

APRIL 2024



Inside you'll find

COMMUNITY DAY

Empanada Fundraiser

collaborations

GRAND OPENING

Garden
Program Info



Volunteer Info

COMMUNITY ROCKSTARS!

April is our month!

We don't care if it's puzzle pieces, the infinity sign, the spectrum colors, a loop, about awareness or acceptance.



We care that more awareness, acceptance, education, and inclusion is happening in our area year round and not only in April.



AND IT'S A GOOD THING! Great, in fact!



Resources and support are available and we're here to help.



Paper Airplane Contest!



Check us out on our website, parentingautismunited.org!

3 Main Street, Dallas, PA 18612 . 570-392-3167 . parentingautismunited@gmail.com

PROGRAM & EVENT SCHEDULE

Our schedule is open to families, professionals, & anyone who'd like to meet at the office for support, resources, or trainings. Please email us at parentingautismunited@gmail.com

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3

4

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Funny Wine Girl Podcast
Airs!

Community Day & Art Auction!
10-2

7

8

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10

11

12

13

Chalk Day at Misericordia
12-2



spring cleanup

14

15

16

17

18

19

20



spring cleanup

LAST DAY TO ORDER EMPANADAS!

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

Teen Social at Coffee Inclusive 10AM
Dragon Tales at PAInclusive 11AM

Earth Day



Golden Trainings with Brooke 'Engaging' 6pm

Paper Airplane Contest Videos Due

PAU Dallas GRAND OPENING! 10-2 & 5-7

Photo Fundraiser with Studio Triya

28

29

30

1

2

3

4

Teen Social at Holy Redeemer 6-7:30

AANEPA Walk 9-12

COMMUNITY

Day & SILENT ART AUCTION

SUPPORTING AUTISM

Resources, Support, & FUN!!!

Free for vendors and participants.

s a t

April 6th

10-2

Bringing our community together to celebrate Autism Awareness Month and the creativity and diversity from local artists of all ages and abilities.

At Wilkes-Barre Area High School located at
2021 Wolfpack Wy, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705

Artists go to this link

<https://bit.ly/artPAU24>

Vendors, Families,
Individuals, Volunteers,
and others go to this link

<https://bit.ly/PAUCommDay24>

or visit our website,
parentingautismunited.org

REGISTER



Still Accepting Art Donations for the PAU **SILENT ART AUCTION**

submission
deadline

April 5th

Most mediums accepted!

All information is located on the registration form. Classrooms & group projects encouraged!

Any questions can be emailed to

Bidding can be done in-person or virtually through Facebook with current bids being updated regularly.

Art will be posted in **one** post on the FB event page and bids will be taken until 1:30pm.

Payment arrangements must be made within 24 hours of notification, or the art will go to the next highest bidder.

At Wilkes-Barre Area High School located at
2021 Wolfpack Wy, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705

Artists go to this link

<https://bit.ly/artPAU24>

To bid on art items, go to this
Facebook Event Page

<https://fb.me/e/5VBtuKukJ>

or visit our website,
parentingautismunited.org

SUBMIT HERE



ALUM/MCGOWAN PRESENTS:

Chalk Day at Mis

Sunday, April 7th: 12-2PM

118 Misericordia Way

Basketball Courts

Get involved to celebrate Autism Awareness by creating fun art together! For all ages & abilities!



QUESTIONS?

PARENTINGAUTISMUNITED@GMAIL.COM

OLSONGRR@MISERICORDIA.EDU



**Help us raise
30K
in
30 days!**

This month you can help us raise money for PAU by donating, sponsoring, or participating in our fundraisers! Proceeds cover all operating expenses for the 2024 year!

**30
FOR
30**

Speakin' of 30 for 30...

**Check out this AMAZING story featured on ESPN about Mikey Brannigan!
[Click here to view!](#)**



HEARTS FOR SALE!

We've all seen them at gas stations, the drive-thru, & restaurants. Help us by taking a stack and selling them during April! Classrooms, businesses, or ANYWHERE!

[Sign up here](#) to get your stack of 10 or more!

parentingautismunited.org #475


Autism Awareness & Acceptance

NAME GOES HERE

supporting **PA** **AUTISM** **UNITED**

3 Main St. Dallas, PA

Circle Donation Amount
\$1 - \$5 - \$10



venmo

EMPANADA FUNDRAISER



Parenting Autism United is a local non-profit that provides support, programs, and events for our community. Programs are open to all individuals to promote inclusion, awareness, acceptance, education, and FUN tailored to autism!

Contact us for more information or visit our website and social media pages.

Email: parentingautismunited@gmail.com . Website: parentingautismunited.org

Place your order online today or by either scanning this QR code or by [visiting our website!](#)



All orders are due by Thur, 4/19

Pick-up & Delivery from 4/25 - 5/04

Pick-up location is at the

**Parenting Autism United office located at
3 Main Street, Dallas PA 18612.**

This fundraiser supports operating costs for 2024. A full list of ingredients can be found on the Empanada Order Form on the PAU website parentingautismunited.org or by using the QR code above.

Payment is due with order form.



**New
flavor
ALERT!**



1 empanada - \$2
3 empanadas - \$5

Mark how many of each flavor.

Beef-n-chz	_____
Ckn-n-chz	_____
Pepperoni-n-mozz	_____
Cheeseburger	_____
Spinach Dip	_____
Buffalo Ckn	_____
Apple Caramel	_____
Pineapple	_____
Total	_____

Checks are made payable to
Parenting Autism United



GRAND OPENING

FRI . 4/26 . 10AM

3 MAIN STREET, DALLAS

Join us in celebrating our new location being
'officially' open!

Check out the new space, learn about our programs, enjoy light refreshments &
how PAU plans to fully immerse itself in the Dallas community by being in the
heart of the Back Mountain!

Friday, 4/26, from 10am-2pm and 5-7pm

Parenting Autism United Fundraiser

ARCH BY
BALLOON
EVENTS
BY
ESTHER



WILD SOUL CREATIVE
PATRICIA THIEL PHOTOGRAPHY
KRISTIN MAK PHOTOGRAPHY
J.LEE PHOTOGRAPHY



HOSTED BY STUDIO TRIYA AND
BROOKE PERREGO
APRIL 27TH

Studio Triya is happy to be a part of this fundraiser for the second year! The Studio Triya photographers are teaming up with Brooke Perrego to raise money for Parenting Autism United.

You can book with the photographer of your choice!
Kristen Mak Photography - Patricia Thiel Photography -
J.Lee Photography LLC - Wild Soul Creative Photography

We will also be offering day of walk-in spots! There will be a simple boho bed set, and a beautiful balloon arch by Balloon Events by Esther. And don't forget about all the raffles! One of them will be an opportunity to win a free session!

Follow the event page here to see everything we'll be offering: <https://fb.me/e/55nV4N1ii>
Please share! Book your spot here! <https://book.usesession.com/s/osD72U-G3>



SUNDAY



4/21 10am

Join PAU for a teen social at Coffee Inclusive!

One drink will be purchased from PAU for teens participating. Limited availability.

[Register here!](#)

4/21 11am

Dragon Tales at PAinclusive!

Enjoy a reading of 'All My Stripes' to celebrate Autism Awareness Month! Crafts after the reading. Which animal do you think we'll be dressed as???

[Register here!](#)

Use main entrance to enter. Parking is in either student or faculty parking lots.



Teen Social

at Holy Redeemer High School's
**Doreen Dougherty Digital
Learning Center**

159 S Pennsylvania Ave Wilkes-Barre

Teens coming together to socialize, play games, and working on general social skills during Autism Awareness Month!

Buddy/Mentor Program Info provided and light refreshments!

[RSVP Here!](#)

We LOVE to work with our community!

If you are a school district or business and would be interested in partnering with PAU to have fun events at your location, email us today!

We can host any kind of event like a JENGA Tournament, dance-a-thon, social group, buddy game days, and so much more!!!

Tell us what you want to do and together we can make it happen!

Email us at

parentingautismunited@gmail.com



Tuesday April 30th 6-7:30





Check out our podcast interview with Funny Wine Girl this week!

Airing on April 4th!



Jeannine Luby

Thank you Jeannine, Bobby, and Nina!!



CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Volunteers Needed STUDENTS Businesses CLUBS families

We're so excited to bring some beauty to the Back Mountain!

Volunteers are needed on any 'nice' day in April to help prep the side of the building facing the bank first. That's where the main garden will be.

Then we'll also be cleaning up along Toby Creek on both sides of the fence with a plan of planting wild flower sections full of native pollinators.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome! The only requirement is to bring your own gloves if you want to wear them.

Sign up here and we'll get ready for a beautiful summer!

EARTH DAY april 22nd



Taking Flight For
Autism Awareness Month
with a



PAPER AIRPLANE CONTEST!

Supporting Parenting Autism United

In the month of April, we're giving a nod to Dr. Temple Grandin, famous author and scientist on the autism spectrum, and her book that encourages kids to make things with their hands. Particularly, paper airplanes!

The contest is simple. It costs \$1 per person to play.

Using regular computer printing paper size 8.5 x 11.

Measuring distance only on a flat surface, indoors.

(Ex. In a classroom or breakroom, etc. Not from the top of the bleachers. That would be really cool though, we'll have different categories next year!)

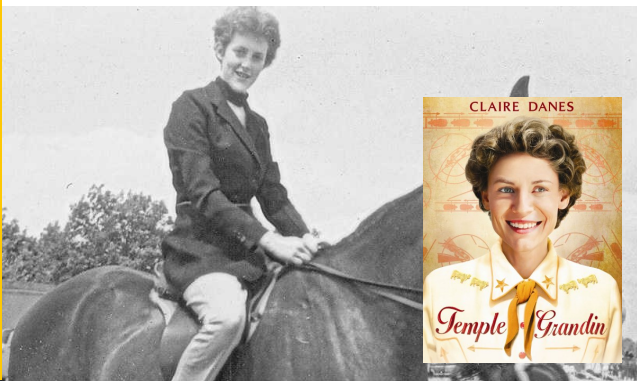
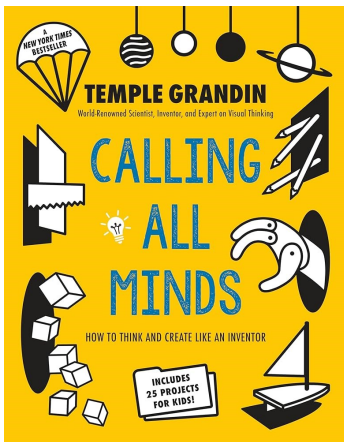
Classrooms - take the winner from the group and submit their distance via email. Certificates will be emailed for teachers to give to winners of classrooms that participate.

Businesses, individuals, & clubs - Send in farthest distance via email as well & winners will also receive certificates. Come on all you 'The Office' fans! Channel your inner *Michael Scott*!

Winners must send a video or link to PAU with their final flight and distance by 4/26. Video can be of the first flight or subsequent flights for the final round. We recommend recording the first one just in case, lol.

**Videos will be compiled and aired on Facebook
APRIL 30th AT NOON
where the winner will be shown at the end of the clip!**

1st, 2nd, & 3rd all receive trophies!



Entry fees can be dropped off, sent via check made out to Parenting Autism United, and mailed to 3 Main St, Dallas, PA 18612, or sent via Venmo. Thank you for your support & making amazing paper airplanes!!! - PAU

UNFILTERED

Extreme Measures

When do you know the right time to make BIG changes? There's never a good time if you're planning it out it seems. What happened in our situation made us stop on a dime and look really hard at where we want our son's life to go and what we were willing to do to get him there.

We follow the behavior plans, mostly. The plans are implemented when they can be, so if we're sick, downstairs doing laundry, cleaning up whatever mess the dogs made, or working on a deadline for the office, it's almost impossible to follow the plan ALL the time.

What we saw happen with this is that nothing changes. If everyone isn't following the plan, THE SAME WAY TOO, it isn't going to work. Plain and simple. Our son was able to manipulate each person in different situations so he had complete control of everything in his space. I see it. The therapists do too, but it's really hard to implement a plan when there's so many people in the mix on a good day.

Is that an excuse? It was mine. Can I just go rogue and do it on my own? Yeah, but my marriage, relationship with my other child, and parts of myself would suffer greatly. So, going rogue will have to wait for retail therapy instead.

The straw that broke the camel's back was having a face-to-face, data driven meeting that was not in the school setting. Hearing the data hits different when they start telling you specifically what has been happening.

Our beautiful, sweet, innocent (?), 9 year old was saying horrible and disturbing things to his teachers and had extremely aggressive behaviors daily. How could our little boy be calling his teacher a 'stupid bitch' or telling her 'why don't you just go and spread your legs' (insert horrified face here).

Then we found out that he is also getting to be so big, he's been able to *lift* the teacher when he was trying to elope and he pinned another behavior tech to the wall when she was assisting with his behaviors. To say we were shocked to hear these things is an understatement.

We knew exactly where the information was coming from...freakin' YouTube. Now, we're not the most techy parents out there, but we're also not completely stupid either. We tried many different apps to block him from seeing the bad videos. **(SIDEBAR - WHY ARE ADULTS ALLOWED TO VOICEOVER CARTOON VIDEOS WITH HORRIBLE WORDS, SITUATION, & FILTH???)** WTF!) They did nothing. He is super smart and figured out ways around everything. At this point, we were frustrated, felt like failures to him, his brother, ourselves, the school, the therapists, and basically in life. What do we do?

TAKE THEM AWAY.

It seemed like the worst thing in the world for him and for us, but we had to do it. You don't realize how much you depend on the electronics to get random shit done. We had to put everything aside. Our own wants, our own what we thought were things we 'had' to do. It was kind of scary...

Here we are with our super aggressive, angry, pissed off kid whose LIFE is electronics and we just took them away from him. We were trying to remain calm throughout the duration we set, which was about 10 days.

He was fine. He was f'ing amazing. He started to talk to us in his own words. He was playing with his brother, NICELY, that's important to note. He was watching new things, playing a million songs on the piano we didn't know he knew how to play. It was really awesome. Like, I'll stop crying if you stop crying awesome.

Here's the kicker. After 10 days, homeboy tried going back to the bad videos and being mean, rude, and aggressive. Instantaneously we took them back and now he 'might' get them back after vacation. We go at the end of June...

We don't know if he'll get them back because he just doesn't understand WHY he can't say and do those things. We'll keep you updated in August. In the meantime, we'll continue spending more time with our boy. We'll work hard on understanding how being mean makes others feel. We'll figure out how to do summer without electronics. What the hell, it's good for us too.

MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN

[Submit your story today by clicking here!](#)

If you are a Parent, Therapist, Teacher, Aide, Family Member, or anyone who wants to get it off their chest, here's a great chance to get it out there. Attach your name or don't. Submissions are all anonymous unless you add your email.

Communication is tough in our social media driven world where people can harass you over an opinion. If you would feel more comfortable mailing in your story, send it to *Parenting Autism United, 313 Wyoming Ave, Wyoming, PA 18644*



NEURODIVERSE & NEUROTYPICAL

INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS & FRIENDSHIP



DO YOU THINK
YOUR CHILD IS A
GOOD FRIEND?

After taking this survey you may find that your child has more questions than answers.

ARE YOU WORRIED YOUR CHILD DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS?

WHO DOESN'T WANT THEIR KID TO HAVE FRIENDS & TO BE A GOOD FRIEND?

Parents of children in grades K-12, this survey is for you!

Please help us in our pursuit in closing social gaps in our inclusive classrooms (which are all of them).

Visit our website at parentingautismunited.org or [click this link](#) to help us find real solutions to real issues, in our very own schools.

Feel free to contact us at parentingautismunited@gmail.com!

MEET OUR INTERNS!



MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY
INSALACO CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP

PAU is able to be so much more thanks to the hard work and dedication of our intern students who all hail from Misericordia!

Hello my name is Regin Olson-Gray! I am a Medical Health and Humanities (Pre-Med) major at Misericordia University. Swimming is a large reason I came to Misericordia so I have been a competitive swimmer with the cougars for all four years at Mis. I am originally from British Columbia, Canada. I have a **HUGE** interest in plants and have an indoor plant collection of around 150 plants. However, at my peak before university I had 350.



At PAU I have been Lindsay's Jack of all trades. Whatever she asks I find a way to accomplish the goal. My main trajectory is working on social stories for medical settings. In addition, with the PAU garden program! My career goal is to become a fetal surgeon as I aspire to help maternal and child care. My hope is to correct complications in the womb that can allow children a better quality of life and future to make their own.

"This great insight over the discrepancies that people with autism face will help shape me into a better physician."

PAU has been helping me understand what a minority community faces in a medical setting. This great insight over the discrepancies that people with autism face will help shape me into a better physician. By being better attuned with a community's plights allow for physicians to stop and critically think about the care they are giving and if such care is accessible to all. I hope to take this knowledge with me to help shape me for years to come. In addition, I hope to carry the friendships I have made along the way.

My name is Katelyn Ricigliano and I am currently interning at Parenting Autism United. I attend Misericordia University where I am a senior, majoring in Medical Health and Humanities, and I'm on track for the Doctor of Physical Therapy program. I am currently 20 years old and from a small town located near Pottsville, PA.

Through my internship at PAU, I hope to gain a greater insight on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and carry that knowledge into my future career as a pediatric physical therapist.

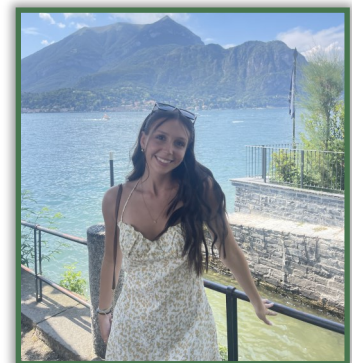
My interest in the human services and humanities field began about eight years ago when my family experienced a devastating tragedy. It was through that experience that I realized the importance of community-based programs that help individuals to find resources, support, and advocacy. Although I have not had the chance to work with individuals who have been diagnosed with ASD in the past, I was extremely excited to be offered an internship at PAU and to have an opportunity to learn about the organization's programs and mission.

As a student in Medical Health and Humanities at Misericordia, I learned that autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder that may cause delays in the development of a child's language and social behaviors and commonly induces children to exhibit peculiar behavior, like fixated interests or unusual motor movement, but I do not have first-hand knowledge of an individual's needs and challenges.

"Are they listening, do they understand what I'm saying?"

comprehend their experiences. I hope that, through this internship, learning more about ASD will allow me to maintain a person-centered approach in my future career.

Some of the questions that I have regarding ASD include: What are the early signs or symptoms of autism that parents can look out for? What efforts can be made to allow individuals with ASD to be inclusive within social institutions and in the surrounding community? How do I communicate and interact with individuals with ASD? Are they listening, do they understand what I'm saying? What therapies or interventions are useful in the treatment of autism? How can the organization raise social consciousness on the issues surrounding autism and motivate change on society's attitudes, generalizations, and assumptions? and, Considering all the subtypes of the disorder, how can a diagnosis and treatment help to meet the needs of each unique individual?





My name is Alexa Lamoreaux, and I am a senior psychology major here at Misericordia University! I live about 15 minutes from Misericordia in Shavertown. When I graduate in May, my hope is to pursue a master's degree in Clinical Mental health Counseling, and to secure a job as a behavioral technician. Once I finish my master's degree, my hope is to become a therapist and obtain my LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor).

It has been a pleasure to work with PAU as an intern and getting to know the Dragons! Since beginning my internship here in January, I feel that I have expanded upon my range of knowledge when it comes to Autism. I have gained deep insight into what it really is like for people and children with Autism in society. This internship experience has really been eye opening to what resources are out there for people with Autism, and my perspective on this has really changed quite a bit since being with PAU. There is definitely not as many resources and options as I thought for people and children who have Autism.

"There is definitely not as many resources and options as I thought for people and children who have Autism."

However, this is where PAU gets to help make an impact on our community and provide support for families and children who are navigating their journey with Autism. I am so happy to be a part of an organization that does this, and I have been able to utilize some research skills that I have learned throughout my academic career to aid in this process. I have worked with Lindsay on creating different surveys put out to gauge perspectives from teachers and parents on interactions between neurotypical and neurodiverse children. Our hope is to use this information to put together resources and information that will be helpful to children and their families!

My name is Madison Moyer and I am a senior Psychology student at Misericordia University. Once I complete my bachelor's degree, I plan on pursuing my masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in child and adolescent mental health. I am also interested in developmental-related research, specifically involving children's relationships with peers in regards to self-esteem.

Currently, Maddie is working with Parenting Autism United virtually to research and complete video shorts for social media to help parents, professionals, and students learn about Autism Spectrum Disorder and what our local resources are in the NEPA area. With the move from Wyoming to Dallas almost complete, we are excited to pick up where we left off after our planning sessions! Be on the lookout for great information coming soon!



How would someone know if interning or volunteering at PAU is right for them?

There are many ways kids, teens, and adults can work with PAU. We get creative and really try to tailor jobs to the person's overall mission or project.

Hard Skills at PAU Include

- Maintaining the indoor/outdoor areas.
- Filing, data entry, and event planning.
- Executive functioning and scheduling.
- Grants, expos, and community events.
- Marketing, merchandising, and taking data.

Soft Skills at PAU Include

- Speaking with families/participants.
- How to approach projects through networking/phone calls/emails.
- How to give an elevator speech.
- Understanding how to be flexible.

TEACHERS

This is for you.



What things are in the way & can be changed to help you be more successful working with inclusive classrooms?

This is your shot to get things off your mind and a step in the positive direction in making changes here in our local area. Completely anonymous and part of multiple research studies, this survey, among others, is helping Parenting Autism United develop working relationships with our NEPA school districts.

BE HONEST

We can't make change if there is no participation.

Go to [this link](#) or our website, parentingautismunited.org, to complete the survey. We very much appreciate your thoughts and together we can make a difference.

Email parentingautismunited@gmail.com with any questions.

PAU IMPACT SERIES

SAY HELLO to OUR FIRST



MARGE BALAS

COMMUNITY!

THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS BEING SO AWESOME!

“Hello! I’m just a Mom of an Autistic son, Caleb, who just tries to battle through life to get everything we need to help him succeed. In doing so I have met so many amazing people who have helped with our journey! Through them inspiring me, I felt the need to help as many others as I could.

I became involved in as many organizations or activities that were available, met so many amazing parents, advocates and individuals along the way. We attended one of Autism Awareness NEPA (Autism Coalition at the time) walks and I was immediately hooked wanting to be apart of this. I reached out to them, started attending meetings and here I am 15 years later still on the committee.

It’s a lot of work, but the outcome in seeing all the families on Walk day outweighs it all!!! I know and still experience all the struggles involved having a child with Autism. The opportunity to bring people together, to a safe place, to meet new friends and just have fun makes my heart happy! “

We asked our nominees what they are most passionate about and what keeps them going.

“We learn from one another! Just being around other individuals that share your experiences and could provide guidance or just plain reassurance that you can do this truly makes a difference. I’ve learned so much through the Autism community then I ever would have not being involved. Just sharing my personal experiences and wisdom with others I feel is my requirement of repayment to do what I can to help another.”

**CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE ALWAYS DOING.
ALWAYS HELPING**



COMMUNITY

Features posted every day
in April on social media &
now a staple in the monthly
newsletter!

**Nominations
PAU IMPACT SERIES**

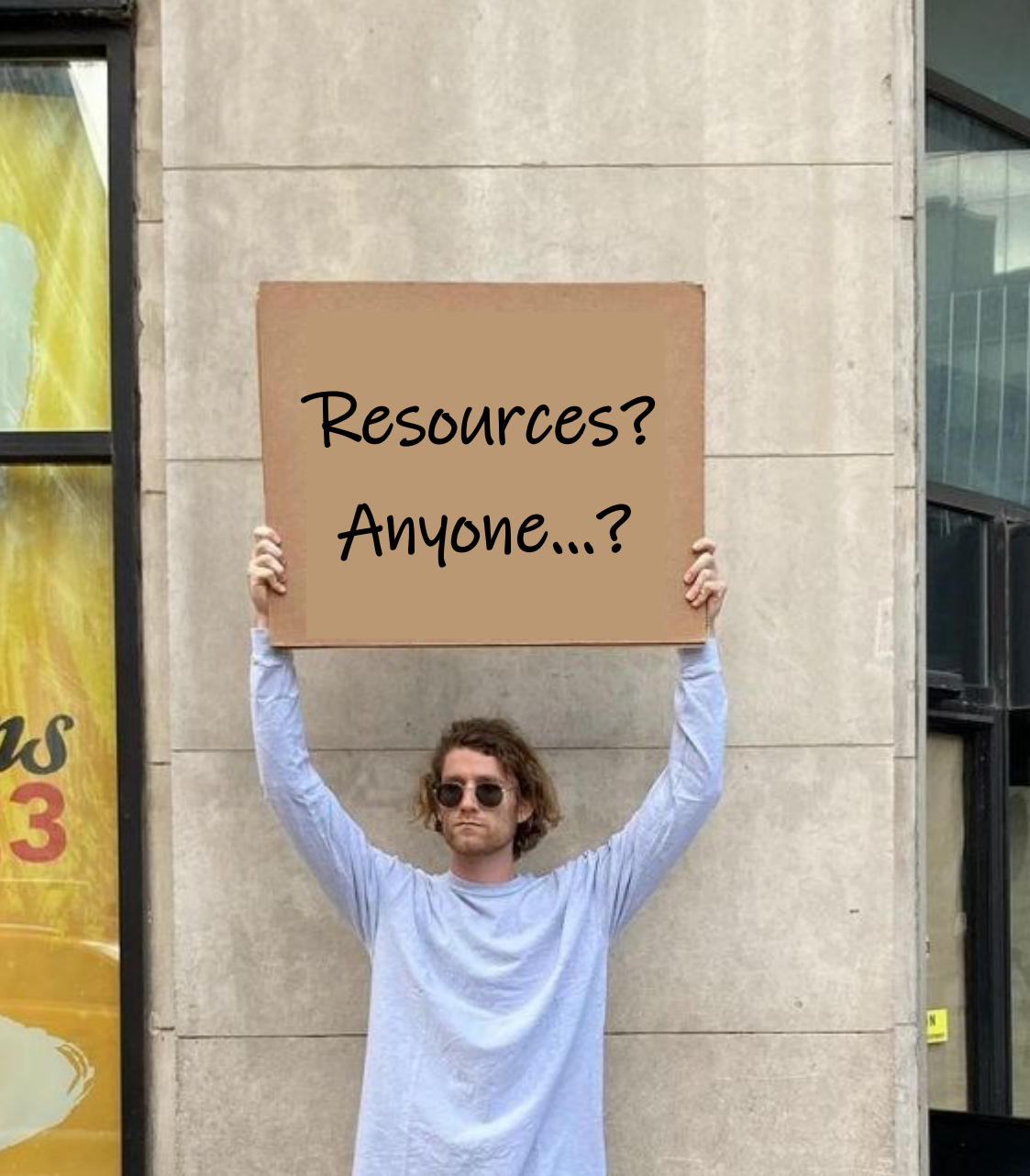
ALWAYS AWESOME!

Is there someone you think deserves recognition for their volunteerism, services, or community engagement centered around Autism Spectrum Disorder? Tell us about them!

We are highlighting community members for being the rockstars they are! Behavior techs, Teachers, Parents, & anyone who is your rockstar, nominate them today!

Visit parentingautismunited.org or [click this link](#) to cast your vote TODAY!





TRAINING DATES

WITH BROOKE

April 23rd, 6pm

'Engagement'

May 15th

'sleep'

June 10th

Biting the Bullet

June 14th

'Dude Day'

July 17th

'Where's the Village?'

August 12th

'Friendships'

Get information from Brooke Gold, BCBA

on specialized topics and direct answers.

If you can't make it, they're offered virtually as well!

Can't do that, we'll record them and put them on YouTube!

The information will be there for families and professionals to use when they need it!

Register by going to our website or [click here!](#)

ROCKSTAR BUDDY AND MENTOR PROGRAM

Our rockstars are individuals with autism or anyone needing help in social situations or help in making and keeping friendships.

Open to all age ranges. Anyone under 18 will require parent or caregiver to remain with them at all times and also any adults in need of an aide.

Buddies and Mentors are individuals who are open to learning more about engaging with someone who may need a little help or guidance doing things that come more naturally to others.

After completing a general overview of ASD and the needs/plan of a potential 'rockstar',

BUDDIES can play games, tutor, do activities, or whatever comes up while volunteering their time. For younger kiddos, parents will be engaging with both the rockstar participant and the buddy. We're basically showing someone how to be a friend by modeling that behavior for them.

MENTORS are for when participants reach an age where talking to parents or therapists isn't working anymore, employment is on the brain, independent living, and relationships. Guiding someone on hygiene in a social setting may land better than in the classroom or at the dinner table.

The program begins and ends with surveys from both parties. PAU matches participants with their buddy/mentor based off of information collected and provides a safe space for social interaction and fun!

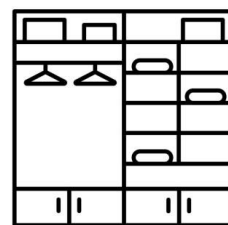
CHOOSE AND CLICK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

ROCKSTAR 1 2 U

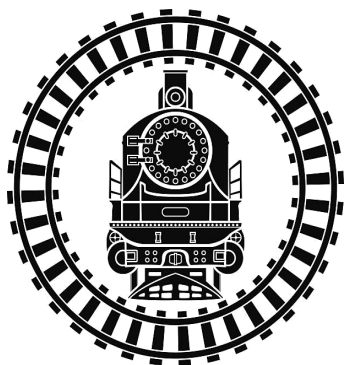
BUDDY 1 2 U

ROCKSTAR 1 3 OVER

BUDDY/ MENTOR 1 3 OVER



The Hot Mess Express



Stories we can all relate to are helpful in knowing that you are not alone. Check out all our fun passengers on the *Hot Mess Express!*

"My son scripts a ton. I was leaving for work one day and he asked me why I was leaving him. I didn't realize it was a script until he said, 'That's why we're getting divorced.' I knew at that point where things were going. I said my goodbye's to everyone and went to my truck. I realized I forgot my phone and had to go back in.

When I opened the door he said without missing a beat, 'You've returned!'. It was the funniest thing because he sounded genuinely relieved." - *NOT GETTING DIVORCED IN WILKES-BARRE*

"My client always keeps me on my toes. We were walking in from recess one day and he tripped on nothing really. He starts with the dramatics instantly. "My leg is broken!". Normally, he keeps going with the yelling, but today he threw me a curveball. He goes, 'My leg is broken! It died. Can you charge it for me?' and I lost it. I thought that was the funniest thing! Definitely better than the oscar worthy behaviors we're used to." - *Robots Are Real in Nanticoke*

"My client has turned into a philosopher overnight apparently. He said to me, 'I need to tell you something...we used to be roosters, but now we are who we are.' He's in fourth grade... I didn't know what to say, so I just agreed." - *Plato Lives in Pittston*

"My child speaks to male and female genders differently. If a male says, 'I know, you know', or anything like that, my child will say 'You know the rules.' If a female says the same things, he responds, 'you know, she's busy making tik-toks.' We don't know where they came from. We never realized how much we say the phrase, 'ya know', in a week!" - *Keeping it quiet in Wyoming*

"My nephew's birthday just passed and he's on the spectrum. I got caught up in



work and forgot to call him on the day of his birthday, but his party wasn't until that weekend. I called my brother and he was driving with my nephew. I told him I was sorry I didn't call him on his birthday and he quickly retorted, 'It was yesterday.' Which broke my heart naturally.

I tried to ask him if he had fun because I knew they went to Dairy Queen for ice cream and in the same tone he replied, 'Aunt Kelly was there.' Not 'good', or 'fun'...just stabbed me in the heart once again because my sister, who won't be at his party on the weekend btw, went and made his whole day awesome because she let him play on her phone. He lost his phone privileges, so she was the best aunt who ever lived that day! How can I compete with that?!? I'm going to have to up my game at Easter!" - *Coming Up Short in Sweet Valley*

"Before you read this just know that I feel really bad. I was interning at a place and there was an adult client there who is severely affected by Autism. His DSP was speaking to her supervisor and had to step out of the room to get reception. I felt bad for him just sitting there by himself, so I sat down, introduced myself, and started talking.

He is non-verbal, so I was just talking away and out of nowhere he starts laughing so hard HE PEED HIS PANTS!!! I felt sooo bad! He had to get changed and ready for their next stop in his day. Not gonna lie though, it felt good to make him laugh!" - *I'm here until May folks!*



PAU has many different programs, events, and fundraisers for our local community, open to all ages & abilities.

All events hosted by PAU help spread autism awareness, acceptance, education, and inclusion in our community. We love supporting families and each other. Programs are either grant funded, sponsored, or funded through different fundraising efforts.

In order to make these events successful, we need families and community members to attend in either a participant or a volunteer capacity.

Register to attend, message us if you are unable to make it, and let us know what else you may be interested in!

PROGRAMS	EVENTS	FUNDRAISERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dragon Tales Reading & Art Program • Support Groups for Families - Teens Adults with Autism Parent Only Nights Educators/Professionals • Growin' With My Gnomies Garden Program • Training Programs High School Students College Students Newly Diagnosed Families Businesses Families • The 'PAU'sitively Unique Gift Shop & More • Spectrum Approved • Guided Medical Stories for School Districts & Medical Facilities • 'Sense'sational Salon • Buddy/Mentor Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symitar Creative Writing/Illustration Program • MATCH Program • Safety Net Program • The John Shemo Share the Music Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborations with community businesses & organizations. • Sally's Stitches Events Crocheting Embroidery Sewing • Pop-up events come up throughout the year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game Nights • Trainings for parents such as Potty Training, How to Be a Bad Guy, IEP's for parents, Sensory Overload, Hygiene, Puberty, & More • Holiday Events • Open Art Nights • Seasonal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DINO Club • Contests Paper Airplanes Spooky Model House Pumpkin Painting/Carving & More 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb - Valentine Community Social • Mar - JENGA • Apr - Community Day Supporting Autism & Empanada Fundraiser Jun - River Grille Decks Out for Autism • Aug - Bowling • Sep '24 - Car Show • Oct - Trunk-or-Treat Luzerne County - Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza Lackawanna County - PNC Field RailRiders Stadium • Dec - Holiday Raffles Fundraisers keep our programs going. They fund operating costs & special events not covered by grants or donations. <div data-bbox="1143 1734 1425 2011" style="text-align: center;"> </div>



2024 Sponsor Form

Visit our website parentingautismunited.org to download the 2024 Sponsor Form or click here!

The mission at Parenting Autism United (PAU) is to create programs for our community to help families and individuals with autism live a positive, healthy, and integrated lifestyle through education, support, inclusion, and understanding.

Identifying what families, parents, and our community need to foster effective change and close communication gaps between families, service providers, and school districts. Our goal is to break new ground for existing families and pave the road for the families who come after us.

PAU is working around the clock to bring positive change and support to NEPA. Our passionate and creative team is dedicated to making things happen today. With many of our board members being parents of a child with autism, we're not going anywhere as the programs we are creating benefit our families as well.



All sponsorships and donations are tax-deductible. By supporting PAU, you are supporting many families and professionals making our community better.


We hope one of our sponsor levels is a right fit for your organization, family, group, or business.

Any questions can be emailed to parentingautismunited@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!



GEMSTONE
Single event sponsor for any PAU program.
Logo on flyer & social media.
\$100



BRONZE
Logo on social media.
Organization name listed on group signage banners.
Name listed in print programs at 2 events including Trunk-or-Treats.
\$250



SILVER
Logo on website & annual t-shirt grouped with other sponsors.
Highlight on social media.
1/4 page ad 2.5" x 4" in print programs at 2 events including Trunk-or-Treats.
Name listed on highlight videos.
\$500



GOLD
3rd largest logo on website & annual t-shirt grouped with other sponsors.
Highlight on social media.
1/2 page ad 5" x 4" in print programs at 2 events including Trunk-or-Treats.
30 second highlight video.
1/2 page in annual commercial.
\$1500



PLATINUM
2nd largest logo on website & annual t-shirt grouped with other sponsors.
Highlight on social media.
Full page ad 5" x 8" in print programs at 2 events including Trunk-or-Treats.
1 minute highlight video.
Full page in annual commercial.
Signage indoors.
\$3000

DIAMOND
Largest logo on website & annual t-shirt grouped with other sponsors.
Highlight on social media.
Cover recognition and centerfold (2) 5" x 8" in print programs at 2 events including Trunk-or-Treats.
5 minute highlight video.
Full page & 'Brought to you by...' in annual commercial.
Signage indoors and outdoors with logo.
\$5000



Stefanie Rosado, R



TO OUR SPONSORS,

Thank You!



BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER ONE STITCH AT A TIME!

Hearts will be for sale throughout April!

Flats - \$1 . Stuffed - \$2 . Help us reach our 30k in 30 Days goal!

If you'd like to make hearts for PAU, reach out to us via email. Hearts can be made from any kind of fabric and can be embroidered, sewn, or crocheted. They can be flat, stuffed, filled with beans, rice, one-sided, or double-sided. Whatever you feel like doing, it's fine by us!



After making hearts, deliver them to PAU where we will package them and distribute!

If you find one of our hearts, post it to the group page on Facebook or send us a pic directly with the location you found it. Lets see how far our kindness can reach!!!

Are you a parent or caregiver with a new diagnosis?

Are you looking for additional support outside of the classroom for your child?

If you answered yes to either of these, you should check out Golden Opportunities!

Meet with Brooke virtually or in-person for ABA therapy and much more!

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Golden Opportunities

PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE SERVICES TO CLIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

PRIVATE PAY | VIRTUAL

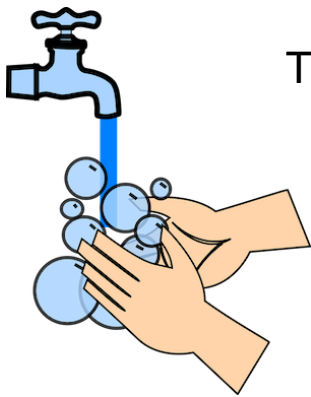
PLEASE EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION.
GOLDENOPPORTUNITIES.ABA@GMAIL.COM

School District's interested in working with Parenting Autism United can reach out via email to schedule a visit and be part of our grant-funded program

Guided Medical Stories for Students on the Autism Spectrum

PAU comes into the district building and works with the nurse to create custom social stories to help students accept medical attention.

Beef up your tool box and support the Special Education students in a pro-active instead of reactive approach.



These stories will usually include how to react to

- General well-visit to the nurse
- Eye & Dental Exams
- Illnesses such as stomach & fever
- Scrapes and cuts from recess
- Eye irritations & Rashes
- Allergies & Nosebleeds
- Hygiene products



Digital copies of the custom social stories will be on the district's website and the PAU website for parents, service providers, and teachers to use. Customizable options are available through the Autism Support classrooms and Parenting Autism United.

Major changes such as staff, equipment, or procedures will be updated every school year or as needed.

Medical facilities are also part of this grant and we will be reaching out soon all over Luzerne and Lackawanna County!

Email us at parentingautismunited@gmail.com if interested!

The John Shemo Share the Music Program at PAU



Honoring our friend, John Shemo, who always gave his time to help events supporting local non-profits for Autism.



In the summer of 2022, he and bandmate James Wesley approached PAU about playing music at the office for kids and adults with autism. It was their combined idea and we were in the process of making it happen.

Time flew by and before anything was scheduled we lost John. We miss him dearly and want to honor him with the program he was passionate about, sharing music.

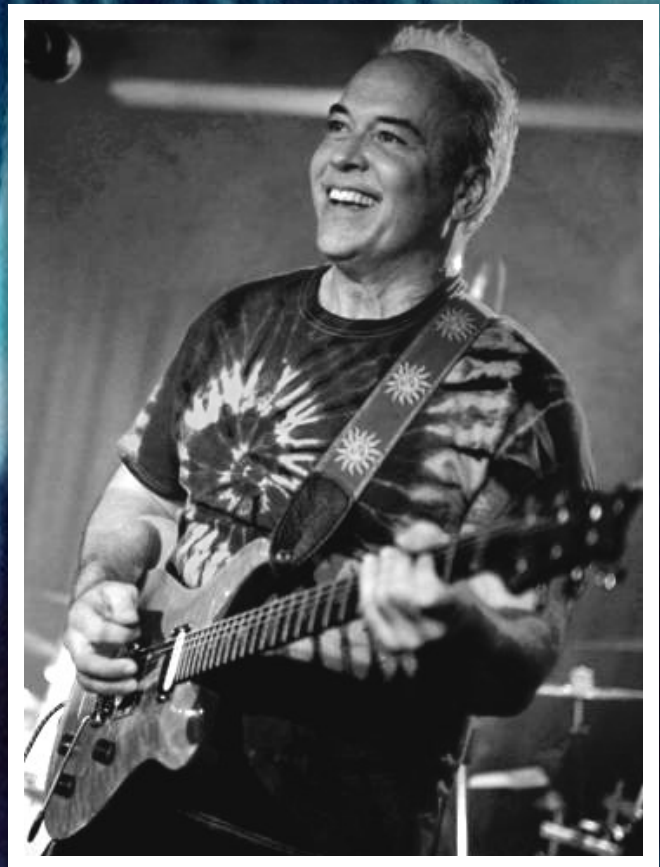
If you are a musician who would like to share your love of music, please reach out to us and we can schedule accordingly.

Email us at

parentingautismunited@gmail.com

Looking to schedule dates from

Beginning in MAY!



THE SAFETY NET PROGRAM



- A free service – Provided by your community
- Private and secure – You control your information
- Saves time in an emergency – When seconds count

Helping families create custom safety plans, setting up Smart911, fire drill plans, and community resources.

Giving families the safety-first approach to living with autism. With service providers still spread thin, diagnostic appointments taking forever, families can be safe today even if they have no services available to them.

Targeting families who need to feel safe in their home, at school, financially, socially, and mentally. We connect you with the pros and help each other!



Helping families experiencing aggression in the home, whether it is self-injury or physical aggression.



Helping siblings feel safe in their own home and providing tools to cope.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

If you're interested in signing up for this program, please email us at parentingautismunited@gmail.com to be added to the program for its kick-off in September.

This is easily one of the most important things you can do for your family. Everything else can wait. Emergency's wait for no one. Accidents happen every day. These resources and tools are available because there is a need.

What is the best security system? What fence should we get installed at our house? What is the school procedure when my child elopes, because he will?

These questions and more are what we are happy to support with the Safety Net Program at PAU. This program will come in pieces as it is not yet grant funded. Speakers and general meetings will be hosted beginning in May.

It's better to be safe than sorry.

