

THE SPECTRUM

AUGUST 2010

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ARICA PASSES WITH UNANIMOUS VOTE IN HOUSE

From AFAM: Thanks in great part to the advocacy of stakeholders like you, ARICA (HB 3809) passed the Massachusetts House of Representatives unanimously yesterday.

This was a huge step forward in the effort to pass meaningful autism insurance reform legislation in the Commonwealth. Our work, however, is not done yet. We anticipate the bill will be taken up by the Senate very shortly, perhaps as early as Wednesday.

Now more than ever, it is critical that legislators know that their constituents are looking to them to take a stand on this issue that affects so many families in the Commonwealth.

Here is How YOU Can Help:

1. Call Your State Senator Now! You can find their name and phone number [HERE](#). Ask them

to vote YES to ARICA/HB 4935 when it is taken up by the Senate.

2. Please ask everyone you know who lives in Massachusetts to call their senator as well.

We are in the final stretch of this incredible effort to pass meaningful autism insurance reform here in Massachusetts.

Thank you for doing all you can to help ensure that, at long last, autism treatment will be covered by health insurance in the Commonwealth.

Staff from ASC joined families and advocates from all over Massachusetts as they converged on the State House on July 21st to ask their legislators to move forward and pass An Act Relative to Insur-

ance Coverage for Autism (H. 3809).

A special thank you to parent Paula Grover, Danvers, who prepared 300 cookie packets with social story for advocates to deliver to their representatives.



Representative Barbara L'Italien addressing the crowd on July 21

MIKE FRANGOS COMMODORE 41ST INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE!

The Mike Frangos Commodore 41st Invitational Golf Tournament will be held on September 13th, 2010, at the Myopia Hunt Club, South Hamilton, Massachusetts.

The longest continually held charity golf tournament in the United States, the Mike Frangos Commodore Golf Tournament has raised nearly \$2 million over the years for Northeast Arc. The lead sponsor is Boston Private Bank and Trust.

For more information contact Becky Landry,

Northeast Arc Development Officer, at 978-762-4878 or blandry@ne-arc.org



Clubhouse at Myopia

AFAM BENEFIT

- Sunday, August 8 from 2-9 pm
- C-Note Music Club, Nantasket Beach, Hull
- Great music, great people, great opportunity
- Admission: \$25
- See page 5 for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ASC

Summer Coffee Hour

While our support groups are taking a summer break, we are offering a coffee hour each Tuesday (10-11 am) through August in the ASC Library. Join us to network with other parents. For more info call 978-777-9135.

Mass. Advocates for Children/Autism Project Workshop:

What is the obligation of the public school system to meet the unique needs of children with autism spectrum disorder?

Speaker: Beth Simon, Attorney-at-Law

When: Monday, September 20th, 10am-12noon

Where: 6 Southside Road, Danvers

This workshop will help parents understand the rights and procedures which ensure children with ASD receive educational opportunities which reflect competency and potential. This workshop will address current trends, legal standards, some discussion on court cases, evaluation rights and procedures, and special education service options for children with ASD. The workshop will emphasize specific education services to meet their unique needs and allow them to reach their potential. *Please RSVP by September 13th. Contact Stephanie Gammons at sgammons@ne-arc.org.*

Save the date!

LIFE QUEST: Journey to Adulthood

Sponsored by the Family Support Division, Northeast Arc

When: 2nd Tuesday of the month beginning 9/14 at 6:30

Where: 6 Southside Road

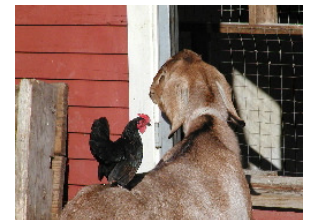
Everyone needs a guide to the future and assistance with making choices. For individuals with disabilities, the choices can be daunting, and the journey can seem overwhelming. Join us and let us guide you on the path.

First meeting of the series: *Map your trip here!*

Overview of Family Support and Getting Ready for Transitioning

Speaker: Karla Murphy, Northeast Arc Advocate

Cost: \$5; Contact Aymee Lucifora at 978-624-2381



Save the date!
8th Annual
PICNIC
October 3rd
12 noon to 2
pm
Endicott Park,
Danvers



Picnic at Endicott Park

MEDICALERT + SAFE AND SOUND

In cooperation with the Autism Society, MedicAlert developed a program designed to benefit individuals on the autism spectrum and their families via the Kid Smart membership for children 17 and under and the Advantage membership for adults 18 and above. <http://www.medicalert.org/autism>

Benefits of MedicAlert + Safe and Sound: Live 24-hour Emergency Response Services

The onsite Emergency Response Center is staffed by medically trained personnel 24 hours a

day, seven days a week. They communicate your vital medical information to emergency responders as required anytime, anywhere, in over 140 languages.

Live 24-hour Family Notification Service The family notification service will notify your family or designated contacts after we have communicated your vital information to emergency responders. This service lets your family know of the situation and where to meet you.

Emergency Medical Information Record (EMIR®) A comprehensive emergency medical information record with unlimited updates supported by trained member services associates. You can feel confident that each update will be reviewed by our trained staff who understand the importance of listing the right medical conditions and medications. .

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

- Bishop Desmond Tutu

FAMILY SUPPORT SURVEY

Parents, Primary Caregivers are Invited to Participate in a National Survey on Family Supports

Parents and primary caregivers of youth with disabilities between the ages of 12 and 22 are encouraged to participate in a national research study conducted by the Family Advocacy and Support Training (FAST) Project. The National Family Support Survey is available at fastfamily-support.org through Aug. 13, 2010. All answers are confi-

dential. Survey results will help the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities, parent centers, and researchers understand the information and supports families need to prepare for moving into adulthood. They also may help to inform program development for youth with disabilities in the future. The FAST Project is funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) as a Project of National Significance. FAST is a

project of PACER Center in Minnesota in collaboration with parent centers throughout the United States and territories and with the help of the University of Minnesota. <http://www.fastfamilysupport.org/>

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Tots 'n Tech Research Institute Offers Tips for Using Assistive Technology with Young Children

The appropriate use of simple adaptations and assistive technology (AT) can support inclusion and natural learning opportunities for young children with disabilities. The Tots 'n Tech Research Institute publishes an online newsletter that provides many

useful tips on how to adapt everyday materials to enhance the participation of infants and toddlers in a variety of daily activities and routines. The feature article of the latest issue is, "Using Assistive Technology to Support Socialization." Past issues also are available. [More](http://tnt.asu.edu/home/news) <http://tnt.asu.edu/home/news>



LIFEMAP

The Asperger's Association of New England is piloting a new program-- The Life Management Assistance Program (LifeMAP) will provide assistance to adults living with Asperger's syndrome who are not eligible for DDS services. This assistance will take the form of intensive, individualized coaching. The goal of LifeMAP will ultimately be to empower adults with AS and increase their level of independence. Participants will receive up to four hours of personal-

ized coaching per week. Clients and coaches will set concrete, obtainable goals to work on. This can take the form of, but will not be limited to organizing one's papers, cleaning one's apartment, connecting to new social groups, support to make phone calls, pay bills, etc. Call 617-393-3824 ext. 310 to request an application. For more information, http://www.aane.org/aane_services/services_for_adults.html



FYI

Center on Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning is a five-year project designed to strengthen the capacity of Head Start and child care programs to improve the social and emotional outcomes of young children. Website has many training modules and strategies that would be of interest to parents and other caregivers of

young children. <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/resources/strategies.html>

Melmark New England is offering a Summer Training Series for Professionals

<http://www.melmarkne.org/MNESummerTraining2010Reg.pdf>

Or www.melmarkne.org/html/training.html

Save the Date!
41st Annual
Golf
Tournament to
benefit
Northeast Arc
Sept. 13th

Our sincerest condolences to
 The Neenan Family of Peabody
 On the recent loss of their beloved daughter and sister
 Allison Herman

AFAM BENEFIT

For your summer pleasure, on Sunday, August 8th, AFAM has planned a fabulous event at the C-Note Music Club at Nantasket Beach (159 Nantasket Ave., Hull), from 2 to 9 pm, with a terrific group of bands. Thanks to the generosity of the bands and club owner, Charlie Fruzzetti, this event will raise funds to support AFAM's ongoing advocacy. Four terrific bands will

play—J Place, State of Mind, The Groove Doctors, and Blue Revival.

Doors open at 1 pm, bands will perform from 2-9 pm. Food, silent auction and a 50/50 raffle.

Admission: \$25. Advance tickets available by check or credit card: AFAM, 217 South St, Waltham, Ma 02453. Tickets also available at the door.

Contact Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts at 781-891-6270



AUGUST 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Coffee hr. 10 am	4	5	6	7
8 AFAM Benefit in Hull	9	10 Coffee hour 10am	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Coffee hr. 10 am	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Coffee hr. 10am	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Coffee hour 10 am				

Check our website!

www.NE-arcAutismSupportCenter.org

THE AUTISM SUPPORT CENTER

Center for Developmental Excellence

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NortheastArc

Life-Long Support for People with Disabilities

P A R E N T S A N D P R O F E S S I O N A L S I N
P A R T N E R S H I P

The Autism Support Center empowers families who have a member with autism or related disorder by providing current, accurate, and unbiased information about autism, services, referrals, resources, and research trends. In addition, the ASC will provide educational opportunities; promote networking; increase community awareness; and advocate for services and opportunities.

THE SPECTRUM

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978-777-9135 or 800-7-AUTISM (in Eastern MA)

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www.ne-arc-autism-support-center.org

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Anyone wishing to contribute information for this newsletter should send it to asc@ne-arc.org or to our mailing address above. Parent contribu-

tions are encouraged. *Announcements are included as space is available.*

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