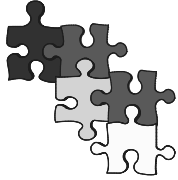


# BAILEY'S TEAM for AUTISM

*Supporting organizations and individuals who fund research and or provide training, resources, services and aid to individuals living with autism spectrum disorders and their families.*

**Bailey's Team is helping to put the pieces together!**

Fall, 2010 Newsletter



Dear Friend,

Welcome to the fourth edition of our BAILEY'S TEAM newsletter! As promised, we have included updates on our fundraising success, our life with Bailey... his successes 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 HITS THE ½ MILLION DOLLAR MARK RAISING OVER \$500,000 SINCE 2001 IN SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES!**

### **BAILEY'S TEAM RECEIVES TEN SUBMISSIONS FOR THE 2010 FUNDING CYCLE!**

Bailey's Team has been raising money in support of autism research, awareness and programming since 2001. After becoming incorporated in 2008, it became necessary to formalize our funding procedures and this year, we are proud to announce that we have received ten (10) submissions for the 2010 funding cycle.\*

The proposals received include research projects, social skills training, health & wellness & recreational programming for individuals on the autism spectrum, parent & family support, educational programming and several other important initiatives.

All final funding allocations will be reported in our spring newsletter (2011).

\*Please note that all proposals are welcome that coincide with our mission statement and are due no later than September 1<sup>st</sup> of the same year's funding cycle. Please see [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org) for more information.

### **AUTISM INSURANCE BILL SIGNED IN MASS.**



Governor Deval Patrick signed the Autism Insurance Bill on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, requiring health insurers to provide coverage for autism diagnosis and treatment in Massachusetts!!

### **BLOOMINGDALE'S of CHESTNUT HILL PARTNERS WITH BAILEY'S TEAM AND RAISES \$4,000 IN SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH AUTISM & THEIR FAMILIES**



On Sunday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, Bloomingdale's of Chestnut Hill hosted a fashion show & pre-sell discounted shopping event to benefit Bailey's Team, *supporting individuals living with autism and their families.*

Pictured left: Bailey & Rachel Robertson on the runway

The event began with a beautiful brunch presented by chef, Jasenko Pilja of Bloomingdale's in-house restaurant, *Forty Carrots*; along with a brief presentation by both Bloomingdale's staff and Sammi Robertson, President of Bailey's Team.

All patrons then enjoyed a very special fashion show featuring Bailey and his siblings, along with other members of Bailey's Team and models from Bloomingdale's. Discounts were offered to event patrons and 10% of all event proceeds were donated to Bailey's Team!

*Bailey's Team would like to offer a very special thank you to Sheri Singer of Bloomingdale's for her dedication and support in making this event a tremendous success!*

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

## **A Message from the President FAMILY UPDATE...**

Dear Friends,

We have had a very exciting year, both as a family and also as a growing organization! As you read our newsletter headline, since our journey began and our fundraising effort started in 2001, we have raised over \$500,000 in support of individuals living with autism and their families!! We are looking forward to celebrating the next milestone as we work hard to round the one million dollar mark in support of research, awareness, programming and education for our loved ones with autism, their families and their communities!

We've had a full schedule of events in 2010 – both old and new – introducing a family bowling event at North Bowl in North Attleboro as well as a discounted pre-sell shopping event at Bloomingdale's of Chestnut Hill! Two very different events... both equally important to our organization and to our mission; and in 2011, we look forward to yet another successful year as we continue to raise funds and awareness for those living with this very challenging disorder.

\* \* \*

Bailey has worked very hard this year as he continues to develop skills that make it a little bit easier to understand him *and* to reach him. He continues to spend much of his time playing video games and watching videos of other people playing video games. He is still very fond of "Super Mario," however, watch out Luigi... it seems that "Woody and Buzz" have come on the scene and are Bailey's new favorites!! He recites nearly the whole Toy Story 3 movie and is counting down the days (until November 2<sup>nd</sup>) when the movie is released on DVD!

We continue to receive visits from none other than... "*Johnny the Mailman*" as we have kept up with our collection of characters – although Toy Story 3 is now the theme and we must continue our hunt for all Toy Story characters... from all three movies!

Relative to school, Doug and I are proud to say that we are very pleased with Bailey's program this year. His special education class consists of four (4) people: Bailey, one classmate (also with special needs), one teacher and one paraprofessional. Although we realize that this may be ideal providing opportunities for intense instruction, we feel that it is equally important for Bailey to be around other children so that he can improve his social skills and become better acclimated in a social setting. The good news is that as a result of his small substantially separate class setting, he is now afforded the important opportunity to be included with his typical peers for a portion of his day... FINALLY! And the great news is that he has been able to spend up to two hours in an inclusive setting each day!

You may remember that I stated the following in our last newsletter:

*"Our dream has been for Bailey to learn to be included with other children or "mainstreamed" for just a portion of his day. As autism is known for individuals living "in their own world," it is important and necessary to teach them skills to live in a typical world with others..."*

We seem to finally be on our way to reaching this goal!

Some days, however, Bailey might not be able to manage inclusion... he may become overwhelmed by the number of people around him, the level of noise, and he may not be able to attend causing a disruption to those around him. His peers, too, have the right to have learning opportunities - free from disruption – so when "Bailey's autism gets too big"... he is removed from the inclusion setting both for his own benefit and for his classmates. This is a sad but important reality, but one that must inspire us to always work harder to teach him skills to manage his own challenges.



Spencer, Doug, Bailey, Rachel & Sammi

Other exciting news from the Robertsons... Lindsay and Brent's wedding is upon us and will take place on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The planning has come to an end and the party is only days away. We are so happy for both Lindsay and Brent and we are most excited to share in their happiness on their wedding day with our family and friends!

[Continued on page 3]

## FAMILY UPDATE

[Continued from page 2]

Rachel is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade... her last year at the Middle School and then it's off to High School... not sure when that happened?! As for Spencer, he is a wonderful student...4<sup>th</sup> grade...and has recently earned his brown belt in Karate!

Doug's companies are finally under one roof in Pawtucket, RI and he is busy as always... a good thing!

We all continue to work hard to educate our community about Bailey and autism and Sammi remains busy with Bailey's Team operations and finding new ways to reach out to more and more people both through fundraising opportunities, education and raising awareness.

Our last and most fun announcement is that we have been able to enjoy many good times and "R&R" in Cape Cod... a place that we all enjoy. Bailey loves our home away from home and as a result; we were inspired to "label" it for him:



We thank you as always for your interest in our work and your ongoing support and friendship.

*The Robertson Family*



**Rachel, Bailey & Spencer, Cape Cod**  
[August, 2010]

## BAILEY'S TEAM TO HOST SECOND ANNUAL WINE & BEER TASTING at CBS SCENE in FOXBORO

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Bailey's Team will host its second annual WINE & BEER TASTING at CBS Scene, Patriot Place in Foxboro. Last year's event was held in Providence at Dave & Buster's and we raised \$7,500 in support of individuals living with autism and their families! One hundred people were in attendance and they enjoyed fine wines and beer, a special raffle and silent auction and fun filled prizes! If you would like to learn more about this event, please visit [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org).

## 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 nearly \$700 for Bailey's Team simply as a result of paying tribute to those around us while also donating to a special cause.

If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of someone in your life, please visit our website at [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org) for more information.



## MORE PICTURES FROM THE BLOOMINGDALE'S FASHION SHOW:



Rachel & Spencer Robertson



Bailey's Team Board Member  
Tom Pereira



(Left to Right) Sheryl Kalis, Amy Tonkonogy, Spencer Robertson, Heather Marshall; Rachel, Bailey, Sammi & Doug Robertson, Tom & Linda Buckley



By Heather Marshall \* December 15, 2009

In April of 2007, I began working at the ARC of Northern Bristol County. The ARC serves over 1,200 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I was hired to be part of the staff for an April vacation camp for children with disabilities ages 6-10. As part of the staff, one of my responsibilities included being a one-on-one aid for a child with a disability while also bringing several of these children out into the community to interact with "typical" children. For the entire week, I was assigned to be a one-on-one with an 8 year old boy, Bailey Robertson. From the very first day I was assigned to him, I completely fell in love with this little boy. Throughout the week, Bailey and I had so much fun. We played at the park, played at a gymnastics studio together, made projects at the Attleboro Art Museum, and so much more. He showed me that he appreciated and cared for me in different ways than a *typical* eight year old boy would. He would hug me constantly, touch my face, and ask for "butterfly kisses." He was the most loving, energetic, *artistic* little boy I had ever spent time with. To my surprise, on the last day of camp- his mother approached me and asked if I lived locally, where I went to school, and if I had ever babysat before. Words cannot describe how happy I truly was when his mother, Sammi, invited me to her house to meet her husband and her other children. The very next day she called me and set up a time to do just that. After meeting with her husband Doug, and Bailey's brother and sister, she wanted me to babysit Bailey and her two other children on a regular basis. All I kept thinking was, "Thank God that wasn't my last day with this little boy!"



Heather, Rachel & Bailey

Autism causes impaired social interaction, communication difficulties, and restricted or repetitive activities and interests. People with autism also often exhibit abnormal responses to sensory stimulation (touch, sound, light). Even though about one-third of people with autism have normal or nearly normal IQ's, most cannot communicate through conversation; but, most people with autism are able to display emotion and affection and respond to their environment.

It's hard for Bailey to talk with other people and express himself using words. Because he can't communicate with other people in conversation, he needs to be prompted to answer a question to have his needs met. When he can't explain to us or find the words to say to have a need met, he becomes very aggravated. Because of his autism, Bailey gets very angry and he begins to cry, scream, kick and sometimes punch, he may throw objects and become very aggressive.

With all of the struggles Bailey has in his daily life, what is most important is that he has such a loving family and care takers that look at his achievements and his strengths instead of the downfalls of his autism. Bailey is extremely artistic. My first sights of Bailey's drawings were during the first week I had met him at camp. He began to draw every Sesame Street character, paying very close attention to the colors of their clothes and facial features. I was so amazed that a child so young could draw so accurately. Bailey loves to have people draw characters and animals of all kinds for him too. After something is drawn, he cuts the paper very carefully and uses the characters or animals to play with.

Baileys' brother, Spencer and sister, Rachel are wonderful with understanding Bailey's impairments caused by his autism. They always seem to amaze me with the way they treat their brother. They are so caring and loving towards him, even when Bailey is having a bad day. Rachel and Spencer look out for Bailey- especially in public. They are always making sure he stays with everyone and not wandering off and always including him.

Every time I spend time with Bailey I love looking into his eyes and wondering what he's thinking about. I wonder if he knows how much I care about him, or how much I love to see him happy. When I say, "Bailey ... look at my eyes." He looks at my eyes and stares for a few seconds. His attention span is very limited, but those very few seconds are the best. He loves to "snuggle on the couch" and ask for "butterfly kisses." Some day Bailey will be older, and probably taller than me, but I won't ever deny his snuggling or butterfly kisses. I'm very thankful Bailey and his family have entered my life. Looking back at when I was younger- I was so uneducated about children with disabilities. If it weren't for the ARC, or for Baileys' mom, Sammi – I would not be who I am today. I would not be aware of such a heartbreaking disorder- affecting so many loving, smart, talented people.

The text above are excerpts from a paper submitted as a psychology class assignment at Bristol Community College by our special friend and child care provider, Heather Marshall.

## 2010 EDUCATION SERIES HIGHLIGHTS

In 2010, Bailey's Team hosted its first EDUCATION SERIES offered to parents and professionals supporting individuals living with autism. Our goal was to offer guidance and support to families, educators, child care providers and other members of the community on the subjects of autism, advocacy and what steps to take after diagnosis.

We kicked off our three lecture events in April of this year in an effort to raise awareness during Autism Awareness Month. The first of our three speakers, Dr. Stephen Shore, welcomed over one hundred patrons and spoke about his experience on the autism spectrum and how autism affects the whole family. In May, Dr. Barry Prizant spoke on the subject of balance and coping strategies for families supporting an individual with autism; and we ended our three part series in June with two wonderful speakers, Susan Constable and Janet McTarnaghan, both considered to be experts on the subject of autism and how to educate individuals on the spectrum.

### **APRIL 14, 2010 - WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE AUTISTIC**

*Presented by Stephen Shore, Ed.D.*



Stephen Shore was diagnosed with "atypical development with strong autistic tendencies," and as a child, was recommended for institutionalization. He was nonverbal until age four; however, with much help from his parents and teachers, Stephen Shore has gone on to author several books on the subject of autism, completed his doctoral degree in special education at Boston University, and he is an assistant professor of education at Adelphi University with a focus on helping people on the autism spectrum develop their capacities to the fullest extent possible.

**Stephen most recently published a new DVD, Living Along the Autism Spectrum - What Does It Mean to Have Autism or Asperger Syndrome? [by Daniel Gottlieb, Ph.D., Robert Naseef, Ph.D. and Stephen Shore, Ed.D.].**

### **MAY 12, 2010 - FINDING BALANCE LIVING WITH AUTISM: FAMILY EXPERIENCES & COPING STRATEGIES**

*Presented by Barry Prizant, Ph.D.*

Barry Prizant has 40 years experience as a clinical scholar, researcher & program consultant to children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and related disabilities and their families. Among his numerous accomplishments, Barry is a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist and is the Director of his private practice, Childhood Communication Services (CCS). He is an Adjunct Professor in the Center for the Study of Human Development at Brown University, a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and widely known for his work on The SCERTS® Model, a research-based educational approach, focused on Social Communication, Emotional Regulation & Transactional Support for individuals with ASD.



**One of Barry's most important contributions to the autism community is his undying support of families. He co-hosts an annual retreat for parents and guardians of children on the autism spectrum and through his work and his involvement at this event, he has learned a great deal about coping strategies and family survival.**

### **JUNE 16, 2010 - AUTISM IN THE COMMUNITY: INCLUSION & ACCEPTANCE**

*Presented by Susan Constable, M.Ed. & Janet McTarnaghan, M.Ed.*



Sue Constable is the Director of the Rhode Island Technical Assistance Project's (RITAP) Autism Support Center. Sue works with families throughout Rhode Island and participates both on the RI Autism Coalition and the Commission - working on new legislation in support of individuals with autism. She has taught young children with ASD for 10 years at ACCEPT Collaborative in MA; and she is currently teaching a graduate course on autism at Rhode Island College.



Janet McTarnaghan, M.Ed., is an Education Consultant and has served as an autism specialist in both MA & RI. She has worked for more than 20 years to provide support services to families of children with developmental disabilities and has been an elementary and special education teacher and administrator, working in both private and public settings.

**Janet and Sue shared their respective knowledge of how to work with individuals with autism and their families as they successfully enter the community. They offered a variety of strategies and spoke of outcomes and successes they've seen in their experiences over the years watching individuals with autism achieve great socialization milestones in an effort to avoid isolation.**

These three events drew over two hundred patrons some of whom shared their comments...

*"This training provided resources and ideas... I learned so much!"*

*"Speaker was very clear and very informative!"*

*"The information was very valuable for my job, will help me to apply better techniques with our autistic kids."*

*"Program was very professional AND personal!"*

*"It was very helpful to understand the parents' perspective!"*

**JOIN US FOR OUR SEVENTH ANNUAL  
BAILEY'S PAR CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT  
Sunday, June 12, 2011**



**Pictured Left  
(Left to Right)  
Don Treannie  
Tom Buckley  
Shawn Buckley  
Cory Shepardson**



**Pictured Right  
(Left to Right)  
Joe Coccoluto  
Roy Irving  
Cory Albert  
Ed Albert**

[Sixth Annual Golf Event, 2010 - Photos by Scott Robertson]

**BAILEY'S TEAM IS NOW SELLING AUTISM  
AWARENESS JEWELRY!**

This beautiful handcrafted jewelry is offered by two special artists to benefit Bailey's Team, supporting individuals living with autism and their families.

Links for Love creates these beautiful sterling silver earrings sold for \$35.00. The solid sterling silver puzzle piece is placed over recycled glass – available in red, blue and yellow representing the colors of autism. To order these or other items by Links for Love, please visit [www.linksforluv.com](http://www.linksforluv.com) or contact Maria at [linksforluv@comcast.net](mailto:linksforluv@comcast.net) and don't forget to mention "Bailey's Team."



This beautiful handcrafted bracelet was designed by Sandra Chaplin of Chappy Studios and features red, yellow, aqua and blue Miyuki glass beads representing the colors of autism. They are fastened with heavy [nickel free] silver plate rings and include a sterling silver puzzle piece charm for autism awareness. There are two versions available and retail at \$16.00 and \$22.00.

To order an autism awareness bracelet, please contact Sammi at [sammirobertson@comcast.net](mailto:sammirobertson@comcast.net) or visit [www.baileysteam.org](http://www.baileysteam.org).

**2011 UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS**

- APRIL 1** WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY
- APRIL 13** AUTISM & EMPATHY: FACTS & FICTION  
Understanding Empathy in Individuals with Autism and Asperger Syndrome  
*Presented by Paul G. LaCava, Ph.D.*  
Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro  
31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield
- APRIL 28** SILPADA DESIGNS JEWELRY FUNDRAISER  
164 Westside Avenue, North Attleboro
- MAY 11** SENSORY INTEGRATION DYSFUNCTION:  
What does it FEEL like to have Autism?  
*Presented by Amy Laurent, EdM, OTR/L*  
Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro  
31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield
- MAY 14** BAILEY'S TEAM FAMILY DAY AT THE ZOO  
Roger Williams Park Zoo  
Providence, Rhode Island
- MAY 21** BAILEY'S TEAM CHARITY YARD SALE  
164 Westside Avenue, North Attleboro
- JUNE 12** SEVENTH ANNUAL BAILEY'S PAR –  
FOR AUTISM Charity Golf Tournament  
Blackstone National Golf Club, Sutton
- AUGUST 1** ANNUAL DIRECT MAIL CAMPAIGN BEGINS
- NOVEMBER 4**  
THIRD ANNUAL WINE & BEER TASTING  
Hosted by BAILEY'S TEAM  
CBS Scene - Patriot Place, Foxboro, MA

Watch for our next BAILEY'S TEAM NEWSLETTER  
To be distributed in April, 2011

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Also in April of 2011, Bailey's Team will partner with the Autism Society of America – Rhode Island Chapter to host another statewide First Responders Training for Police, Fire and EMS Personnel in an effort to further expand the ALEC –RI\* program – educating professionals to keep individuals living with autism safe!

\*ALEC-RI – *Autism Law Enforcement Education Coalition of Rhode Island*

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