



# UPDATE

SOUTH CAROLINA AUTISM SOCIETY

Volume 28

Issue three

Fall 2000

## 2000 Conference Gets Great Reviews

The South Carolina Autism Society's 2000 Conference, held Oct. 5-7 in Columbia, got high ratings from most attendees who turned in evaluation forms.

"Providing a Continuum of Supports" was the theme of the conference, which attracted 150 family members and professionals. Keynote talks focused on positive behavioral support and life planning for individuals with disabilities, with an emphasis on financial security. The first day featured an optional workshop on writing functional and measurable goals and objectives.

The event was capped by the annual meeting of the society's members, the conclusion of a silent auction and awards to 11 individuals and one school. (See page 14 for award recipients.) The awards recognize professionals and others who have made special contributions to improving the lives of persons with autism.

Keynote speakers were Glen Dunlap, Ph.D., an authority on positive behavioral support

and director of Florida's Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, and Bart Stevens, a lifetime assistance planner, who heads Life Planning Services and Dignity Systems, USA in the Southwest. Bart was especially well received. He spoke about futures planning in his keynote talk and conducted a breakout session on special needs trusts. There were eight other breakout sessions.

Focus tables, new this year, gave the option of having lunch Friday where a specific topic would be discussed. "The idea worked well at some tables, but not at others because people didn't know to sign up," said SCAS Executive Director Craig Stoxen. "When we do this again we will fine tune things so people will get more information about how it works."

The conference committee and SCAS staff are open to suggestions to improve conferences and attract new participants. Call the office or reach SCAS by e-mail or website if you have comments or suggestions.

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# A Message from SCAS President Joyce Nielsen

As we approach the new millennium (the official one) and the end of the year we have seen many, many improvements in the diagnosis and treatment of autism. When I think of how it was 30 years ago and compare it to now, I know it was the dedication of many parents and professionals that made these improvements possible. However, it seems we are now facing an alarming increase in the incidence of autism. One in 500 or even 1 in 250-500 are the new numbers we've been hearing. What to do?

The South Carolina Autism Society has broadened its scope greatly in the past four years in order to reach parents and professionals throughout the state and help in whatever way we can. According to the 1999 census, South Carolina has a population of approximately 3.9 million. This means that there are about 7,800 individuals in the state having symptoms of an autism spectrum disorder. Of course, if you consider families and significant others as well, one could reasonably say that there are over 50,000 people in the state who deal with individuals with autism on a regular basis.

Where is all of this leading? We at SCAS are asking for your help. For all we serve, we still have less than 200 members. Have we helped you in the past when your family member was diagnosed? Have we given you, as a professional, assistance in dealing with autistic individuals? I guess I'm asking for a little payback. Unfortunately, numbers do matter. We may have served nearly 2,000 in our AIR program and over 250 parents and 190 schools in our Parent-School Partnership program, but we still rely on membership. Numbers matter when applying for grants or any other type of assistance. If we are to continue to be a viable influence in our state during the new millennium, we need support from as many people as possible. With a solid membership base, we can continue to advocate, develop new programs, and do whatever is necessary to further enhance the lives of all individuals and their families throughout the state who are touched by autism.

It's my last wish as departing board president that this becomes a reality. Join today! And don't forget to visit us on the World-Wide Web: [www.scautism.org](http://www.scautism.org).

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Joyce Nielsen

The *Update* is published four times a year by the South Carolina Autism Society, a nonprofit chapter of the Autism Society of America. 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 readers simply to keep them informed about options. SCAS maintains offices at 229 Parson Street 1-A (Suite 326), West Columbia, SC 29169. Call us at 803-794-2300 or 800-438-4790; fax us at 803-794-2303; or reach us electronically at [scas@scautism.org](mailto:scas@scautism.org) or [www.scautism.org](http://www.scautism.org).

## 2000 SCAS Board of Directors

<b>President</b> Joyce Nielsen ( <i>son has autism</i> )	<b>Coastal West</b> Denise Long ( <i>son has autism</i> )	<b>Piedmont East</b> Rebecca Shippy President Elect ( <i>adult son has autism</i> )	<b>1997-2000</b> <b>At Large</b> Maria Delgado ( <i>child has autism</i> )
<b>Vice President</b> Margaret Moore ( <i>adult son has autism</i> )	<b>Midlands East</b> Gaye Hartley ( <i>daughter has autism</i> )	<b>Piedmont West</b> Denise Oxford ( <i>daughter has autism</i> )	<b>1998 - 2001</b> <b>At Large</b> Tim Daugherty, Ph.D. Winthrop Professor
<b>Secretary</b> Ann Bishop ( <i>adult son has autism</i> )	<b>Midlands West</b> Amy Weeks Vice-President Elect ( <i>son and daughter have autism</i> )	<b>2000 - 2003</b> <b>At Large</b> Erik Drasgow, Ph.D. USC Professor	<b>1998 - 2001</b> <b>At Large</b> Alex Holbert ( <i>nephew has autism</i> )
<b>Treasurer</b> Mitchell Yell, Ph.D. USC Professor	<b>PeeDee East</b> Cheryl Bauerle ( <i>daughter has autism</i> )	<b>2000 - 2003</b> <b>At Large</b> William Floyd III, Esq. ( <i>son has autism</i> )	<b>1999 - 2003</b> <b>At Large</b> Ken Boggs ( <i>son has autism</i> )
<b>Immediate Past President</b> Beverly McCarty ( <i>twin sons have autism</i> )	<b>PeeDee West</b> Shirley Ballard ( <i>son has autism</i> )	<b>1997-2000</b> <b>At Large</b> Michael Fillipone ( <i>son has autism</i> )	<b>1999 - 2003</b> <b>At Large</b> John Edwards ( <i>adult son has autism</i> )
<b>Coastal East</b> Denise Chastain ( <i>son has autism</i> )			

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## SCAS Staff Members

<b>Executive Director</b> Craig C. Stoxen	<b>Parent Mentor, Coastal</b> Dandrea Woolridge*
<b>Administrative Assistant</b> Vickie Stowe	<b>Parent Mentor, Horry</b> Sarah Pascarella*
<b>Bookkeeper</b> Mary Bennett*	<b>Parent Mentor, Midlands</b> Kim McHugh*
<b>Program Coordinator</b> Carol Niederhauser*	<b>Parent Mentor, Midlands</b> Melanie Marquis*
<b>Program Admin. Assistant</b> Sheila Raulerson	<b>Parent Mentor, Pee Dee</b> Lissa Waring*
<b>Parent Liaison</b> Jan Mandeville*	<b>Parent Mentor, Piedmont</b> Anjeanette Cheshire*

\* parent of child with autism

## **Future and Special Needs Planning for Individuals with a Disability**

by Barton Y. Stevens  
Chartered Lifetime Assistance Planner

### **PART TWO**

*Editor's Note: Bart was one of the keynote speakers at the 2000 SCAS Conference. In Part One, he discussed the need to prepare a plan for the future care and supervision of the person with special needs. Part Two addresses the four key sections of the individual's life plan. Part Three will present a simple 10-step procedure for beginning and completing your plan. Look for Parts Three and Four in forthcoming editions of the Update.*

LIFESTYLE planning is where the family puts in writing what they want for the future of their loved one. This information is recorded in a document called the "Letter of Intent." Although not a legal document, it is as important as the Will and Special Needs Trust. Lifestyle issues require decisions on where the person will live, continued educational programs, employment, social activities, religious affiliation, medical care, behavior management, advocacy and/or guardianship, trustees, and final arrangements. In addition, detailed instructions are provided for assisting the person with the typical activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, feeding and toileting. Perhaps the person has a special way of communicating that only the immediate family knows and understands. It is important that this information be included.

Rather than write a lengthy description on how to do these things, it is recommended that a videotape be made of the person performing these activities and/or receiving assistance. In addition, show the person in different social settings such as, home, school, day care center, etc. Prior to providing details regarding the assistance themselves. Their self-esteem, ego, personal satisfaction in accomplishing a task is important. Great care and attention should be given to this matter as it can play an important role in the person's peace of mind.

Imagine how much easier and less stressful it will be for the person with special needs and the care providers if they have detailed instructions immediately available to them rather than having to figure things out on their own. What could take weeks or months to learn could be accomplished in a few days or even hours. The ultimate goal is to make the transition from parental care to independent living, residency in a group home, or moving in with other family members as easy and comfortable as possible bearing in mind the comfort and security of the person.

LEGAL planning enables the family to state their wishes as to the distribution of their assets and appoint Executors to settle their estate. In conjunction with this, a trust is usually executed to provide professional money management, appoint successor trustees and guardians, maintain

government benefits, and protect the assets left for the individual. It is important to note that not all assets pass by your Will. Life Insurance, annuities, IRAs and 401(k)s pass by beneficiary designation in the policies or plans themselves. It is therefore important to check how each asset in your estate will be transferred after your death.

The “Irrevocable Special Needs Trust” is the most commonly used document to provide supplemental funds for the exclusive benefit of the person with special needs. When properly drafted, the assets are not considered in the name of the person, so they will not cause the loss of SSI and health care benefits. In addition, these funds are not exposed to repayment of Medicaid benefits.

This Trust has proven invaluable to families regardless of the size of estate or the amount of assets they are leaving for the person. This Trust enables you to appoint Trustees to manage these funds after your death or in the event you can no longer manage them.

FINANCIAL NEEDS planning is used to determine the supplemental needs of the person. First a monthly budget is established on today’s needs while projecting for the future. Then by using a reasonable rate of return on principal, the family calculates how much money is needed to fund the trust. In addition, the life expectancy of the person must be considered and then the need projected into the future using an inflation factor. Once this is completed the family then identifies the resources to be used to fund the trust. This may include stocks, mutual funds, IRAs, 401(k)s, real estate, home, life insurance, etc. Professional management for investing the assets may be done by the Trustee or the Trustee may elect to hire advisors.

GOVERNMENT ENTITLEMENTS are for many person the only or primary source of income and benefits. The cash and health care benefits are received through SSI, SSA, SSDI, Medicaid, and/or Medicare. A basic understanding of federal and state entitlement program is essential in order to be sure that assets received from family members through gifts and inheritance or a settlement from litigation does not result in the ineligibility and termination of government benefits or the government claiming reimbursement for benefits provided from assets received by the person. This is accomplished by making provisions through legal document, beneficiary changes, and notification of family that the person with special needs should not be named as a direct beneficiary. The “Special Needs Trust” should be named to receive these assets in order to avoid the loss of benefits or reimbursement for those already received.

It is evident that each of these issues is interrelated and requires they be coordinated in the planning process. Those persons who provide advice in one particular area should be made cognizant of what other are doing. This emphasizes the importance of an organized plan.

Completing a comprehensive plan assures lifetime supervision and care; maintains government benefits; allows supplementary funds to help ensure a comfortable lifestyle; provides management of funds; provides dignified final arrangements; and avoids family conflict.

**In the Coming Months**

**November 2000**

- 7 - Election Day
- 11 - Veterans Day
- 15-17 - Training by Autism Division of SCDDSN: Autism: Basic Treatment Strategies (Midlands Region)
- 23 - Thanksgiving Day (*office closed*)

**December 2000**

- 1 - Training by Autism Division of SCDDSN: Autism: Parent Training (Midlands Region)
- 6 - Training by Autism Division of SCDDSN: Autism: Early Interventionist Training (Midlands Region)
- 25 - Christmas Day (*office closed*)

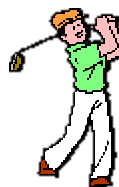
**January 2001**

- 1 - New Year's Day (*office closed*)
- 16-18 - Training by Autism Division of SCDDSN: Autism: Basic Treatment Strategies (Coastal and Midlands regions)
- 17-19 - Training by Autism Division of SCDDSN: Autism: Basic Treatment Strategies (Pee Dee Region)
- 27 - SCAS Board Meeting and Fundraiser Drawing (Columbia)

**Other SCAS Events**



April 7, 2001 - 2nd Annual Motorcycle Run sponsored by ABATE - to ride call T. Wayne Johnson at 803-648-5752.



May 12, 2001 - 3rd Annual SCAS Golf Tournament at Quail Creek Country Club - call SCAS at 803-794-2300

**Put the 2001 SCAS Conference on Your Calendar Now . . .**

October 11-13, 2001 - Columbia: Look for information in upcoming newsletters or call 803-794-2300 or 800-438-4790.

**2001 Meetings of the SCAS Board of Directors**

January 27 \* April 28 \* July 28 \* October 27

## Advocacy Tip: Try Using a Parent IEP Attachment

by Melanie Marquis  
Parent Mentor, Midlands Region

As a parent, going to an IEP meeting can be confusing, emotional and just plain overwhelming! I know because I have been going to my own son's IEP meetings for nine years now. I have also attended many as a support person with the Parent-School Partnership. How many times have you come away from a meeting not sure if what you requested was accepted or rejected?

I came across something that helps. It's called a Parent IEP Attachment. I got this great idea from the Wrightslaw.com website. It came from volunteer advocate Judy Bonnell.

Prior Written Notice in the Procedural Safeguards section of IDEA specifies that suggestions put on the table must be accepted or rejected, and the IEP team must list the reasons for accepting or rejecting the proposal. You will find this under 34 C.F.R. Part 300, Subpart E at 300.503.

Judy made a form with four columns: Proposal, Accepted, Rejected, and Reason Accepted or Rejected. If a request is "Accepted," a notation is made as to who is in charge of initiating the proposal, with a start date. The parent makes sure the IEP team gives a reason for accepting/rejecting each proposal. Writing requests down before a meeting also keeps you on track. The form reduces worries about inactivity on items or that a request will be sidestepped or forgotten. If an item is tabled it has a name attached to it, as well as a date for an answer.

I hope it helps you to reduce some of the confusion. At the end of the meeting you can ask that it be attached to the IEP as part of your official input into the minutes, making it part of the IEP. I used this form myself recently and the school psychologist copied it word for word in the addendum. It's informal, but can serve as a powerful tool in seeing to it that all proposals are considered and noted in writing.

On the right is a sample of Judy's Prior Written Notice Form, which you can also get at [www.wrightslaw.com/advoc/tips/Judy\\_IEP\\_Attachment.pdf](http://www.wrightslaw.com/advoc/tips/Judy_IEP_Attachment.pdf). Her website: [www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/1580](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/1580).

IEP For: _____	Date _____	ITEMS DISCUSSED		
		ACCEPTED/REJECTED	REASON ACCEPTED/REJECTED	DATE TO BE INITIATED
				PERSON RESPONSIBLE

## Parenthood, Politics and Possibilities

by Kim McHugh

Parent Mentor, Midlands Region

I had always avoided the political arena like the plague. Involvement in matters of a political nature was someone else's forte. It certainly wasn't mine. Politics, I believed, had no relevance in my life. In fact, I seldom voted.

When my son was diagnosed with autism at the age of seven, I, like many parents, relied on the schools and other public agencies for support. I wasn't sure what my child or my family would need. As we struggled to live with autism, I assumed that the agencies and experts would address my questions. Armed with a lengthy list of names and telephone numbers, I was confident that I would find the answers.

My son is now approaching his thirteenth birthday. I guess that I was a little slow. Or naïve. Or both. It took some time for me to realize that I was the expert and the advocate. Between the telephone calls, reading, conferences, e-mails, workshops and more telephone calls, I found myself doing what I had assumed was the responsibility of some agency.

Please don't misunderstand me. We have gotten to know many warm and caring people. Those who work with our loved ones do so tirelessly and with great commitment. But there is a shortage of funding, programs and trained personnel to support those with autism and their families.

I, who had avoided the political process, realize that I have to embrace it. Those who work in the field of autism can only go so far. They have to protect their source of income. I, as a parent, have nothing to lose and much to gain. While I continue to find political involvement less than pleasurable, it has certainly become relevant. I am responsible for my child's future. I can leave that task to no one else.

I would like to invite other parents to join me in lobbying our legislators. Let them know about our sons and daughters — *their constituents*. Allow them to meet our kids with autism and listen to their voices *or* their silence. Let's lobby for more programs and increased funding. Let's demand support for our families. No one else is going to do this for us.

Parenthood and politics may seem like an unlikely pair, but to live with autism is to believe in possibilities.

**ON-LINE SUPPORT GROUP**

Sign up through SCAS website:  
www.scautism.org

**AIKEN**

When: Quarterly (6/15; 9/21; 12/21)  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Place: Aiken Regional Hospital  
Contact: Amy Weeks - 803-642-0712

**ANDERSON**

When: 1st Tuesdays  
Time: 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Boulevard Baptist Church  
Contact: Dixon Huiett - 864-225-3500

**BARNWELL COUNTY**

When: 3rd Mondays  
Place: Barnwell Elementary School  
Contact: Faye Mitchell 803-259-1599

**COASTAL REGION**

When: 2nd Mondays  
Contact: Beverly McCarty - 843-763-6877

**COLUMBIA**

When: 3rd Mondays  
Place: Family Connection  
Contact: Kim McHugh - 799-4223

**FLORENCE**

Contact: Laurie Gonce - 803-673-0475

**GEORGETOWN**

When: Following school board meeting  
Contact: Glenda Owens - 803-546-4824

**HORRY**

When: 4th Wednesdays  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Place: Horry DSN, Hwy. 501  
Contact: Sarah - 347-3010, ext. 225  
Denise - 497-1410

**KERSHAW**

When: 3rd Thursdays  
Contact: Margo Cook - 803-438-8877

**MANNING**

When: Each Wednesday at 10 a.m.  
Contact: Sandra Wallace - 435-4007

**CSRA (NORTH AUGUSTA)**

When: 4th Thursdays  
Contact: Lisa Bryant - 803-279-4242

**SUMTER**

When: 2nd Tuesdays  
Contact: Shirley Ballard - 803-481-0342

**UPSTATE FAMILY NETWORK**

When: 3rd Thursdays  
Contact: Becky Shippy - 864-244-3235

**WHY PARTICIPATE IN A SUPPORT GROUP?**

1. To develop a parent-to-parent network
2. To discover you are not alone
3. To find some answers
4. To share a common experience
5. To locate a shoulder to cry on
6. To laugh with people who understand
7. To help another parent
8. To provide support to others
9. To unify our voices
10. To become a better advocate for your child

BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED OCT. 7

President

Rebecca Shippy  
203 Silver Creek Rd.  
Greer, SC 29650-3317  
(864) 244-3235

Secretary

Ann Bishop  
2501 Fairview Rd.  
Leesville, SC 29070  
(803) 894-3609

Vice President

Amy Weeks  
500 Gregory Rd.  
Aiken, SC 29805  
(803) 642-0712

Treasurer

Mitchell Yell  
313 Whispering Glen Ct.  
West Columbia, SC 29170  
(803) 777-5279

Members At Large

(2001-2004)  
Michael Filippone  
Maria Delgado

Piedmont East

(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Greenville  
and Union counties)  
Mary Pate

OPEN REGION  
Midlands West

SCAS would like to thank outgoing members

*Ken Boggs and Margaret Moore*

for their faithful service and dedication to helping  
individuals with autism and their families.

Mission Statement

South Carolina Autism Society

*The Society's purpose is to enable all individuals with autism to reach  
their maximum potential.*

## Autism and Informed Response in Final Year

Autism & Informed Response (AIR) is in its third and final year of funding from the Governor's Office, Developmental Disabilities Council. The grant ends next June 30.

AIR is a training program for police, firefighters and emergency medical personnel that is designed to increase their awareness about autism.

Activities in the final year will center on getting more parents on board as trainers and increasing awareness among parents as to steps they might take to prepare their loved ones for emergencies. Project Coordinator Carol Niederhauser said she will continue to look at ways to broadcast the training program across the state, perhaps with assistance from the Criminal Justice Academy or SCETV.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the training, particularly in the Florence and Rock Hill areas. Parents have come forward from the Charleston, Columbia, Aiken, Myrtle Beach and Greenville areas, but more are needed from all parts of the state. Carol urges parents to volunteer. "It's a great way to learn more about what emergency responders face in their jobs and it provides an opportunity to tell them about your loved one who has autism." She added, "We can teach them and they can teach us."

She said parents who attended the AIR panel discussion at the conference remarked on the need for greater cooperation between public safety agencies and families. On the panel were two law enforcement officials, a fire chief and an Autism Division consultant who has assisted in numerous community emergencies.

For more information about AIR, call Carol at 1-800-438-4790 or 794-2300.

### United Way



During this campaign season,  
please support your local  
United Way!

**The Power of One**

*SCAS has been a  
United Way partner since 1976*

### INFORMATION NEEDED

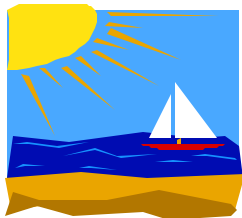
To submit events for the calendar,  
support group updates or articles for the  
spring newsletter, please send  
information to SCAS by  
January 15, 2001.  
Let us hear from you!

## Vacation Getaway Fundraiser in Progress; Golf Tournament Set for Spring 2001

The South Carolina Autism Society's 2000 Fundraiser is underway, with tickets for three outings in Charleston and a fourth in Orlando, Florida to be drawn in January. Next May 12 the Society will host its third annual Golf Tournament at Quail Creek Golf Club between Conway and Myrtle Beach.



Tickets for the holiday getaways are \$2 a piece or three for \$5. Four winning tickets will be drawn by the Board of Directors on Jan. 27 for two nights at the Mills House in Charleston or Holiday Inn Oceanfront or Yachtsman hotels in Myrtle Beach, or three nights at the Caribe Resort Hotel in Orlando. The South Carolina getaways are specifically for two, with the historic Charleston holiday stay including Sunday brunch and a carriage ride. Breakfast is included each morning during the three-night stay in Orlando.



Whoever sells the most holiday getaway tickets will win two nights at the Holiday Inn Riverview in Charleston, right off the Ashley River. Last year the prize for selling the largest number of tickets went to Joseph and Barbara Parks, who sold 196 tickets. This is a great way to help SCAS raise funds for its activities, including information, referral and support for families of newly diagnosed children.

To obtain tickets, call or e-mail the SCAS office. Be sure to provide your name, address and number of tickets you want. Buy them yourself or, better yet, sell them to friends, relatives, colleagues at work and more. Remember, selling tickets will qualify you for the two nights at the Holiday Inn Riverview.

Unsold tickets and cash from sales must be turned in by January 15. Help out and you could win a trip yourself!

To play in or help enlist golfers for this spring's tournament, call the SCAS office at 803-794-2300 or 800-438-4790. The cost is \$50 per player or \$200 per foursome, which includes cart and greens fees, refreshments and awards. There will be an 8 a.m. shotgun start at the event, to be held Saturday, May 12 at Quail Creek Golf Club, located near Coastal Carolina University.

The longest ball wins for men and women, as well as the ball closest to the pin. Prizes will go to these winners as well as the first- and second-place teams. There will also be prize drawings. Join us in 2001 to top last year's turnout!

## SCAS to Administer Program to Research Housing Options for Adults with Disabilities

The South Carolina Autism Society will research possible housing alternatives for adults with disabilities in the state, thanks to a grant from the Governor's Office, Developmental Disabilities Council.

The society will administer Palmetto Housing Options with oversight from the South Carolina Partnership of Disability Organizations, which received the three-year grant. The Partnership represents individuals who have autism, mental retardation, brain or spinal cord injuries, or related disabilities – the same population served by the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN).

Parents of adults with disabilities often cite housing as the greatest need their children have. "Families need to know there is a place for their children when they can no longer provide for their care," said Jackie Robey, the Partnership's chair.

Research will be the main activity in the first year of the grant. Palmetto Housing Options will survey other states to learn what they are doing to help adults with disabilities find housing, other than placement in government run group homes and institutional care. The first surveys have already been sent to Developmental Disabilities Councils across the United States, with many more requests for information underway.

"The goal of the project is to offer some individuals a choice when it comes to where they live and who they will live with. With choice comes a sense of independence and dignity," said Craig Stoxen, director of the Autism Society.

Many families in South Carolina say that the options open to them are too limited. They can have the adult with a disability continue to live with them, wait up to several years for an opening at a publicly run group home or try to place him or her in a regional center run by DDSN. A small number of families may have the resources to provide a home and even supervision for their loved one, but these arrangements are not possible for many.

Carol Niederhauser will serve as Project Director for Palmetto Housing Options. She is already on the Autism Society staff as coordinator of the Autism & Informed Response training.

Recent data compiled by DDSN show that 2,284 individuals with disabilities are now living with caregivers over the age of 55 years in South Carolina. Another 1,021 live with caregivers above the age of 65, and 478 live with those 72 years or older. The data include only those individuals served by DDSN, who are diagnosed with autism, mental retardation, brain or spinal cord injuries, or related disabilities.



S.C. Autism Society  
2000 Awards



The following awards were presented at the Society's 2000 Annual Meeting.

Teacher of the Year - Michelle Ratliff

Volunteer of the Year - Denise Chastain

Regional Consultant of the Year - Jodi Cholewicki-Carrol

Professional of the Year - Gloria Smith

Presidential Citation - Ann Bishop

Doctor of the Year - James C. Scheer

AIR Volunteer of the Year - Robert Derr

Service Coordinator of the Year - Rufus Britt

Russell Lee Extra Mile Award - Andy Weiner

Special Recognition to  
Meghan Humphries and  
Kelly Edwards Elementary School

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Thank you to **everyone** who helps to make the world a little brighter for children and adults with autism — as well as their families.

Award nominations can be made at any time of the year; however, the deadline for awards to be presented at the next conference will be Sept. 1, 2001.

Soon you will be able to make nominations on the SCAS website, as well as by mail or fax. For more information, call the office at 803-794-2300 or 800-438-4790.

**Together, we can solve the puzzle!**

## Membership/Donation Form

Or join SCAS on our website: [www.scautism.org](http://www.scautism.org)

The South Carolina Autism Society's *Update* and other activities are made possible through memberships, donations, fundraising and the United Ways of South Carolina. Thank you for your help!

**YES, I want to become a member of SC Autism Society.**

**YES, I want to renew my membership.**

I understand that my membership in SCAS will include membership in the Autism Society of America.

Please enroll me for the following membership:

Individual \$45       Agency \$400

Family \$65       Full-time Student \$30

I would like to make a special contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

This donation is made in:  honor of       in memory of

Acknowledge to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Options:**

Check/Money Order       Visa       MasterCard

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support.**

## Membership Will Give You

- Parent-to-parent network of support
- Information and referrals
- Periodic information materials and updates
- Regional support groups
- Continued advocacy with government agencies and lawmakers
- Opportunities to work with people who have common interests and concerns in making a difference for those who have autism
- Annual Conference with workshops and speakers for parents and professionals
- Collaboration between agencies and nonprofit organizations

**Autism can be treated**

**Join *scautismforum* for Free**

Families of children and adults with autism can share information with other families by using an e-mail group accessed at the South Carolina Autism Society's website, [www.scautism.org](http://www.scautism.org).

The e-mail group, *scautismforum*, is offered free of charge to families in South Carolina.

The forum provides an opportunity to share concerns and experiences with other families. Discussions will not be moderated, and membership will be restricted to South Carolinians. Log on through the SCAS website today!

For more information, please visit the S.C. Autism Society's website at:

[www.scautism.org](http://www.scautism.org)

Call us at: 803-794-2300 or 800-438-4790

**Shop On-line and Raise Money for SCAS Too!**

Looking for an easy way to shop for music, videos, books, toys, clothes, electronics, pet supplies, health and beauty items — and more?

Then try shopping on-line through *NPSMall.com*, and you'll help to raise money for SCAS at the same time.

More than 150 participating merchants will make contributions to the Society based on each shopper's purchases. The percentage SCAS will receive is shown when the shopper uses the "shopping mall." With the holidays just around the corner, shop on line!

# UPDATE

fall 2000

**South Carolina Autism Society  
229 Parson Street 1-A  
West Columbia, SC 29169**

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