

## Autism Information in Colorado

### FACES OF AUTISM

**On October 26, 2011, the Autism Society of Colorado (ASC) held its first annual Faces of Autism Awards in Denver, Colorado. The Faces of Autism awards honored community members who make a difference in the lives of people with autism.**

The award categories included Citizen of Distinction, Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, Outstanding Professional of the Year, Compassionate Youth, and Opening Doors Business of the Year. It was a star studded event with families, individuals with autism, service providers, and legislators in attendance. Attendees showed their support for the nominees, the organization, and the autism community.

This new event was created in order to honor the many faces in the autism community that often go unnoticed and without praise, yet their contributions mean so much to so many. ASC recognized thirteen finalists and announced six winners at the event. The decision process for nominations took the hard work of dedicated and independent volunteers who reviewed the nominations in July.

The gifts and talents of the winners were evident in their work and volunteerism and ASC was happy to recognize their contributions to the autism community. Here's a little bit of information about the winners:

#### **Citizen of Distinction Award - Ken Gordon**



The Citizen of Distinction Award recognized an individual who has distinguished themselves as an advocate and spokesperson for autism by bringing attention and awareness to the issue.

Senator Ken Gordon served in the Colorado State legislature for 16 years and supported every bill that positively impacted the lives of people with autism and their families. Senator Gordon sponsored the Children with Autism Medicaid Waiver statute, which described and funded behavioral treatment. All Developmental Disability Waivers in Colorado have adopted these descriptions. Ken also sponsored two insurance laws that created fairness in the appeals

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For more information, please contact ASC Staff using the contact information listed below.

#### Autism Society of Colorado

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720.214.0794 - office

720.274.2744 - fax

[contact@autismcolorado.org](mailto:contact@autismcolorado.org).

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

ASC is a local chapter of the **Autism Society of America**.

Contact ASA at:

4340 East-West Hwy, Suite 350

Bethesda, Maryland 20814

800-3 AUTISM

[www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)

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### Support Groups

The listing of autism and related support groups throughout the state has become too large to publish each month. Call ASC at 720-214-0794 and we will send you the most current listing for your area.



from the  
executive director

## Project CASCADE

*\*Note - This article contains a large number of acronyms. The Developmental Disability community seems to use a lot of them, so I apologize for the amount. As always, should you have any questions about any of the acronyms used, please call us and we'd be happy to discuss them with you.*

**T**he Combating Autism Act of 2006 (CAA) was landmark legislation. The law heralded that autism was indeed a national crisis.

Per the law, portions of the CAA funds were committed to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for grants to states to develop autism screening, diagnosis, and intervention programs, and to create statewide screening systems. States who received funding were required to provide individuals with information about state and local resources through state and federal programs and community organizations that had an established track record of information and referral specific to autism.

In 2005, I personally called every Colorado Congressional leader to support this bill and was overjoyed at its passage. I set to work to figure out how Colorado would be able to benefit from the allocation of funds to the states.

Funding was first allocated in 2007. One of the prerequisites to state grant funding was a state plan for autism. Colorado did not have such a plan.

I read state plans of more than a dozen states. These states had spent tens of thousands, and in some instances, several million dollars developing their state plans. However, I felt all these plans had a fatal flaw for implementation. The assemblies creating the plans were mostly people who knew a lot about autism with few, if any, people from state government who were knowledgeable about whether or not the plan could be implemented. "Should do's" do not necessarily lead to "can do's."

The Autism Society (ASC) spearheaded a state statute in 2008 to establish the Colorado Autism Commission (CAC) whose charge was to create a ten-year strategic plan for autism. The 24 Commissioners included 12 people from Colorado State Government, 3 from federally-funded programs, 2 self-advocates, a parent of a young child, a parent of an adult child, and the rest of us represented advocacy organizations, educators, the business community and providers. Funded with only \$10,000, the Commissioners volunteered 4,000 hours and traveled the state to hear testimony 22 times. The CAC presented the plan to the Governor and General Assembly in January 2010. You can read the 3-page Executive Summary and the full Plan at [http://www.autismcolorado.org/index.php/document-library/cat\\_view/26-legislativepolicy-documents](http://www.autismcolorado.org/index.php/document-library/cat_view/26-legislativepolicy-documents).

The CAC presented 18 recommendations with objectives over a ten-year timeline. To ensure the objectives were achieved, ASC spearheaded a 2010 Senate Joint Resolution, which created an Ad hoc Committee of the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council to continue the work.

(continued on next page)

from the  
executive director (cont.)

Today, the Ad Hoc Committee is called CANDO, Colorado Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Options, and many of the CAC members are now joined by dozens of other committed volunteers to continue the work on the objectives of the recommendations through six subcommittees.

Because Colorado now has a state plan, in May 2011, ASC, in collaboration with JFK Partners and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), submitted a grant proposal called Project CASCADE (**C**ollaborative **A**ddressing **S**ystem **C**hange in **A**SD and other **D**evelopmental disabilities) for the state grant funds through the Combating Autism Act. We were awarded the grant in September thanks to your support for CARA, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act. The funding goals are to improve access to comprehensive, coordinated health care and related services for children and youth with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities. The Maternal Child Health Bureau (MCHB) establishes the grant goals for the funding and their goals coordinate with the recommendations in Colorado's ten-year strategic plan.

JFK Partners and CDPHE have immense roles in Project CASCADE for screening, training, and Medical Home initiatives. The Autism Society, through the work of Jill Tappert and the Colorado Coalition for Autism Professionals (COCAP), will further implementation of

HIMAT (Health Insurance Mandated Autism Treatment) and other work for better access to care. The grant funds ASC staff, Justin Petrochko and Kim Tenure, to work in support of the subcommittees of CANDO. They will travel throughout Colorado to deliver materials developed by CANDO and the Learn the Signs, Act Early initiative as well as to listen to communities to bring back information to CANDO to be certain their work is informed to benefit the entire state.

Project CASCADE does much more than I briefly described here. If you are interested in Project CASCADE and CANDO and want to learn more, please contact me. I will be writing in The Source about the process and outcomes from this work to keep you informed. If we are coming to your community, I hope you will be able to join us and inform us about what it is like to live with autism and be an autism provider in your community.

What started in 2005 has momentum in 2012. ASC always keeps our vision set to the future. We are planning our work for 2012 right now and we promise we will advocate, inform... and share the journey.

*Betty*




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**Dr. Marcy Rose, O.D.**

North Park Vision Center, PC  
10359 Federal Boulevard, Suite 100  
Westminster, CO 80260  
Phone: 303.469.7770  
Fax: 303.469.7772  
Web: [northparkvision.com](http://northparkvision.com)



process and remedies for consumers helping all Colorado citizens. Ken has dedicated himself to helping people with autism in a very personal way, too, by becoming a co-guardian of young man with autism, Eli Cohen.

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### **Outstanding Professional of the Year Award - Dr. David Hatfield**



The Outstanding Professional of the Year Award recognized a professional who demonstrates ongoing passion and commitment, working with individuals affected by autism, while advancing the field through innovation and creativity.

Dr. David Hatfield is the CEO of Developmental Behavioral Health in Colorado Springs and provides treatment for a wide range of developmental disabilities and mental health challenges. Dr. Hatfield participated in drafting the language for the recent Health Insurance Mandated Autism Treatment (HIMAT) law and testified at the Colorado State Capitol in support of the bill. After the passage of HIMAT, David became the director of the Colorado Coalition of Autism Professionals, COCAP, the first association of its kind in the nation, to lead providers to work together to advocate for access to effective treatment and drive policy changes on behalf of people with autism and their families. David is passionate, professional and dedicated to the families he serves.

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### **Outstanding Volunteer of the Year - Heidi Loeffel**



The Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award recognized a volunteer who shows commitment, dedicating substantial time and energy to meet the wide range of needs of individuals and families affected by autism, as well as the needs of organizations involved in the field.

Heidi Loeffel, a paralegal with the law firm of Ewing and Ewing, P.C., works in health care law, for plaintiffs seeking private insurance coverage. The Colorado Bar Association named Heidi the 2010 Pro Bono Paralegal of the Year in recognition of her outstanding commitment to helping others. Although Heidi has no personal connection to Autism, she educated herself about the disorder and then wholeheartedly dedicated her time to the autism community. She participates in pro bono legal clinics at ASC, testified in support of HIMAT, has taken on many pro bono cases, confers with ASC on insurance matters, helped draft numerous HIMAT documents so that families can easily understand, meets with insurance companies, presents at seminars, analyzes insurance policies regarding compliance with HIMAT, gives advice and information to COCAP members, and more. Plus, she just ran the Colfax Marathon on behalf of ASC. Heidi volunteers with stamina, modesty and unwavering dedication.

The Compassionate Youth Award recognized youth who have demonstrated compassion, open mindedness, and encouragement to individuals with autism. These award recipients are involved in the community, provide non-judgmental support, and courageously stand up for the cause.

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**Andrea Hendrix - Compassionate Youth Award**



While the rest of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade avoided a boy with autism, Andrea Hendrix stepped forward to befriend him, at times sharing in being ridiculed and teased. In spite of this, she encouraged others to respect & befriend him. She even helped create a video model of several social situations fifth graders face. Throughout her school, she helps improve interactions toward people with autism and encourages all students to embrace friendship. Andrea's friend with autism now says, "the best part of school" is his friends.

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**Sunia Baker Breningstall - Compassionate Youth Award**



Sunia Baker Breningstall, diagnosed with Asperger's Disorder at 16, knows the frustrations of autism first hand. Her passion is to help children with autism know they are loved and respected. While volunteering at Denver Academy, she noticed a youth's frustration when no one would listen to him talk about a project. Sunia gave him her attention and interest and when he was finished he said, "Thanks, not many people listen to me." In order to also volunteer at Firefly Autism, Sunia had to walk a mile and cross busy streets by herself which frightened her. Sunia's volunteer work is so important to her she overcame her fears and now makes that journey without problems. Sunia is a presence at Autism Night at Beau Jo's Pizza providing a ray of sunshine at every event. She is a spokesperson for autism and was a keynote speaker at the Autism Society's annual luncheon. Sunia's sister Olivia writes, "Sunia has a heart of gold and is the strongest person I know. She has an endless supply of love and compassion for anyone who needs it."

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**Jordan Pontillo - Compassionate Youth Award**




Jordan Pontillo's first volunteer experience with the Autism Society was at the 2010 Face of Autism event. She now serves as a volunteer regularly, including devoting one Saturday a month at ASC's Sensory Friendly Films, ensuring individuals on the autism spectrum and their families can enjoy a movie in a social setting. Before each film, Jordan announces she is happy to speak to the manager about adjusting the lights and sound to allow families to relax and have a good experience. She has demonstrated leadership with her peers by encouraging them to volunteer and spread awareness as well. Jordan's love for

her brother on the autism spectrum helps her make everyone feel welcome and included. Jordan's compassion and support helps everyone she meets feel special.

Opening Doors Business of the Year honored a business that is dedicated to accommodating and welcoming individuals with autism and their families. *Beau Jo's Mountain Style Pizza* was the only business recognized in this category for 2011.

For those that were honored, and those that continue to make a difference in the community, ASC appreciates all that you do. Nominations for next year's event will be taken in late spring/ early summer, so please watch ASC's website at [www.AutismColorado.org](http://www.AutismColorado.org) and nominate someone who makes a difference in the lives of people with autism. ■



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**Elizabeth Burke Rydell**, Educational Program Coordinator

**Ann Folan**, MAED, Clinical Coordinator

**Alissa Rausch**, MAED, Clinician

**Jean Lira**, MAED, Clinician


**Abigail Gilbert**, MS. CCC-SLP, Clinician

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## New girl's group for girls who are struggling socially

The group will begin meeting once per month and then expand. The group is for girls aged 11-14 who would like some positive experiences with other girls, have a chance to practice interaction skills, have the opportunity to brainstorm and help each other through the challenges of middle school (or approaching middle school) and find a place to build self-concept and self-esteem. Please let me know if you know of anyone who might be interested in this new, exciting group.

Also, we are beginning a preschool group. This group will be a small group for children to practice interacting with others, learning how to effectively manage their sensory world and increase play and relationship skills. Again, please let me know if you know of anyone who might be interested – Lauren Kerstein at [lauren@laurenkerstein.com](mailto:lauren@laurenkerstein.com) or 303.284.3603.

## New Support Group in The Roaring Fork Valley

The Roaring Fork Autism Network is pleased to announce the re-formation of its **Autism/Asperger's Support Group**. This support group is open to any parent or relative of a child on the autism spectrum (or related disabilities, such as Sensory Processing Disorder) or self-advocates on the spectrum who are teens or adults.

The new support group will meet the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 pm at Glenwood Springs High School in room 1402.

The meeting will be hosted each time by at least one of three facilitators, including: Allison Johnson of the Roaring Fork Autism Network, Jill Pidcock, Family Connector from Peak Parent, and Jeff Newman, self-advocate with Asperger's. We are thrilled to welcome Jeff to the region. He comes to us from Colorado Springs where he has done outstanding outreach work for organizations similar to RFAN. He's also run multiple autism spectrum support groups. Welcome Jeff!

If you have any questions about this support group, please don't hesitate to contact (970) 309-5485 or [info@rfautism.org](mailto:info@rfautism.org).



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Email: [cover@sprlaw.net](mailto:cover@sprlaw.net)

## Transitioning Youth and Young Adults from Pediatric to Adult Health Care Systems – Free Webinar Available

The webinar was recorded and is available for viewing on AUCD's webinar library, at <http://www.aucd.org/resources/webinars.cfm>. The powerpoint slides are also available at [http://www.aucd.org/template/event.cfm?event\\_id=2746&id=379&parent=379](http://www.aucd.org/template/event.cfm?event_id=2746&id=379&parent=379)

This webinar was supported by the Health and Disability Special Interest Group (SIG) at AUCD. If you are interested in more information about the group, email [sromelczyk@aucd.org](mailto:sromelczyk@aucd.org).

## Technology for People with Autism and other Cognitive Disabilities

You can help make cell phones, computers, microwaves, and other technologies easier to use. Visit [www.facebook.com/CognitiveAccessibility](http://www.facebook.com/CognitiveAccessibility) to give your thoughts about good and bad design for people with autism and other cognitive disabilities.

You can also take a survey ([www.beneficialdesigns.com/survey](http://www.beneficialdesigns.com/survey)) about the technologies that are important to people with autism.

Want to volunteer to test products in Denver? Call Assistive Technologies at 303-315-1289 for more information. All of this is an international project managed by the RERC-ACT of the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

## Special Education Advisory Committee Seeking New Members

The Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee (CSEAC) is looking for fifteen new members – dedicated people from across Colorado who wish to advise the Colorado Department of Education's Exceptional Student Leadership Unit on the issues of special education. You can find more information about CSEAC, as well as the nomination and application form on the Committee's website: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/CSEAC.asp>.

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**Lauren H. Kerstein LCSW, P.C.**  
Child and Family Psychotherapist  
Author

5347 S. Valentia Way, Suite 120  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111  
303.284.3603

For more information, please visit our website at:  
[www.LaurenKerstein.com](http://www.LaurenKerstein.com)

For resources including **My Sensory Book**  
by Lauren Kerstein,  
please visit: [www.AutismAspergerBooks.com](http://www.AutismAspergerBooks.com)



# ASC Public Policy in Brief

## **Election News:**

The Autism Society of Colorado (ASC) supported Proposition 103 and Denver Initiative 300 in this past election. Proposition 103 (re: tax increase to fund education) failed with roughly 63.5% of Coloradoans voting no on the tax increase. Denver Initiative 300 (re: paid sick days) failed with a 64% majority voting against the measure. ASC hopes that supporting these initiatives contributed to increased dialogue and awareness about these issues throughout the state. Most importantly, ASC hopes that all of you turned out to vote and participate in local government.

## **Education Issues:**

We continue to be active participants in the School Finance Reform Partnership. This partnership brings people together from the advocacy, education, and business communities in facilitated meetings to discuss our current funding issues in Colorado's education system. The desired outcome is to discuss a holistic way to address school finance. Meetings are open to the public. For more information on the partnership or to get involved, please contact [kim@autismcolorado.org](mailto:kim@autismcolorado.org).

## **Healthcare:**

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, ASC conducted its last live Health Insurance Mandated Autism Treatment (HIMAT) Seminar of 2011. We anticipate being able to release access to the video before the end of the year. The Autism Society of Colorado would like to extend a special thank you to our presenters Jill Tappert, Heidi Loeffel, Dr. David Hatfield and Travis Blevins for their work and dedication helping families learn more about accessing this funding. We would also like to thank STE consultants and Trumpet Behavioral Health for sponsoring these seminars, making them free to families. Seminars took place in Colorado Springs, Denver, and Ft. Collins.

ASC continues to represent the interests of the community before private insurance and Medicaid.

Public Policy is confusing and overwhelming to many people, but it is a great way work for solutions. Our public policy committee draws from community members invested in improving the lives of those affected by autism. We would welcome more voices and points of view on our committee. For more information please contact [kim@autismcolorado.org](mailto:kim@autismcolorado.org).

# Autism Community Store



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## Firefly Autism

Inspiring Bright Futures

December 6th at 4 p.m. Firefly is having a celebration for Colorado Gives Day at our House on 2695 South Jersey Street. Join us for a variety of entertaining activities including:

- \*Live Music
- \*Crafts
- \*Donation Center
- \*The Denver Cupcake and Crack Spot trucks
- \*Hula Hooping and much more

If you aren't able to join us then be sure to schedule your donation to Firefly Autism for December 6th on [www.givingfirst.org/fireflyautism](http://www.givingfirst.org/fireflyautism).

# CALENDAR



## Beau Jo's Pizza and the Autism Society of Colorado invite you to Autism Family Pizza Night

Where: TWO LOCATIONS -

1. Beau Jo's on South Colorado Blvd. and Yale, Denver CO
2. Beau Jo's at 80<sup>th</sup> and Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, CO

When: First Wednesday of every month from 5:30 – 7:30p.m. Beau Jo's invites individuals and families from the Autism Society of Colorado to join them for a monthly Pizza Party in a semi-private area of their restaurant for an Autism Family Friendly dining experience.

Beau Jo's offers a Gluten Free menu, dairy-free cheese and a Healthy Menu Guide for people on specific diets. Beau Jo's will do their best to meet your specific dietary needs. Families will be responsible for the cost of their own meals.

For more information contact Kim Tenure at 720-214-0794, x15 or [kim@autismcolorado.org](mailto:kim@autismcolorado.org)



## Livin' Life Club

What: The Livin' Life Club is a place where high school and transition age kids with and without special needs come to have an awesome time together. It is a really cool place to hang out with great friends and have fun in a computer lab, play Xbox360 Kinect, and enjoy enough activities to keep anyone jazzed up.

Who: Individuals with special needs age 14-21

Where: Highpointe Center, 7313 S. Alton Way, Centennial Near I-25 and Dry Creek

When: The first and third Friday of every month from 6:30-8:30

Cost: Livin' Life relies on membership fees for financial support. Fees go toward the cost of club activities such as supplies, equipment and field trips. There are 24 events per year.

• Attendance at each club event is \$10, monthly and annual discounts available.

Scholarships available. We encourage you to attend the first time for FREE to make sure it is a good fit for your child.

Contact: Ken Ziel, Executive Director, [ken@livinlifeclub.org](mailto:ken@livinlifeclub.org)

For more information: [www.livinlifeclub.org](http://www.livinlifeclub.org)



## Sensory Friendly Films: The Muppets on December 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

Coming Next Month -

**The Adventures of Tin Tin** on January 7th.

Tickets range from \$4-6, depending on location.

AMC Entertainment® and the Autism Society of Colorado have teamed up to bring families affected by autism a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis.

With Sensory Friendly Films, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down. The "Silence is Golden" policy will not be enforced.

At Four Participating AMC Theaters:

AMC Flatiron Crossing 14  
61 W. Flatiron Crossing Dr.  
Broomfield, CO 80021  
303-256-2181

AMC Southlands16  
23955 E. Plaza Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80016  
303-627-5430

AMC Highlands Ranch 24  
103 W. Centennial Blvd.  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129  
303-471-5232  
AMC Westminster 24  
10655 Westminster Blvd.  
Westminster, CO 80020-4166  
303-439-735

Also check out a brand new offering of Sensory Friendly Films for Teens & Twenties!

**Twilight: Breaking Dawn, Part I** on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Same participating theaters as listed above.

# CALENDAR CONT.



## “Face Your Fears” Anxiety Group

JFK Partners is proud to announce our “Face Your Fears” Anxiety group, which is designed for high functioning children who are verbally fluent, have a diagnosis on the autism spectrum, and also have difficulties with anxiety. This group is the result of eight years of funded research.

### About the group:

- This group focuses on helping children and their parents identify worries, develop coping strategies, and practice “facing their fears” with guidance and support from group facilitators
- Participants will work in a large group for part of each session and then divide into child and parent groups
- Parent participation is required for this group

**Ages:** Children who are 8-14 years old

**Time:** The group will take place weekly for 14 weeks on Thursdays from 4:15-5:45pm. Start date is TBD.

**Cost:** \$80 per week – we can work with families’ insurance companies.

**Location:** JFK Partners, University of Colorado Denver, 13121 E. 17th Ave., C234, Aurora, CO 80045 (Near I-225 and Colfax on the Anschutz Medical Campus).

If you are interested: Please email Alison Galansky at [Alisonj901@aol.com](mailto:Alisonj901@aol.com) for more information and to see if this group would be a good fit for your child. You may be asked to meet with one of the group facilitators to gather more information about your child and their anxiety symptoms. Registration for the upcoming group will be handled on a first come, first serve basis, but we will also have a waiting list for our spring group.

## Pre-Registration Now Open for PEAK Parent Inclusive Education Conference

2012 Conference on Inclusive Education February 9-11, 2012

Do you want to join us for the 2012 Conference on Inclusive Education and save your seat no matter the final agenda, being sure you can lock in a guaranteed early rate? Do you need to apply for professional development funds early in the year before the funds are all committed?

Visit <https://www.peakparent.org/registration.asp> to register.

## Save the Date!

### 2012 Autism Society National Conference

July 25-28, 2012

San Diego, California – Town and Country Resort and Convention Center

**Educational sessions, Autism experts, and support...all there for you.**

**We’ve got lots of great things planned for our 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference in 2012!**

The National Conference of the Autism Society addresses the range of issues, including early intervention, education, employment, behavior, communication, social skills, biomedical interventions and others, across the entire lifespan. Bringing together the expertise and experiences of family members, professionals and individuals on the spectrum, attendees are able to learn how to more effectively advocate and obtain supports for the individual with ASD. The ultimate goal is to empower family members, individuals on the spectrum and professionals to make informed decisions.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.autism-society.org/conference](http://www.autism-society.org/conference).

Call for presentations to open in mid October.

For information on the conference contact Autism Society Conference Department at [conference@autism-society.org](mailto:conference@autism-society.org) or call 301.657.0881 ext 9010.

### Upcoming Trainings through Imagine!

#### Building Cooperative Behaviors

**FREE** monthly training entitled, “Building Cooperative Behaviors”. It is a 4 hour training offered at the Imagine! John M. Taylor Conference Center’s Middle Conference Room each month from 8:30am – 1pm by Dr. Jeff Kupfer, PhD, BCBA-D.

*Participants will learn to recognize and understand principles of behavior, distinguish between proactive and reactive methods and draw upon the cooperative behavior building methods to strengthen positive behaviors.*

December 6, 2011

Register at: [www.imagineibhs.org](http://www.imagineibhs.org)



(continued on next page)

# CALENDAR CONT.



## Ski Adventures in Snowmass

Registration for the Extreme Sports Camp's Winter program 2012 is now open!

- We focus exclusively on serving the autism spectrum community
- Beginner to advanced welcome
- All across the autism spectrum are invited to attend

Your camper will enjoy a full week of challenging activities specifically designed for a successful, rewarding experience. Our trained ski pro and buddy staff will have your camper up on skis or a snowboard during their camp experience. Have you seen the face of a child when they first learn they can ski or snowboard? We have . . . that's why we work so hard.

**Camp 1:** January 2 - 6 (New Year's Week)

**Camp 2:** January 16- 20 (MLK Week)

**Camp 3:** February 20-24 (President's Week)

**Camp 4:** March 12-16 (St. Patty's Week)

**Camp 5:** March 26 - 30 (Spring Break Skiing!)

**Camp 6:** April 2 - 6 (Light It Up Blue - World Autism Awareness in Aspen)

We hope these dates correspond to when you and your camper are able to attend. But REMEMBER even if they don't, we offer our pros and ski buddies, who are specially trained in teaching people with autism to ski, for half-day and full-day lessons during the weeks we are not conducting the program.

To register, visit <https://www.camperregsecure.com/extremesportscamplogin/>. Please call our office at 970.927.3143 with any questions or comments.

## Animal Assisted Therapy 2011-12 Professional Trainings

INTRODUCTION to Working with Animals in a Professional Setting

(4 Continuing Education Units)  
\$90 early registration / \$80 Students

Saturday January 28, 2012, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday, February 21st, 2012, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Wednesday, March 21st, 2012, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Thursday, April 19th, 2012, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

ADVANCED TRAINING:

We Highly Recommend Taking an Introduction course (above) in addition to these courses:

Working with Children with the Assistance of Animals  
(6 Units of Continuing Education)

Friday March 30th, 2012 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Cost - \$145 before 3/15/2012  
\$165 after 3/15/2012

To enroll in one or more of these workshops go to our Website and enroll online or download the enrollment form to fax or mail back.

We can also enroll you over the phone at: 720-266-4444x0

## FREE Children's Books

Stop by the Autism Society of Colorado and pick up FREE children books that were donated by a local Eagle Scout, Scott Allen. Books will be available on the following dates:  
Friday, 12/2 from 1-4pm – ASC Lakewood Office  
Monday, 12/5 from 8am-12pm - ASC Lakewood Office  
Family Pizza Night, 12/7 from 5:30-7:30pm - South Denver and Arvada Beau Jo's Locations

Books will be given on a first come first serve. Please contact Kim at 720.214.0794 x 15 or [kim@autismcolorado.org](mailto:kim@autismcolorado.org) for more information.

# CALENDAR CONT.



## Toilet Training Success!

### A Workshop for Parents of Young Children with Special Needs

Colorado State University College of Applied Human Sciences  
In collaboration with JFK Partners, University of Colorado,  
School of Medicine

**WHAT** Positive strategies to help you and your child with special needs successfully meet toilet training goals.

This workshop will be presented by Dr. Susan Hepburn, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry at UCD-Health Science Center. Dr. Hepburn is a renowned clinician and researcher for children with developmental and intellectual disabilities including Down syndrome, as well as other neurogenetic syndromes.

**WHEN** Saturday December 3, 2011  
10:00 a.m. until Noon

**WHERE?** University of Colorado,  
Anschutz Medical Campus  
Education 2 South Building  
13121 E. 17th Ave., 2nd Floor,  
Room 2201  
Aurora, CO 80045

We will send you a map with directions via email.

**COST?** This workshop is **free!** Parking is \$1 for the day.

**REGISTRATION** Space is limited! Call the Developmental Disabilities Lab at (970) 491-1969 or email at: [Julie.Hill@colostate.edu](mailto:Julie.Hill@colostate.edu) to register.

## New intervention option at RMAC!

Starting the week of January 2, 2012, RMAC will begin group interventions that everyone has been asking for and we are anxious to start. Below is information about our groups which explains the a) various group options, b) our methods and approach to groups, c) costs and d) enrollment. We welcome all families to RMAC. Please look this information over first and then contact us with any questions.

### Description of Groups

RMAC is offering four group types that represent the greatest needs for our children. Four separate and distinct groups will focus on developing necessary skills, learning styles, emotional regulation and developmental/behavioral abilities in the areas of:

- A) communication development
- B) social development
- C) motor development (TBD at a later date)
- D) school readiness

Please contact Elizabeth by phone (303-985-1133) or email at [Elizabeth@rockymountainautismcenter.com](mailto:Elizabeth@rockymountainautismcenter.com), if you have an interest in a group or need more information.

## Imagine! Behavioral Health Services

IBHS Behavioral Services provides individualized services based on your family's goals & needs. We offer assessments and evidence-based interventions under the direction of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst practicing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Services include function-based treatment, skill acquisition, behavior reduction, social skills training & verbal behavior training. We work collaboratively with individuals & families at home, in schools, work or day programs.

Serving North Metro  
Denver, Boulder &  
Broomfield Counties

- Play & Waiting Skills•
- Toilet Training•
- Food Refusals•
- Communication•



Contact Us  
303.457.5719

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL  
**Imagine!**  
Innovative Resources For Cognitive and Physical Challenges

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

Like! us on Facebook



The Autism Society of Colorado (ASC) is once again participating in **Colorado Gives Day!** We are so grateful for the wonderful response we received last year and hope to make this year's Colorado Gives Day even more successful.

As the giving season quickly approaches, we hope you will think of us as you make your charitable contributions. Our fundraising goal for this event is \$15,000. Please consider making a contribution of **\$20 to help us reach our goal.** Every donation will help fund our support, education and advocacy efforts to help improve the lives of all affected by autism.

**Making a Donation:**

Donations of all sizes will help ASC get closer to our fundraising goal – *schedule\** your donation for **Dec 6th** and your dollars will go even further with Colorado Gives Day's incentive funds.

Visit <https://www.givingfirst.org/AutismColorado> to donate for **Dec 6th** now.

*\*To schedule your donation for Dec 6th, simply check the box that says, "Schedule Donation for Colorado Gives Day."*



**Happy Thanksgiving from the Autism Society of Colorado!**

We're grateful for our wonderful supporters, the families and individuals we serve and all of our great volunteers!

From the Staff and Board of Directors, THANK YOU!



# SLA behavior therapy

A division of Trumpet Behavioral Health



structured learning aspects

## SERVICES

- Assessments
- In-home Behavioral Therapy
- Consultations
- Trainings

## WHO WE ARE

- Keelee Burtch, Ph.D.
- Catherine Bladow, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCBA
- Heather Petersen, BCBA

## FUNDING ASSOCIATES

- HCBS Children with Autism Waiver
- HCBS DD, CES and SLS Waivers
- Early Intervention Part C
- Tri-Care/Tri-West
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Cigna
- United
- Aetna
- Humana/Lifesynch

## CONTACT US

- Cherry Creek Autism Center**  
7860 E. Berry Place Suite 140  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111  
(720) 470-0578
- Colorado Springs Autism Center**  
6189 Lehman Dr. Suite 202  
Colorado Springs, CO 80918  
(719) 216-6971
- Fort Collins Autism Center**  
4025 Automation Dr. Suite B-2  
Fort Collins, CO 80525  
(970) 420-0578

[info@slatherapy.com](mailto:info@slatherapy.com) | [www.slatherapy.com](http://www.slatherapy.com)

Maximizing the Potential of the Clients We Serve

[www.tbh.com](http://www.tbh.com)

**WE, AT STE CONSULTANTS, LOVE APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS AND ARE EXCITED TO SHARE OUR TECHNOLOGY WITH CLIENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES.**



**STE Consultants specializes in:**

- ABA-based home programs for clients of all ages with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities**
- Behavior Assessment, Consultation and Support in home, school and community settings**
- Social Skills Training**

We are passionate about what we do, combining the latest research and best practices into our programs to create meaningful, behavioral, social and academic outcomes. We have worked with more than 2,500 families in California and are thrilled to bring our programs to Colorado.



Please contact Tyra Sellers, PhD, BCBA-D for more information  
720-250-7661 [tyra@steconsultants.com](mailto:tyra@steconsultants.com) [www.steconsultants.com](http://www.steconsultants.com)

LOOK! Your autism related advertisement could be seen here by thousands of families and professionals every month.

Please contact Bridget Cessar at [bridget@autismcolorado.org](mailto:bridget@autismcolorado.org) or 720.214.0794, x10 for advertising rates and schedules.

## CREATIVE PERSPECTIVES, INC.

Creative Perspectives, Inc. Autism Centers of Colorado is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2003. Our mission is to provide comprehensive, innovative, and effective interventions to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, dedication and support to their families and friends, and knowledge and encouragement to the professionals who serve them.



## OUR SERVICES

CPI provides home, center, and community-based interventions to individuals ages 18 months to 25 years. Following the Interdisciplinary Intervention Model, CPI offers a variety of programming options, all of which effectively address the diverse needs of individuals across the Spectrum of Autism.

- ~ Early Childhood Interventions, ages 18 m to 6 years
- ~ Childhood & Adolescent Interventions with school pick up
- ~ Speciality Interventions, including but not limited to:

Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Individual & Family Counseling, 1:1 and small group Social Skills Interventions, FBAs, Behavioral Consultations, and Multi-disciplinary diagnostic evaluations.

## OUR LOCATIONS:

901 Englewood Parkway, #118  
Englewood, Colorado 80110

1724 Majestic Drive, #109  
Lafayette, Colorado 80026

303 935 5200

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



## OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

Creative Perspectives, Inc. accepts the following:

Medicaid Waivers: CWA (Autism waiver), CHRP, CES, SLS, & DD waivers through all local CCBs.

Insurance: Kaiser, Anthem, Premera, United Health Care, Rocky Mountain Health Plans, and CIGNA.

CPI has 2 insurance specialists on staff to assist families with funding. Feel free to call us and see how we can help you access services!

WHERE IT ALL COMES TOGETHER.