

# 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 2018 Newsletter – Prepared by Sammi Robertson

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the nineteenth 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.

**WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE  
AUTISM LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION COALITION (ALEC),  
DONATING \$15,800 TO FUND TRAININGS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS & PROFESSIONAL  
TEACHING STAFF IN SCHOOLS ON HOW TO KEEP PEOPLE WITH AUTISM SAFE**



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**WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR OUR  
7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

## *Bailey's Run for Autism*

on **Sunday, March 25, 2018** at Schneider  
Electric in Foxboro, MA

Since 2012, we have hosted over 600  
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 and friends to walk a 1-mile  
route from the starting line at Schneider  
Electric, 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](http://www.baileysteam.org).

Please join us on **May 12<sup>th</sup>** for our annual  
**ANIMAL ADVENTURE** at  
Roger Williams Park Zoo



**OUR 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

## **BAILEY'S PAR for AUTISM**

**CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
Will be held at

## **METACOMET COUNTRY CLUB**

East Providence, RI

**SUNDAY, JUNE 10<sup>th</sup>**

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](http://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 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

## **EDUCATION SERIES**

**APRIL 11 – HAPPY SQUARE PEGS**

*Featuring Patti Menzel*

Embracing the strengths of autism, while  
sharing positive management strategies for  
an enriched autistic life.

Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro  
31 Hampshire Street Mansfield, MA  
Doors open at 6:30 pm; program starts at 7:00

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,

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.

\* \* \*

Life continues to move very quickly now that Bailey is an adult. He turned 18 year's old in October and the clock is ticking – or so it seems! We have yet to obtain guardianship; submit a formal application to ensure ongoing support from the state, which involves filling out an endless amount of paperwork to secure adult eligibility; AND apply for social security on his behalf to support the cost of care, something most families do to support an individual with special needs.

Perhaps the number of responsibilities on our plate as a result of Bailey's emerging into adulthood has taken its toll on our family; however, let's start on a more positive note.

As mentioned in our fall newsletter, we all (including Lindsay and her family) travelled to Key West over New Year's. It was the first time we have travelled together as a family and I can thankfully say, it was a very wonderful experience for all of us. Doug and I worked hard to prepare Bailey for the trip, going over our travel schedule, our accommodations, reviewing a few anticipated activities and repeating these details often as the trip drew near. From the moment we arrived at the airport to when we touched down on our return trip to Boston, Bailey was wonderful. He managed himself and his anxiety, and we managed him so that we were all able to enjoy our time away. It was truly a dream come true! [See photos below.] We also learned that he enjoys riding on the back of a moped and loves a hot tub!

Having said this, it feels as though I may have spoken too soon. With every good story comes times of struggle and not long after our return home, a change in schedule, a change in weather, school cancellations and other transitions, Bailey had difficulties re-entering his normal routine. He became agitated and protested a bit more often not wanting to participate in regular activities such as bowling, physical therapy and other outings to name only a few. As a result, we began experiencing challenges and aggression that resulted in a difficult episode on our way to physical therapy. He protested, not wanting to go, and I chose to bring him so not to let him opt out of an important appointment. We arrived at the building and he got very agitated and began to fight. A kind onlooker offered support in an effort to help restrain Bailey, but his attempts were not enough to de-escalate Bailey's behavior. As a result, I asked a passerby to call 911 and first responders arrived almost immediately. By this time, however, Bailey was seated on the ground near me on my command and was trying very hard to self regulate - something he has worked on at home and at school. Thankfully, our first responders were wonderful and did not impose themselves on him physically and simply stood by offering their support asking how they could be helpful and effective. After approximately 45 minutes had passed, Doug arrived and he and I were able to return home with Bailey. Although this was not a favorable experience for any of us, especially Bailey, the result was positive. Bailey was kept safe and I, too, felt safe with help from a stranger. The first responders were very supportive and listened to us; and we were able to move past this difficult episode. This is a perfect example of the importance of training first responders and how they should act when confronted with this type of situation; and why supporting this kind of training has become one of our signature projects since 2008.

To end our report on a much happier note, Bailey is in his *senior* year of high school and will transition to a program that he will remain in until his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Although he is not a traditional senior, he will participate in graduation ceremonies on June 8<sup>th</sup> along with the rest of the graduating seniors at North Attleboro High School... another bittersweet milestone... holding different meaning for our family – yet the end of another chapter as we continue on our journey with Bailey.



Spencer, Bailey & Rachel at Logan airport waiting for flight to Key West



Spencer & Bailey taking a break from a tour at Hemingway's home



Bailey & Brian at the Special Olympics Bowling Qualifier in Shrewsbury, MA



Bailey at Physical Therapy with his coach, Olivia

## FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

Rachel will complete her third year at SNHU in a few short months and looks forward to her senior year! She still comes home every other weekend and works at Ulta in North Attleboro. She also welcomed Bella, a new lion-head rabbit to her home with boyfriend Jeff. She's doing well, is very happy.

Spencer continues to receive *high honors* grades in school and has begun thinking about college. We have visited Emerson in Boston thus far, and plan to visit NYU, American University in DC, URI and more. He is interested in pursuing a Film Studies program. He got his driver's license last November and recently began a new job at Edible Arrangements in Foxboro.

Lindsay, Brent, Georgie and Bernadette are doing well and finally moved to their new home in Newtown, PA from Philadelphia. They miss city living but are very happy in their new digs! Georgie recently turned 6 years old in February and Bernadette will be 4 in April.



Bernadette & Georgie petting a cat in the garden at Ernest Hemingway's house.



Lindsay, Georgie, Brent, Rachel, Bernadette & June enjoying a beautiful sunset cruise off the coast of Key West.

Doug continues to work hard and as for me, the Spring is always busy as we are in the midst of planning 5 Bailey's Team events including our Run, Education Series, Animal Adventure, Grant Proposal Workshop, & Golf Tournament.

As always, we thank you for your ongoing support, as we wouldn't survive this journey without you!

- 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 \$11,000 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 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

<b>TOTAL FUNDS RAISED NET OF EVENT EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$88,400</b>
Bailey's PAR / Golf Tournament	\$36,700
Third Party Fundraising	\$16,400
Bailey's Run for Autism	\$12,200
Major Gifts	\$10,000
Wine & Spirits Tasting Event	\$ 7,700
Annual Campaign	\$ 4,100
Autism Awareness Jewelry	\$ 800
Tribute Program	\$ 500

**CARRYFORWARD FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR FUNDING: \$10,300**

<b>TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING AWARDED TO DATE:</b>	<b>\$86,800</b>
Arc of South Norfolk – ALEC Training Programs	\$15,800
The Miracle Project	\$10,000
Arc of Massachusetts – Operation House Call	\$10,000
Autism Project – Camp Wannagoagain	\$ 8,000
Arc of Bristol County – Education & Advocacy	\$ 7,000
Kennedy Donovan Center – New ABA Program	\$ 6,800
Bailey's Animal Adventure – Family Event	\$ 6,400
Unique Steps Inclusion Dance Program	\$ 5,000
Autism Families CONNECTicut – Recreation Prog.	\$ 3,800
Artist Exchange – Inclusion After School Art Class	\$ 3,300
ACCEPT Collaborative – Chromebooks	\$ 3,100
University of Rhode Island – Adaptive Surf. Prog.	\$ 2,500
Bailey's Team - Grant Proposal Devel. Workshop	\$ 2,000
Arc of Quinebaug Valley, Inc. – Trainings	\$ 1,600
Bailey's Team Education Series	\$ 1,500

<b>FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR SPONSORSHIPS:</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>
Autism Project - Imagine Walk	\$ 1,000
Surfer's Healing – Rhode Island Program	\$ 1,000
Autism Society of RI / Groden Network Walk	\$ 500
Autism Project / RI Dept Health – Dare to Dream	\$ 500

**FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING: \$ 0**

**TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED / SET ASIDE: \$89,800**

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

**REMAINING FUNDS FOR 2018 OPER. BUDGET: (10%) \$ 8,800**

Please join us for our 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

## BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE

This very special family event, funded by Bailey's Team, will be held **Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** 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!

## BAILEY'S TEAM OFFERS A GRANT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP!

Bailey's Team is happy to announce that we are hosting a Grant Proposal Development Workshop – not just for those who have and continue to seek funding from us, but also for those in the community who would like to strengthen their proposal writing skills. *Diane Gedeon-Martin* of *The Write Source, LLC* will present an in-depth, hands-on training that will provide the tools and skills needed to prepare successful grant proposals.

Our Board of Directors dedicates a great deal of time to ensure that our funding process is clear, fair and consistent for each submitted proposal. Moreover, we are fortunate to have Board members with substantial grant proposal review *and* writing experience. After the close of our recent funding process, the Board felt it would be beneficial to the many local agencies that serve individuals with autism if we provided training in grant proposal preparation. In order to address this need, we have decided to suspend our iPad Initiative\* this year as we will be using these funds to support this workshop.

*\*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 42 iPads to the Arc of Bristol County, The Groden Center, The Bradley School(s), The May Center and Easter Seals of Massachusetts where they have been put to excellent use in their programs supporting individuals with autism.*

## DRUM ROLL PLEASE... WE ARE EXCITED TO INTRODUCE OUR NEW WEBSITE DESIGN



On March 1<sup>st</sup> we rolled out our new website, designed to be a more effective resource and marketing tool for our organization. We hope you will visit and explore the information along with our most recent promotional video not previously available on our old website. In addition, we will be introducing a new page in April – just in time for Autism Awareness month:

### Bailey's Team Marketplace

Featuring autism awareness jewelry, neck ties, wine tags & more!



All items are in full color although shown here in black and white. One tie is deep royal blue gingham with our logo represented throughout and the other tie is aqua seersucker.

The jewelry is made up of all autism ribbon colors; royal blue, aqua, red and yellow, as are the wine tags. Colored photos along with prices will be included on our website soon



## BAILEY'S TEAM TO COLLABORATE WITH THE FRANKLIN PARK ZOO IN 2019...

Bailey's Team has been approached by Boston's Franklin Park Zoo to host an event at their location similar to our Animal Adventure held at Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island. We will collaborate with AFAM (Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts) to bring together numerous autism resources in an effort to strengthen outreach to the greater Boston community. We are very happy that Bailey's Team has been invited to collaborate with both the Franklin Park Zoo and AFAM on their next event tentatively scheduled for May 4, 2019. We are excited about this new partnership opportunity to raise autism awareness AND about re-introducing Bailey's Team in the greater Boston area.

## 2017 FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

**ARC OF SOUTH NORFOLK – ALEC FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING:** \$15,800 to fund The Autism Law Enforcement Education Coalition (ALEC) to provide training for First Responders, Public Safety and Emergency Personnel on how to assist individuals with autism in an emergency situation to avoid risk and ensure safety. This year, program funding will focus on school staff training on “Lockdown” and other emergency protocols.

**THE MIRACLE PROJECT:** \$10,000 to support the cost of a Miracle Project camp (piloted last year) to be held in June for individuals with autism and their peers. The funds will support the cost of the program to include trainings, all facilitation and materials. The pilot proved to be a success and was valued by all participants and their families.

**ARC OF MASSACHUSETTS – OPERATION HOUSECALL:** \$10,000 to fund a home-based program teaching young medical professionals essential skills to better treat people with intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism.

**AUTISM PROJECT – CAMP WANNAGOAGAIN:** \$8,000 to support in part the cost of four (4) necessary specialists on camp staff to ensure safety and effective participation for all campers.

**ARC OF BRISTOL COUNTY:** \$7,000 to fund a program to teach and empower families to advocate for their children with autism and to obtain services and supports to ensure their educational success.

**KENNEDY DONOVAN CENTER:** \$6,800 to support new Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) program along with relevant equipment for an ABA program.

**BAILEY’S ANIMAL ADVENTURE:** \$6,400 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 – INCLUSION DANCE PROGRAM:** \$5,000 to support the cost of therapeutic dance classes providing individuals with ASD the opportunity to enjoy the art of dance, as well as the therapeutic benefits of movement.

**AUTISM FAMILIES CONNECTICUT:** \$3,800 to fund a much-needed recreational program serving children with autism between the ages of 3 and 13 called “Playing on the Spectrum.” This program was developed to enable children on the autism spectrum to participate in their own sensory-sensitive form of extra-curricular activities on the weekend.

**ARTIST’S EXCHANGE – INCLUSION ART PROGRAM:** \$3,300 to fund an after school art program that allows people with autism, working alongside typically developing peers, to express themselves in ways other than through conventional language, one of the main deficits in people with autism.

**ACCEPT COLLABORATIVE:** \$3,100 to fund the purchase of ten (10) Chromebooks to be used in programming supporting children with autism.

**UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND – ADAPTIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION SURFING PROGRAM:** \$2,500 to support the cost in part of an existing adaptive physical education surfing program to include equipment rentals and instruction, as well as monitoring and evaluating each participant’s physical activity.

**BAILEY’S TEAM GRANT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP:** \$2,000 to fund a workshop to provide the opportunity for organizations to learn important skills on how to write an effective proposal to realize increased grant awards along with understanding Bailey’s Team specific funding preferences.

**ARC OF QUINEBAUG VALLEY – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING:** \$1,600 to purchase a six-month Learning Module membership used to further educate staff about how to best support individuals with autism; also to include the purchase of two (2) iPads & protective accessories.

**BAILEY’S TEAM EDUCATION SERIES:** \$1,500 to fund one (1) individual program featuring Patti Menzel who will speak about “*Embracing the strengths of autism while sharing positive management strategies for an enriched autistic life.*”

**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 to support the cost of Rhode Island program enabling professional surfers to serve as instructors at all locations so individuals with autism learn how to surf from skilled surfers.

**AUTISM PROJECT & RI DEPT OF HEALTH – DARE TO DREAM CONFERENCE:** \$500 sponsorship to support the cost of an evening presentation by an individual on the autism spectrum who will address those with Asperger’s Syndrome and High Functioning Autism (HFA) about his own experiences and how to be a part of the community.

**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.

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



Sue & Joe Cotoia & Friends (too many to name)!



Sheila Burgess & Jeff Hastings



David McDonald &  
Tammy DiRobbio



Erin Metivier & Dan Joyce



Guest Magician, Matthew Graham  
& Doug Robertson



Bailey's Team Board of Directors – January, 2018

**2018 UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MARCH 25** 7<sup>th</sup> 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 IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

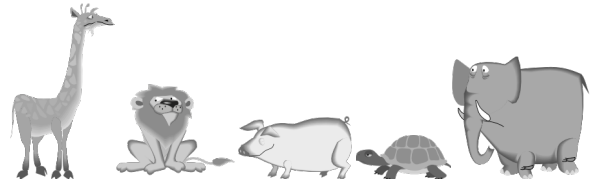
**APRIL 2** WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

**APRIL 11** 9<sup>th</sup> Annual EDUCATION SERIES HAPPY SQUARE PEGS  
7:00 pm  
Embracing the strengths of autism while sharing positive management strategies for an enriched autistic life.  
*Presented by Patti Menzel*  
Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro  
31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA

**APRIL 29** AUTISM PROJECT IMAGINE WALK

**MAY 8** GRANT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP  
*Presented by Diane Gedeon-Martin of The Write Source, LLC*  
Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro  
31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA

**MAY 12** 8<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE  
10:00 am  
Roger Williams Park Zoo  
Providence, RI



**JUNE 10** 14<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM Charity Golf Tournament  
1:00 pm  
Tee Time  
Metacomet Country Club  
East Providence, RI

**AUGUST 1** ANNUAL CAMPAIGN BEGINS

**NOV 2** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual WINE & SPIRITS TASTING SHOWCASE LIVE - Patriot Place, Foxboro



For more information about BAILEY'S TEAM, please visit:  
[www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org)

## 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.

### BAILEY'S TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### OFFICERS



Sammi Robertson  
President



Amy Laurent  
Vice President



Dan Joyce  
Treasurer



Amy Tonkonogy  
Clerk/Funding Director

#### DIRECTORS



Tom Buckley



Sheila Burgess



Tony Calcia



Keith Duclos



Beth Jerskey  
Funding Coordinator



Paul LaCava



Doug Robertson



Betsy Roche

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### 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