of Directors, and created our own grant funding process.

In 2013 we celebrated our first 5 years as a non-profit organization (although we had been raising funds for 12 years)!

In 2018 we celebrated 10 years as a non-profit organization...

And on October 24th, all past and present Board Members will celebrate our 15th year as a non-profit organization raising funds and awareness in support of individuals with autism and their families!



Bailey's Team is excited to welcome new Board Member, Michael Andrade from The Arc of Bristol County

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR OUR 14TH ANNUAL WINE TASTING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

We are happy to host our event this year at **Aloft, Downtown Providence** located at 191 Dorrance Street in Providence.

Sponsorship opportunities are available:

Benefactor - \$ 1,000.00

Includes admission for 4 with hotel, overnight parking (1 car) & reserved seating

Sommelier \$ 750.00

Includes admission for 4 with reserved seating

Steward - \$ 500.00

Includes admission for 2 with reserved seating

Connoisseur - \$ 250.00

Does not include admission

Enthusiast - \$ 100.00

Does not include admission

All proceeds from this event will support Bailey's Team for Autism and individuals living with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

[Visit www.baileysteam.org or see page 3 for more information]

Please join us on
SUNDAY, APRIL 14th, 2024
for our 12th annual

Bailey's Run for Autism



For more information about BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM, please visit www.baileysteam.org

A Message from the President

FAMILY UPDATE

Dear Friends,

Another six months have gone by and I'm happy to report that Bailey is doing great! However, it seems when it comes time to sit down to write our story, we experience somewhat of an "episode" to remind us of why we do this work. Before I get to the recent *event*, I prefer to share the positive... and there is so much to share!

Bailey's language has improved, and it amazes us to hear him putting several words together to form sentences. Years ago, I called these small victories, but there is nothing small about them. Hearing him talk is something we have never taken for granted. When he recites a full non-scripted sentence, it is music to our ears! For example, just recently he said, "I want to go home to North Attleboro soon." Although this meant leaving the Cape – something we prefer not to do - it was such a specific request and he had never used the word "soon" before. The simplest statements put a smile on our faces. While his language continues to improve, he is best able to articulate his thoughts when he wants something. 😊

Bailey recently increased his hours at one of his programs, Mansfield Redemption. He is now attending two programs for a total of 4½ days. He wakes up and follows a routine of snuggling with Mom and Dad (yes, even at age 24), then into the bathroom to wash-up, downstairs for a quick bowl of dry cereal, shoes on, and off he goes when his ride arrives between 7:15 and 8:00 am... a large window of time requiring us to have him up and ready early sometimes only to wait for nearly an hour to be picked up. 😊 Although he does well at both programs, he seems to favor his time at the Mansfield Redemption facility where he works a portion of the day. He is busy and very productive according to the staff and always has a smile on his face. With that said, he recently asked if the last day at his programs could be in December, and I told him "No." I explained this is because he is an adult and he has to work. I then offered him a vacation and he seemed pretty satisfied with that idea. So, our next excursion will be New York City – perhaps in November or December... or even January – as much is coming up for the Robertsons in the next few months – more to come on page 2 about our other news!

We've spent a lot of time at the Cape, recently moving from one home to another – both in Chatham. We spent many months preparing for our move and preparing Bailey for the transition. We showed him his room as it was being completed and told him what it would look like. We visited the new house often to show him the progress and the space that would be his room, and the adjacent living space for his computer, drawing, TV watching, etc. He quickly acclimated to his new digs and continues to enjoy his time at the Cape, although he is clear when he tells us that he is not going. We have learned when to prepare him for a weekend excursion and at times, we opt to keep him home where he prefers to spend more time gaming than on his computer. He has rules for different places, and what he does at home is for North Attleboro, and how he spends his time at the Cape... is for the Cape.

The other night, we were preparing to go to bed, and Bailey was making noise downstairs. He was rustling through the closet, and we soon found out he was in search of glue; his "Bowser" plush doll had some loose fabric that needed re-attaching. When he was unable to find the glue, he called for Mom and Dad to come and fix Bowser. Doug searched for his glue-gun to no avail. Bailey started to panic reciting "*Techna*" over and over again – a word we dread as it represents an impending catastrophe and Bailey's disenchantment to say the least. As Doug continued to look for the glue, I headed to CVS at 11:30 pm to get a new glue-gun and glue sticks. As I found the gun and began to notice they were out of glue sticks - which was the priority – Doug called to say he had found both the glue-gun and the glue sticks. It was as if someone was watching out for us, and our crisis was averted – but not until midnight! Doug was able to fix Bowser and Bailey was content. We all went to bed, but our angst and uneasiness continues whenever his autism gets too big.



Mom & Bailey at the Art Show hosted by Bailey's Team



Bailey at lunch



Bailey at the Cape



Mom & Bailey



Bailey in the car with Sweetie going to lunch



Bailey at work at Mansfield Redemption



Bailey and Sweetie chilling at the Cape Cod House

FAMILY UPDATE

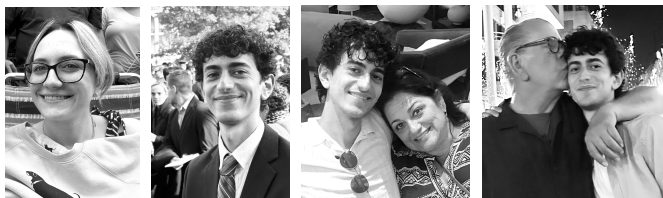
[Continued from page 2]

And now for the rest of the family...

Rachel & Jeff just celebrated their 2nd anniversary... and are *expecting* in late December. They are excited to share that they are having a boy and Rachel just began her third trimester. We are all thrilled and looking forward to the new arrival!

Spencer is finishing up his final year and will graduate from American University in December with a bachelor's degree in film and business. He will remain in D.C. through the summer of 2024 as his lease ends in July of next year. After that, we will see where he lands. Doug and I will fly down to attend his graduation and will return in time (hopefully) for the birth of our grandson!

Lindsay and the girls recently paid us a visit at the *Cape Cod House*. It was so good to be together – but as always... never enough time! The girls are so grown up – Georgie stands about 5' tall and Bernadette is not far behind. We look forward to seeing them again soon when they come up to celebrate Rachel's new baby.



Rachel on July 4th at the Cape

Spencer in D.C.

Spencer & Mom

Dad & Spencer

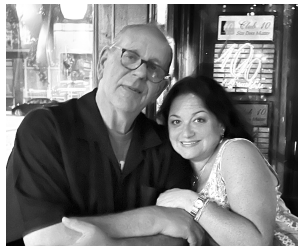
As for Doug and me, we relocated at the Cape in June, and have been travelling to and from North Attleboro to Cape Cod almost every weekend. And, on September 5th, we celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary! ❤️

It was a busy summer – all good times with friends and family! Be well and stay healthy.

With love from Sammi & Doug



Then (1993)



and Now (2023)



Please join us for the fourteenth annual

WINE TASTING

Hosted by
BAILEY'S TEAM FOR AUTISM

Friday, November 3, 2023

7:30 pm



Providence Downtown
191 Dorrance Street

\$100.00 per person

[Valet parking included & street parking also available]

Enjoy a variety of wine selections presented by:

*** CAMPUS FINE WINES ***

127 Brooks Street, Providence

[All featured wine selections may be ordered for purchase at the event]

Event also includes a Savory Menu, Cash Bar, Silent Auction, Raffle, "Wine & Dine," Special Presentation... and more!

Sponsorships are available and may include hotel accommodations
Separate hotel accommodations are also available at a discounted price

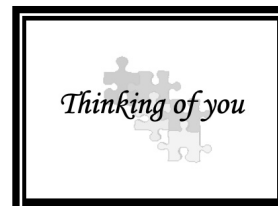
All proceeds from this event will go to Bailey's Team for Autism, raising funds and awareness in support of individuals living with autism spectrum disorders and their families, with a focus on programming, education, and research.



TRIBUTE CARDS

Our Tribute Card Program provides the opportunity to donate 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 **\$26,000** for Bailey's Team.

If you would like to donate in honor or in memory of someone special, please visit our website, and download our tribute form for more information (www.baileysteam.org).



Congratulations to Bailey's Team for 15 years as a non-profit organization!

BAILEY'S TEAM IS PROUD TO WELCOME MICHAEL ANDRADE TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Michael Andrade, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Arc of Bristol County, is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and has over 25 years of experience in the non-profit arena. Michael's work includes developing and managing services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. He began his career in the non-profit sector as a Direct Support Specialist of a local RI chapter of The Arc. He later assumed the role of Chief Operating Officer for United Cerebral Palsy of Rhode Island, and in 2000, he joined The Arc of Kent County (RI) as Vice President of Adult Services. In 2003, Michael became the President and CEO of The Arc of Bristol County. Under his leadership The Arc has grown to be a multifaceted human service organization supporting over 2,600 individuals and families across Bristol County, MA, and RI.

and RI. In addition, Michael serves on many coalitions and statewide boards in the area of disability policy and has served as an Adjunct Professor at Rhode Island College for over 15 years.

More on The Arc...(from an interview with Michael published in the Sun Chronicle)

The Arc is an organization that was designed by families over 60 years ago to ensure that their loved ones could stay in their local communities. The Arc of Bristol County provides services to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be as successful as possible.

The Arc works closely with each individual or family to maximize their physical and social well-being, while collaborating with nonprofit, educational, and governmental agencies to facilitate services, foster community partnerships, and promote self-advocacy.

"The Arc works with the families to educate them... it's about us helping people and making sure that we can maximize their eligibility for whatever public services are available," Michael added.

Although the majority of individuals served by The Arc are adults, services are available to children 3 years and older. Once the child with special needs is eligible to start school, educational advocacy is available. Assistance is provided to ensure that the school system fulfills its responsibility to develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for the child.

"It's our job to make sure that the school is honest and open about what each child's needs are. And, more importantly, what resources are available to address those needs," Michael explained. "The Arc tries to empower the family to have a voice."

One of Michael's passions is to support immigrant families. When asked about the challenges of working with the immigrant population, Michael indicates that many unfortunately fear that agency or government outreach will result in the removal of the individual with special needs from the family unit. Families fear losing control of the care of their loved one.

In addition, Michael admits that the stigma around mental health can still be hard to disprove, and language and cultural differences can be barriers for immigrants who need counseling and treatment. One of his goals is to help remove those barriers and assist these families find the support they need.

Under Michael's leadership, The Arc expanded from \$1 million to \$12 million in annual revenues representing unfathomable growth – all in an effort to help individuals be happy, healthy, and successful!

CHANGING OF THE GUARD



Thank you to Betsy for serving as Clerk these past 2½ years. She will be stepping down from this role, however, we are delighted that she will remain as a Board Director!



Dan will assume the responsibility of both Treasurer and Clerk, effective immediately. Already an Officer, Dan is a founding Board member and has been our Treasurer for the past 9 years... Thank you Dan!



And a special thank you to Trish Martins for transitioning from her role as Director to Vice President, taking on added responsibilities as an Officer of the Board!

FLUTIE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH A STAR-STUDED EVENT AT FENWAY PARK

On August 24th, families celebrating their loved ones with autism gathered at Fenway Park to witness the largest autism event ever featuring individuals and group talents – all on the autism spectrum in honor of the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism’s 25th anniversary! This inclusive event was an unforgettable night of mission moments and show-stopping musical performances. Autism self-advocate performers and some **very** special guests graced the stage on the 1st baseline featuring America’s Got Talent superstar, *Kodi Lee*, up-and-coming brother and sister team, *Jake & Sky* from Florida, and the Flutie Brothers Band just to name a few. In addition, the Flutie Foundation’s newest attraction, *Spectrum of Sound* featuring local and regional talent on the autism spectrum, performed several numbers to a very excited and joyful audience. It was like no other event, encouraging and enabling self-advocates who have autism elevate their voices and speak for themselves.

Our family felt tremendously grateful to have attended this historical event celebrating all individuals affected by autism – individuals, parents, siblings, and those who care deeply for them! It was an incredible evening...Bailey didn’t want to leave!



Spencer, Mom & Bailey



Spencer & Bailey



Mom, "Sweetie", Bailey & Dad



Mom & Bailey

ALICE & BILL CONROY RECEIVE THE 2023 TONY C. AWARD AT THE 19TH ANNUAL BAILEY’S PAR FOR AUTISM CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT



On June 11th, the 2023 Tony C. Award for demonstrating kindness, dedication and generosity was presented to our dear friends, Alice and Bill Conroy. In the 19 years that Bailey’s Team has hosted our golf tournament, Bill has hosted 95 foursomes at an expense of \$66,220! As for Alice, she has been an invaluable volunteer for so many years... folding, stuffing, stickering, stamping, making goody bags, loading cars, selling jewelry, setting up rooms, pulling raffle tickets, registering guests, and more! Whenever I need help, Alice is my very loyal go to.

In addition to our annual golf tournament, the Conroys have participated in other Bailey’s Team events including our run, education series, art show, and our wine tasting. They are a very special part of our team, our community, and our family and much of our success as an organization is because of people like Alice and Bill and their support over the years!

Celebrating Art & Autism

Our fourth annual art show, *Celebrating Art & Autism*, was a great success and featured several returning artists. The exhibit was on display from September 1st thru 30th at the Churchwood Gallery in North Attleboro. In addition to the 60 pieces available for auction, we featured several pieces available for sale. We welcomed one new artist, Alexis Baker from East Greenwich, Rhode Island. Please see page 6 for a sampling of the art that was on display along with pictures (below) of participating artists.



Erin



Emily



Patrick



Julia



Bailey



Rachel



Elena



Alexis

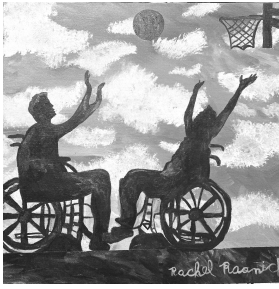


Connor



Sam

Enjoy some of the photos from our 2023 Art Show:



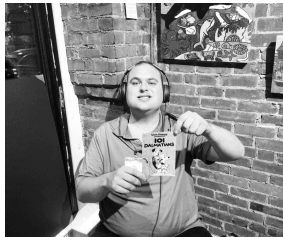
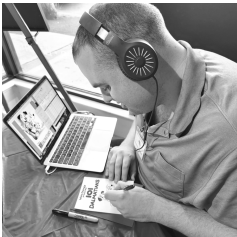
"Hoops"
By Rachel Rasnick



"Winter Blues"
By Alexis Baker



Artists L-R: Erin Weir, Alexis Baker, Rachel Rasnick, Bailey Robertson, Emily Kirstein, Patrick Linehand & Julia Sposato



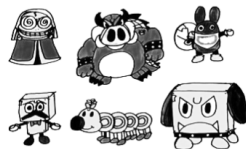
Patrick Linehan creating a Disney drawing at the artist reception



Artist display featuring work by Julia Sposato



Eastern Swallowtail Butterfly
on Zinnia by Connor Thompson.



Characters by
Bailey Robertson

2023 UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV 3 14th Annual WINE TASTING
Aloft Hotel - Downtown Providence
Dorrance Street, Providence, RI



2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2 WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

APRIL 14 12th Annual BAILEY'S RUN FOR AUTISM
Foxboro, MA

APRIL 27 4th Annual AUTISM FAMILY DAY AT FRANKLIN PARK ZOO
Boston, MA

MAY 11 14th Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE
Roger Williams Park Zoo
Providence, RI

JUNE 9 20th Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM
Crystal Lake Golf Club
Burrillville, RI

SEPT 1-30 5th Annual CELEBRATING ART & AUTISM
Churchwood Gallery
North Attleboro, MA

NOV 1 (2024) 15th Annual WINE TASTING
Aloft Hotel - Downtown Providence
Dorrance Street, Providence, RI

Watch for our next BAILEY'S TEAM NEWSLETTER
to be distributed in March 2024



Bailey standing proud by his display of artwork at the 4th annual Celebrating Art & Autism Art Show at the Churchwood Gallery, in North Attleboro

We hope you will join us throughout the year!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, OUR GOLFERS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL 19TH ANNUAL BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT!



We welcome your ideas and any opportunities or leads to help Bailey's Team reach out to potential donors, corporate sponsors and/or employer "match" programs. Please contact us to support our mission at www.baileysteam.org/contact-us.

BAILEY'S TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS



Sammi Robertson
President



Beth Jerskey
Vice President



Trish Martins
Vice President



Dan Joyce
Treasurer & Clerk

DIRECTORS



Michael Andrade



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:

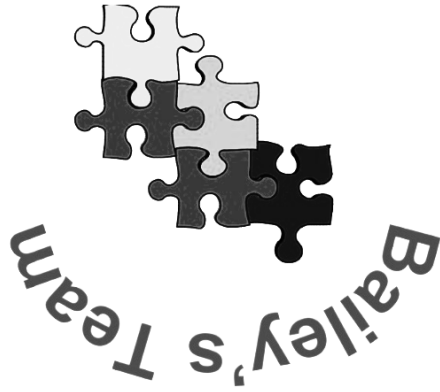
Bailey's Team for Autism *164 Westside Avenue * North Attleboro, MA 02760

[A receipt will be provided for all credit card payments]

Thank you!

www.baileysteam.org

for Autism



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

*At least **1 in 36** children will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder this year!
Help us support this autism community by joining our team!*