

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 2024 Newsletter – Prepared by Sammi Robertson

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the **thirty-first 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 17 PROJECTS TOTALLING \$56,250 IN SPITE OF A TOUGH YEAR FOR FUNDRAISING!

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Bailey's Run & Family Walk for Autism

Payson Road Recreation Area, Foxboro
THIS YEAR WE ARE INTRODUCING A NEW
KIDS DASH!

Children ages 10 and under are invited to participate in a 100-yard dash beginning at 9:30 – before the race starts at 10:00 am making this an event for the whole family!

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.



Thank you to our sponsors including...



Bay Colony Group
Professional CIVIL Engineers & Land Surveyors



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:

Social / Recreation Programs	33%
Adult Services.....	17%
Securing Access to Care & Services.....	15%
Therapeutic Support (Comm & Sensory)....	12%
Bailey's Team Hosted Programming	9%
Nursing & Medical Students Training.....	7%
Parent/Caregiver Support	5%
Advocacy	2%

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR

****20th ANNUAL****

BAILEY'S PAR for AUTISM

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

at

Crystal Lake Golf Club

Burrillville, RI

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

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

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

* * *

Bailey is now 24 years old. How do I begin talking about Bailey when thankfully things continue to go smoothly for us (everyone reading this – please knock on something wood!). He is truly the love of our life. He is happy and kind and loves his mom and dad and those who play a significant role in his life. He continues to attend two programs in Mansfield. He works at a redemption facility where he also participates in group programming such as morning meetings, outings, and other projects. He also attends a day habilitation ("Day Hab") program two days each week where he spends some time in a group setting, watching the news, dabbling in arts and crafts and sometimes going out into the community.

This year, we've enrolled Bailey in some extracurricular activities such as an art class and an "ASD Fit" class – both offered by our local Arc, an agency supporting individuals with special needs. He continues to volunteer at a real estate office and is currently participating again this winter in Special Olympics Bowling. In fact, we finally purchased his own bowling shoes and ball.

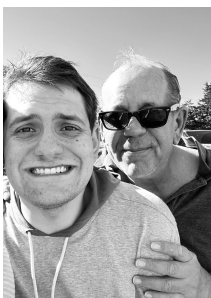
On another note, Bailey was recently summoned to participate in jury duty... REALLY?!! As a result, I first emailed the state government office to find out how to claim disability... I was given instructions via email and planned to continue in the appropriate direction. Of course, not having done so in a timely manner, he quickly received a second summons. I then went online to request a "disqualification" due to disability. In my effort to obtain the appropriate paperwork from our doctor citing his disability and his *inability* to participate in such a process, I remained on hold for a nearly an hour as I got passed around to numerous people who have never had to respond to this type of request. Perhaps I should have simply taken him to the courthouse and when asked if he might find someone guilty, he would have definitely said "yes" regardless... could have been quite a story to tell!

While Bailey has many skills, he is not cognitively present in a reliable way. He was recently in a very minor fender bender with his caregiver. The police at the scene immediately asked his caregiver why there was a man sitting in her backseat. She went on to explain that she was his caregiver and that he had autism. The policeman proceeded to approach Bailey and asked if he was in pain. He immediately answered "yes." Once we knew everyone was ok, I then laughed at the thought that I might soon receive a phone call from someone's insurance company for a statement about Bailey's [fictitious] injury!

These are the things that come up from time to time. We are vigilant about his care and well-being, but we sometimes forget about the situations we might find ourselves in – always having to explain or make sense of something because Bailey is different. We are living in the adult world of disability. As mentioned in the past, our concerns are no longer about school, curriculum, IEP's, or what to do during a school vacation. Our challenges are now about inclusion, acceptance, and his future.

On a happy note, as we spend so much time on Cape Cod, we recently found another special caregiver who enjoys spending time with and supporting individuals on the autism spectrum. Emma (or "Oswald" – the blue octopus as Bailey likes to call her) is a new and much valued caregiver for Bailey. She is studying special education and is employed at Monomoy High School supporting young adults on the autism spectrum. Like Sweetie (Erin, Bailey's other very special support staff) Emma "gets it." She values him and people like him. What a find for our family!

As Bailey continues to mature, his language and conversational skills, even at age 24, continue to improve. He greets us when we arrive at home if we are apart and often asks how we are – showing so much progress as he works hard to interact to be a part of his family, and his community.



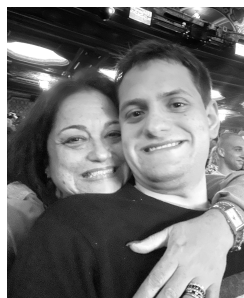
Bailey and dad! ❤️



Bailey, Mom & Spencer
At the 14th annual
Bailey's Team Wine Tasting



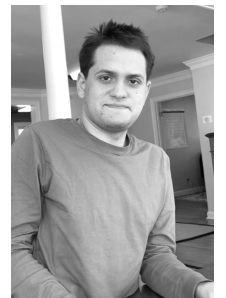
Bailey chillin' on the couch



Mom & Bailey at the theater
to see Mrs. Doubtfire



Bailey celebrating
New Year's Eve



Bailey at the Real Estate
office where he volunteers

FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

As for the rest of the family ...Rachel and Jeff are new parents to Miles Andrew Hangen! They just moved to a Townhouse, remaining in Mansfield – only 12 minutes away... perfect for visiting our new baby!!



Spencer graduated from American University in December Magna Cum Laude! He remains in DC and is working at Markham, a full-service event production company and management agency specializing in high-profile events.



Georgie and Bernadette are now 12 and almost 10 years old and doing great! Lindsay recently left her job as a lawyer for Bucks County and joined the law firm, Stuckert & Yates in Newtown, PA.

Doug and I have had a great time celebrating our adult children and the arrival of Miles Andrew! We continue to work hard with our wonderful Board of Directors supporting people with autism and their families. And, as always, we look forward to dividing our time between North Attleboro and Chatham!

- 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 27th 9:30 – 2:30
Autism Family Day at
Franklin Park Zoo



Saturday, May 11th 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 10th.

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

BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED NET OF EVENT EXPENSES:	\$49,200
Bailey's PAR / Golf Tournament	\$19,000
Major Gifts	\$ 9,000
Bailey's Run for Autism	\$ 8,100
Wine Tasting Event	\$ 7,500
Annual Campaign	\$ 5,000
3rd Party Fundraising* & Autism Awareness Items	\$ 300
Tribute Card Program	\$ 300

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

RESERVE FOR 2024 OPERATING BUDGET (10%): **(\$ 4,900)**

PERCENT (%) OF GIVING: 90%

CARRY FORWARD FUNDS FROM PRIOR YEAR(S): **\$ 8,200**

JAN. 2024 RCPTS RESULTING FROM 2023 FUNDRAISING \$ 6,000

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION: **\$58,500**

PROGRAMS FUNDED

Insurance Resource Center – Multi-Cult. Tech.	\$ 7,000
Unique Steps – Therapeutic Dance Program	\$ 7,000
Autism Project – Mindful Memorial Garden	\$ 5,000
Lifeworks Arc – Arts in the Community Program	\$ 5,000
Arc of Bristol County – Taunton Day Hab Center	\$ 4,750
Arc of Massachusetts – Operation House Call	\$ 4,250
Autism Families of CT – Recreational Programming	\$ 3,500
League School for Autism – Communication Board	\$ 3,500
The Arc of South Shore – Caring for Caregivers	\$ 3,000
Special Abilities Fitness – Sensory Seekers	\$ 3,000
Autism Family Day at Franklin Park Zoo (MA)	\$ 2,500
Manchester Music School – Expressive Arts Prog.	\$ 2,000
Bailey's Animal Adventure – RWP Zoo Event (RI)	\$ 1,500
Profound Autism Alliance – Autism Summit	\$ 1,250
Advocates for Autism of MA (AFAM) – Advocacy Day	\$ 1,000
The Autism Project – Imagine Walk Sponsorship	\$ 1,000
Bailey's Team Education Series – Spring Lecture	\$ 1,000

TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING AWARDED – FEB 2024: **\$56,250**

FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING: **\$ 2,250**

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 donate in honor or in memory of a special someone, please visit www.baileysteamm.org and download our tribute form for more information.



A TOUGH YEAR FOR FUNDRAISING!

It has been stated that overall fundraising success was down 30% in 2023...While we are happy to report our funding commitments for our 2023/2024 funding cycle, our results were a reflection of this.

One company specializing in helping non-profit organizations grow successfully has reported that there are several reasons for the decline in charitable giving. Among these issues have been inflation, staffing issues and donors' concerns about the economy.

- Inflation has left its mark on charitable giving.
- Trust has become an issue for nonprofits.
- Low response continues to be a challenge, especially among new donors.
- Direct mail remains an essential piece of fundraising, but the rapid rise of digital fundraising cannot be ignored.

In recent years, thanks to many people we have managed to raise money to support people with autism and their families. And we will continue to do this as long as we are able to make an impact on the autism community.

It is important to note, however, that we continue to need your ongoing support. We need people to care about improving the lives of people living with autism – and not just their own families... we are hopeful that the greater community will want to continue to help this population live fulfilling lives and especially know that it is important to celebrate everyone, their gifts while also supporting their challenges.

These have been our results over the last 10 years:

ANNUAL REPORT (YR)/ PROJECTS FUNDED (YR)	TOTAL FUNDS RAISED NET OF EVENT EXPENSES
2014/2015	\$ 65,500
2015/2016	\$100,000
2016/2017	\$103,300
2017/2018	\$ 88,400
2018/2019	\$ 62,900
2019/2020	\$ 77,100
2020/2021	\$ 59,800 (Covid 19)
2021/2022	\$ 65,900
2022/2023	\$ 97,500 (income included memorial tributes for both of Bailey's grandmothers)
2023/2024	\$ 55,200* (all time low)

*Includes January, 2024 receipts from 2023 fundraising (late payments)

We chose to share the current climate for fundraising as it has strongly affected our own fundraising success subsequently limiting our ability to fund important projects. As a result, we do ask that you not only continue to support our efforts and our mission, but you also consider participating in our annual campaign.

Our newsletter has always served as a tool to keep you updated and informed about Bailey, Bailey's Team and what's going on in the autism community. It has also been our intent to solicit financial support via the tear-off sheet on the last page.

Now more than ever...we ask you to consider making a donation to help us further our mission and support people with autism and their families! Thank you!

EZRA COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU... BUT FIRST...

We are excited to announce that Bailey's Team for Autism has been asked to host a screening of the upcoming movie, titled **EZRA**, a story of an autistic child, family struggle, divorced parents, understanding the past, vulnerability, and a bit of redemption along the way. First shown in Toronto in October of 2023, Ezra is scheduled for release in the United States on May 31, 2024.

It is our hope to get the word out about this wonderful film which very thoughtfully portrays a character on the autism spectrum who is played by neurodivergent newcomer William Fitzgerald. Directed by Tony Goldwyn, and written by his friend Tony Spiridakis, a parent of a child with autism, in this film, there are hints of comedy along the way, but always respectful as it shows us how everyone is different, and it is ok. Also starring in the film are Bobby Cannavale and Rose Byrne as Ezra's parents and Robert DeNiro as Stan, Ezra's grandfather.

We are looking forward to promoting this movie to educate the community about the need to value and support people on the autism spectrum!

If you are interested in attending this event, please visit our website for more information. Autism support organizations throughout MA and RI will have limited tickets available.

FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

INSURANCE RESOURCE CENTER FOR AUTISM AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: \$7,000 to support the cost of a Multi-Cultural Insurance Technical Assistance program (MITA); assisting and educating families about how to access insurance to cover necessary services to support their children on the autism spectrum.

UNIQUE STEPS DANCE ACADEMY: \$7,000 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 PROJECT: \$5,000 to fund the development of the next section of their recently funded Unity Community Garden, a program for adults with autism participating in the cultivation of a raised bed vegetable garden. Part two is the cultivation of a Mindfulness and Memory Garden where all members of the community can have a safe place to find peace, regulate, or remember those who have passed.

LIFEWORKS ARC: \$5,000 to fund a variety of community-based art classes for individuals on the autism spectrum to participate in inclusive settings.

ARC OF BRISTOL COUNTY: \$4,750 to fund the purchase of sensory equipment, technology, and other materials for a new family support center / day habilitation space in Taunton, MA.

ARC OF MASSACHUSETTS – OPERATION HOUSECALL: \$4,250 to fund a home-based program teaching medical and nursing students essential skills to better treat people with intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism.

AUTISM FAMILIES CONNECTICUT: \$3,500 to fund a spring recreational program serving children with autism.

LEAGUE SCHOOL FOR AUTISM: \$3,500 to purchase and install a communication board for their new outdoor learning space serving their students on the autism spectrum.

ARC OF SOUTH SHORE: \$3,000 to fund a program offering a variety of parent and family support groups. The goal is to provide opportunities for individuals supporting those on the autism spectrum the space to share resources and information while also feeling united and supported.

SPECIAL ABILITIES FITNESS: \$3,000 to support the cost of therapeutic sensory items as well as instruction to execute other modes of sensory support such as massage and breathing techniques for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities including individuals on the autism spectrum.

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.

MANCHESTER [NH] COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL - THE MIRACLE PROJECT – NEW ENGLAND: \$2,000 to support scholarship assistance to a Miracle Project expressive arts camp for individuals with autism and their peers.

BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE: \$1,500 to fund an event at Roger Williams Park Zoo providing free entrance for both individuals on the autism spectrum and one caregiver to participate in a welcoming and safe environment in an inclusive setting.

PROFOUND AUTISM ALLIANCE: \$1,250 sponsorship to support a one-day conference bringing together leaders from the areas of research, medicine, treatment, advocacy, education, and human services to discuss the needs of those with Profound Autism across disciplines and throughout the lifespan.

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.

BAILEY'S TEAM EDUCATION SERIES: \$1,000 to fund a program featuring a speaker who is both mother of a young man on the autism spectrum and the author of A Thousand Worries; Black Women Mothering Autistic Sons. The funds will support the cost of the event and will include marketing and materials to be distributed.

ENJOY THESE PICTURES FROM 2023!



14th Annual Wine Tasting at Aloft in Providence

Left to Right: Former Board Members Laura Stone and Danielle Desrosiers with Sammi Robertson



Past & Present Board of Directors Celebrating the Boards 15th anniversary!

Top Row (L to R): Paul LaCava, Tom Buckley, Doug Robertson, Laura Stone, Dan Joyce

Middle Row (L to R): Ruth Hoshino, Amy Tonkonogy, Sheila Burgess, Sammi Robertson, Danielle Desrosiers, Betsy Roche, Sue Linehan

Bottom Row (L to R): Michael Andrade, Beth Jerskey, Keith Duclos and Trish Martins



Bailey's Team Board - Funding Day – February 3, 2024
Foxborough Public Safety Building

2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2 **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY**

APRIL 9 **19th Annual MASS ADVOCACY DAY FOR AUTISM**

10:00 am Massachusetts Statehouse
Boston, MA

APRIL 14 **11th Annual BAILEY'S RUN FOR AUTISM**

10:00 am Payson Road Recreation Area
Foxboro, MA



APRIL 27 **5th Annual AUTISM FAMILY DAY AT**

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



APRIL 28 **22nd Annual! AUTISM PROJECT**

10:00 am **IMAGINE WALK**
Goddard State Memorial Park
Warwick, RI

MAY 11 **14th Annual BAILEY'S ANIMAL ADVENTURE**

10:00 am Roger Williams Park Zoo
Providence, RI



JUNE 9 **20th Annual BAILEY'S PAR FOR AUTISM**

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

SEPT 1-30 **5TH Annual CELEBRATING ART & AUTISM EXHIBIT**

Churchwood Gallery
North Attleboro, MA



SEPT 20 **ARTIST RECEPTION**

6:30 pm Churchwood Gallery
North Attleboro, MA

NOV 1 **15th Annual WINE TASTING**

7:30 pm Aloft – Providence, RI



Watch for our next **BAILEY'S TEAM NEWSLETTER**
to be distributed in October 2024



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

www.baileysteam.org

TO SUPPORT BAILEY'S TEAM...

Make a donation, sponsor an event, contribute a raffle or auction item, or volunteer!



Scan this code to donate to Bailey's Team.

BAILEY'S TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Beth Jerskey
Vice President



Trish Martins
Vice President



Dan Joyce
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DIRECTORS



Michael Andrade



Tom Buckley



Sheila Burgess



Keith Duclos



Paul LaCava



Sue Linehan



Doug Robertson



Betsy Roche

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

Thank you!



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

*At least 1 in 36 individuals will be diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder this year!
Help us to support and celebrate individuals on the autism spectrum by joining our team!*