

# 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!

SPRING 2023 Newsletter – Prepared by Sammi Robertson

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the **twenty-ninth 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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## BAILEY'S TEAM FUNDS 20 PROJECTS TOTTALLING OVER \$84,000... A TOTAL NOT REACHED SINCE 2017

### BAILEY'S TEAM PROJECTS FUNDED ARE SPREAD THROUGHOUT 4 OF THE 6 NEW ENGLAND STATES...

...Including New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. We are delighted to address the needs of the autism population across this geographic area.

Please see below for this year's allocation of the grants:

Recreation Programs .....	28%
Public Safety Programs .....	17%
Transition to Adult Services .....	15%
Medical Training and Inpatient Services.....	13%
Sensory Equipment .....	10%
Bailey's Team Hosted Programming .....	7%
Advocacy .....	6%
Parent/Caregiver Support .....	3%
Sponsorship .....	1%

**SUNDAY, APRIL 16**

### *Bailey's Run & Family Walk for Autism*

Payson Road Recreation Area, Foxboro

Registration begins at 8:30 am and our 5k Run will begin promptly at 10:00 am. Walkers to begin their 1-mile journey following the race start.

We hope you will join us for the rockin' after-party at Conrad's Restaurant immediately following the race!

To register, please visit [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org).



### WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN BAILEY'S TEAM AT

THE AUTISM PROJECT

Imagine  
21st ANNUAL Walk

Sunday, April 30, 2023 – 10:00 am

Goddard Memorial State Park – Warwick, RI

Funds raised through this event will go directly to programs, services and trainings for children, teens and adults living with an autism spectrum disorder and their families, caregivers and the professionals who support them.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 19th ANNUAL

**BAILEY'S PAR for AUTISM**

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT  
at

**Crystal Lake Golf Club**

Burrillville, RI

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

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 about BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM, please visit [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org)

## **A Message from the President**

### **FAMILY UPDATE**

Dear Friends,

As I continue to write our own family story, I do hope that you are still 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 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.

\* \* \*

Bailey continues to attend two different programs in Mansfield, MA, less than 15 minutes from our home. His schedule shifted recently, and he is now at Mansfield Connections, a local Day Habilitation Center, on Mondays and Thursdays. The remainder of his week is spent at Mansfield Redemption where he sorts bottles and cans on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. His schedule at the redemption facility includes a few hours of work and some hours of group activities and occasional community outings.

On Wednesdays, his caregiver, "Sweetie" brings him to a real estate office in Wrentham where he has volunteered for several years beginning in High School. When he arrives at the office, there are always people to greet him and a work pile ready for his completion! He is truly valued at this office, and he enjoys the people there.

Our family is now living in the adult world of disability, supporting Bailey at age 23. Our concerns are no longer about school, curriculum, IEP's, special education, or school vacations. Our challenges, however, continue to be about inclusion, community, acceptance, and direct care support.

Sweetie (Erin) continues to be a wonderful source of support for Bailey. She is a very warm and reliable caregiver. The only problem with finding someone so valuable is that she is in demand by other families. This is something that happens in the special needs community. When you find someone special – you don't ever want to let them go. We've had the pleasure of having wonderful people care for Bailey over the years, but they grow up... or move on... or change careers or have their own families. This is an ongoing cycle and when the changes take place, it can be devastating for the whole family. The thought of losing people who are so special and understand our challenges, becomes heartbreaking as in many cases, we are forced to start all over again – acclimating Bailey and our family to someone new. This change, or the mere anticipation of such a transition, can cause anxiety and stress. It is a loss that creates a major disruption in how we live, and it is difficult to feel hopeful that we will ever find someone else who truly gets Bailey.

\* \* \*

As per usual, one of our recent challenges was the result of Bailey's frustration and his inability to control his anger. He recently destroyed a hand-held gaming device which is no longer on the market, AND was discontinued in 2019, a "3DS." When searching stores to replace the broken device that he smashed due to losing a game, store personnel looked at me like I was crazy not realizing that this was now considered a "vintage" item. After searching the internet and overpaying for this item, it was not in his possession for 3 hours, before he smashed it yet again – also due to his inability to win the same game. Now faced with no options to purchase the same device for a third time, a co-worker of Doug's was able to obtain this device. This time, however, we were smart and did our best to alert Bailey that this was the "last one in the world." To date, I can proudly say, he has managed his frustration and is still in possession of "the last one!... and he finally won the game!

As Bailey continues to mature, he has remained kind and very affectionate. His language and conversational skills, even at age 23, continue to improve. He wakes up happy and barrels down the hallway for a quick snuggle before getting ready for his day. It may sound odd, but he also remains rather childlike and a quick snuggle is like coddling a toddler. This is the part we wouldn't trade as we consider ourselves lucky to have such a loveable young man for a son!



Bailey and mom! ❤️



Mom, Bailey & Spencer at the Squire



Sweetie snapping a pic of Bailey at lunch



Bailey & Patrick, a fellow artist and friend



Bailey at the arcade



Bailey & Sweetie



## FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

As for the rest of the family ...Rachel and Jeff are still living in Mansfield and working hard. Jeff continues to work in Boston and Rach works from home. They enjoy spending time with family and friends but most of all "Bella," their ½ Lop and ½ Lionhead bunny.

Spencer will complete his studies at the end of this year and plans to graduate in December from American University. He will most likely remain in DC through the spring and after that, the future is unknown thus far. In addition to being a student, he has been working as a tutor for local families supporting middle school students. We will be visiting DC again this year with friends and look forward to spending his 22nd birthday with him in May.

Lindsay, Georgie, and Bernadette are keeping busy in Washington Crossing, PA. The girls are busy with school and activities and Lindsay continues her work for the county. The girls are growing up so fast – see pics below.



Georgie      Bernadette      Bernadette      Eagles Fans!

Life is good... Doug is crazy busy at work, and Bailey's Team had a great year in 2022! Our work continues and we look forward to dividing our time between North Attleboro and Chatham in the months ahead!

- Sammi Robertson

We are excited to announce that we have partnered with the Doug Flutie, Jr., Foundation for Autism for our family zoo events! We hope you will join us at one or both!



Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 2:30  
Autism Family Day at  
Franklin Park Zoo



Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 9 – 3  
Bailey's Animal Adventure at  
Roger Williams Park Zoo

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

All applications are welcome and 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 by February 10<sup>th</sup>.  
All awards will be reported in our spring newsletter following our funding cycle.

## BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

<b>TOTAL FUNDS RAISED NET OF EVENT EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$97,500</b>
Bailey's PAR / Golf Tournament	\$36,700
Major Gifts	\$18,000
Wine Tasting Event	\$13,200
Tribute Card Program	\$11,800
Annual Campaign	\$ 8,700
Bailey's Run for Autism	\$ 5,900
Celebrating Art & Autism Art Show/Auction	\$ 2,400
3rd Party Fundraising* & Autism Awareness Items	\$ 800

\*Funds raised by individuals or agencies on behalf of Bailey's Team

**RESERVE FOR 2023 OPERATING BUDGET (10%):**      **(\$ 9,700)**

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

**CARRY FORWARD FUNDS FROM PRIOR YEAR(S):**      **\$ -----**

**TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION:**      **\$87,800**

### PROGRAMS FUNDED

Lifeworks Arc – Autism Law Enforce. Educ. (ALEC)	\$10,000
Arc of Bristol County – Adult Transitional Support	\$ 8,200
Autism Project – Unity Community Garden	\$ 6,500
Arc of Massachusetts – Operation House Call	\$ 6,000
Lifeworks Arc – Community Based Art & Pottery	\$ 5,400
Boston Medical Center – Pediatric Inpatient Support	\$ 5,000
Trudeau / Pathways – Sensory Equipment	\$ 4,600
Pub.Safety Spec.Needs Coal. –Everyone Comes Home	\$ 4,500
MGH / Lurie Center– Education/Consult. Services	\$ 4,000
Manchester Music School – Expressive Arts Prog.	\$ 4,000
Unique Steps – Therapeutic Dance Program	\$ 4,000
Autism Families of CT – Recreational Programming	\$ 3,600
Community Access Specialists – Sensory Equip.	\$ 3,500
The Arc of South Shore – Parent Support Groups	\$ 3,000
HMEA – Executive Function Project	\$ 3,000
Bailey's Animal Adventure – RWP Zoo Event (RI)	\$ 3,000
Autism Family Day at Franklin Park Zoo (MA)	\$ 2,500
Charles River Arc – Transition Planning Program	\$ 1,300
Advocates for Autism of MA (AFAM) – Advocacy Day	\$ 1,000
The Autism Project – Imagine Walk Sponsorship	\$ 1,000

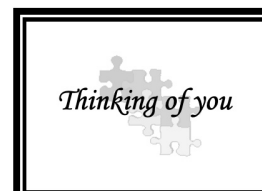
**TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING AWARDED – FEB 2023:**      **\$84,100**

**FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING:**      **\$ 3,700**

### TRIBUTE CARDS

In 2008, we introduced our Tribute Card Program, providing individuals with the opportunity to donate in honor of a special someone, in celebration of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. To date, this initiative has raised over \$25,000 for Bailey's Team!

If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of a special someone, please visit [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org) and download our tribute form for more information.



## READ, ASK, DISCUSS, DEBATE, DECIDE, REPEAT...

How do we decide who to fund? I thought I would shed some light on our funding process so that our readers, our donors, and our grant recipients know how we make these important decisions.

As many of you know we started out in 2001 fundraising for one organization, the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR). From 2001 to 2005 Bailey's Team was one of the highest grossing walkathon teams in Southern New England. When NAAR merged with Autism Speaks, we continued supporting this organization. However, in 2008 we incorporated, formed a Board, and decided not to put all our eggs in one basket. As a result, we developed our own funding process and invited organizations supporting people with autism to apply for funding.

Early on, we carried out our grant review and award process during our two-hour quarterly meeting in January distributing the money we raised during the previous year. As we grew, this task became too time and labor intensive to accomplish in 2 to 3 hours. As a result, in 2017, we started our annual funding retreat on the first Saturday in February where we spend closer to 6 hours together reading, asking, discussing, debating, and deciding who gets what.

Each year we typically receive 20 to 25 proposals from agencies serving individuals with autism. We distribute these proposals at our October Annual Meeting to all Board members and break into teams. We then assign projects to each team for closer review and presentation to the group. All Board members are required to read all proposals, but the teams take the lead on their assigned proposals. After proposals are reviewed, the leader(s) then submits questions to the applicant, if necessary, in preparation for our funding meeting.

On the day of funding, we review our financial report to determine the funds available for distribution. We then complete a brief exercise asking each Board member to identify their "highs and lows" relative to their favorite and least favorite proposals. If there are any unanimous decisions based on this exercise, a proposal can be eliminated or put through for funding (amount is not yet determined).

Each proposal is then presented for discussion and recommendations are subsequently made by the team leaders. It typically isn't until the end of the meeting that awards are decided in one final discussion. Unfortunately, there is never enough money to go around to fulfill all requests, but we spend a lot of time discussing how we can have an impact on each organization.



Once all awards are determined, our goal is to alert all recipients and distribute checks as soon as possible. All awards are then announced in our spring newsletter (see page 3); and a brief description of each award is included on page 5.

Each year our process is reviewed and improved from feedback received the previous year. We've created measuring tools and forms to help expedite the process, but it takes time to give all submissions the attention to detail that they deserve. We strive to be fair and effective, and we work hard to maintain integrity throughout the process.

## EDUCATING FIRST RESPONDERS ABOUT INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM

The Board of Directors of Bailey's Team for Autism recently awarded \$14,500 to programs that safeguard the public safety of individuals with autism. **The Autism Law Enforcement Education Coalition (ALEC)**, a program of Lifeworks, advances awareness and understanding of autism among public safety and law enforcement personnel. ALEC offers first responders valuable training and tools to assess the risk in situations involving individuals with developmental disabilities. The \$10,000 grant from Bailey's Team underwrites continued ALEC training of first responders in Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Rhode Island-based **Public Safety Special Needs Coalition (PSSNC)** is centralizing the Ocean State's response when an individual with autism wanders off. The \$4,500 grant from Bailey's Team will fund tracking equipment and the corresponding training of dedicated state police and PSSNC personnel assigned to *Project Everyone Comes Home*.

Bailey's Team is delighted to have the opportunity to provide financial support to these valuable public safety programs for the autism community.

## FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

**LIFEWORKS ARC:** \$10,000 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 to avoid risk and ensure safety. This year's allocation will provide training to personnel in both Connecticut and Rhode Island.

**ARC OF BRISTOL COUNTY:** \$8,200 to fund a program to teach and empower families to advocate for their adult children with autism as they transition to adulthood.

**AUTISM PROJECT:** \$6,500 to fund a program designed for adults to participate in a variety of activities including the cultivation of a raised bed vegetable garden. The groups will use cooking, art, music, and exercise to gain confidence to learn new skills.

**ARC OF MASSACHUSETTS – OPERATION HOUSECALL:** \$6,000 to fund a home-based program teaching medical and nursing students essential skills to better treat people with intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism.

**LIFEWORKS ARC:** \$5,400 to fund community-based art and pottery classes to participants in an inclusive setting.

**BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER:** \$5,000 to support training and real-time consultations in the pediatric inpatient unit to improve the care of patients on the autism spectrum.

**TRUDEAU/PATHWAYS:** \$4,600 to support the cost of a second indoor "Haley Joy" freestanding swing for sensory support of program participants on the autism spectrum. This swing to be purchased for the program's Warwick, Rhode Island location.

**PUBLIC SAFETY SPECIAL NEEDS COALITION:** \$4,500 to support the cost of a new public safety program in Rhode Island called "Everyone Comes Home," which focuses on the common issue of elopement (wandering) among individuals on the autism spectrum. The funds from Bailey's Team will cover the cost of a two-day operational training for first responders and law enforcement personnel required for program implementation.

**MGH LURIE CENTER:** \$4,000 to help families access autism consultation and educational advocacy services. These services are provided to at-risk families with financial need but require assistance at IEP meetings and negotiating at-home support.

**MANCHESTER [NH] COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL - THE MIRACLE PROJECT – NEW ENGLAND:** \$4,000 to support scholarship assistance to a Miracle Project expressive arts camp for individuals with autism and their peers.

**UNIQUE STEPS DANCE ACADEMY:** \$4,000 to support the cost of two additional staff for an inclusive therapeutic dance program designed for individuals on the autism spectrum and other developmental disabilities.

**AUTISM FAMILIES CONNECTICUT:** \$3,600 to fund a weekend recreational program serving children with autism called "Playing on the Spectrum."

**COMMUNITY ACCESS SPECIALISTS:** \$3,500 to support the cost of sensory equipment for a new early childhood program providing materials to educators to create an inclusive, neurodiverse-positive environment for young autistic students.

**ARC OF SOUTH SHORE:** \$3,000 to fund a program offering parent support groups. The goal is to provide opportunities for community and information sharing, giving families and parents the space to feel united and supported.

**HMEA:** \$3,000 to fund a project that will address executive functioning deficits in individuals with autism. These include organizing, planning, paying attention and inhibiting inappropriate responses. The curriculum includes practice and role playing sessions in the areas of time management, problem solving and person hygiene and task completion.

**BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE:** \$3,000 to fund a family event at Roger Williams Park Zoo for individuals on the autism spectrum to participate in a welcoming and safe environment with their peers.

**FAMILY AUTISM DAY AT FRANKLIN PARK ZOO:** \$2,500 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 spectrum. Games and other special activities will be provided.

**CHARLES RIVER ARC:** \$1,300 to support the cost of a weekend social program for young adults with autism offering same-gender group opportunities to make new friends, enjoy lunch, and have discussions about age-appropriate topics.

**AFAM (ADVOCATES FOR AUTISM - MASSACHUSETTS):** \$1,000 to support the cost of refreshments and stipends for selected speakers on the autism spectrum to present at an advocacy day at the Massachusetts State House.

**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.

**ENJOY THESE PICTURES FROM OUR 2022 WINE TASTING!**



Dan & Susan Burke  
Lifeworks Arc



Jorge Rico & Laura Stone



Nick & Jessica Gremour



Michael Andrade  
The Arc of Bristol County



Mary & Tom Davenport



Bailey & Sammi Robertson  
Bailey's Team

**2023 UPCOMING EVENTS**

**APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

**APRIL 2** WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

**APRIL 16** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S RUN FOR AUTISM

10:00 am Payson Road Recreation Area  
Foxboro, MA



**APRIL 29** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual! AUTISM FAMILY DAY AT FRANKLIN PARK ZOO

10:00 am Boston, MA



**APRIL 30** 21<sup>st</sup> Annual AUTISM PROJECT IMAGINE WALK

10:00 am Goddard State Memorial Park  
Warwick, RI

**MAY 8** 18<sup>th</sup> Annual MASS ADVOCACY DAY FOR AUTISM

10:00 am Massachusetts Statehouse  
Boston, MA

**MAY 13** 13<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE

10:00 am Roger Williams Park Zoo  
Providence, RI



**JUNE 11** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM

1:00 pm Crystal Lake Golf Club  
Tee Time Burrillville, RI

**SEPT 1-30** 4<sup>TH</sup> Annual CELEBRATING ART & AUTISM EXHIBIT

Churchwood Gallery  
North Attleboro, MA



**SEPT 14** ARTIST RECEPTION

6:30 pm Churchwood Gallery  
North Attleboro, MA

**NOV 3** 14<sup>th</sup> Annual WINE TASTING

7:30 pm Skyline at Waterplace – Providence, RI



Watch for our next BAILEY'S TEAM NEWSLETTER to be distributed in October 2023



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

**TO SUPPORT BAILEY'S TEAM...**

**Make a donation, Sponsor and event, Contribute a raffle or auction item, or VOLUNTEER!**



Scan this code to make a donation.

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Sue Linehan



Trish Martins



Doug Robertson

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT BAILEY'S TEAM...**

**DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME 😊**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  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  
or visit [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org)

*Thank you!*



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

**Supporting People with Autism  
and their Families**



**Bailey's Team for Autism**



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

*At least 1 in 44 individuals will be diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder this year!  
Help us put the pieces together by joining our team!*