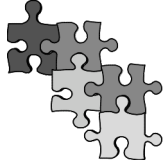


BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM

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 2017 Newsletter – Prepared by Sammi Robertson



Dear Friend,

Welcome to the seventeenth edition of our BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM newsletter! We have included updates on our fundraising success, our life with Bailey... his achievements 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
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Douglas Robertson
Vice President
Visual Creations, Inc.

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Family Solutions

Amy Tonkonogy
Clerk/ Funding Coordinator

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Amy Laurent
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Evaluation & Treatment

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

Honorary Board Members

Irwin & Roberta Chafetz

Stephen Shore

**2016 WAS OUR BEST YEAR EVER...RAISING AND COMMITTING OVER
\$103,000 FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION & PROGRAMMING IN SUPPORT OF
INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES!**

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR OUR
6th ANNUAL

Bailey's Run for Autism

...On **Sunday, April 2, 2017** at Schneider
Electric in Foxboro, MA

Since 2012, we have hosted over 500
runners supporting individuals living with
autism and their families! We are excited to
welcome you to this very special event
AND *rockin'* 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 walk together from
the starting line at Schneider Electric on a 1
mile route returning at the start just in time
to cheer on the runners as they come in!

For more information or to register to run,
please visit www.baileysteam.org.

OUR 13th ANNUAL

BAILEY'S PAR for AUTISM

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
has moved to

METACOMET COUNTRY CLUB

East Providence, RI

SUNDAY, JUNE 4th

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 and to register for this
year's golf tournament, please visit
www.baileysteam.org and download this
year's brochure to register ASAP – we
expect to be sold out again this year!

DON'T MISS OUR 8th ANNUAL

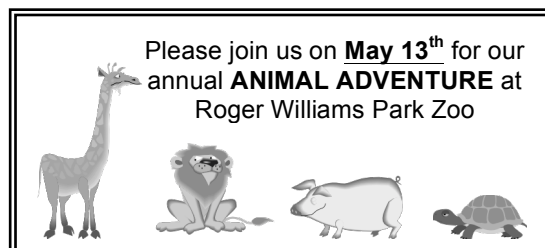
EDUCATION SERIES

APRIL 12 – FILM PRESENTATION

LIFE, ANIMATED

An inspirational story of Owen Suskind, a
young man with autism who learned to
communicate through the world of classic
Disney animated films.

This event is co-hosted with The Arc of South
Norfolk and will be held at the Holiday Inn
Mansfield-Foxboro



Please join us on **May 13th** for our
annual **ANIMAL ADVENTURE** at
Roger Williams Park Zoo

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

A Message from the President

FAMILY UPDATE

Dear Friends,

We do hope that you are finding our newsletter to be informative, whether on your own journey with autism, supporting a friend who has a loved one with a developmental disability, or as a caring supporter of Bailey's Team and the greater autism community. We began this newsletter as a way to keep people informed about what we are doing as an organization, as a family and as a community. As Bailey heads toward adulthood, the details of our stories will change as the challenges change with each year that passes. If you have any questions about stories printed, or are in search of support, please feel free to contact us via email or by phone. It is our desire to try to help one family at a time, while also supporting organizations whose mission it is to support those living with autism spectrum disorders.

* * *

Where did 2016 go? It seems that as Bailey gets older, the years are going by faster. He is 17 years old and we are very quickly heading toward adulthood! It's hard to believe that we will soon go to court to convince a judge that we are most suited to care for our son - after all, isn't that what we've been doing all along? Always searching for support... from individuals, state agencies, organizations, etc. This process is just another step along the journey as Bailey will turn 18 and become an adult in the eyes of the state. As a result of his inability to make decisions and keep himself safe, he does require a guardian... and who better than us? (At least for now!)

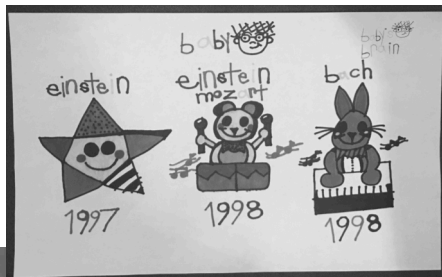
2016 ended with some disappointment. Not only have we struggled finding respite and childcare for Bailey, but his wonderful therapeutic service provider needed to end her placement with us. Lisa returned to school to get further accreditation; however, was unable to maintain a schedule that included Bailey. We wish Lisa well, but it is a very difficult time for us as we all too often find wonderful individuals in this life who do care tremendously about individuals with special needs... they have the "it" factor... but then they have other things in their lives that call them away. Bailey has quickly adapted to having freed up his Thursday afternoon schedule; however, this has allowed him more time on the computer, surfing the net, playing games, viewing YouTube escaping deeper and deeper into his world... in isolation.

Bailey's language is still the limited, although as a result of his withdrawal to the basement, he engages less and less with us. We constantly try to engage him in conversation; however, it takes much more effort on our part to connect with him and motivating him to participate continues to get more difficult.

Mario and friends still seems to be his activity of choice. He has graduated to role-playing with character plush dolls from simply collecting them. Recently, he began positioning these characters around the house prompting us to wonder what the story is (see pictures below).

Bailey continues to bowl for Special Olympics. Although it is not his favorite pastime, it is something he is accustomed to; and has become rather good, bowling over 100 almost every time!

As we approach his annual meeting, which will focus on his upcoming transition as well as his recent three-year evaluation, we feel a lot of anxiety, as it is a bittersweet process to talk about his next steps. The good news...he will remain in his program through age 22 which will allow us a few more years to prepare for what lies ahead! We are blessed to have him in a great program surrounded by an incredible staff that cares deeply for him.



Top Left: Bailey at Friendly's
Above: One of his favorite drawings (self-taught)

Left: Bailey at work helping with a mailing at a local real estate office.

Three pictures at right feature his placement of his various "koopalings!"



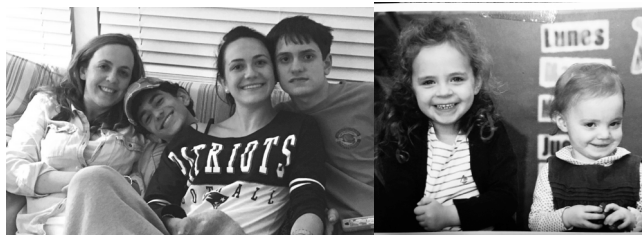
FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

Rachel is in her second year at SNHU and is looking forward to entering her junior year. She has worked hard and it seems crazy that there are just two years to go! She continues to look for work to occupy her time this summer... and we are hopeful that she will secure a job soon.

Spencer continues to do very well in school and has joined a gym where he trains three times each week in preparation for spring track. His is finishing his sophomore year in high school and will turn 16 in May, and is anxiously awaiting the day so he can get his Learner's Permit.

Lindsay, Brent, Georgie and Bernadette are doing well and considering a move to the suburbs. Although it is hard to not share more time with them, we are planning a trip to Philly for Spencer's birthday! Georgie, now 5, is a little lady and Bernadette will be three in April and continues to have a personality bigger than she is!



Doug is working harder than ever and business is good. As for me, I have several irons in the fire in addition to my work for Bailey's Team. I have taken on a new project at Brown University and the role of co-president at my synagogue. Bailey's Team gives us a wonderful outlet as we continue on this journey with Bailey... and I thank all of you for accompanying us along the way!

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 \$10,700 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 and download our tribute form for more information.



BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED NET OF EVENT EXPENSES: **\$103,300**

Bailey's PAR / Golf Tournament	\$36,100
Third Party Fundraising	\$32,200
Bailey's Run for Autism	\$13,200
Wine & Spirits Tasting Event	\$11,200
Major Gifts	\$ 7,000
Annual Campaign	\$ 4,100
Autism Awareness Jewelry	\$ 1,100
Tribute Program	\$ 500
Deposits paid out for 2017 events	(\$2,100)

CARRYFORWARD FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR FUNDING: **\$10,500**

TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING AWARDED TO DATE: **\$100,100**

Brown University – The Miracle Project	\$15,000
Community Autism Resources – Parent Retreat	\$10,000
Spaulding Outpatient Ctr – Community Integration	\$10,000
Trudeau Memorial Ctr – Transition Apt. Training	\$ 9,500
MGH Lurie Center – Education Advocacy Program	\$ 8,000
RICART – Community Speaker Series	\$ 6,700
Bailey's Animal Adventure – Family Event	\$ 6,500
Arc of Massachusetts – Operation House Call	\$ 6,400
Southcoast Collaborative – Sensory Equipment	\$ 6,000
Surfer's Healing – East Coast Events	\$ 5,000
Easter Seals – iPad Initiative	\$ 4,500
Kennedy Donovan Center – New ABA Program	\$ 3,800
Artist Exchange – Inclusion Art Program	\$ 3,600
Bailey's Team Education Series	\$ 3,000
Arc of Quinebaug Valley, Inc. – Learning Model	\$ 2,100

FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR SPONSORSHIPS: **\$ 3,000**

Autism Project - Imagine Walk	\$ 1,000
Brown Univ. – The Miracle Project – Feb. Training	\$ 1,000
Autism Society of RI / Groden Network Walk	\$ 500
Groden Symposium	\$ 500

FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING: **\$ 400**

TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED / SET ASIDE: **\$103,500**

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

REMAINING FUNDS FOR 2017 OPER. BUDGET: (10%) **\$10,300**

Please join us for our 7th ANNUAL

BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE

This very special family event, funded by Bailey's Team, will be held **Saturday, May 13th** at Roger Williams Park Zoo for individuals of all abilities.

We ask for a small fee to ensure your attendance as we sell out fast! The event includes a full day at the zoo, a private party and hot barbecue lunch. We have a live animal presentation, face painting and distribute goody bags to each family with all kinds of snacks and surprises! We also hold a free raffle, where families can win a beautiful fun-filled gift basket 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!

A SPECIAL POEM READ AT OUR 12TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

We're here to celebrate our annual event,
Our 12th Bailey's Charity Golf Tournament.

The years have gone by as Bailey's has grown
So many moments shared through videos we've shown.

Today we'll talk of our life with Bailey,
Some good and tough times, what we live through daily,

Bailey is handsome, just take a looksee,
His autism however is clear to you and me.

His anxiety often will rise very high,
When he loses a game, or hears birds in the sky.

His language came late and he still often struggles,
Our payoff, however, is the abundance of snuggles.

Bailey is 16; he now needs to shave,
He's doing just fine, still learning to behave.

He plays on his iPad his laptop and phone,
When he watches his videos, he's often alone.

He does have good days, by himself OR with us,
His bad times can often result in a fuss.

Although his anger can be scary and sad,
What's so hard is not knowing why he feels bad.

He can't answer questions or show us his pain.
We can only continue to try to make gains.

Living with autism can be very hard to bear,
But it's the unknown future that is what we fear.

We have learned to appreciate the very small things,
Learning to celebrate these moments - is what autism brings.

Bailey is happy and loves his family too
He's a person who's different - not like me and you.

We've made it thus far, with many years to go,
He's an amazing young man, and we love him so.

WE CONGRATULATE OUR BOARD MEMBERS ON THEIR RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS...



Thomas "Tom" Buckley is a founding Board member of Bailey's Team serving from its inception in 2008. He has worked at the Foxborough Fire Department for twenty-six years and served as Captain for eleven years. He trains first responders nationwide about individuals with autism spectrum disorders and how to support them in the field in an emergency.

Tom has also worked as an Assistant Project Engineer at Bay Colony Group responsible for small and large size site design for both commercial and residential properties.

In July of 2016, Tom was promoted to Deputy Chief of Administration and Fire Prevention of the Foxborough Fire Department where he serves his community as a Foxborough resident.



Congratulations to Amy Laurent on successfully defending her doctoral dissertation in Developmental Psychology at the University of Rhode Island! Amy is now a triple transdisciplinary clinical scholar with degrees in Occupational Therapy, Special Education and Psychology. Her dissertation title was Parent Behaviors in Relation to Characteristics of Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Amy specializes in the education of children with autism spectrum disorders and related developmental disabilities. Her work involves collaborating with and supporting school teams and families focusing on the creation of educational programs and environments that facilitate children's active engagement and learning. She is a co-author of the SCERTS Model, an educational approach focused on building competence in Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DEPUTY CHIEF TOM BUCKLEY AND DR. AMY LAURENT!
WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU BOTH!**

2016 FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

BROWN UNIVERSITY – THE MIRACLE PROJECT: \$15,000 to support the cost of a Miracle Project [pilot] camp to be held in June for individuals with autism and their peers. The funds will pay for students on the autism spectrum to attend the camp and will also support the cost for training local professionals to facilitate all aspects of the program in order that we can introduce this program in January of 2018.

COMMUNITY AUTISM RESOURCES – PARENT RETREAT: \$10,000 to fund an annual Parent Retreat for parents of children with autism. The retreat provides a supportive environment for parents and caregivers to reflect on, explore, and share the rewards and challenges of raising a child on the spectrum.

SPAULDING OUTPATIENT CENTER – COMMUNITY INTEGRATION: \$10,000 to provide speech and language and occupational therapies to individuals with autism and their caregiver(s) in a community setting. The program will work on goals to increase functional communication in the community.

J. ARTHUR TRUDEAU MEMORIAL CENTER – TRANSITION APARTMENT CLASSROOM TRAINING: \$9,500 to support the cost of an apartment training classroom to teach independence and daily living skills including food prep, self care, etc.

MGH LURIE CENTER – EDUCATION ADVOCACY PROGRAM: \$8,000 to fund an Educational Advocate/Consultant to support families who might not otherwise have the financial ability to utilize these services.

EASTER SEALS OF MASSACHUSETTS – IPAD INITIATIVE: \$4,500 to purchase ten (10) iPad Minis and durable cases to be used throughout Easter Seals programming in support of individuals with autism (please see box below).

RICART – SCIENCE COMMUNITY SPEAKER SERIES: \$6,700 to support the cost of a lecture series offered to parents, service providers and researchers in the autism community to increase awareness of the latest scientific studies in the field of autism.

BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE: \$6,500 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.

ARC OF MASSACHUSETTS – OPERATION HOUSECALL: \$6,400 to fund a home-based program teaching young medical professionals essential skills to better treat people with intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism.

SOUTHCOAST COLLABORATIVE – SENSORY EQUIPMENT: \$6,000 to purchase sensory equipment to outfit two sensory areas to serve individuals with autism as an environment to learn and practice self-regulation skills which will subsequently help to obtain and maintain employment, live independently and/or engage in recreation and community experiences.

SURFER'S HEALING – EAST COAST TRAVEL: \$5,000 to support the cost of East Coast events enabling professional surfers to serve as instructors at all locations so individuals with autism learn how to surf from skilled surfers.

KENNEDY DONOVAN CENTER – ABA PROGRAM: \$3,750 to support the cost of a 20-seat subscription to Relias Learning's ABA module web-based training.

ARTIST'S EXCHANGE – INCLUSION ART PROGRAM: \$3,600 to fund an Art Therapy program that allows people with autism to express themselves in ways other than through conventional language, one of the main deficits in people with autism.

BAILEY'S TEAM EDUCATION SERIES: \$3,000 to fund one (1) individual program featuring a film, *Life, Animated - An inspirational story of Owen Suskind, a young man with autism who learned to communicate through the world of classic Disney animated films*; co-hosted with the Arc of South Norfolk and also featuring SIDEKICKS, a new application created by Ron Suskind helping individuals on the spectrum engage in a supportive relationship with their own "sidekick."

ARC OF QUINEBAUG VALLEY – STAFF & FAMILY TRAINING: \$2,100 to provide staff and parent training sessions about autism with a focus on sensory difficulties, social communication and relationships.

BROWN UNIVERSITY – THE MIRACLE PROJECT – TRAINING: \$1,000 sponsorship to help support the cost to train educators and other professionals on how to work with individuals with autism in the areas of music, movement and theater. This training precedes another funded program referenced above and will add value by training local professionals to participate at the program in June.

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.

AUTISM SOCIETY OF RI / GRODEN NETWORK WALK: \$500 sponsorship to fund programming offered by both the Groden Network and the Autism Society of America – Rhode Island Chapter.

GRODEN NETWORK SYMPOSIUM: \$500 sponsorship to support the costs associated with hosting their symposium.

**Please enjoy pictures from our
November Wine & Spirits Tasting!**



Bill Conroy & Mark Eagle



Kim & Kevin Cryan



Debbie Webster, Amy Tonkonogy
& Alice Conroy



Alan Goer &
Wendy Marcus



Glen Gardiner &
Jay Long



Celebration Cake



Art Show featuring 11 Artists on the Autism Spectrum:

Elisabeth Bishop
Justin Canha
Dominic Killiany
League School
Patrick Linehan

May Institute
Johnny McKenna
Andrew Randall
Bailey Robertson
Julia Sposato
Sam Tomasiello

2017 UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2 WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

APRIL 2 6th Annual BAILEY'S RUN FOR AUTISM & FAMILY WALK FOR AUTISM
10:00 am

with rockin' after - party at Waxy O'Connor's
Irish Pub
Schneider Electric - Foxboro, MA

APRIL 12 8th Annual EDUCATION SERIES

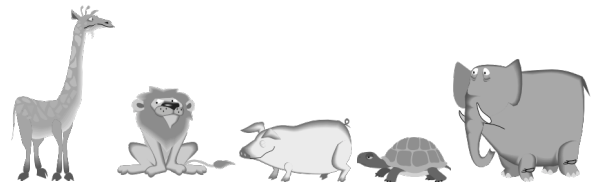
7:00 pm LIFE, ANIMATED - An inspirational story of Owen Suskind, a young man with autism who learned to communicate through the world of classic Disney animated films.

Also featuring SIDEKICKS, a new technology supporting people on the autism spectrum.
Co-Hosted with *The Arc of South Norfolk*
Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro
31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA

APRIL 30 AUTISM PROJECT IMAGINE WALK

MAY 13 7th Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE

10:00 am Roger Williams Park Zoo
Providence, RI



JUNE 4 13th Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM

1:00 pm Charity Golf Tournament
Tee Time Metacomet Country Club
East Providence, RI

AUGUST 1 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN BEGINS

NOV 4 9th Annual WINE, SPIRITS & BEER TASTING

7:30 pm SHOWCASE LIVE - Patriot Place, Foxboro



Watch for our next BAILEY'S TEAM NEWSLETTER
to be distributed in October, 2017

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

IPAD INITIATIVE

In November of 2012, we 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.

Since then, we have distributed 32 iPads to the Arc of Bristol County, The Groden Center, The Bradley School(s) and The May Center where they have been put to excellent use in their programs supporting individuals with autism.

This year, we will donate 10 iPad minis along with durable cases to Easter Seals of Massachusetts, where they will use these devices to support people with autism in the community.

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 for more information.

BAILEY'S TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS



Sammi Robertson
President



Doug Robertson
Vice President



Dan Joyce
Treasurer



Amy Tonkonogy
Clerk/Funding Coordinator

DIRECTORS



Tom Buckley



Sheila Burgess



Tony Calcia



Beth Jerskey



Amy Laurent



Julie O'Brien

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 payment]

Thank you!



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