



ANNUAL REPORT

2013

(Presented June 12th, 2014)

The Autism Society Greater Harrisburg Area is a registered 501(c) (3) Non-profit Incorporation and Tax exempt charitable organization.

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MISSION STATEMENT

To promote opportunities for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) to be a part of, and participate in the same valued experiences and life events as do other citizens.

This is accomplished by:

- Providing the latest information on autism; approaches, techniques, services and research to our membership and the community.
- Helping to ensure access to supports, education, and services needed by persons with autism spectrum disorders, to enhance their capability to their fullest potential.
- Advocating for the interests of our members; children and adults with autism, their family members and adults that work with them.
- Empowering families who are supporting someone with an autism spectrum disorder.
- Fostering relationships that build more informed communities.
- Soliciting and receiving funds for the accomplishment of the above purposes.

AUTISM SOCIETY MISSION AND VISION



The Mission and Vision of the Autism Society (formerly Autism Society of America) were updated during the past couple of years and a new strategic plan was developed. As an affiliate, the Autism Society Greater Harrisburg Area is in the process of aligning with this new plan and revised mission. The information below is taken from the Autism Society's national website (www.autism-society.org) in order to better inform you of these changes and revisions.

Our Mission

Improving the lives of all affected by autism

Our Vision

The Autism Society is the leading voice and resource of the entire autism community in education, advocacy, services, research and support. The Autism Society is committed to meaningful participation and self-determination in all aspects of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. The Autism Society accomplishes its ongoing mission through close collaboration with a successful network of affiliates, members and supporters.

Autism Society Mission Areas – Core Competencies

The development of five “core competencies” as a means to implement the Autism Society's Mission and Vision is proposed in the Autism Society's new strategic plan. Those areas include:

Advocacy

- Proactively informing, influencing, guiding and developing public policy at the federal, state and local levels in collaboration with the greater disability community
- Advocating for multi-disciplined approaches to autism research
- Advocating for inclusion, participation and self-determination in all aspects of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families

Education

- Providing accessible and relevant information that supports stakeholder ability to make informed choices
- Maintaining an authoritative body of autism information and knowledge
- Supporting proactive community outreach and education

Support

- Encouraging and fostering a strong grassroots network that is an integral part of a larger community
- Creating local connections

Services

- Building capacity within local communities for service delivery to individuals and their families

Research

- Translating research results into applied practice in everyday lives
- Identifying and promoting research that will improve the lives of people on the autism spectrum and their families

AFFILIATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Operations

- Changed (updated) our incorporated name to reflect the restructuring in the national Autism Society. Officially we are the Autism Society Greater Harrisburg Area.
- Purchased new registration software from Blackbaud which facilitated more efficient event registration and allowed ASGHA to receive increased online donations. Participants have the option to create personalized websites and have donations credited directly to their goal.
- Updates were made to sections on our AS website (www.autismharrisburg.org) to reflect current statistics and information. This included changes to our organization name as directed by the national office of the Autism Society.
- Maintained Non-profit 501(c) (3) Incorporation status and Tax exempt status.
- Board Treasurer continued process of refining our financial systems with guidance from our CPA, Karen Straub of Hartman & Scheuchenzuber, CPAs.
- Implemented new budget for 2013 that aligns more closely with updates and changes made to financial system; prepared budget for 2014
- Added PayPal and Intuit on our website instead of Network for Good allowing more online donation options. Intuit Credit Card reader available to use during events.

Fundraising

ASGHA Fundraisers

- *Hoss's* restaurant in Mechanicsburg restaurant for Feb 21. 20% of total amount of meals will be donated to ASGHA; if we spend \$1200 then we get 25%. 188.66 received from the evening!
- Giant Gift Cards. Giant donates 5% of the purchased gift cards back to the charitable organization. We have purchased cards in several different denominations and continue to sell them at fundraisers and events.
- 8th Annual Logan's Run & Walk for Autism, Saturday, April 6th. 1430 walkers, 281 runners registered to participate. Total funds raised = \$91,759.53. Zach Pauley's Autism Awareness signs available for purchase. 23 vendors were present. Chasing Rainbows brought a pony for kids to pet.
- Autism Awareness items sold during events, fairs, and fundraisers: magnets, jewelry, silicone bracelets, t-shirts, and various other items.
- In-kind donations for our events; food, water, gift certificates, printing, articles for raffle prizes etc.
- Monetary donations received via individual bequests and memorial designations. Continued designation of the ASGHA as a United Way recipient.

Other Organizations/Individuals' Fundraising Events

- *Brain Balance* "Denny's" restaurant fundraiser. In addition to donating a percentage of patrons' dinner costs, Denny's restaurants in Carlisle, York, and Mechanicsburg, sold paper autism ribbons for \$1. Total amount raised was \$295.29.
- *Hershey Bears Booster Club* Broomball Charity game March 30th. Over \$900 was raised at the Klick Lewis Arena by the raffle alone. A check for \$3500.00 was presented at the Senators' game in August.
- *Toys 'R' Us – Babies 'R' Us* on the Carlisle Pike raised around \$300 in their company's annual Penny War and chose ASGHA as their charity.

- *Om My Yoga*, April 13th. This Yoga studio held classes for autistic children and siblings to raise funds for the ASGHA.
- *Get On Board* April 19-21. Get On Board is a skateboard art project created by Ray Young of Rayzor Tattoos in Steelton. Skate decks containing original designs painted by various tattoo artists are auctioned off. First fundraiser was held at the Derby/Ink Invitational at the Farm Show complex in April; \$820 was raised. *Get On Board* raised over \$4000 in 2013 at additional events: Grind Lab June 8th, Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center (HMAC), Aug 30th (\$1505), Kingdom Ink Tattoo Studio in Lititz, Oct 11th (\$950), Little Amps Coffee House, Dec 20th.
- Two other groups heard about us through *Rayzor Tattoos/Get On Board*. *Derby Skins*, a roller derby apparel company, raised \$109.00 by donating 10 % of one day's sales. The *Modified Dolls* is a non-profit group seeking to demolish negative stereotypes associated with being a 'modified' woman by doing charity work. They approached Rayzor Tattoos and co-hosted a fundraiser in December giving ASGHA the proceeds.
- *CrossFit 717* April 20th. The owner's son (Alex) has Autism, and his name was used for their T-shirt promotion: Alex- Awareness Love Education Xfit. T-shirt sales, WOD charges and sponsorships resulted in \$6,075 being raised for the ASGHA.
- *Zumbathon for Autism*. Instructors Lisa, Leticia & Esther of Gold's Gym in Camp Hill donated their time and helped raise \$400.00.
- *Harrisburg Lunatics* Roller Hockey game Dec 21st. The Stadium Studio of Harrisburg supervised the silent auction of game jerseys and sports memorabilia. Over \$1,500.00 was raised at the event.
- *Freedom Guard/Dance*: multiple fundraisers until April 2014. Nov 20th was the first one at Rita's Italian Ice (\$50), second one is Dec 11th. They will present total in April 2014.
- *JFC staffing* – President Esther Feirick was one of three presenters on Dec 6th seeking the opportunity to be named JFC's corporate charity for 2014. If selected, JFC would organize fundraisers for us and volunteer at ASGHA events and fundraisers.

Advocacy

- AS national conference featured Governor Corbett as main speaker. ASGHA president, Esther Feirick interacted with representative from AS national to discuss PA politics, polices, and the impact recent decisions have had on the Autism Community.
- BSC Licensing issue. Problems with completing BSC applications along with the strict deadline were discussed by the Board. Vice President Kathleen Haigh met with Senator Vance to discuss the problem and to advocate for extension of the deadline and pressure the State Board of Medicine to approve applications. Progress and updates presented at Support & Education meetings, the List Serv and other ASGHA media.
- ASGHA continues to provide opportunities for AS members to influence policy makers via our List Serv, Facebook Page, Google+ Page, and Website. Legislative updates and messages containing links to letters and petitions are forwarded through these media.
- Member visits to local legislators continue to be an effective means of enhancing autism awareness and educate legislators on how current issues affect our families and communities.
- Directors and Officers use opportunities provided through media interviews to increase autism awareness in the general public and to advocate on legislation and issues impacting our autism community.

Education

- ASGHA Website contains links and documents providing information on Autism, local resources, and other information.

- Parent Handbook available on the website. Handbook contains information regarding ASD evaluations, steps to take after receiving ASD diagnosis, services, providers, agencies, and other resources.
- ASGHA attends various health fairs and educational and fundraising events throughout the year. A booth or table is provided where autism related information is displayed and distributed, including information about the Autism Society Greater Harrisburg Area. 2013 events: Annual CPARC conference (Arc of Cumberland and Perry Counties), 20th NHS Autism Awareness Craft Fair, “Autism Night” at the Senators, Living well with disabilities expo August 24-25 in Lancaster.
- ASGHA directors are often invited to speak about Autism at conferences, health fairs, and educational seminars throughout the year.
- Monthly Support & Education meetings offering a range of topics including treatment issues, professional and community resources, and legislation concerns.
- Through a grant to CPARC (Arc of Cumberland/Perry County), the ASGH A helped fund educational sessions for parents with children on the spectrum in Carlisle on Sept 19 & 26 and October 3rd & 10th. Our financial support helped insure that the sessions would be free for the general public.
- Grant monies were also used to sponsor the “Everyone Can Communicate” Training on Oct 15th at the Gander Mountain store.

Support

Fostering grassroots network

- On-going quarterly publication of the ASGHA newsletter; links to newsletter also posted on the ASGHA website.
- Encouraging local support/social groups: Asperger’s support group; Spectrum Friends of Harrisburg, and Lebanon; Teen social group during the monthly Support & Education meetings.
- Frequent sharing of ideas, information, support and resources in our autism community via the ASGHA List Serv (Yahoo email group), Facebook Page, and Google+ Page.

Creating local connections

- Two giant wooden puzzle pieces were given to the Community Services Group in Harrisburg along with ASGHA brochures and literature per the request of employee Leaha Dorsey. The puzzle pieces are being used to display autism information and increase awareness.
- ASGHA continues its association with the NHS school in Carlisle, once again providing grant monies for their 20th Autism Awareness Craft Fair.
- *Star Fish Project.* Eagle Scout Nathen Feldgus chose to create an Improv group as his community project. For 2 months his Star Fish Project helped ASD students learn improvisation skills, form new friendships, and improve their social skills. The friendships started during this project still exist today.
- *Get on Board.* Get On Board is a skateboard art project created by Ray Young of Rayzor Tattoos in Steelton. Rayzor Tattoos purchased skate decks and gave them to tattoo artists around the USA who painted original designs on the decks. The finished decks were then donated for sale (silent auction). The first Get On Board fundraiser occurred during the Derby/Ink Invitational at the Farm Show complex April 19-21; \$820 was raised. Ray, a skateboarding pro, used his contacts in the tattoo and skating worlds to develop the unique Get on Board fundraising events. He continues to come up with new ideas and wants to develop a skateboard clinic for autistic children.

- *Thrivent Financial.* Ron VanSteenaker is a financial advisor with Thrivent Financial. Ron learned about Autism through his neighbors' children and subsequently met with board member Kristie Dionne and also Esther Feirick to share information about ASGHA and the types of events we sponsor, and to discuss potential fundraising ideas.
- ASGHA was able to provide a letter of support for Leg Up Farms in York, enabling them to run discounted sessions at the farm for individuals on the spectrum.

Strengthening families-Social Opportunities

- *Annual Sensory Picnic*, Sunday May 19th, offers the entire family an opportunity to have fun together. 77 families registered to enjoy the free food and multiple recreational activities provided by the ASGHA.
- *Autism Night at Senators*, Saturday, August 17th. Autism Society members' tickets and food Vouchers were covered by ASGHA. Several other autism-related agencies also had information tables at the event.
- *Pool Party.* Two parties were planned this year, one in Harrisburg and one in Mechanicsburg. The families who attended had a great time swimming, eating pizza, and hanging out with friends.
- *Afternoon of Inspiration* (bi-annual event), Nov 3rd featuring Michael John Carley, the founder of GRASP. Superb afternoon at the Clarion Hotel-Conference Center, complete with hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and a remarkable presentation. Michael John Carley discussed Autism from the perspective of someone on the spectrum and challenged us to think differently about what people on the spectrum can and want to accomplish.
- *Holiday Party*, Dec 15th, First Church of God Community Center, Mechanicsburg. Families enjoy food, crafts, and raffle prizes while waiting their turn to receive their gifts from Santa. An inflatable globe provided families the chance to get a family photo.

Services & Research

- *Respite.* Cumberland-Perry Respite Services, administered by UCP/CPARC, are supported by a grant from ASGHA. Grant monies are designated for respite service scholarships for Autism Society members.
- *Summer Camp.* ASGHA collaborated with Easter Seals, providing grant monies for campers to attend the ACES camp for Cumberland County. The Camp ran for 2 weeks at the barn at Lower Allen Park. Camps like this help to bridge the gaps left by the reduction in STAP and other BHRIS services.
- *Social Groups.* Social groups are an important part of ASD life. ASGHA financially supports the Asperger's Support Group in Harrisburg, the Spectrum Friends adult social groups in Harrisburg and Lebanon, and the ASGHA teen group.
- *P.R.A.Y.* Providing Relief for Autistic Youth Inc. is a new non-profit organization based in Williamsport, Maryland. P.R.A.Y. has built partnerships with various organizations in the MD area, and in Franklin County, PA. ASGHA gave grant monies to P.R.A.Y. for holiday gift bags for local families.
- Autism Society National conference. A representative from the ASGHA board attends the conference and acts as delegate for our Affiliate.

AUTISM SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

The Autism Society Greater Harrisburg Area Board of Directors 2013:

Jan-June 2013*

- Leora Appleby/Mary Brown (Franklin County)
- Helen Becker (stepped down 03/13)
- Donna Brobst (Franklin County)
- Judy Chabanik
- Sherry Christian
- Kristie Dionne
- Annette Elliot
- Esther Feirick
- Diana Fishlock
- Betsie Flynn
- Lisa Fulton
- Kathleen Haigh
- Tom Hassel
- Donna LeFevre
- Deb Mehaffie
- Bill Parker
- Cindy Stauffer
- Delilah Wilcox

June-December 2013*

- Leora Appleby (Franklin County)
- Donna Brobst (Franklin County; stepped down 3/14)
- Judy Chabanik
- Sherry Christian/Tammy Strayer
- Kristie Dionne
- Esther Feirick
- Gary Feldman (stepped down 4/14)
- Diana Fishlock
- Betsie Flynn
- Lisa Fulton
- Kathleen Haigh
- Tom Hassel
- Donna LeFevre
- Mary Ann Lucas
- Deb Mehaffie
- Cindy Stauffer
- Delilah Wilcox

The Autism Society Greater Harrisburg Area Officers for 2013:

- Esther Feirick, President
- Kathleen Haigh, Vice-President
- Annette Elliot, Secretary (Vacant as of June 2013)
- Diana Fishlock, Treasurer

*A Director's term of office runs from June to June rather than the calendar year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Profit and Loss Statement, January - December 2013

Income	Total	Expenses	Total
4200 Donations	368.00	6500 Grants Given	4,565.00
4205 Individual Donations	1,154.60	6530 Grants-- carry over from last year	2,450.00
4210 Organization Donations	25,217.46	6550 Respite Grant	6,000.00
4240 Memorials	2,202.85	7000 Operational Expenses	2,083.88
4250 United Way	1,807.29	7003 Bank Charges	37.00
4255 Network for Good	47.50	7015 Accounting fees	4,455.00
4600 Donations/raffle/from events	258.00	7020 Office Expense	540.04
4601 Afternoon Inspiration	7,871.24	7025 Storage Cube	1,468.80
4608 Sensory Picnic	2,015.00	7028 Liability Insurance	250.00
4609 Pool Party	15.00	7029 State Certification	105.00
Total 4600 Donations/raffle/events	10,159.24	7050 D&O Insurance	1,131.00
Total 4200 Donations	40,956.94	7055 National Conference Expenses	469.27
4500 Fundraising	700.00	7070 Admin Assistant	3,487.50
4510 Walk Income	91,759.53	7090 Website	215.40
4520 Hoss's Fundraiser	188.66	Total 7000 Operational Expenses	14,242.89
4560 Giant gift card sales	1,150.00	8800 Social Opportunity Expense	307.97
4570 Zumbathon	358.00	8801 Afternoon Inspiration	10,935.55
Total 4500 Fundraising	94,156.19	8802 Adult Social Group	4,255.09
4800 Sales		8807 Sensory Picnic	7,005.64
4810 Sales - Awareness Products	2,684.80	8820 Holiday Party	11,663.63
4811 Hoodies	404.00	8830 Pool Party	75.00
4812 Sales of Long-sleeved T-shirts	1,057.00	8850 Senator's Game	1,700.00
Total 4810 Sales - Awareness Products	4,145.80	Total 8800 Social Opportunity Exp	35,942.88
Total 4800 Sales	4,145.80	9010 Monthly Support & Education	5,982.31
4885 Refunds/Discounts Given	1,131.21	9050 Publication and postage	2,832.01
4990 Interest Income	80.52	9070 Fundraising Expense	17.11
Total Income	\$140,470.66	9074 Get on Board	202.55
		9075 Walk Expense	18,416.50
		9078 Giant Gift Card costs	1,900.00
		Total 9070 Fundraising Expense	20,536.16
Total Income	\$140,470.66	9080 Awareness	1,018.50
Total Expenses	\$ 98,027.90	9081 Awareness Products to sell	3,357.10
Net Income	\$ 42,442.76	9082 Long-sleeved T-shirts	1,000.00
		9083 Cost of Sales	101.05
		Total 9081 Awareness Products	4,458.15
		Total 9080 Awareness	5,476.65
		Total Expenses	\$98,027.90