



A Division of The Association For Community Living

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM

*Creating Opportunities, Building Relationships, Improving Lives
for children and adults with developmental disabilities since 1952*

www.communityresourcesforautism.org



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2010 Family Survey - Overview of Results

The family survey conducted in late spring 2010 is used by the Board and staff of Community Resources to plan training and activities for the Autism Center for the year beginning in July 2010. Thank you to all who gave us your input. 136 families responded to the survey, 83 via the web using Survey Monkey and 53 via hard copy version.

The children of these families were described as follows:

- **Age:** The children with autism were evenly spread across the age ranges with the exception of almost a third in the 7-10 age range and fewer than 4% in the 0-3 range.
- **Diagnosis:** 47% Autism; 29% PDD; 20% Asperger's/High Functioning; 4% Other
- **Gender:** 81% Male; 19% Female
- **Home County:** 50% Hampden; 18% Hampshire; 16% Berkshire; 11% Franklin; 5% No Response
- **Eligibility:** 18% Autism Division Only; 30% DDS Eligible; 50% No Intake/Don't Know

Note: All families with a child with ASD can access the Autism Center services. We encourage all families to do an intake with the MA Department of Developmental Services to determine eligibility for other programs and direct services.

Top Ten Services Received From Community Resources In Past Year Were:

Newsletter/webpage	91%
Information and referral	61%
Allocation of flex funding	38%
Resource center	31%
Training on autism topics	29%
Activities for children	26%
Annual conference	24%
Educational Advocacy	23%
In-depth workshops	22%
Waiver/ESE initiatives	20%

Services Identified as "Very or Somewhat Important":

Information and referral	88%
Training on autism topics	88%
Educational Advocacy Advice	86%
In-Depth Workshops/clinics	85%
Parent-to-parent connections	73%
Activities for the whole family	74%
Support group	70%
Annual Conference	69%
Sibshops	59%

(cont. page 2)

2010 Family Survey - Overview of Results (cont. from page 1)

Services That Would be “Helpful”: (% responding “Yes”)

Flexible Allocations	75%
Behavioral Support/Consultation	71%
Individualized assistance/problem-solving	66%
Individualized home supports - teaching skills	62%
Respite in own home	61%
Respite out of home	37%
ESE/DDS Prevention Initiative	34%
Adult community companion	32%

Autism Topics Rated as “Very” or “Somewhat Important”

Vision for your child’s future (Note: high % across all ages)	97%
Integrating child in community activities	93%
IEP/addressing school educational issues	93%
Skill development (e.g. self care) at home	92%
Sensory issues and interventions	92%
Social Skills/friendships	92%
Communication issues	91%
Safety in the home or community	89%
Transition to adulthood	86%
Health, Sexuality, Body Awareness	84%
Basic information about autism	82%
Visual Supports	74%
Toilet training	51%

Satisfaction with Community Resources (% rating “always or usually”)

a. Do you feel welcomed when you talk to staff?	92%
b. Do you feel listened to by our staff?	92%
c. Do you have control in planning/selection of services?	75%
d. Do you find it easy to get information?	80%
e. Are you treated with respect?	95%
f. Are you satisfied with the timeliness of our services?	85%
g. Are you satisfied with the quality of our services?	81%

These percentages are lower than in past years and may reflect the severe cuts in services made by the Department of Developmental Services. Note: 52 respondents marked Item c., “planning and selecting service”, as “Not/Applicable”.





Insight Into Autism

During this workshop we will discuss the strengths and challenges that are often experienced by individuals with autism.

Areas covered include:

diagnostic criteria ~ communication
sensory challenges ~ positive behavioral supports

We will also talk about practical strategies to facilitate growth and development, including social competencies.

Friends, family members, and support persons are encouraged to attend this valuable workshop.

Date and Time:

Tuesday, August 17, 2010
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location:

Community Resources for People with Autism
116 Pleasant Street, Ste 366
Easthampton, MA 01027

***R.S.V.P. by Friday, August 13
(413) 529-2428***

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Hole in One for Autism



Tekoa Country Club
459 Russell Road
Westfield, MA 01085
(413) 568-1636
www.tekoacc.com

Registration: 11:30 AM
Tee-off: 1:00 PM
(shot gun start)

Entry fee: \$100 per player

Dinner only:
\$40 per person
\$75 per couple

Enjoy a great day of golf!

- 18 holes of golf
- Cart
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Entertainment
- Silent Auction

Contests:

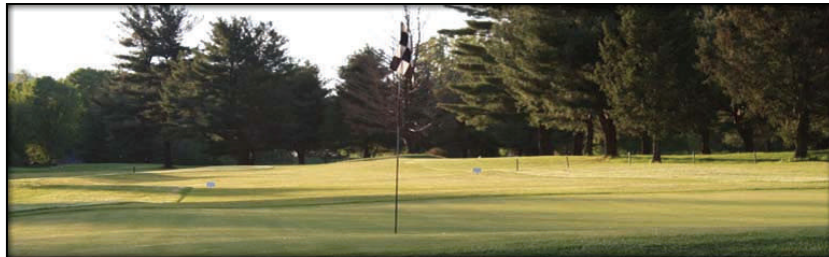
- ◆ Longest Drive
- ◆ Closest to the pin
- ◆ Hole in one

For more information, contact:

Frank McNeil
(508) 963-7253
fmcneil3@aol.com

1st Annual 4 Man Best Ball Tournament
to benefit

Community Resources for People with Autism



This year's event will be held **August 6, 2010**,
at the challenging Tekoa Country Club.

All proceeds from the tournament will go directly to
Community Resources for People with Autism,
a local non-profit supporting children with autism
and their families living in western Massachusetts.
To learn more about Community Resources, visit their
website at www.communityresourcesforautism.org

To help us properly plan for this event,
please pre-register by calling:

Frank McNeil
(508) 963-7253
fmcneil3@aol.com

Am **B** Care



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Hole in One for Autism

Registration and Sponsorship Form

I/we wish to play golf
 \$100 per person * \$400 per foursome

Player A name: _____

Player B name: _____

Player C name: _____

Player D name: _____

Dinner only
 \$40 per person * \$75 per couple
 # for dinner: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

AmBCare Ambulance
 c/o CRPA Golf Tournament
 P. O. Box 4131
 Springfield, MA 01101

For more information, please contact:

Frank McNeil
 (508) 963-7253
 fmcneil3@aol.com

Corporate Sponsor **\$5,000**
 2 FOURSOMES, 8 ADD'L DINNER TICKETS, COMPANY
 NAME ON PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

1st Foursome:
 Player A name: _____

Player B name: _____

Player C name: _____

Player D name: _____

2nd Foursome:
 Player A name: _____

Player B name: _____

Player C name: _____

Player D name: _____

Hole Sponsor Advanced **\$1,000**
 1 FOURSOME, HOLE FLAG, 4 ADD'L DINNER TICKETS,
 COMPANY NAME ON PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Player A name: _____

Player B name: _____

Player C name: _____

Player D name: _____

Hole Sponsor Mid-Level **\$500**
 HOLE FLAG, 4 ADD'L DINNER TICKETS, COMPANY
 NAME ON PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Longest Drive **\$250**
 TEE BOX SIGN, COMPANY NAME ON PROMOTIONAL
 MATERIALS

Closest to the Pin **\$250**
 TEE BOX SIGN, COMPANY NAME ON PROMOTIONAL
 MATERIALS

Hole Sponsor Basic **\$200**
 INCLUDES HOLE FLAG

Tee Box Sponsor **\$100**
 INCLUDES SIGNAGE AT TEE BOX





Saturday, September 18, 2010

SPONSORED BY:

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM
BERKSHIRE AUTISM PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

Tickets:

\$21.60 for Adults (18-64) ~ \$16.80 for Children (3-17)

Dufour bus transportation will depart from and return to
Nessacus Middle School
35 Fox Road; Dalton
Depart: 8:00 a.m. ~ Return 8:00 p.m. (approx)
(please arrive at Nessacus Middle School by 7:45 a.m.)

Space is limited ~ registration on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information and to register, contact:
Megan Sherman
413-443-4780 x15 or 413-529-2428 x123
shermanm@theassn.org

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RELAY FOR AUTISM



SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 & 24, 2010
24 HOUR RELAY — 3:00 PM TO 3:00 PM
UMASS TRACK

In 1978, Al Tardy made a one-man trek from San Francisco, CA to Florence, MA. Not only did he gain national recognition, he set a world record. Al doesn't just run for the health benefits, he runs to raise money for charity. And Community Resources is so grateful that Al has chosen our organization for his latest cause.

A 24-hour relay will be run by Al, and he needs 4 individuals to run or walk in two-mile increments with him. We all know that any kind of workout is more fun and motivating when done with friends!

Do you want to be a part of Al's 5 man team? Please call:

Nancy Farnsworth
Community Resources for People with Autism
(413) 529-2428 x 113

All proceeds to benefit:
Community Resources for People with Autism
The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation

Sponsored by:
Community Resources for People with Autism
The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation ~ University of Massachusetts

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Join us at Jericho this summer for our annual gatherings for children with autism and other developmental disabilities and their families. Jericho's gatherings are *free* and are held poolside featuring:

Swimming, games, and a cookout!

The fun begins at noon!

Dates: August 14 and 28

Space is limited, so please RSVP with the # of people attending at least a week in advance for each event.

Call Jericho at (413) 538-7450

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Summer Recreation Opportunities

Source: Massachusetts Network of Information Providers for People with Disabilities

There are a variety of indoor, outdoor and sports activities for children and adults with disabilities to participate in this summer.

[All Out Adventures in Easthampton](#) offers outdoor recreational programs that include accessible kayaking, flat water canoeing, paddling programs, hiking, and hand cycling in various locations in Massachusetts. (413) 427-8980.

[Accessible Swimming Pool](#) Lifts are available at all of the State Parks and Recreation Department's twenty swimming pools. The pools are free. Contact pool directly for information about other site factors affecting accessibility.

ARCs provide a variety of social and recreational activities for children and teens with developmental disabilities. To find your local Arc, go to [MNIP's Town / Area Cross Reference](#).

[Horseback Riding - NARHA Centers in Massachusetts](#). North American Riding Handicapped Association, Inc. for individuals with special needs, equine-assisted activities have been shown to improve muscle tone, balance, posture, coordination, motor development, as well as emotional well-being.

[Mass Dept. of Conservation & Recreational Universal Access Program](#) provides outdoor recreation opportunities in Massachusetts State Parks for visitors of all abilities. Accessibility to Massachusetts State Parks is achieved through site improvements, specialized adaptive recreation equipment, and accessible recreation [DCR events](#). An updated summer schedule will be available online soon.

[New England Wheelchair Athletic Association \(NEWAA\)](#) Volunteer organization that helps individuals with physical disabilities participate in recreational and sports activities. The NEWAA provides opportunities for athletic competition by sponsoring regional and local meets.

[Piers Park Adaptive Sailing Program](#) provides programs for disabled youth and adults aboard 23-foot sonar sailboats on a no charge basis. Serves those with amputations, paralysis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, autism, hearing impaired, sight impaired and other disabilities. Successfully integrates youth with disabilities into summer youth sailing programs. Scholarships are available for all adaptive sailing programs. Contact: Adaptive Sailing coordinator, maureen@piersparksailing.org, (617) 561-6677.

[Special Olympics Massachusetts \(SOMA\)](#). Special Olympics Massachusetts provides year round sports training and athletic competition for all persons with intellectual disabilities. Minimum age requirement is eight years of age. There is no maximum age requirement. SOMA summer games offers aquatics, athletics, gymnastics, sailing, tennis and volleyball. Go to above link to search SOMA region that covers your town. (978) 774-1501.

[Summer Camps 2010 - MNIP Fact Sheet](#)

[TOPSoccer Program](#) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with a mental or physical disability. There are 28 communities are currently involved in the TOPSoccer Program. Scroll to bottom of above link to locate towns. For additional information or would like to start a TOPSoccer Program in your community contact: John Burrill (800) 852-8111 x 237 specialprograms@mavouthsoccer.org

Town Recreation Departments. Most programs are open to participants from neighboring towns. Call your area town recreation department to find out if it has special programming for children with disabilities.

[YMCA](#)s are accessible and offer a range of classes. Click on YMCA link to find your local YMCA by zip code.

[Whole Children](#) offers movement, art, recreation and music programs for infants, children and teens of all abilities. Located in Hadley. Carrie McGee, Director. (413) 585-8010

For additional recreation programs visit our Web site at DisabilityInfo.org.



Parent & Teen Support Groups

Amherst Support Group

Local mother, Phyllis Keenan, is starting a parent support group that will be held on a week day while your children are still in school!

Meetings:

2nd & 4th Friday monthly
9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

They will take place in Amherst at the home of parent, Deb Belle. Childcare is available.

For more information, meeting location, or to express interest in this group, contact Phyllis at:
(413) 687-4191 or
keenanpf@earthlink.net

The Special Needs Support System

This group is facilitated by Stephanie and Charles McCormick, parents of a special needs child.

Support and activities for families who have a child with special needs of any kind.

Meetings: 1st and Last Tuesday monthly
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Tabernacle Baptist Church
(603 New Ludlow Road, Chicopee)

Group activities for children!

For more information and to register, please contact Stephanie:
specialchildren@yahoo.com or (413)693-5188.

Parent Support Group in Amherst

The Amherst Autism Parent group had a great first year! We will be breaking for the summer months, and start up again in September.

Dates: The 3rd Saturday of each month
September 2010 — May 2011
9/18, 10/16, 11/20, 12/18,
1/15, 2/19, 3/19, 4/16, 5/21

Time: 10:00 AM to Noon

Location: Chris & Laurel Peltier's
691 South East Street; Amherst, MA

The meeting format will alter from having formal topics to family outings. Childcare will be provided, so be sure to let us know if you will be bringing your child.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact:
Chris and Laurel Peltier at (413) 230-3287,
cnpeltier@aol.com

Spanish Parent Support Group

Join Community Resources staff member, Betsy Rivera, at our new Spanish speaking Parent Support Group.

For more information, please contact Betsy Rivera at
(413) 529-2428 ext 112 or
riverab@theassn.org

Teen Group Starting

Larry Pruner is a local father of a young woman with autism and is looking to start a social group for other teens and young adults with autism. For more information or to express interest, contact Larry Pruner at (413) 253-2145 or valleybooks@comcast.net.

Jewish Community Center—Special Needs Programming

Tons of programs and classes offered for children with special needs. Check out their current offerings at www.springfieldjcc.org

Unified Sports Program

For information about the different sports and activities offered by Unified Sports Program, visit www.unifiedsportsprogram.com

4-H Group Starting

For more information, please contact Phyllis Keenan: (413) 687-4191; keenanpf@earthlink.net

All Out Adventures

Our mission is to promote health, community and independence for people with disabilities and their family and friends through outdoor recreation. Call for summer schedule, more information and to register at (413) 527-8980; or www.alloutadventures.org.

Online Support Forum

As a part of our efforts to expand the types of services we provide and ways parents can access and share information, Community Resources for People with Autism has developed an online forum for parents, professionals, and community members to exchange information and knowledge. On this forum, openly discuss specific autism-related topics, ask other parents for advice or suggestions, share your success stories, alert families and professionals of community events, and so much more.

Visit this new online forum at www.CRPAforum.proboards.com

Autism Spectrum Disorder—Non-Credit Workshop

Explore the world of Autism. Review varying aspects including communication, behavior issues, sensory issues, and more.

Course dates: Wednesdays, June 2 through August 18, 2010; 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Course location: Berkshire Community College—Melvill Hall, Room 102

Course ID: WKS-2240-EI

For more information, contact the instructor, Aimee Erskine, at (413) 499-4660

Do You Have Something To Share?

Community Resources would love to hear your story!

- ◆ If you have a story you'd like to see featured in our newsletter, we'd love to hear it!
- ◆ If you would like to advertise a workshop, research study, community activity, or other information,

please contact, Karen Greaney at (413) 529-2428 ext. 118 or greaneyk@theasn.org

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