

# BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM

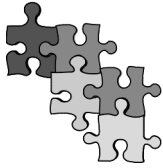
*Raising funds and awareness in support of individuals living with autism spectrum disorders and their families, with a focus on research, education and programming.*

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

SPRING 2015 Newsletter – Prepared by Sammi Robertson

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the thirteenth 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

Douglas Robertson  
Vice President  
Visual Creations, Inc.

Dan Joyce  
Treasurer

Bright Horizons  
Family Solutions

Amy Tonkonogy  
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Thomas Buckley  
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Fire & Rescue

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University of Rhode Island

Todd Levine  
Brown Center for the  
Study of Children &  
Women & Infants Hospital

Julie O'Brien  
MGH for Children  
The Lurie Center for Autism

## **Honorary Board Members**

Irwin & Roberta Chafetz

Stephen Shore

## **BAILEY'S TEAM COMMITS \$59,000 TO RESEARCH, EDUCATION & PROGRAMMING IN SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM FUNDS RAISED IN 2014!**

### **BAILEY'S TEAM WILL HOLD OUR 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

## *Bailey's Run for Autism*

...On **Sunday, March 22, 2015** at Schneider Electric in Foxboro, MA

Since 2012, we have hosted over 350 runners supporting individuals living with autism and their families! We are excited to move past the snow – whether it has melted or not - and welcome you to this very special event AND after party at Waxy O'Connor's Irish Pub & Restaurant!



## *Family Walk for Autism*

For those who don't run, we invite you and your family & friends to support people with autism by walking with us from the starting line at Schneider Electric to Waxy's (1 mile) to join in the fun!



For more information or to register to run, please visit [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org).

*We hope you will join us and  
Run or Walk for Autism!*

### **BAILEY'S TEAM WILL HOLD OUR 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

## **BAILEY'S PAR for AUTISM CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

...On Sunday, **June 14, 2015** at Crystal Lake Golf Club in Burrilville, RI.

This is our signature fundraising event where we provide a day on the links, a barbecue lunch, surf & turf dinner, an auction, raffle, very special prizes, free giveaways...and much, much more!

For more information, please visit [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org) and download this year's brochure.

### **DON'T MISS OUR 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EDUCATION SERIES**

**APRIL 15<sup>th</sup> – SAFETY FOR CHILDREN WITH  
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

**MAY 13<sup>th</sup> – TUNING IN  
COMPREHENSION, COMMUNICATION &  
FACILITATING CONVERSATIONS FOR ALL AGES  
& STAGES OF CHILDREN WITH ASD**

### **OUR 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

## **WINE, SPIRITS & BEER TASTING**

**WAS A HUGE SUCCESS RAISING \$11,500 IN  
SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH  
AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES!**

(See page 6 for pictures from this event!)

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,

In looking back at last year's spring newsletter, I had written about the overabundance of snow and freezing temperatures not to mention "no school" announcements. At the risk of sounding redundant and having an even worse winter with even more snowfall, all I can say (again) is... ENOUGH!

2014 was a great year as we celebrated more milestone events including our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Bailey's Par Charity Golf Tournament which raised a record breaking \$35,500; and our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Education Series which welcomed over 200 parents, educators, therapists and other patrons interested in learning how to better support individuals living with autism and their families!

\* \* \*

2014 was also a great year for the Robertson family. Bailey made a very smooth transition to North Attleboro High School where he is a freshman and continues to be in a "substantially separate" classroom with four other classmates with autism and other intellectual & developmental disabilities. Thankfully he is using more language in his attempt to communicate and continues to surprise us every day! He is now 15, yet his interests remain the same... spending time on the computer, ipad, "daddy's phone" and of course the Wii. This is where he is able to explore through video and gaming. He loves YouTube and searches for a variety of oddities that seem to amuse him like crying babies, people falling or crashing, strange noises... and there is always Mario and friends.

Now that Bailey is in High School, our job is to continue to consider his future, but instead of focusing on school transitions it is now time to think of adulthood as his academic curriculum will slowly change to one of teaching life skills. He will learn about money, self-care and other skills that will help him to function as an adult. It is a difficult time for those of us who support him as the reality of his abilities and disabilities become more apparent as we prepare for the future.

Bailey continues to be happy. He follows his routines as they pertain to going to school, afterschool activities including time on the computer and bowling, and also bedtime. We have, however, had a difficult time getting him to eat a balanced diet and expand on the foods he will eat. As a result of this we have consulted with his school team and also his at-home therapist in addition to his doctor, and as a result, we have slowly implemented an eating exercise that presents a small quantity of several different items as if it were a game (see picture below of muffin tin containing 12 different food items). Although this continues to be quite a challenge, we have slowly gotten him to eat small portions of fruits and vegetables and meats. There is nothing better than watching someone eat who you have feared could ultimately become malnourished!

Bailey's sister, Rachel, participates with him at school as she is a "Best Pal" and helps to support people with developmental disabilities. She visits his class weekly and Bailey really enjoys his time with her. This is the first and only year they will attend school together so for him this has been a treat. Rachel will graduate this year, however, Spencer will be transitioning to the High School next year always providing sibling support at school!

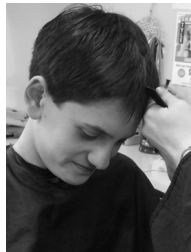
Bailey continues to grow into a very handsome young man who smiles almost all of the time. He brings us all so much joy as his smallest accomplishments are monumental to the rest of us! We hope you enjoy the pictures below from the past year!



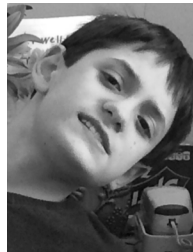
Bailey with a cucumber smile



Bailey's variety of tastes



Bailey getting a haircut



Bailey... cute & happy!



Debbie & Bailey  
July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Cape Cod



Bailey & Spencer  
Thanksgiving, 2014

## FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

As for the rest of the family, we are happy to report that Rachel is going to the University of Southern New Hampshire in the fall! She continues to do well in her senior year and looks forward to all that comes with...prom, graduation... and a bit of freedom!

Spencer continues to excel in all of his classes receiving high honors. He now stands at 5' 7" and continues to shock those of us who can't believe how fast he is growing! He spends a lot of time volunteering at a local zoo helping to care for the animals during the winter months.

Lindsay, Brent, Georgie & Bernadette are all happy and healthy and have moved to a new home in Philadelphia. Georgie turned 3 in February and Bernadette will be 1 in April. Both girls are absolutely beautiful and so much fun to be with. [Please note I mistakenly reported Bernadette's middle name in our last newsletter; she bears the proud name of Bernadette Casey, named after Brent's brother who passed away in 2011.]



Doug is still busy at work as Visual Creations continues to thrive and I continue to work hard to raise funds and awareness in support of individuals living with autism and their families. For now, life is good!

... and as always, autism keeps it interesting. 😊

We thank you for your ongoing support!

*Sammi Robertson*

## 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 \$9,500 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.



## BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

### TOTAL FUNDS RAISED NET OF EVENT EXPENSES: **\$65,500**

Bailey's PAR / Golf Tournament	\$32,700
Annual Campaign	\$13,600
Wine & Beer Tasting Event	\$11,600
Tribute Program	\$ 1,000
Jewelry Events (Awareness & Silpada Designs)	\$ 400
3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Fundraising	\$ 200
General Donations	\$ 2,800
Bailey's Run for Autism (2014)	\$ 3,200

### TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING AWARDED TO DATE: **\$51,355**

Autism Project – Social Skills Programming	\$ 8,000
South Coast Educational Collaborative–Hanan Prog.	\$ 6,000
Bailey's Animal Adventure – Family Event	\$ 6,000
Unique Steps Dance Studio/ Dance Therapy	\$ 5,000
Artists' Exchange	\$ 4,800
Bailey's Team Education Series	\$ 4,500
Friendship Network Equipment & Supplies	\$ 3,865
The Groden Network / Cove Center	\$ 3,150
Kennedy-Donovan Center – Hanan Program	\$ 2,940
Autism Alliance of MetroWest – Open Gym	\$ 2,700
Bradley Hospital – iPad Initiative	\$ 2,400
Autism Project - Imagine Walk	\$ 1,000
Surfer's Healing	\$ 1,000

### REMAINING FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR SPONSORSHIPS: **\$ 2,000**

### REMAINING FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR FUTURE PROG.: **\$ 5,595**

### TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED / SET ASIDE: **\$58,950**

### PERCENT (%) OF GIVING: **90%**

### REMAINING FUNDS FOR 2014 OPER. BUDGET: (10%) **\$ 6,550**

## BAILEY'S TEAM WILL HOLD OUR 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

### BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE

On Saturday, **May 9, 2015** we will host our 5<sup>th</sup> annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE family event! This is a very special event funded by Bailey's Team at Roger Williams Park Zoo for individuals of all abilities to participate in a welcoming and safe environment with their peers – with and without similar challenges.

We encourage folks to participate and ask for a small fee to ensure their attendance as we sell out fast! The event includes a full day at the zoo, a private party and hot barbecue lunch. We also have live animals present in the tent for viewing and distribute goody bags to each family with all kinds of snacks and surprises! We also hold a free raffle and offer several gift baskets to be won at no cost!

This is not a fundraiser; it is simply an opportunity for families to be together and to have a good time... without judgment!

## BAILEY'S TEAM SHARES IN A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DON RODMAN



On November 11, 2014, The Arc of South Norfolk celebrated 60 years of providing continuous community services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Also presented was a very special and well-deserved tribute to Don Rodman for his ongoing support of individuals with disabilities through his signature fundraising event, The Rodman Ride for Kids.

Bailey's Team was happy to participate in this event, as Mr. Rodman has also been a longtime member and generous contributor to Bailey's Team.

Pictured left to right: Bailey's Team Board Member Doug Robertson, Don Rodman and Board Members Sammi Robertson, Tom Buckley, Amy Tonkonogy & Dan Joyce.



## BAILEY'S TEAM PARTNERS WITH NEW AUTISM AWARENESS ARTIST, KERI PRAY

We first found Keri at our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Run for Autism in Foxboro last year as she and her friends rallied to run in honor of Keri's son, Dillon, diagnosed with autism at age 2 in September of 2012. Dillon was then diagnosed only 3 short months later with Leukemia and has undergone several rounds of chemotherapy and today, at age 4 ½ he is in remission and doing well.

Inspired by her son, Keri began making awareness items and sold her first puzzle piece eye pillow in September of 2014. She now designs and sells key chains, blankets, headbands and eye and neck pillows and her prices range from \$5.00 - \$50.00. This year, Keri joined our Run Planning Committee and not only donated a beautiful autism awareness blanket to our raffle, but she has also offered to contribute a portion of the proceeds from the sale of her Autism Awareness merchandise to Bailey's Team. [Please be sure to reference "Bailey's Team for Autism" when purchasing one of her handcrafted items and she will make a donation to Bailey's Team.]

If you would like more information about how to make a purchase, or if you have any questions please contact Keri at [keripray@gmail.com](mailto:keripray@gmail.com) or call 508-631-2594.



Keri & Dillon Pray



Blankets (2 Designs)  
\$30.00 - \$50.00



Key Chains  
\$7.00



Eye & Neck Pillows  
\$8.00 & \$15.00



Headbands  
\$5.00

## BAILEY'S TEAM FEATURES ARTWORK BY JOHNNY MCKENNA



At our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Wine, Spirits & Beer Tasting held in November of 2014, we featured a very special art display. Johnny McKenna, (pictured left) is a 24-year-old man with autism who resides in Rhode Island with his parents. He is very talented in drawing, painting and photography. In 2009, Providence Mayor David Cicilline presented him with an Outstanding Achievement Award in Photography and currently his art is displayed throughout New England.

In an effort to contribute to Bailey's Team, Johnny chose to donate several pieces of artwork that were offered for sale with proceeds to benefit individuals living with autism and their families. These pieces were painted in 2013 & 2014 and were all dated and signed, "Johnny."



## 2014 FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

**AUTISM PROJECT – SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAMMING:** \$8,000 to be allocated to programs designed to teach children and teens with ASD how to communicate and to be part of a group while developing the skills they need to enter the community.

**SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE:** \$6,000 to fund More Than Words™ (a Hanen Program®), a workshop led by a specially trained Hanen Instructor that offers the best tools, strategies and resources to help support parents' involvement in their child's early language intervention. This class is offered specifically to parents and family members of children with ASD to help them better understand their children with autism and to help them learn to facilitate communication at home.

**BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE:** \$6,000 to fund a family event at Roger Williams Park Zoo for individuals of all abilities to participate in a welcoming and safe environment with their peers – with and without similar challenges.

**UNIQUE STEPS DANCE STUDIO DANCE THERAPY / SOUND EQUIPMENT:** \$5,000 to support the cost of therapeutic dance classes and new audio and sensory equipment to provide individuals with ASD the opportunity to enjoy the art of dance, as well as the therapeutic benefits of movement.

**ARTISTS' EXCHANGE PROGRAM:** \$4,800 to fund an art program offered to individuals with ASD in an inclusive environment teaching art skills and knowledge while also providing sensory experiences through the work of clay.

**BAILEY'S TEAM EDUCATION SERIES:** \$4,500 to fund two (2) individual programs featuring our 2015 speakers, Bill Cannata, ALEC Program Director, who will speak about Emergency Preparedness; & Holly S. Flanagan, MS, CCC-SLP, who will speak about "Tuning In." Funds will support the cost of marketing, the venue and materials to be distributed.

**THE FRIENDSHIP NETWORK FOR CHILDREN:** \$3,865 to fund supplies & equipment to support social accessibility therapy groups for children, teens and young adults with autism spectrum disorders.

**THE GRODEN NETWORK / COVE CENTER:** \$3,150 to fund sound equipment for a music production and recording studio to serve adults with autism by enriching their experiences musically and teaching social and technological skills.

**KENNEDY-DONOVAN CENTER:** \$2,940 to fund the staffing portion of More Than Words™ (a Hanen Program®) – see project description above under *South Coast Educational Collaborative*.

**AUTISM ALLIANCE OF METROWEST:** \$2,700 to fund gym equipment to support a weekly open gym program providing autism-friendly recreational activities.

**BRADLEY HOSPITAL SCHOOL PROGRAM:** \$2,400 to purchase six (6) iPad Minis and Otter Box cases to be used throughout the Bradley Hospital school program in support of individuals with autism (please see box below).

**AUTISM PROJECT – IMAGINE WALK & FAMILY FUN DAY:** \$1,000 sponsorship to be allocated to various programs and training for individuals living with autism and their families.

**SURFER'S HEALING:** \$1,000 sponsorship to be allocated to the Rhode Island day of surfing for kids with autism and other similar intellectual and developmental disabilities. [Please note that we mistakenly reported the amount contributed last year in our previous newsletter – the amount contributed was \$500.]

### IPAD INITIATIVE

In November of 2012, we first introduced our iPad Initiative at our Wine & Beer Tasting event asking our attendees to help raise funds to support the purchase of iPads to be used in programs supporting individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

This year, as a result of the generosity of our patrons, Bailey's Team will donate 6 iPad Minis and durable Otter Box cases to Bradley Hospital where they will be put to excellent use in their programs supporting individuals with autism. Bradley Schools are private, school-funded, educational programs for children and adolescents whose psychiatric and behavioral needs cannot be met in a public school setting. The programs are accredited by the Rhode Island and Massachusetts state departments of education and serve a high percentage of students with ASD.

### HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM BAILEY'S TEAM

All applications are welcome and are accepted between August 1 and October 15.

Please visit our website and click on "Forms" to download our Funding Application.

Funding decisions will be made at our January Board Meeting.

All awards will be reported in our spring newsletter following our funding cycle.

Please see [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org) for more information.

Enjoy pictures from our 6<sup>th</sup> Wine & Beer Tasting



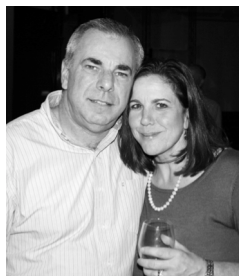
The Dean Family



Scott Robertson, Joe Cotoia & Joe Poplis (notice the ties!)



Joe & Patty Bell



Doug Ball & Amy Tonkonogy



Ric & Gail Saborio with Julie Medina



Sandi Anderson & Marc Calarese

Next year's event will be held Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>  
We hope you will join us!

**2015 UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MARCH 14** EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS for INDIVIDUALS with AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS & THOSE WHO SUPPORT THEM IN THE COMMUNITY

University of RI - South Kingstown, RI

**MARCH 22** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S RUN FOR AUTISM & FAMILY WALK FOR AUTISM with after-party at WAXY O'CONNORS IRISH PUB

Schneider Electric - Foxboro, MA

**APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

**APRIL 2** WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

**APRIL 15** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual EDUCATION SERIES – PART 1 SAFETY FOR CHILDREN WITH ASD

*Presented by Bill Cannata*

*ALEC Program Director*

Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro

31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA

**MAY 9** 5<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE

Roger Williams Park Zoo

Providence, RI

**MAY 13** 6<sup>th</sup> Annual EDUCATION SERIES – PART 2 TUNING IN – COMPREHENSION, COMMUNICATION & FACILITATING CONVERSATIONS FOR ALL AGES & STAGES OF CHILDREN WITH ASD

*Presented by Holly S. Flanagan, MS, CCC-SLP*

*Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro*

*31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA*

**JUNE 14** 11<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM Charity Golf Tournament

Crystal Lake Golf Club

Burrillville, RI

**AUGUST 1** ANNUAL CAMPAIGN BEGINS

**NOV 6** 7<sup>th</sup> Annual WINE, SPIRITS & BEER TASTING

Hosted by BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM

CBS Scene - Patriot Place, Foxboro, MA



Watch for our next BAILEY'S TEAM NEWSLETTER to be distributed in October, 2015

For more information about BAILEY'S TEAM, please visit:

[www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org)