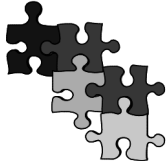


BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM

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!



25

SPRING 2021 Newsletter – Prepared by Sammi Robertson

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the twenty-fifth 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.

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Irwin & Roberta Chafetz

Stephen Shore

IN REPOSE TO THE PANDEMIC, BAILEY'S TEAM FOR AUTISM FUNDS ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING FAMILY SUPPORT AND PPE THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

AS OUR COMMUNITIES STRUGGLE THROUGH A PANDEMIC, IN A YEAR WHEN THE ART OF FUNDRAISING...

has faced its own challenges, we have done our best to forge ahead while working hard to ensure everyone's safety. We have been forced to cancel and/or postpone numerous events, however, we did have the good fortune of hosting our golf tournament in September of last year, three months after the original date. Hosting our signature charity fundraiser along with our new Art Show event afforded us to fund several programs this year. In addition, many of our run sponsors and other patrons generously opted to donate their contributions even when we were forced to cancel our race last March. Our revenue success in 2020 came as a wonderful surprise to both our Board and those organizations that we funded (please see pages 3 and 5 for our annual report and funding highlights respectively).

This year we anticipate facing some of the same obstacles and we hope that in the months ahead, we will see our lives getting closer to "normal!"

OUR 17th ANNUAL BAILEY'S PAR for AUTISM

**CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
at**

Crystal Lake Golf Club

Burrillville, RI

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

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

For more information and to register for this event, please visit www.baileysteam.org and download this year's brochure ASAP!

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR OUR ZOO EVENTS THIS YEAR!



Saturday, May 8, 10 – 2
Bailey's Animal Adventure
at Roger Williams Park Zoo



Saturday, May 22, 10 – 2
Autism Family Day at
Franklin Park Zoo

OCTOBER 2021

*Celebrating
Art & Autism*



Jellyfish created by Julia Sposato

**WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW
TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT!**

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 is now an adult, the details of our stories continue to change as our obstacles shift with each passing year. 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 help one family at a time, while also contributing to organizations whose mission it is to support those living with autism spectrum disorders.

* * *

Now at the "legal" *chronological age* of 21, Bailey has been doing very well in both his school program and at home. His schedule while at school or "12 +" (which refers to the years after 12th grade before transitioning to adult programming at the age of 22 in Massachusetts) consists of community outings and time in the classroom working on a variety of skills. Although we are still living through at home schooling and hybrid models of education, Bailey has been attending his program in person with his peers at school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. He is masked all day in his program taking short breaks and has learned to social distance appropriately.

Although his opportunities in the community are more limited due to the pandemic, his group still travels to a number of destinations for short work assignments and other activities including shopping at the dollar store and take out lunch at Burger King and other fast-food restaurants.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Bailey is nearing 22 and will "age out" of the school department on Friday, October 1st, one day before his 22nd birthday. We have begun the process of talking with our new team, including representatives from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), about how to navigate the months ahead to develop a plan and schedule for Bailey that will begin Monday, October 4th. Our hope is to collaborate with a variety of leaders in the community that will help us to find the right program(s) for him. We would like him to attend a morning program where he can establish a routine including socialization as well as skills training. We also envision him having home support that would also consist of community outings and possibly a limited work program, in addition to a form of art programming. There is still so much work ahead, and we are just establishing our vision for him. This will then be followed by discussions about independence, transportation, support requirements and of course, financial support for his care. One thing, however, must be established first and foremost, and that is that Bailey requires constant supervision and care to keep him safe and on task.

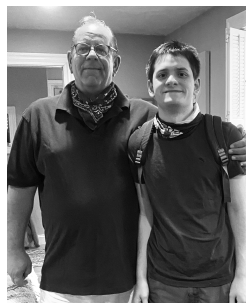
In these last several months, Bailey has been a joy! He has adapted to living through a pandemic and continues to be a rule-follower. We recently had the opportunity to receive the Covid vaccination and were concerned how he might respond to getting the shot as well as knowing that another one would follow in the weeks ahead. Not only was he so brave, but when given the option to go before or after his dad, he opted to go first! We have already received our second vaccination and thankfully, we did not experience any side effects, and the whole process is behind us.

Although he does not enjoy tending to zoom for school, whenever mom is on a call, he likes to make his appearance, offering a warm "hi guys" to the group... and then reading many of the names listed in each box. He often offers a silly script or greeting, always with a big smile, and then vanishes as fast as he appeared. He brightens our days, and his affection is what warms our hearts 24/7. We started out on our journey with much trepidation and fear and can't believe the happiness that he now brings us day in and day out.

His future is still unknown, his care and safety are still a mystery as we plan for adulthood, yet one day at a time is what we are able to celebrate and so far, so good!



Bailey at IHOP



Dad & Bailey –
Ready for work &
Ready for school



Bailey at the Dentist



"Spongebarnes", Bailey's
teacher, escorting him to
mom's car after school



Family friend, Erin
with Bailey at the
Cape Cod House



Bailey out for lunch
again at IHOP

FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

Rachel and Jeff got their own place in Mansfield, and all is right with the world again! 😊 Rachel is still working in Taunton as a Healthcare Coordinator. Jeff passed the Bar exam and was sworn into the Massachusetts Bar Association at home in mid-January! We are forging ahead with plans for their impending nuptials, although it is still unknown what that will look like. We are planning both a "Plan A" and "Plan B" wedding depending on what the State dictates will be permitted for gatherings in September.

Spencer has returned to DC to begin his Sophomore year at American University. His plans to possibly relocate to Boston have faded. He lives in an apartment off campus and is very happy to be back in DC; however, he suffered from Covid in early February. He continues to recover and hopes to plan a visit home in late March.

Lindsay is starting a new job as an attorney for Bucks County (PA). She is excited to return to the workforce and to practice law again. The girls are doing well in their hybrid school program and are enjoying the snow (as you can see below). They are growing so fast as Georgie just turned 9 in February and Bernadette will be 7 in April.



Georgie



Bernadette



Lindsay & the girls

Doug and I are doing well and enjoying both our time at home in North Attleboro and in Chatham.

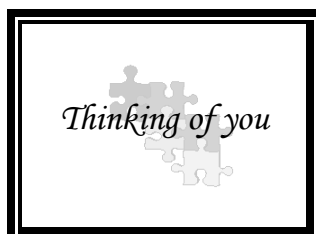
As always, we thank you for your friendship and ongoing support, as we navigate this journey while also supporting other individuals living with autism and their families!

- 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 \$14,870 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 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED NET OF EVENT EXPENSES:	\$59,800
Bailey's PAR / Golf Tournament	\$26,300
Bailey's Run for Autism	\$10,400
Annual Campaign	\$ 8,100
Major Gifts	\$ 7,000
Art Show	\$ 5,800
Rev'd Spin Event	\$ 1,400
Third Party Fundraising	\$ 1,400
Tribute Card Program	\$ 200
Wine Tasting Event (residual 2019 expense)	(\$ 800)

TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING AWARDED TO DATE:	\$52,500
Arc of Bristol County – Family Support & PPE	\$10,000
Lifeworks Arc – Family Support & PPE	\$10,000
Boston Medical Center – ER Autism Resource	\$10,000
Lifeworks Arc – ALEC – 1 st Responder Training	\$ 7,000
Arc of Massachusetts – Operation House Call	\$ 4,000
Arc of Eastern CT – Family Support & PPE	\$ 3,000
Bailey's Animal Adventure – Zoo Family Event	\$ 3,000
Autism Project – Family Programming & Training	\$ 2,500
The Miracle Project NE – Expressive Arts Program	\$ 2,000
Bailey's Team – Franklin Park Zoo Event	\$ 1,000

FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING: \$ 1,400

TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED / SET ASIDE: \$53,900

PERCENT (%) OF GIVING: 90%

REMAINING FUNDS FOR 2021 OPER. BUDGET: (10%) \$ 5,900

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM BAILEY'S TEAM

All applications are welcome and are accepted between August 1 and October 1. Please visit our website and click on "Forms" to download our Funding Application. Funding decisions will be made no later than February 10th.

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

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

We have recently revisited our mission and vision, along with our definition and thoughts about autism and how it is perceived and referenced by people on and off the autism spectrum. We encourage you to visit our website, click on "About" and "What is Autism." With the help of our Board members and a number of resources, we feel that we have shared a comprehensive and thoughtful message about autism and what it means to different communities. We hope you are able to better understand and embrace individuals living with autism and what it means to value and support them.

THANK YOU TO AMY LAURENT!



A heartfelt thank you and farewell to Amy Laurent, Ph.D. who has decided to step down from her Board position with Bailey's Team on which she served just over seven years. Amy is a developmental psychologist and a registered pediatric occupational therapist. Currently in private practice, Amy specializes in the education of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and related developmental disabilities. Her work involves collaborating with and supporting early intervention teams, school teams, and families as she works to create educational programs and environments that facilitate children's active engagement and learning at home, in schools, and throughout their communities. The SCERTS Model, of which she is a co-author, along with differentiated instruction and developmental theory guide

In 2019, Amy, along with colleague J'Acquelyn Fede, Ph.D. created a new organization and methodology called Autism Level UP! This new endeavor focuses on collaborating with individuals, families, and educational teams to provide person-specific, developmentally appropriate, evidenced based educational recommendations and supports to empower autistic individuals to navigate their days.

We thank Amy for her dedication and commitment to Bailey's Team and more importantly we thank her for her ongoing friendship and support!

A NEW PROJECT FOR FORMER BOARD MEMBER, TODD LEVINE



Recently in the news...

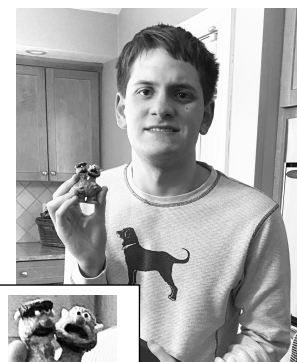
Dr. Todd Peter Levine is the host of the *Otherness Podcast*. The show is exploring and engaging autism through experienced stories. As the brother of someone on the autism spectrum and a psychiatrist, Todd is creating a show that is not about autism as a disorder. Instead, the show is a reflection on stories of resilience and growth through life with someone on the autism spectrum as told by families and professionals. Emphasis will be on the emotional journeys families go through. Episodes begin in March 2021. For more information and links to the new show, visit www.othernesspodcast.com.

IT CERTAINLY DOES TAKE A VILLAGE!

As many of you know, Bailey has always enjoyed playing with small figurines representing characters from his favorite childhood television shows. He has collections of these from Sesame Street along with several other TV shows and movies. We have always packed them away as he often circles back to different collections of toys. Early on, we learned the hard way that it is better to hold onto these items than to risk having to re-purchase them at a later date.

With that said, Bailey recently asked for a number of characters from the Sesame Street collection, not your everyday characters such as Big Bird or Ernie and Bert, but Baby Natasha, the Count, and the Two-headed Monster to name a few. We searched tirelessly online for these characters – on Amazon, eBay, and other collectible websites. Although we had much success obtaining some of the items, we were unable to get our hands on the Two-headed Monster... hold onto this thought...

In recent months since the pandemic began, a very special group of individuals from my (Sammi's) past began to reunite via zoom. Friends from Elementary, Middle and High School came together weekly to catch up, become re-acquainted and for some of us, establish closer friendships than before. We shared about our work, our children, our challenges and successes. We've laughed (a lot) and some of us have cried! I share this because it is only because of this group, that I was able to surprise Bailey with this coveted item! Members of this group supported our quest by posting information on Facebook and other means of social media including Sesame Street groups in an effort to find this item. Some were having conversations with folks in other countries and others were fast at work making all of the right connections! It was a result of this wonderful community, that Bailey's wish came true! Thank you to both Noah and Stacey – you have no idea what you've done for all of us!



FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

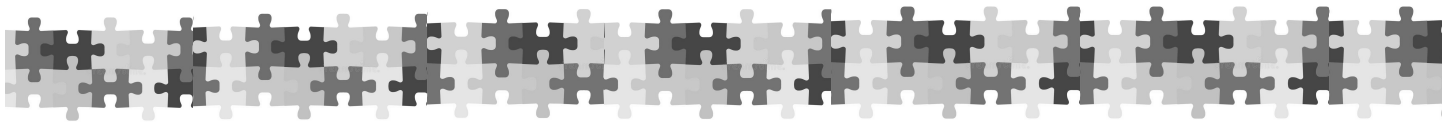
Due to the pandemic, the urgent needs of the autism community, and our own shift in fundraising, our Board of Directors elected to temporarily alter our funding process. This year we opted to reach out to a number of human service agencies, whom we have funded in the past, to determine how we could best help these agencies and the families that they support during the pandemic. As a result, we funded the projects below with a focus on the following areas:

FAMILY SUPPORT & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

ARC OF BRISTOL COUNTY: \$10,000 to fund both family support as well as personal protective equipment (PPE) for agency staff and families, with a minimum of 70% to be allocated to family support.

LIFEWORCS, ARC (FORMERLY ARC OF SOUTH NORFOLK): \$10,000 to fund both family support as well as PPE for agency staff and families, with a minimum of 70% to be allocated to family support.

ARC OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT (FORMERLY QUINEBAUG VALLEY): \$3,000 to fund both family support as well as PPE for agency staff and families, with a minimum of 70% to be allocated to family support.



FIRST RESPONSE TRAINING AND RELATED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER: \$10,000 to support the Pediatric Emergency Department with a part-time English/Spanish bilingual Autism Resource Specialist (ARS).

LIFEWORCS, ARC (FORMERLY ARC OF SOUTH NORFOLK): \$7,000 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.

ARC OF MASSACHUSETTS – OPERATION HOUSECALL: \$4,000 to fund a home-based program teaching young medical professionals essential skills to comprehensively treat people with intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism.



BAILEY'S TEAM AND OTHER RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE: \$3,000 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. This event includes lunch for families, a free raffle and other special surprises.

THE AUTISM PROJECT: \$2,500 to be allocated to various programs and training for individuals living with autism and their families.

THE MIRACLE PROJECT – NEW ENGLAND: \$2,000 to support an expressive arts program providing opportunities for individuals with autism and all abilities to develop social skills, enhance communication, increase self-awareness and confidence, ease anxiety and find joy through shared creative experiences with peers.

BAILEY'S TEAM FRANKLIN PARK ZOO EVENT: \$1,000 to fund an Autism Family Day providing free entrance to one caregiver/family member for every person with autism who attends this event. The Franklin Park Zoo will support the cost for each individual on the autism spectrum. Games and other special activities will be provided.

ENJOY THESE PICTURES FROM 2020



Sammi & Bailey at our first *Spin for Autism* event at Rev'd in Foxboro (March 1st)



Longtime friends Joe Poplis & Doug Robertson at the 16th Annual Bailey's Par Charity Golf Tournament (this year in September due to Covid)



Artwork above created by Stefanie Sacks, Elisabeth Bishop, Emily Kirstein & Patrick Linehan



Bailey's Giraffe Masterpiece, a paint-by number full color print, featured in our recent *Celebrating Art & Autism* event... our highest earning piece selling at \$650!

2021 UPCOMING EVENTS

DUE TO THE ONGOING CONCERNS AROUND COVID-19, AND TO ENSURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY, WE HAVE CANCELLED OUR MARCH & APRIL EVENTS INCLUDING OUR RUN/WALK FOR AUTISM AND OUR ANNUAL EDUCATION SERIES.

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2 **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY**

APRIL 25 **THE AUTISM PROJECT IMAGINE WALK**

9:00 am *This will be a VIRTUAL event*

MAY 8 **11th Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE**

10:00 am Roger Williams Park Zoo
Providence, RI



MAY 22 **2ND Annual AUTISM FAMILY DAY**

10:00 am **FRANKLIN PARK ZOO**
Boston, MA

JUNE 13 **17th Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM**

1:00 pm **Charity Golf Tournament**

Tee Time Crystal Lake Golf Club
Burrillville, RI

OCT 1 **2nd Annual CELEBRATING ART & AUTISM**

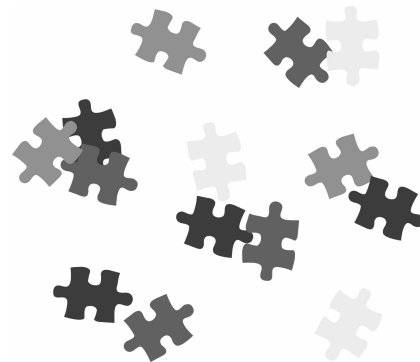
6:30 pm *This may be a VIRTUAL event*

NOV 5 **12th Annual WINE TASTING**

7:30 pm Skyline at Waterplace
1 Finance Road
Providence, RI



Watch for our next **BAILEY'S TEAM NEWSLETTER**
to be distributed in October 2021



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

www.baileysteam.org

"22" IS THE MAGIC NUMBER AS WE KICK OFF OUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN!

This year, as a result of the current restrictions and our decision to cancel our Run/Walk for Autism, and in the spirit of our giving, we thought we would ask our run patrons, sponsors and entire community to consider contributing to Bailey's Team! Our registration fee for our run was \$25.00 per person. We felt that as a result of the upcoming milestone that Bailey will reach turning 22 on October 2nd, and that being the day that he will officially enter adult programming in the eyes of the state, we thought we would ask our Team for a *small donation* in the amount of **\$22.00!** As an aside, we figured if two thirds of the people receiving this newsletter, in addition to those on social media each donated \$22.00, we could raise upwards of \$22,000 from this campaign alone!

BAILEY'S TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS



Sammi Robertson
President



Beth Jerskey
Vice President



Dan Joyce
Treasurer



Betsy Roche
Clerk

DIRECTORS



Tom Buckley



Sheila Burgess



Keith Duclos



Paul LaCava



Sue Linehan



Doug Robertson

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 **\$22.00** 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 issued 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 autism spectrum disorder this year!
Help us put the pieces together by joining our team!*