UPDATE

Vol. 36
Issue 1

Spring
2008

South Carolina Autism Society

Together We Can Solve The Puzzle

The purpose of the South Carolina Autism Society is to enable all children and adults in South Carolina who have autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) to reach their maximum potential.

SCAS 7th Rolling for Autism Awareness

Saturday, April 5, 2008
11:00 a.m.
at the JC's Lexington Bowl
5380 Augusta Road in Lexington

Come bowl with us and show your support while you enjoy a fun family event to raise funds and support SCAS during **Autism Awareness Month**! We have secured the entire bowling alley for our exclusive use until 2:00 p.m.

Ask your friends, co-workers and family to support you and SCAS. Put together a team to bowl and to raise pledges. All funds raised will assist SCAS in reaching their mission of enabling every individual with autism to reach their maximum potential.

Prizes include **highest score male & female**, **highest score under 12 (youth)**, **highest score teen**, **highest score teacher/therapist**, and drawings for more great prizes. Register $8 per person or $30 per team (4-5 members). Registration fee includes t-shirt, two games and shoes. See page 11 for registration or register online at **www.scautism.org**. Contact SCAS for more information.

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Strides For Autism
Walks Across South Carolina

Strides For Autism–Walks Across South Carolina are off and "running." SCAS is sponsoring **Strides for Autism**, two fun and inspiring annual events in South Carolina that will raise funds for the South Carolina Autism Society, increase awareness of autism in our state, honor those who have been touched by autism, and most importantly, to be a part of the solution.

Honorary Co-Chairs of the Greenville Strides will be **Carrie Davis**, morning news anchor at WSPA TV-7 and SC State Senator **David Thomas**. Senator Thomas worked tirelessly on **Ryan's Law** passed in 2007. **BMW** has signed on as a sponsor of the Greenville Strides.

Honorary Chairman of the Columbia Strides will be **Joe Pinner**, Weatherman of WIS TV-10 and formerly known to thousands of South Carolinian's (when they were children) as **Mr. Knozit**. We are also delighted to tell you that **Richland County Sheriff's Department** will be participating in the Columbia Strides.

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19th Annual Disability Advocacy Day

Wednesday, March 5, 2008
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the SC State House Grounds - Begin in the Blatt Building
Sponsored by SC Partnership of Disability Organizations

This event is an important opportunity for self advocates, families and service providers to inform legislators that services must be maintained for the most vulnerable citizens in our state:

- to provide a unified message to the members of the SC General Assembly that you and other constituents are asking for their support in funding critical services essential to the lives of persons with disabilities and their families.
- to develop and strengthen a positive relationship with your legislators. Legislators who know and hear from their constituents will listen and respond to their needs.

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From the Desk of the President...

For more information about autism and the many activities of our organization, visit our website at www.scautism.org or call us in Columbia at 800-438-4790 or 803-750-6988.

During this past holiday season, I took a few minutes to reflect on all of the growth and increased activities that SCAS has seen over the past few years.

It is hard for me to believe that we are in our ninth year of the **Parent School Partnership Program**. Through this program, we have worked with thousands of families over the past nine years. Last year alone, we worked with over 1,100 families from across the state in the PSP program. What started out as an idea has grown into a major project that has helped to mentor thousands of families in South Carolina.

One of the major changes we saw in this program last year was the coordinator, **Melanie Marquis** moving out of state and she is greatly missed. But stepping up to the plate to carry on is **Tim Conroy**. Tim just retired from the State Department of Education. Tim has years of experience as a teacher for children with autism, a vice principal and as an education consultant at the Department of Education. Tim has large shoes to fill, but so far he is proving to be more than capable to do so.

Over the past four years, we have seen our **Service Coordination** grow from that first transferred family to over 320 families and it's growing every day. We also continue to expand our service area. With our new Director of Service Coordination, **Kim Thomas**, I anticipate continued growth and expansion into new counties. Kim is helping to move our focus even more person-centered.

We not only experience growth in Service Coordination this past year, but fairly new to us, we experience turn over. SCAS had been very fortunate over the years to have a very stable staff. But this last year we experienced our first large turnover. SCAS was able to recruit very qualified people to fill those positions. And with new people, we are working on how to improve our services. I know that this year, families receiving service coordination will see some changes, including more opportunities to see your service coordinators face to face. Watch for monthly coffees and family opportunities.

This last year also saw my personal goal come to reality. I set out the vision that we need to purchase a building for our state-wide headquarters and to have better visibility across the state. Last year, we moved in to our own building - a building complete with a training room. We also added a **Greenville satellite** office, along with our **Horry satellite** office for better service statewide. We still need to have your support to help pay for this expansion campaign.

But overall, I believe SCAS is growing and expanding to meet the growing needs of the autism community. Watch for new and expanded services this next year!

Craig C. Stoxen
President and CEO

SCAS Programs

For more information, visit our website.

- Family Support/Information and Referral
- Annual conference, workshops for parents and professionals
- Preparing for Puberty and Beyond: Help for Parents
- Service Coordination for DDSN consumers with autism
- Self Directed Support Corporations SDSCs (aka microboards)
- Parent-School Partnership-parent mentors assist families
- Providing autism books & DVDs to libraries
- SCAS advocates for quality services for children and adults with ASDs as individuals and statewide.

Mission Statement:
South Carolina Autism Society

Our purpose is to enable all South Carolinians with autism spectrum disorders to reach their maximum potential.

SCAS is a chapter of the Autism Society of America and a United Way participant.

New Research

by Ruth K. Abramson, Ph.D.
Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, USC School of Medicine

Editor's note: Dr. Abramson is a Fellow of the American College of Medical Genetics and a regular contributor to the Update. She is part of the USC-Duke University team researching the genetics of autism spectrum disorders.

Last year was an exciting year for new research findings that will help direct efforts towards better treatment for persons with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). I would like to report on an article that I found to be interesting–related to treatment issues.

The article, **Reduced Bone Cortical Thickness in Boys with Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder**, (J. Autism Dev. Disorders – online, 2008) by Hediger and coworkers is an extremely informative article that raises many questions. Hediger noted that children with an ASD:

1. may have gastrointestinal (GI) or immune system abnormalities (GI symptoms such as diarrhea, cramping and GI inflammation);
2. may be picky eaters with a very limited diet;
3. may be on a gluten- and/or casein-free diet;
4. may be prescribed hypoallergenic supplements (calcium-free);
5. may be prescribed medications that suppress appetite (ADHD medication) or interfere with bone metabolism; and
6. may have decreased or limited physical activity and exposure to sunlight (low vitamin D) associated with activity restriction, motion disorders, or requirements for supervision.

Based on these factors, Hediger and coworkers investigated whether bone development in children with an ASD is compromised and if bone development is not normal, at what age does this start to occur.

There were 75 boys, ages 4 to 8 years, who participated in the study with a diagnosis of an ASD. Parents provided information on past medical history, over-the-counter and prescription medication, vitamin and mineral supplements and special dietary restrictions or food allergies were collected. Medications were placed into categories based on their potential to impact dietary intake, growth or calcium metabolism. For example, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors such as Prozac or Paxil, Depakote (a seizure medicine also used to control behavior) and Risperdal (used to control behavior in children with an ASD) were classified as appetite stimulants. Topamax (a seizure medicine used to control behavior) was included with other stimulants (Adderal, Concerta) as well as with appetite suppressants. Some medications were placed in more than one category. Supplements were grouped as to whether or not they contained calcium.

Next height, weight and head circumference were measured. A body mass index (BMI) was calculated from the height and weight. Based on the BMI and age children were categorized as moderately underweight (<15th percentile), normal (15th to <85th percentile), at risk of overweight (85th to <95th percentile) or overweight (=95th percentile).

Finally, the thickness of the bone located between the knuckle of the index finger (the first finger or "pointer"), the cortical bone thickness, on the left hand was measured by X-ray and compared to a standardized reference of boys. The study measured the cortical bone thickness as a substitute for a conventional bone scan which measures bone density and can indicate a risk of bone fracture. The hand X-ray was used because the boys could not remain still long enough for a conventional bone scan and it provides an approximate estimate of bone density.

Compared with the 2000 CDC references, the boys with an ASD were significantly taller, heavier and had higher BMIs than average. About 19% were classified as at risk for being overweight, and 27% were overweight. None were severely underweight.

The bone total width (TW), bone cortical thickness (BCT) and bone cortical area all showed significant increases with age. However, when the BCT was compared at each age group, there was a noticeable decrease in the boys with an ASD that got bigger with age when compared to the standardized reference. When the comparisons were adjusted for height, bone age, casein-free diets and seizure medications, this difference was significant ($p<0.01$). At ages 4 and 5, the

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New Research

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deviations were not different than the reference standard. By age 6 years, the deviation was highly significantly different ($p<0.0001$) and there was further significant and progressive fall-off from the reference standard in the BCT deviation at ages 7 and 8 years. When the % deviations from the median were evaluated, the decrease was significantly different starting at age 6, and by age 8 there was a 25-30% deficit in BCT.

The effect of casein-free diets was striking. The adjusted BCT of boys on casein-free diets were lower than the BCT of boys with an ASD on non-restricted diets, indicating they had the thinnest bones, 20% thinner than normal for children their age. Adjusting for height, boys on casein-free diets had an average BCT % deviation almost twice that of boys on unrestricted diets, which was still 10% thinner than boys their age. Calcium containing supplements did not make a difference. Also, a small number of boys were on dairy restricted diets and their adjusted % BCT deviation was slightly smaller than that of the boys on casein-free diets, suggesting that the effect may be related to the degree of calcium intake.

The authors note that the boys in the study were taller and heavier than average and had sufficient hormones present that impact bone growth, which should help with good bone growth. However, despite this, there was a significant slowing of bone development in the boys with an ASD. They postulate that this decrease may be related to both calcium and other factors, such as GI disorders, lack of sunlight exposure (leading to low Vitamin D) or limited physical activity. Much more research is needed on this issue. They caution that children should be evaluated before placing them at an early age on a gluten/casein-free diet to moderate their GI and autism symptoms. They note that that the only completed double-blind study showed no difference between the elimination diet and placebo (Elder, 2006). The take home message of this study is that the potential for decreased bone development and the long-term effect on fracture-risk in boys with an ASD need to be considered. Dietary intake and bone development should be monitored in children on a casein-free diet.

Thank you all for your continued support of research. Dr. Harry Wright, Dr. Alicia Hall, Sarah Ravan and I look forward to a good year. We are excited about the upcoming **International Meeting for Autism Research** and look forward to bringing back some exciting new findings from the meeting. **Together we can make a difference.**

Autism Study at MUSC (Medical University of SC)

There are still 8 slots for children with autism for a study at MUSC. I took William in for the study and it didn't take long and they were very kind. I am copying the E-Mail they sent me, please call if you can participate. Thanks, Wendy

We are eight recruits (three males and five females) away from meeting our goal of 20 children for our Autism pilot study. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns about the study details. We would really like to finish recruitment this month so the analysis can begin ASAP. We cannot run the labs until all 20 children are recruited and completed the study protocol.

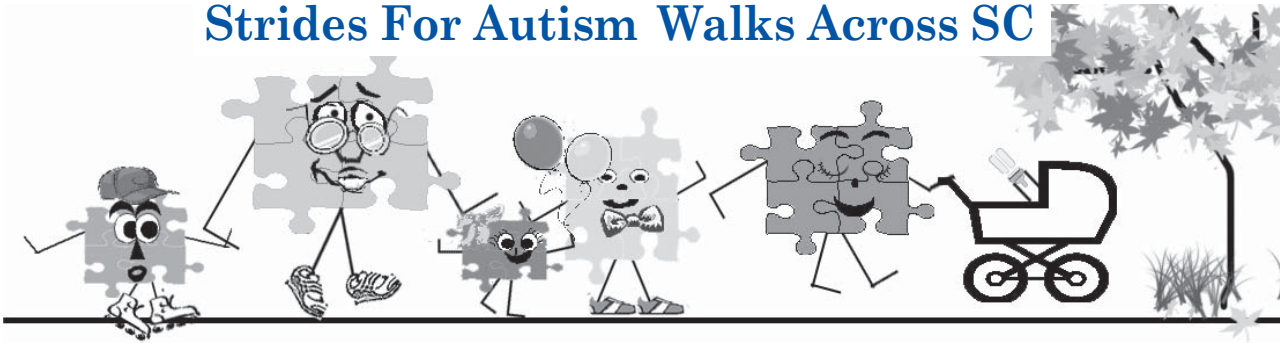
Frequently Asked Questions:

1. The participation takes place at the GCRC of MUSC as a one-time visit, we will validate parking.
2. The total study time is approx three hours on a given morning appointment. The parent(s) stay with their child the entire time, and they are the only participant during the appointment.
3. We take saliva, urine, and a blood samples: all are very non-invasive with exception of the blood stick, but it is very minimally invasive to the child, using the smallest needle possible, and we have the ability to numb the area if desired.
4. We have the parent complete some simple interview questions and surveys about their child. The family is notified of any lab results that fall outside the normal limits.
5. Of course, there is no charge, and for their time and participation - we have compensation... they receive a $50 gift card to WalMart.

Sandrine & Derrick Howle Loving Unconditionally Children with Autism Support Network (L.U.C.A.S. Network)
203 Biscayne Dr. Greenville, SC 29615 Home # (864) 292-6116 Cell # (864) 325-5507 www.luluhowle.com

Submitted by Dawn Thomas

Strides For Autism Walks Across SC



Greenville Technical College Barton Campus, Greenville, SC	Finlay Park, Columbia, SC
Saturday, April 12, 2008	**Saturday, May 10, 2008**
Registration is at 8:00 a.m. **Walk starts at 9:00 a.m.**	**Registration is at 8:00 a.m.** **Walk starts at 9:00 a.m.**

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Please go online, meet our **Puzzle Family**, and click on our **Strides** link for forms to guide you as you ask walkers, sponsors, businesses and/or co-workers to join your team. Strides is the most cost effective, affordable and inclusive way to raise vital funds to support our mission here. Monies raised in SC stay in our state.

There are over 26,000 people in SC diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. For over 35 years, SCAS has been the only statewide non-profit organization that advocates for individuals with autism and their families. SCAS also provides assistance and support for SC-based research and development. Our fundraising goal for each walk is $45,000 and our success is vital. **You can make a difference!**

So, register by mail, fax or online. Registration is free! To receive an SCAS tee-shirt, walkers must raise a minimum of $100 or more.Lace up your sneakers and bring your family, friends and coworkers to have some fun as we take Strides For Autism in South Carolina. If you need more information or have any questions please call **Barbara MacWilliam**, Development Director.

Teams

Teams are usually eight to ten individuals. You don't even have to walk! Just raise the money, find individual walk sponsors and your on your way!

Each **Team Captain** will receive a packet of information guiding them through organizing and being an excellent leader for the team. There will be individual walker brochures to pass out and mail with your letter writing campaign and make it easy to keep track of your monies raised. There will be a sample letter for letter-writing campaigns to send to everyone you know across the miles (don't forget to send a picture!). This information is also available on our website.

One 12-year-old team member who started "working" over three months before the actual walk, sent out her letters with return self-addressed envelopes, and raised over $6,000 in contributions.

You might also do "wrap-around events" which can be car washes, dog washes, bake sales, babysitting club, fashion shows (a mom worked in an up-scale ladies' clothing store which did an evening fashion show with refreshments and raised over $4,000 in two hours).

Contact your fraternity or sorority to sponsor a team or be a team. High school students need community service hours (at least 20 each) and most will form a team and walk.

Many companies who cannot be sponsors will put together teams–that way they get excellent exposure for their caring company and support a worthwhile cause. It promotes positive employee relationships with a unifying goal. It is a win-win situation!

Volunteering on a walk committee is not only a fun experience but a gratifying one knowing you're making a difference in the lives of those with autism spectrum disorders.

Bravo Awards

Mechelle Peterson
Teaching Assistant-Autism Program
Oak Pointe Elementary School
Lexington & Richland Counties School Dist. Five

I would like to nominate Mechelle Peterson for a Bravo award. Because of her support, Michael was able to participate in the Christmas program at school. She has been a teaching assistant with the district's Autism program for many years. The kids really benefit from her experience and patience.

Nominated by Mary Bennett

James King
Eighth Grade Science Teacher
R.C. Edwards Middle School
Pickens County School District

Mr. King tries to modify some of his teaching assignments and assessments to be accommodating to the special needs of the children with disabilities. Mr. King facilitates communication between the special education teacher and parents to let them know that the student might not have the concepts that he was trying to teach that day. He shows genuine concern about students on the autism spectrum and has the desire to reach out to all students. He has earned the respect of his colleagues because of these caring traits.

Nominated by Jamie Sampson

Alisha Carey
Autism Specialist
Lexington School District 1

My experience with Ms. Carey has always been very favorable. She goes above and beyond the call of duty to help educate our children to their fullest potential. Even before my experiences with the PSP program, my experiences with Ms. Carey have always been so positive. Ms. Carey has always been very helpful and understanding, and she really goes to bat for our children, despite all of the deficits. She is always positive and always smiling, and only wants what is best for our children with Autism.

Nominated by Moore Margie

Please support your local United Way.

Allocations & designations are an important part of the SCAS budget.

Thank you for giving.

Service Coordination News

First Wednesday of every month we will have a **coffee chat time** with our families and consumers from 9-11 am at each of our offices.

Service coordination is planning to participate in **family events** through 2008, such as trips to Fun Zone, bowling, or canoeing in the summer. Dates and information will be announced soon: check our website and future newsletters.

Summer camp: A summer camp that looks really interesting for the Midlands area is **Camp Sunshine** through **Richland County Recreation Commission.** Several sessions are offered throughout the summer. It's a day camp that solves the need for daycare during the summer for many of our families. The camp is either from 9-2 or 9-5:30. We have already discussed available placement for several of our people and the price is very reasonable. For those families with limited finances, we are hopeful to receive summer service funds from Rich/Lex and DDSN.

Finally, we are excited that we will be opening an office in the **Charleston area** within this first quarter! More on this soon!

Other News

SCAS began an **Aspergers Support Group** in February. The group meets the last Sunday of every month at the SCAS West Columbia office from 4:00 pm–5:30 pm. This is a great opportunity for families to come together and share their joys, sorrows, experiences and achievements. For more information contact Rene L'Ecuyer at rilecuyer@aol.com or Delilah at SCAS (ext. 108).

The Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) announced the creation of a statewide toll-free helpline to serve parents, advocates and agency representatives who have questions about the **education of children with disabilities**. The helpline is designated to provide information about special education policies, procedures and regulations; parent and student rights; and dispute resolution options available to address concerns. School district personnel with questions will continue to use the OEC's main office number.

The helpline is available from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. Calls will be routed to a voice mailbox and calls will be returned within three business days.

OEC's toll-free Helpline: 866-628-0910

Autism: My Story

Somewhere, the phone is ringing. "I've got it!" I yell as I navigate my way through an endless sea of boxes. It's moving day, and the house is a disaster. I locate the phone by the front window. We don't have service inside the house yet, so our phone is connected to the box out front. I hang out of the open window to speak since the cord isn't long enough to make it inside. It's my sister-in-law, calling from Germany. "I'm in labor!" she tells me, laughing nervously. It's her first baby and she's apprehensive, a bit scared, but mostly excited. "I can't believe it!" I tell her, "Wow!" My husband gets on the phone and now we're both hanging out of the window and laughing. He can't believe that his baby sister is about to become a mother.

That was the day that my nephew, Tristan, was born. "He's a beautiful boy with jet black hair, blue eyes and red lips" my sister-in-law tells us. He sounds perfect, and he is. Tristan is a wonderful baby and an active toddler. He masters all of his milestones on schedule – crawling, walking, talking. He loves to line up his toys. He spends hours neatly arranging toy horses and soldiers in orderly rows. He likes playing outdoors. His father builds a swing in the backyard, and Tristan swings for hours. Like most children, he doesn't always come when he's called. My sister-in-law can be heard calling his name over and over on the video tapes she sends us. "Tristan! Tristan!" she sings, as she tries to coax him out of his bedroom on his birthday or at Christmas. My husband teases her. "You're always yelling out Tristan's name. You shouldn't talk so much when you're recording!"

When Tristan is around three years old, my sister-in-law came to visit at Christmas. We drive to the mall so we can get a group picture of all of the cousins together. We're at the studio and Tristan is crying. He's having a meltdown. He doesn't want his picture taken. No one understands why Tristan is crying. No one understands why Tristan is running away.

No one understands why Tristan isn't talking as much as he used to. Why he won't make eye contact. No one understands why Tristan has a difficult time communicating frustration, disappointment, fear, pain, and exhaustion. No one understands why he doesn't want to play with other children or why he seems content in a world of his own. No one understands why Tristan is "different."

No one understands that Tristan has autism.

When he was three and a half, Tristan was diagnosed with autism. That was the year my sister-in-law moved back to the United States. "The care and therapy available to children with autism is so much more advanced in the US," she tells us. My sister-in-law moves halfway around the world for Tristan. She wants the best for her son. She becomes a single mother, Tristan's dad remains in Germany. She spends hours researching options, treatment, care. She becomes an advocate for Autism Awareness.

Tristan is a child with autism. He is also a child who has made exceptional gains through aggressive therapy, both clinically and at home. Tristan speaks two languages, is an incredibly gifted artist, loves riding horses, has a fierce fondness of snowmen, and can stop you in your tracks with his striking good looks. He is so much more than a child with autism. He is a child who loves to jump and play and laugh. He is a child who brings great joy to others and who has taught our family about tolerance and patience. He is a child who has shown us the value of embracing differences and celebrating diversity.

Tristan has given my son, Garrett, a broader understanding of the abilities, talents and challenges of others. When Garrett sees a child who is 'different,' he will walk up and introduce himself in hopes of making a friend. Garrett adores Tristan and cherishes the time they spend together. He looks forward to the annual Walk for Autism event and is proud to ask for donations for "my cousin, Tristan." The bond that Garrett and Tristan share is like the bond of brotherhood. Although they rarely speak when they're together, Garrett and Tristan find their own way of communicating through play and laughter–the language of childhood.

Tristan is so much more than a child with autism. Tristan is ours, and he's perfect.

Submitted by Marie Green

We welcome stories of living with autism. Submissions to Autism: My Story will be included as space permits. Please submit to tim@scautism.org.

19th Annual Disability Advocacy Day at the Statehouse

Continued from page 1

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW:

If you are a parent, you are encouraged to bring your son/daughter with a disability.

Call, write or visit your state Representative and Senator in your district and inform them that you will be attending Disability Advocacy Day at the State House on March 5, 2008.

Make an appointment for a short visit with your legislators to discuss the top priorities listed in this brochure:

a. If at all possible, in their office at some time during Disability Advocacy Day.

b. Or in your home town, during the months of February, March or April.

If you do not know your legislators' names, call the voter registration office in your county for this information. Legislators' telephone numbers are available by calling 1-800-922-1539.

Bring a photo of your family member with a disability when meeting with your legislators and when you come to Disability Advocacy Day. Wear as part of your nametag or show to legislators as a visual reminder of who you are representing.

Bring your camera for photos with your legislators. Send your photos with the news release (a news release will be provided March 5th) to your local paper.

Bring a picture ID. It may be needed due to increased security.

Pre-registration is not required. More information will be provided on March 5th.

TELL YOUR PERSONAL STORY

Write your personal story to leave with your state Representative and Senator.

Your personal story is important and needs to be told to your legislators. They want to hear from you and will listen, because you are their constituent.

Personal stories put a real face and voice on how important services are to you and your family member.

You also can include a photo of the person who needs or receives services. Please keep stories short and to the point.

OUR TOP PRIORITIES for citizens with severe lifelong disabilities and their families

- **Maintain current funding** for essential services
- **Family Support Funds** are good for the family AND good for the economy
- People need services **NOW**, not long waiting lists
- **Employment**-Self Advocates want REAL jobs with REAL pay
- Let your voice **be heard** by attending Disability Advocacy Day

PARKING INFORMATION

Meters will be bagged for free parking. Locations are shown on the map with dotted (▪ ▪ ▪) lines.

Passes are not required for bagged meters. But they are available in the Blatt Building or from traffic guides on the streets around the State House Complex.*

A new parking garage is on the corner of Pendleton and Park Sts. Park free in this garage and the Lady St. garage all day IF a special pass is on dashboard. Without a pass you must pay parking fees. Passes are also available at both garage entrances.* (8 ft. clearance)

*To get passes before March 5, contact service providers and Disability Advocacy Day co-sponsors. Passes can be emailed.

VISITOR PARKING AND DROP-OFF ARE NOT PERMITTED in the Capitol Complex underground parking garage. VEHICLES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER FOR ANY REASON.

For more information, contact SC Partnership of Disability Organizations Telephone: (803) 750-6988 or toll-free (800) 438-4790 - Fax: (803) 750-8121 E-mail: scas@scautism.org or on the web at **www.scautism.org**.

Let your voice be heard! Attend Disability Advocacy Day

Register at the Blatt Building lobby-1st Floor.

YOU can help the Governor and members of the SC General Assembly understand the unique needs of citizens with severe, lifelong disabilities and the essential services provided in South Carolina.

- Show how important these issues are by helping us fill the lobby!
- The visual affect of a full lobby will help show legislators how important our issues are.
- Wear your Disability Advocacy Day sticker
- You are encouraged to bring your son/daughter who has a disability with you.
- Look for the Self Advocate Display.

HANDICAP ACCESS

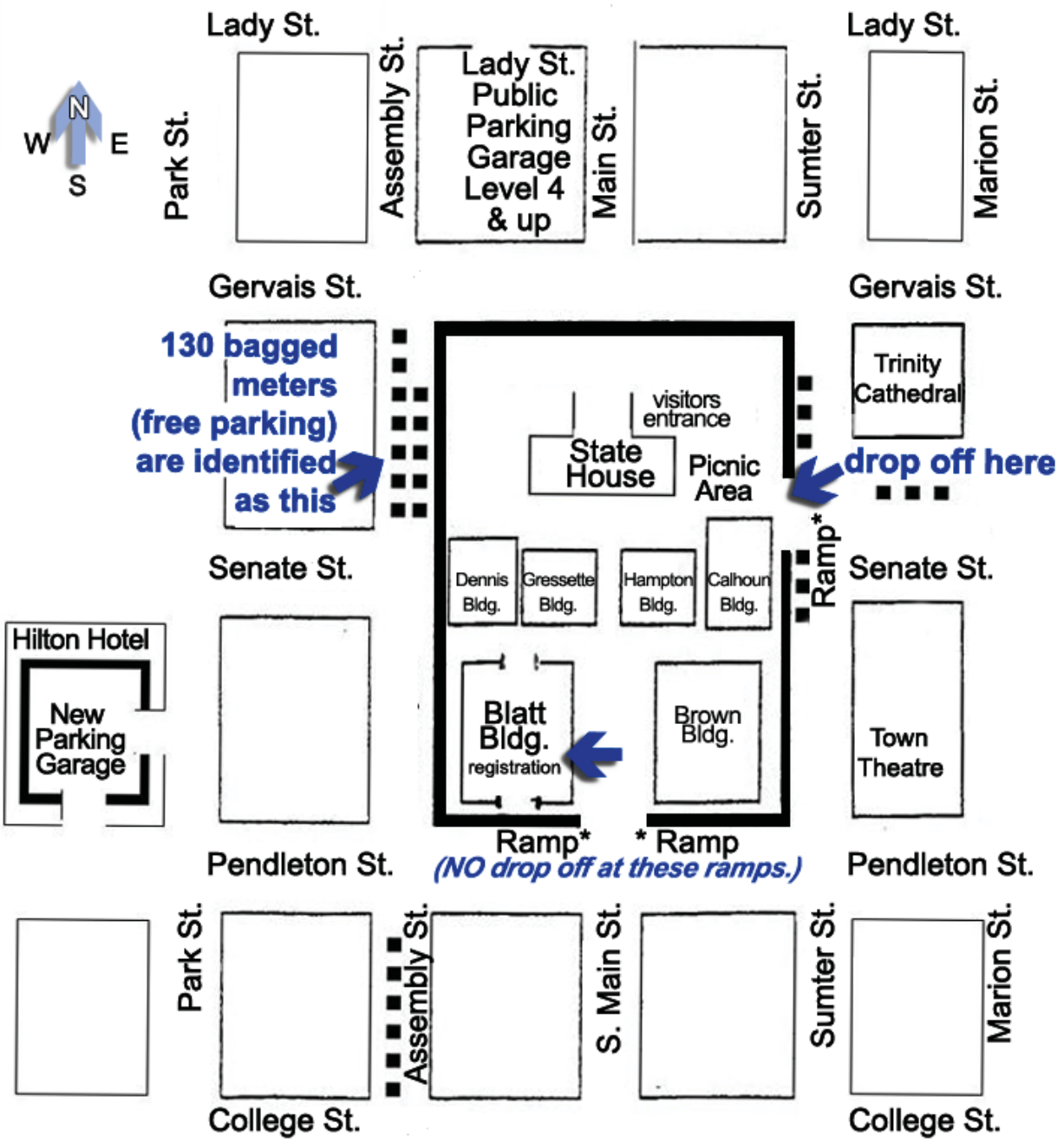
See SIDEWALK RAMPS marked on MAP with * Ramps are on Sumter St. and Pendleton St.

Guides will be stationed at the three Sumter Street ramps(*) to assist with unloading.

*****NEW THIS YEAR*****

PICNIC: 12:00 PM (see signs for location)

- Bring your lunch and join self advocates on the grass of the state house
- Self Advocates will speak on current disability issues



2008 Strides For Autism Registration Form

Online Form

My Information:

Walk Location:	Greenville, April 12 ☐	Columbia, May 10 ☐	*Both!* ☐		
Your Name:					
Address 1:					
Address 2:					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Phone: with area code		Your Email:			

SCAS respects your privacy and will not share or sell your personal information without your permission.

I'd like to participate as:

☐ **Individual** (no team)

Fundraising Goal: $

(Please indicate Team Name below if you are contributing to a team's goals!)

Team Name: _____

☐ **I'm Team Captain** ☐ **I'm a Team Member**

☐ **I'm a Walker** ☐ **I'm a Donor**

☐ **This is a TEAM Goal** ☐ **This is my Personal Goal**

Waiver and Release of Liability: I hereby waive all claims against the South Carolina Autism Society or any personnel for any injury during this event. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for use photographs of me and quotations from me in legitimate accounts and promotions of this event.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(must be 18 or parent or guardian to sign)

Name Above: _____ _____

(typed/printed)

There is no cost to register for the Walks. The information below is available for donations.

Enclosed is ☐Check or ☐Money Order OR Charge ☐Visa / ☐Mastercard / ☐Discover

Name (on card):		Exp Date:		V-Code:	
Card Number:					
Signature:					

Please mail checks/money orders payable to **SCAS,** along with completed form to our address:

SC Autism Society, 806 12th Street, West Columbia, SC 29169-6142

OR register at **www.scautism.org**.

Online Form

2008 Rolling for Autism Awareness Family Event Bowler Registration

☑ if a teacher	Bowler Name	Address (street, city, state, zip)	Phone	Age	Male/ Female	* T-Shirt Size	$$ Raised
1 ☐							
2 ☐							
3 ☐							
4 ☐							
5 ☐							

Registration Fees: $8 per person or $30 per team (4-5 people). T-Shirt is included in registration fees. Please specify shirt sizes: Childs Medium (CHMED), Adults Small, Medium, Large, XL, XXL, XXXL.

Team Name: _____

☐ I cannot participate in the bowling event, but please accept my donation to support the SC Autism Society in the amount of: $_____

Contact:				Phone:	
Company:					
Address:					
City:		State:		Zip:	

Enclosed is ☐Check or ☐Money Order OR Charge ☐Visa / ☐Mastercard / ☐Discover

Name (on card):		Exp Date:		V-Code:	
Card Number:					
Signature:					

Please mail checks/money orders payable to **SCAS,** along with completed form to our address:

SC Autism Society, 806 12th Street, West Columbia, SC 29169-6142

OR register players/teams at **www.scautism.org**.

2008 Board of Directors

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2008 SCAS Board Meetings

Saturday, January 12
10:00 – 2:00 at SCAS

Saturday, May 17
10:00 – 2:00 at SCAS

Saturday, August 16
10:00 – 2:00 at SCAS

Friday, October 3
4:00 – 6:00 at Columbia Conference Center

SCAS Welcomes Tim Conroy as COO/VP

On January 16, 2008, **Tim Conroy** joined SCAS as **chief operating officer** and **vice president**. He recently retired from the SC Department of Education, where he served in the Office of Exceptional Children and the Office of School Quality. He has extensive experience serving students and families as a special education teacher, school administrator and education specialist, serving students with disabilities and their families in a variety of capacities. Tim received his BA in elementary education from USC, a Masters in Urban Education from Cambridge College and a Masters in Educational Leadership from the Citadel.

Tim states, "Teacher, administrator or 'bureaucrat,' wherever I've been I've tried to support students with disabilities and their families either through direct interaction or through helping them negotiate the complexity of systems and the law to protect their rights.

"The reason I joined SCAS, I wanted to be around a group of people that were passionate about what they do and who consistently problem-solved the barriers that the system sometimes presents to make a positive impact on the lives of kids with autism and their families. I've always been attracted with how this organization works cooperatively with other agencies and groups to really provide more consumer-driven choices and to enhance the quality of life for individuals with ASDs.

"One of the goals coming into the SCAS that I would like to impact or achieve would be to help expand our services to other geographic regions in the state. We want to continue to help 100% of the people that contact us. We want to provide them with a link to any agency or group that a can provide them with assistance. We have a tremendous staff and board, and I'm proud to be joining this organization."

Tim's wife, Terrye, is a reference librarian at the USC Law School. They've been married 21 years.

October - December Membership

New

Benefactor
Ms. Allison Bertram
Ms. Pamela West

Supporting
M/M Jack Holdford
Ms Donna Copley
Ms Angela Gay
Ms Lisa Smith

Basic
Ms. Pamela Jones
Ms. Nancy McLin
Ms. Debra Danko
Mr. Ted Benson
Mr. Scott Thur
Ms. Rosetta Penny
Ms. Allison Babyak
Ms. Julie Warner
Ms. Valeska Gioia
Ms. Michelle Donaldson
Mr. Edward Manley
Mr. Jon Schmidt
Ms. Geraldine McIlwain
Ms. Brenda Martin
Ms. Janet Scarborough
Ms. Cynthia Hennigan
Ms. Rebecca Lyon
Ms. Marlene Preedom
Ms. Lil Martin
Ms Sherry Hopkins
Ms. Sandra Sabo
Ms. Benzenia Singleton-Pinckney

Student
Ms. Brenna Kendrick

Renew

Benefactor
Mrs. Amy J. Weeks
Mrs. Jill Taylor
Mr. Roy Williams
Ms. Susan Butler
Mr. Tony Pope

Supporting
Ms. Annabel Sy
Mrs. Becky Hughes
Ms. Margaret Moore
Mrs. Denise D. Chastain

Basic
Ms Maxine Habersham
Ms Lisa Plumley
M/M Jerry Pittman
Ms Susie Tolson
Ms Carolyn Logue
Ms Gwen Keitt
M/M Bob White
Ms Ann Bessette
Ms Tracie Zuniga

Memorials

In Honor of ...
Administrative Staff at Round Top Elementary by Ms Brenda Hanes
Brennah Clayman by Ms Dawn Clayman
Breo'n Alfred Tiller by Ms Rodonna Hodges Tiller
Paul Miller by Mr Stuart Penn
SCAS Staff by Dr Richard Ferrante, Ph.D.

In Memory of ...
Alexis Vella by: Nursery Road Elementary
M/M Whit Smith
Mr Keith Hudson
Ms Barbara Price

Allyson Bell Dickens by: M/M Denise Hill
M/M Ted Bell

Cynthia McManus by: M/M Ronnie Hudson
M/M Charles Davenport
M/M Benny Frick
M/M Harry Woodmanasee

Florence McMahon by M/M J. E. Buchanan

Rosa Fuoco by Ms Josephine Nicolo

Sandy Taylor by:
D/M Charles H. Banov
D/M William F. Bishop
Ms Elaine T. Freeman
Mrs Fran Buchanan
Mr Robert Royle
M/M Richard Seeber
Ms Nicole Baker
Mr Robert Faucette
Lutz Petroleum, Inc.
Ms Martha Dunagin
Ms Diane Crawford
D/M William Elston
Ms Faye Dunagin
M/M R. Wiley Bourne
M/M Larry Ward
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Ms Sheila Caines
M/M Timothy Benton
Ms Pattie Bradley
M/M Ronald Torezan
Mr Russell Dwyer
Ms Karen Griswald
M/M Vilis Vitols
Ms Maura Wilson

Expansion Campaign
Mr Bill Danielson, Danville Business Advisors, LLC

Planning for the Future Workshops

SC Autism Society is administering free regional workshops entitled "Planning for the Future for Yourself and Your Child with a Disability" on behalf of the SC Partnership of Disability Organizations. These workshops are funded by a grant through the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging. Topics include long-term care, legal issues, letter of intent, government benefits, special needs trust, circle of support and planning resources. For more information or to register, please go out our website and visit the Calendar of Events page.

Grants for Families of Children with Autism

There's no doubt about it: autism is expensive. For some families, though, the cost of autism can be devastating. The National Autism Association has created a grant program specifically for families of children with autism who are in financial crisis.

If you are a family residing in the United States with a child on the autism spectrum aged birth to 18, you may qualify for the grant. The maximum you may request is $1,500. Money from the grant may be applied **ONLY** to biomedical treatments, supplements or therapies for your child with autism - and the money is paid directly to vendors (*not to families*).

Similar grants are offered to families by Autism Family Resources, Act-Today for Autism, and United Healthcare Children's Foundation.

If you are in search of a grant for autism treatment, these grant opportunities are legitimate resources. Many advertised grant opportunities, however, are not. A Google search will almost certainly lead you to sites and ads for "free grants for autism." Many of these organizations will require you to pay in advance for your "free grants" - an absurd idea, since grant, by their very nature, are "free."

If any agency or individual requests money from you as part of a grant application process, run fast and far. Then, consider reporting that agency or individual to the police.

If you know of other legitimate grant programs for families coping with autism, please let us know! Know of any to be avoided? Your help is appreciated!

Submitted by: Sandrine & Derrick Howle

The UPDATE is published four times a year by the South Carolina Autism Society, one of more than 200 nonprofit chapters of the Autism Society of America (ASA) and the only ASA chapter in South Carolina. The SC Autism Society is also United Way participant. Guest Articles are welcome for possible publication. Information and points of view contained in The UPDATE are not necessarily endorsed or held by SCAS, its directors or staff, but may be presented to keep readers informed.

Visit our website for a current calender of events--including training opportunities, meetings, events, and more!

Join SCAS Today!

If you're not a member of SCAS, remember that becoming one will save you money on the SCAS Conference in October. Contact SCAS at 803-750-6988 or 800-438-4790 or visit **www.scautism.org**.

BASIC Individual - $10 Family - $20
State conference discount including invitation to VIP Membership reception; Receive THE UPDATE, state chapter quarterly newsletter; free shipment of SCAS products purchased by phone; personalized membership card; SCAS membership decal; voting privileges during annual meeting (Family level gets two votes).

FULL-TIME STUDENT Individual - $10
Basic (individual) benefits

SUPPORTING Individual - $35 Family - $50
Basic benefits plus: 10% discount on all SCAS promotional items (travel mugs, t-shirts, etc.); exclusive limited edition member coffee mug (Family level receives two mugs).

BENEFACTOR Individual - $75 Family - $100
Basic and Supporting benefits plus: Exclusive "Solving the Puzzle" ribbon lapel pin (Family level receives two pins); Personal invitation to special events.

Get your tickets from SCAS for a chance to win this

Yamaha Golf Cart!

This is your chance to win a Yamaha Golf Cart: 48-volt with lights, cover, battery and charger. This cart is blue with the SC palmetto tree design and was used as a demo model. While it was already in "like-new" condition, the tires, battery and windshield were replaced.

SCAS will sell only **500 tickets**. Once that limit is reached, we will hold the drawing.

Visit **www.scautism.org** or call **803-750-6988** or **800-438-4790** today!

SCAS employees and other affiliates are eligible to win.

Tickets are: **One ticket for $15** or **Two tickets for $25**

How to Reach Us ..

SCAS Staff			Ext.
Craig C. Stoxen	President & CEO		106
Tim Conroy	VP & COO, PSP Coordinator		101
Vickie Stowe	Admin. Assistant		100
Sheila Raulerson	Admin. Assistant		109
Mary Bennett *	Director of Finance		105
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Jan Mandeville *	Parent Liaison		
Barbara MacWilliams	Director of Development		120
Susie Phillips *	Special Events Coordinator		104
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Kim Thomas	Director Service Coordinator		111
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Amy Gary	Lead Service Coordinator (Horry)		
Courtney Fulton	Service Coordinator (Horry)		
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Melissa Shope	Lead Service Coordinator (Greenville/Spartanburg)		
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Deborah Chaddock +	Program Assistant, PSP		103
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A.J. Dearbury *	Margie Moore-Williamson *	Lissa Waring *	
Brenda Dease *	Tammy Ruiz *	Deandrea Woolridge *	
Denise Garvey *	Jamie Sampson *		

* denotes parent of child with an autism spectrum disorder. + denotes relative of person with an autism spectrum disorder.

South Carolina Autism Society

Main Office	Horry County Office	Greenville/Spartanburg Area Office:
806 12th Street West Columbia, SC 29169 803-750-6988 or 800-438-4790 (*extensions above*) Fax: 803-750-8121 e-mail: scas@scautism.org	P. O. Box 30425 3254 Holmestown Road, #1 Myrtle Beach, SC 29588 Office & Fax: 843-650-0129	Suite 130 - Century at Keith 5 Century Drive Greenville, SC 29607-1578 Office: 864-473-7023 Fax: 864-241-8667

www.scautism.org

SCAS Calendar of Events

March 5: 19th Annual **Disability Advocacy Day** at the State House

- 2008 Top priorities for citizens with severe lifelong disabilities and their families:
- Maintain current funding for essential services
- Family Support Funds are good for the family AND good for the economy
- People need services NOW, not long waiting lists
- Employment - Self Advocates want REAL jobs with REAL pay

March 6-7: **Puberty, Sexuality and Beyond** by Mark Steege.

March 18: **Developing Legally Correct and Educationally Appropriate IEPs** by ***Drs. Erik Drasgow and Mitchell Yell*** at Greenville Tech *Rescheduled from January 17.*

April 12: **Strides For Autism in Greenville** with Honorary Co-Chair and MC: ***Carrie Davis*** of WSPA-TV Channel 7 and Honorary Co-Chair ***Senator David Thomas***

May 10: **Strides For Autism in Columbia** with Honorary Chair and MC: ***Joe Pinner*** of WIS-TV Newschannel 10

June 12: **You're Going to Love this Kid, Inclusion of Students with ASD** by ***Paula Kluth, Ph.D.*** at the Columbia Conference Center on Laurelhurst Avenue.

October 4: ***Dr. Temple Grandin*** will be the keynote speaker at our **2008 Annual Conference**.

SCAS's

"Faces of Autism"

DVD will be available soon!

Watch our website for more information!

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If you would like to help us reduce costs and read The UPDATE online, please email SCAS@scautism.org with KEEP MY SCAS NEWSLETTER in the subject line. We will use your email address to alert you when you can view the newsletter on our website.

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