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Spring
2003

South Carolina Autism Society

Together We Can Solve The Puzzle

Fall 2003 Conference Will Feature Speakers Eustacia Cutler, Teresa Grossi

Eustacia Cutler, mother of Temple Grandin, will speak Saturday, Oct. 11, at the South Carolina Autism Society's 2003 Conference.

The conference, to be held in Columbia, will feature transition issues across the lifespan. Friday's keynote speaker will be Teresa Grossi, Ph.D., director of the Center on Community Living and Careers at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community.

Ms. Cutler has written school lessons for major TV networks, performed and written for theatre and cabaret, and performed as a band singer at the Pierre Hotel in New York City. Her studies in retarded and emotionally disturbed children led to two TV documentaries. She is a Harvard graduate.

But Ms. Cutler is also the mother of Temple and three other children. Temple has a Ph.D. in animal science, is on the faculty at Colorado State University, and has her own business. Her books, *Thinking in Pictures* and *Emergence: Labeled Autistic*, were among the first books to be written by someone with autism.

Ms. Cutler is currently interested in the issue of identity for the person with autism and points out that all too often that individual's identity centers around being autistic. Her talk will be titled, "Autism and Personality: Preserving the Core."

Of identity for the autistic person, she writes, "They have to struggle for it daily, minute by minute, in a world they can only see as topsy-turvy; and struggle without the comfort of friends, for friendship, too, is usually missing. No wonder winning and keeping

that core means so much."

Ms. Cutler is an engrossing speaker. She will leave plenty of time for questions from parents and others during her talk.

Dr. Grossi, who will speak Friday at the conference, has a varied background in transition issues for individuals with autism and other

cont. on p. 4 — see Conference Speakers

Your Help is Needed

Disability Advocacy Day Is March 5 in Columbia

Your help is needed more than ever this year to make sure South Carolina limits its cuts to the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) budget.

With a new administration and about half a million dollars to be cut from department budgets, programs for children and adults served by DDSN may be in jeopardy.

One way to speak up about the importance of these programs is to join SCAS and other advocacy groups at the State House on Wednesday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., for Disability Advocacy Day (DAD).

Last year about 400 DDSN clients and their families attended the annual event, which is sponsored by the S.C. Partnership of Disability Organizations. SCAS is a member of the Partnership.

Since the last round of cuts, some families have seen program spaces frozen and

cont. on p. 4 — see Advocacy Day

From the Desk of the President

Dear Friends:

When Dr. Stan Butkus, director of DDSN, first started to move South Carolina in the direction of person-centered planning, he talked about how it would increase consumer “choice.”

As most of you well know, choice has been limited in our state for the children and adults who qualify for services through DDSN. Historically, there haven’t been many agencies outside of the local Disabilities and Special Needs boards or their designees that offered services to DDSN-qualifying children and adults. Not only were these options limited, but they were often contracted for very specialized services.

We are very gradually seeing choice expand. In recent years a handful of new providers have set up shop in South Carolina (see page 7). But there are still many communities and many, many DDSN-qualifying children and adults with autism who do not have choice. I am not saying that they don’t have access to services, because services are provided by or through the local boards, and they are generally good. I am saying that the options are still very limited for many South Carolinians with autism and their families.

In activities as critical as early intervention, personal care, job training or housing, consumers need choice. They should have the option of looking at a variety of providers and being able to choose who they feel most comfortable with. If their comfort level changes for any reason, there should be other options to consider.

I am happy that DDSN has moved forward with the choice concept and that the department is now developing a Qualified Provider List (often referred to as QPL). DDSN has a Request for Proposal procedure and documents that set forth the standards DDSN expects all providers to meet.

Once an agency or other organization meets the qualifications of the request for proposals, it will be added to the QPL. As an individual and his or her family seeks services, their service coordinator will be responsible for providing them with the QPL.

This process will take a little more time, but soon South Carolina should see an expansion in the number of providers to choose from. This won’t be a one-time shot. The request for proposals will remain open for several years, and applications will be reviewed on a regular basis. More than likely it will take some time to build up a large number of providers.

The QPL will include providers for all of DDSN services including residential services (all levels), day habilitation, facility based rehabilitation, supportive employment, early intervention, and service coordination.

As I understand the process, service coordinators will be the key to letting families know which providers are available. They will help families to make choices and evaluate their options.

As this process continues, look for updates in this newsletter. SCAS will continue to list those providers who are added to the QPL. I also envision that as we move forward, SCAS will put together questions to ask potential providers as well as things to look for when visiting various programs.

Having choice throughout the state should improve service quality in the entire system. The one thing to note is that having other providers available does not mean that more people will be served. For that to happen, we need to have more money in the system.

Thank you.



Craig C. Stoxen
President and CEO

Fundraisers a Big Part of Awareness Month

Autism Awareness Month will be observed in April across the nation, with a variety of fundraisers scheduled in South Carolina to benefit programs here.

Fundraisers for the S.C. Autism Society include the fourth annual motorcycle run from North Augusta to Columbia on Saturday, April 5; the second annual bowling tournament in Columbia on Saturday, April 12; and the fifth annual golf tournament near Myrtle Beach on Saturday April 26.

Funds from these events help to continue important SCAS programs, including information and referral, and advocacy to improve the quality of life for individuals with autism.

Craig Stoxen, SCAS president and CEO, is urging those in the autism community, as well as other supporters, to get involved in the events this April.

“As other sources of revenue become more difficult to secure and maintain, we hope people will take advantage of these activities,” Craig said. “We’re not just trying to raise awareness during Autism Awareness Month, which is important, but we also need to raise money for important programs.”

The bowling fundraiser, Rolling for Autism Awareness, will feature two start times on Saturday, April 12, 11 a.m. or 3 p.m. The event will be held at Royal Z Lanes on Two Notch Road in northeast Columbia.

Register for the bowling and golf fundraisers at www.scautism.org. Or register by calling SCAS at 803-750-6988 or 800-438-4790.

Register your four-person bowling team before April 4 at a minimum of \$15 per person or the special family rate of \$45. These are minimums, because the event is scheduled to raise money for the Autism Society.

Another way to help out is to sign up sponsors at the gold (\$300), silver (\$200), and bronze (\$100) levels. Visit the SCAS website or call

the office for details.

The bowling fees will include two games, shoe rental and a T-shirt, plus refreshments. Prizes for male, female and under-13 high scores will be awarded. Prizes will be drawn, too.

Quail Creek Golf Club will be the site of the Fifth Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 26, with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. The cost is \$75 per player or \$300 per foursome. The fees cover carts and greens, refreshments and awards.

Sponsorships are vital to the success of the golf fundraiser each year and will be publicized. Sponsor levels are gold (\$400), Silver (\$300), Bronze (\$200), and Hole (\$50). For details check the SCAS website.

Prizes will be awarded for first and second place teams, closest to the pin, and long drive, as well as prize drawings.

Details about the motorcycle run will be available in early spring. Call SCAS for details.

The Update

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. Guest articles are welcome for possible publication. Information or points of view contained in the *Update* are not necessarily endorsed or held by SCAS, its directors or staff, but may be presented simply to keep readers informed about options. SCAS maintains offices in the Palmetto Office Building at 652 Bush River Road, Suite 203, Columbia, SC 29210. Call us at 803-750-6988 or 800-438-4790; fax us at 803-750-8121; or e-mail us at either scas@scautism.org or www.scautism.org.

**Volume 31, Issue One
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Conference Speakers *cont. from p. 1*

severe disabilities. Her experience includes an associate professorship in the Department of Special Education Services at the University of Toledo in Ohio and directing training and placement at Touchstone Café in Ohio, a full-service public restaurant that provides vocational training for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Dr. Grossi will conduct a smaller, breakout session on employment following her keynote presentation Friday. She has written a dozen or more journal articles and book chapters and has coauthored two books on adult employment and career and vocational assessment, both published by Paul Brookes in 2002.

Dr. Grossi recently was a keynote speaker at a conference for TASH, a leading organization supporting inclusion and full participation of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of their communities.

The 2003 conference will offer other breakout sessions related to lifespan transition by S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation and the University of S.C. College of Education, among other presenters.

A pre-conference workshop is anticipated for Thursday, Oct. 9, in the area of positive behavioral supports.

SCAS President and CEO Craig Stoxen said that one of the biggest challenges of putting on a successful annual conference is meeting the needs of families of young as well as older children or adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.

“This year’s program will address transitions across the lifespan for individuals with ASDs,” Craig said. “Transitions begin with the start of school or even earlier with early intervention services. They can continue through school and, we hope, into some kind of employment or community living after school.

“But for this population, changes can be especially difficult,” he continued. “This program will provide information, examples and some options families may want to explore to help their particular family member with transitions.”

The conference will be cosponsored by the S.C. Departments of Education, Disabilities and Special Needs (through the Autism Division), and Vocational Rehabilitation.

Advocacy Day *cont. from p. 1*

reduced respite funds available to them. DDSN has reported to the Health Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee that any additional cuts will result in cuts in services, beginning with respite and in-home supports.

Advocates are encouraged to attend on March 5 so they can speak out about the importance of DDSN services and develop and strengthen a positive relationship with their legislators.

No pre-registration will be done this year, but family members and self-advocates are asked to **register upon arrival** in the Blatt Building first floor lobby. The Blatt Building is on Pendleton Street between Assembly and South Main streets. It is a short walk from the State House. Further details about the day’s events will be provided at that time.

The Partnership asks that family members and self-advocates call, write or visit their representative and senator in their home district and tell them they will attend DAD. Advance appointments are recommended for short visits while at the State House on March 5.

Be sure to tell your legislators what losses or reductions in services will personally mean to you and your family member.

For their phone numbers, call 800-922-1539.

If you cannot take your family member with you, be sure to take a photo along. Wear it with your nametag or show it to your legislators. Take a camera for photos with your senator and representative. These can be given to local news media after March 5.

A photo I.D. card is suggested because of increased security measures now being taken at the State House complex.

Call SCAS before March 5 if you did not receive a copy of the DAD 2003 brochure, which was mailed in January. It includes a map of the State House area, information about parking and access, and other tips on how to get your important message across to your legislators. For a copy or further information, call 800-438-4790 or 803-750-6988 or visit the SCAS web-site at www.scautism.org.

Library's Disabilities Collection Keeps Growing

The Center for Disability Resources Library in Columbia has been growing steadily in recent years, especially when it comes to new materials about autism spectrum disorders.

Anyone living in South Carolina may use the library. Materials can be picked up at the library, located inside the University of S.C. School of Medicine Library on Garners Ferry Road, or they can be mailed directly to the borrower. A postage-paid return envelope will be enclosed with mailed items.

Library holdings can be viewed and checked out online at uscm.med.sc.edu/CDR/index.htm or by calling librarian Roz McConaughy at 803-733-3310. Her e-mail address is roz@med.sc.edu. The fax number is 803-733-1509.

There are more than 4000 books, videos, brochures and audiotapes covering a variety of disability-related topics. Materials are geared toward professionals, parents and children.

Books about autism spectrum disorders and other disabilities are acquired each month. The majority are new titles.

'Walk Far for NAAR' to Be Held May 10 in Charlotte

"Walk Far for NAAR" is the National Alliance for Autism Research's signature fundraiser and awareness event held across the U.S. In the Carolinas the event will be held Saturday, May 10 at the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

For more details about the event, contact NAAR in Charlotte at 704-333-0051 or inquire by e-mail at thenewman@comporium.net.

NAAR was founded by families seeking bio-medical research into the causes, prevention, treatment and cure of autism spectrum disorders.

NAAR is a nonprofit organization with a network of volunteers and supporters in cities and towns throughout the country. The national toll-free number for NAAR is 888-777-NAAR. On the web, check www.naar.org or e-mail autismwalk@naar.org.

Volunteers for the Charlotte walk are needed to recruit teams and solicit sponsorships.

For example, two books acquired in January 2003 were *Freaks, Geeks and Asperger Syndrome: A User Guide to Adolescence* by Luke Jackson, a 13-year-old-boy with Asperger syndrome, and *Developing Leisure Time Skills for Persons with Autism: A Practical Approach for Home, School and Community* by Phyllis Coyne and Colleen Nyberg.

The collection used to be housed at the Midlands Center, and encompasses materials previously kept by the Autism Division of the S.C. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs.

It is a collaborative effort between BabyNet and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Center for Disability Resources, DDSN, and the USC School of Medicine Library.

The School of Medicine Library is located in the veteran's hospital complex on Garners Ferry Road. The Center for Disability Resources collection is located inside.

Furman 'Walk 'n Roll' Is Set for March 29

Furman University's mall is the place to be in the Upstate on Saturday, March 29 for a one-mile "Walk 'n Roll" to benefit the Disability Action Center and Greenville County Committee on Accessibility.

The event will begin from 8 to 9 a.m. with registration. The walk will begin at 9 a.m., with an awards presentation to end the event at 10 a.m.

If you can't participate, please consider making a pledge or raising pledges and the Disability Action Center will find someone to walk – or roll – for you. Call DAC at 803-779-5121 for a sponsorship envelope or a map to the course. Lou Nell Eady also has information at 864-455-4295.

Another way to get involved is to create a team where you work or at your child's school or your church. Volunteers also will be needed the day of the event.

T-shirts will be given to everyone who raises at least \$50 in pledges. Prizes will be awarded to individuals and teams raising more than \$50.

Early Diagnosis: M-CHAT vs. the CHAT

by Ruth K. Abramson, Ph.D.

Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, USC School of Medicine

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

Recent studies of the CHAT (Checklist for Autism in Toddlers, a quick diagnostic tool designed for medical professionals) and the M-CHAT (modified version of CHAT) in children age two may indicate that the M-CHAT is the more reliable of the two instruments.

D. Scambler and S. Rogers ("Can the CHAT Identify Autism in Preschoolers with Fragile X?") examined toddlers with fragile X in an attempt to diagnose autism in these children. Fragile X is a genetic disorder that can include autistic features; about 7 percent are diagnosed with autism. The CHAT identified as autistic only half of the children with autism. The CHAT failed to identify autism in 50 percent of these fragile X children (false negatives). It did not identify autism as a disorder in a child who did not have autism (false negative). It was a small sample, but indicates that the CHAT may miss identifying correctly a large number of children with autism who might then benefit from intervention.

D. Robins et al. (The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers [M-CHAT]: Autism is Detected at 2 Years Old) reported on a large study over time of toddlers screened at age 2 using the M-CHAT. The M-CHAT was given to 1293 parents for them to use with their child. After evaluating 58 children, 39 were initially diagnosed with autism or PDD-NOS (about 67 percent). At age 4, 537 children were re-screened from the original sample to see if the M-CHAT was able to correctly identify children with autism or PDD-NOS at age 2. To date, no missed diagnoses were detected in the children available for follow-up evaluation. Most of the diagnoses remained stable.

Of the 26 children with diagnoses who were also re-evaluated, 18 (about 70 percent) retained their original diagnosis. Thus, there were false positives, that is, children originally diagnosed with autism or PDD-NOS who on re-evaluation at an older age did not have autism or PDD-NOS, but no false negatives (missed diagnoses). The M-CHAT correlated strongly at age 4 with the Vineland Communication Scale, the Vineland Social Scale, and the CARS.

Thus, the M-CHAT has improved sensitivity, when compared to the CHAT, in its predictive power for diagnosing autism or PDD-NOS in 2-year olds. It does not miss these diagnoses, but does produce false positives. These authors conclude that this is a successful screening instrument for 2-years olds, and is improved over the original CHAT (used on younger children).

ADHD-Autism Connection?

Some, but not all, children with autism have symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). It has not been clear whether the ADHD symptoms are part of the symptoms of autism in some children or whether children with autism may have both ADHD and autism. Recently, Smalley et al. (2002) published "*Genetic linkage of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder on chromosome 16p13 in a region implicated in autism*" in the American Journal of Human Genetics. Smalley analyzed 203 families with ADHD and reported linkage on 16p13 in these families.

Three autism studies also have reported linkage in this area of chromosome 16. These findings suggest that variation in a gene on 16p13 may contribute to common deficits found in both ADHD and in some children with autism. It will be important to see if children with autism and ADHD symptoms show genetic linkage to chromosome 16p13.

Choice of Providers Slowly Coming to S.C.

Individuals with autism — as well as other clients of the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs — are slowly getting new options for services in some parts of South Carolina.

Most of the new providers are in the Upstate, with the exception of a new residential program in Charleston and an early intervention program with clients across the state.

In parts of the Upstate, Playworks and Bright Start are the newest early intervention providers. Family Networks and J.B. Walker and Company are now taking clients for service coordination in some counties.

Statewide, Easter Seals has more than 100 DDSN clients for early intervention since first offering E.I. services eight months ago.

Along with a small number of already established independent providers, these newest agencies provide DDSN clients with services that traditionally have been provided only by DSN boards or their affiliates.

“It’s very evident that people are looking for choice,” says Rick Carter of Easter Seals. “We have exceeded our expectations,” he said of the number of DDSN early intervention clients Easter Seals has begun serving since last June.

Options are slowly coming to the state, especially in service coordination and early intervention, programs that do not necessarily require centers or other physical facilities.

Observers expect new housing, day supports and supported employment to develop more slowly. However, one new residential program, Carolina Autism Supported Living Services (CASLS), opened in 2002.

Based in Charleston, CASLS provides housing, residential services, training and consultation for individuals 6 years and up with autism and related disorders.

Mentor and Lutheran Family Services have residential programs, but they are primarily for children with emotional disturbances who are served through the Department of Social Services or DDSN.

New provider Playworks provides early intervention to children from birth to 6 years in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties. Bright Start, established in 1999 and serving clients in Richland, Lexington and Kershaw counties, added clients from Greenville and Spartanburg counties in the last year and a half.

The Epworth Early Intervention Center, the state’s first independent provider of E.I. for DDSN clients, offers home-based and center-based programs for eligible children from pre-school age to 5 years in greater Columbia.

Family Networks and J.B. Walker and Co. are now providing service coordination in parts of the Upstate. Family Networks serves children from 3 years and up in Greenville and Spartanburg counties. J.B. Walker serves children from 3 years and up in Spartanburg County.

Bright Start provides service coordination in Richland, Lexington and Kershaw counties.

Goodwill Industries of Upper S.C. (includes Columbia) and Lower S.C. provide supported employment services in some parts of the state.

In Beaufort and Jasper counties, Programs for Exceptional People (PEP) has day programs, rehabilitation and support services, supported employment and job training, companion services and respite for DDSN clients and individuals with other related disabilities from 21 years of age and up.

Contact numbers are:

Bright Start, 803-929-1112
 Family Networks, 864-850-3631
 J.B. Walker and Co., 864-578-1545
 Easter Seals, 800-951-4090, ext. 13
 Epworth E.I. Center, 212-4768
 Playworks, 864-599-9229
 CASLS, 843-573-1905
 Lutheran Family Services, 803-798-2824
 PEP, 843-681-8413
 Goodwill (Upper S.C.), 864-681-8413
 Goodwill (Lower S.C.), 843-566-0072

Questions about Mentor may be directed to your service coordinator or local DSN board.

Bart Stevens Has New Book Out on Special Needs Planning

by Craig Stoxen
SCAS President and CEO

Before I get into this review of Bart Stevens's book, *The ABC's of Special Needs Planning Made Easy*, I must state up front that Bart is a friend of mine and that he has been a keynote speaker and breakout session presenter at SCAS conferences. I also happen to be one of several people who wrote enthusiastic endorsements that appear at the front of the book. (One, by the way, was written by Cheryl Bauerle, who chairs the SCAS Board of Directors.) Finally, this newsletter has carried a series of articles that Bart wrote about special needs planning.

Whew! If you're beginning to think that SCAS is sold on Bart, you're absolutely correct. But it's not just because he is a highly personable and helpful professional. We appreciate Bart because of his expertise in special needs planning, a critically important process that all families of individuals with autism need to undertake — while they still can.

Few parents want to think about the fact that they won't always be around to take care of their loved one, but, statistically speaking, individuals with autism will in all likelihood outlive their parents. Planning for the future is imperative. In *The ABC's of Special Needs Planning Made Easy*, Bart succeeds in walking the family member through the futures planning process in a caring and easy-to-understand way.

Beginning with the Letter of Intent

Bart's book goes through the process step by step. His 10 Simple Planning Steps begin with the Letter of Intent, in which the family members write out their hopes, dreams and vision for the loved one. The letter also addresses day-to-day concerns and needs, such as diet, likes and dislikes, and favorite activities. If the son or daughter has limited language, the Letter of Intent can address what different symbols, actions or words mean to him or her — in other words, the things only a mother, father or other close person would know and could impart to others.

Bart walks through the pros and cons of the various types of special needs trusts in language that is easy to understand. He clearly defines the six various types of trusts, from Irrevocable Living Special Needs Trusts to Pooled Trusts. Next Bart moves into a discussion of Social Security Benefits. His frequently asked questions section is excellent.

Bart provides great resources too. He writes about finding qualified advisors and types of insurance to consider purchasing. Throughout the book, Bart gives helpful hints and stories to illustrate his points. The stories bring home the importance of planning for the future.

I've seen several of Bart's presentations over the years. He's an energetic presenter with a full grasp of his subject. Now he has taken that same energy and knowledge and put it into *The ABC's of Special Needs Planning Made Easy*. Planning for the day when you no longer will be able to care for your child with autism is not a fun or easy thing to do. But this book can provide you with strategies to help ensure that your loved one is cared for according to your wishes and desires. It's going on my "must read" list for parents.

This book is available on the web at www.bssnp.com or by calling Bart Stevens Special Needs Planning at 888-222-8441.

Positive Behavior Programming Can Make All the Difference for Children with Autism

by Kim McHugh
Parent Mentor, Midlands Region
SCAS Parent-School Partnership

Individuals with autism often display a wide range of odd and potentially problematic behaviors. Such behaviors can leave families with a sense of isolation, fearing to bring their loved ones into public places. Schools also struggle with these behaviors, often lacking the resources to consistently address them and sometimes placing blame on the individual instead of the disability. In worst-case scenarios, there have been suspensions, police involvement, criminal charges and court appearances.

In the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1997, Congress boldly stated that “The IEP Team shall in the case of a child whose behavior impedes his or her learning or that of others, consider, when appropriate, strategies, including positive behavioral interventions, strategies, and supports to address that behavior.” (IDEA, 20 U.S.C. § 1414(d)(3)(B)(i)) The law shifted the way behavior problems were traditionally addressed from a reactive, punishment-based approach to one that is proactive, positive and preventative.

Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) is not specifically addressed in the IDEA but has been supported through case law. Problem behavior, however aberrant, serves a purpose for the person engaging in it. It usually allows access to or escape from something. It has been learned and reinforced over time. It works! FBAs examine factors that predict and maintain problem behavior. A thorough assessment results in an understanding of the function of the behavior from the point of view of the person displaying it.

Following a functional behavioral assessment, a positive Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) can be developed. Using the information from the FBA, a BIP can be designed that is truly individualized. Behavioral supports can include, but are not limited to, environmental redesign, assistive technology, curriculum redesign, social skills training, peer support and individualized instruction. An often-overlooked support is motivational programming.

Since individuals with autism may not be motivated by grades or other social motivators, alternative strategies must be developed. Careful attention needs to be given to crafting a reinforcement inventory, identifying what is reinforcing for the individual.

The goal of positive behavior programming is not simply to reduce problem behavior but to teach the person alternative, acceptable ways of achieving the same outcome. This often involves changing the environment as well as the behavior of the individuals in that environment. Good programming uses strengths and interests to address deficits. Positive plans emphasize choice, empowerment, positive reinforcement and education.

The ultimate goal of positive behavior programming is lifestyle change. There must be a long-term focus on increasing independence and quality of life, allowing the individual to reach his or her maximum potential. By addressing problem behavior in a proactive manner, our loved ones with autism can move from isolation to participation in the community. It’s a right they richly deserve.

Contributions and Donations October - December 2002

St. John's Festival
Progress Energy Service
Vi Hendley
Jeff/Sandy Taylor
Columbiana Centre
Gloria Heatley
Margie Freeman
Samir/Krishna Raychoudhury
Dorey Williams
Lois Park Mole
Roy/Rene Williams
Frances Rankin
James/Anna Eargle
Omar/Sylvane Ledee
William/Ann Bishop
Carol Niederhauser
Randy/Ann Strickland
Phil/Linda Hazlett

In Honor of

Randy Rice by Lois Dicks
Justin and Blake Priester by Dave/Laurie Priester
Andrew Nielsen by Andy/Joyce Nielsen
Steven Spann, Jr. by Carrie Spann
Elijah Page by Tim/Jennifer Page
Ian Anderson by David/Ute Anderson
Ryan Holbert by Alex Holbert
Michael Shippy by Ronald/Rebecca Shippy
Christopher Cady by Howard Gary Rogers
Cassel Wesley Sloan by Creighton/Gloria Sloan

Renewing Members

Mary Bennett
Carol Niederhauser
Craig Stoxen
Howard Gary Rogers
Margaret Moore
Louis Drake, IV
Denise Long
Darlene Rittel
Laurie Priester
Joni Highsmith
Ken Boggs

New Memberships, Renewals October - December 2002

New Members

Emma Quarterman	Christopher Horvath
Laura Misenhelter	Rebecca Madden
Tyrone Suber	Vi Hendley
Coren LeGrand	John Tataara
Juanita Wilson	Beverly Moss-Clarke
Sandy Taylor	Yancy King
Janet Keith	Yolanda Brown
Teresa Davidson	Karen Perkola
Leslie Williams	Ken Bailey
Irene Moye	Kimberly Payne
Drea Kithianis	Iris Spires
Lee Smith	Karla Newman
Katherine Doudoukjian	Laura Spears
Gayla Carle	Amy Normand
Bryan Stauffer	Pam Brogdon
Rufus Britt	Susan Powell
Don Johnson	Bessie Clarke
Jerry Whitesides	Kim Corley
Judy Manly	LuAnne Landers
Tim Conroy	Tim Page
Marie Iniguez	Wilhemina Kennedy
Roseanne Montjoy	Melody Klein
Aleta Haynes	Breanna Creswell
Cassie Cagle	Judy Martin
Mark Solnick	KelLeigh Benfield
Missy Collins	Samantha Apple
Valerie Ellerbe	Martine Boudreaux
Ester Lee	

In Memory of

Charles Sherlock by Andy/Joyce Nielsen
Craig Yoder by Harold/Selena Yoder

Correction

The last edition of the *Update* inadvertently omitted the following donors of items sold at the October 2002 silent auction: Mary Bennett, John Edwards/Mills House, Medieval Times, and Artie Kempner/Fox Sports. We apologize for the omission and would like to thank these and all other donors for helping to make the auction a big success.

SCAS Offers Variety of Support / Membership Levels

Become a member today by choosing a level from the left column and filling out the right column. Mail to SCAS at 652 Bush River Rd., Suite 203, Columbia, SC 29210. Or join online at www.scautism.org.

BASIC:
 Individual \$30 Family \$45

- ASA National Newsletter
- 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)

SUPPORTING:
 Individual \$50 Family \$75

- 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 \$100 Family \$125

- Basic and Supporting benefits **plus**
- Exclusive "Solving the Puzzle" ribbon lapel pin (Family level receives two pins)
- Personal invitation to special events

FULL-TIME STUDENT:
 Individual \$20

- Basic benefits

With your support, SCAS can continue offering programs like those listed on page 14.

Member Information

Name _____

Address _____

County _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

Work Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Please indicate which best describes you:

Parent

Medical Professional

Service Provider

Family Member

Educator

Individual with Autism

Other: _____

Payment type:

Check Visa MasterCard Discover

Credit Card # _____

Card Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Total: Membership Fee \$ _____

 *Donation \$ _____

 Amount Enclosed \$ _____

*All contributions are tax deductible in accordance with federal regulations. Receipts issued on request.

2003 Calendar of Events

March

- 1 SCAS Board of Directors Retreat
5 Disability Advocacy Day
6, 13 & 20 Autism Basic Treatment Strategies* - Piedmont
15 Breakthrough Strategies for Autism and PDD, Aiken, 800-714-2779
21 Autism Parent Training* - Midlands
22 Family Connection Annual Conference, Columbia, 800-578-8750
29 Walk n' Roll to benefit Greenville Co. Committee on Accessibility and Disability Action Center, Furman Mall, 8-10 a.m., 864-455-4295
27-29 International Conference on Positive Behavior Support, Orlando, Fla., www.pware.com/1303

April

April is Autism Awareness Month

- 5 Annual Motorcycle Run, a SCAS fundraiser, North Augusta to Columbia
6 Rock for Kids, Bowen's Island, to benefit Camp Good Times, 2-10 p.m.
7-9 Autism Basic Treatment Strategies* - Pee Dee
8 Autism Early Interventionist Training* - Piedmont
12 2nd Bowling Tournament, a SCAS fundraiser, Columbia
25 Autism Parent Training (Special Topic)* - Midlands
26 5th Annual Golf Tournament, a SCAS fundraiser, Myrtle Beach

May

- 2-4 Autism One Conference, Loyola University, Chicago
<http://AutismOne.org>
17 SCAS Board of Directors Meeting

June

- 5,12 & 19 Autism: Basic Treatment Strategies* - Piedmont
17, 18 & 19 Supporting Adults with Autism* - Midlands
23-25 Vince Carbone workshop, Introduction to Verbal Behavior: Teaching Communication Skills to Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities, SCAS taking registration

August

- 2 SCAS Board of Directors meeting
22-23 "Using All the Current Laws in Your Advocacy for Your Child," a Reed Martin workshop, Greenville; contact PRO-Parents at 800-759-4776 or SCAS for more information

* Denotes training by Autism Division of DDSN. Call designated regional office to register.
Midlands - 803-935-5090 Coastal - 843-852-4120 Pee Dee - 843-664-2720
Piedmont - 864-594-4907

Have a possible item for the calendar? Call 803-750-6988 or 800-438-4790, ext. 102; fax the details to Carol at 803-750-8121; or e-mail them to carol@scautism.org.

Parent Support Groups

On-Line Information and Support

Sign up through SCAS website:
www.scautism.org

Aiken

When: Quarterly
 Time: 7 p.m.
 Place: Aiken Regional Hospital
 Contact: Denise Stout - 803-649-5425

Barnwell County

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

Beaufort / Bluffton / Hilton Head Online Support Group

HiltonHeadChildrenWithAutism-subscribe@
yahoogroups.com

Coastal Region

When: 2nd Monday
 Contact: Bev McCarty - 843-763-6877

Columbia

When: 3rd Monday
 Place: Family Connection
 Contact: Spring Slagle - 754-0769

Orangeburg

Contact: Theresa Jameson - 803-536-4832

Florence

Contact: Laurie Gonce - 843-673-0475

Autism Support of Greenville

When: 2nd Thursday at 7 p.m.
 Where: Perkins Restaurant
 Contact: Cathy Larson - 864-879-3149

Horry County

When: Will meet as requested
 Contact: Cheryl Bauerle - 843-449-8646
 Sarah Pascarella- 800-438-4790
 ext. 305

Kershaw County

When: Will meet as requested
 Contact: Margo Cook - 803-438-8877

Manning

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

CSRA (North Augusta)

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

Interested in a Lunchtime Support Group in Columbia?

If enough families show interest, a support group will be started during lunchtime at the S.C. Autism Society offices off Bush River Road in Columbia.

Please call Mary Bennett at ext. 105 if you are interested, or e-mail her: mary@scautism.org. Be sure to provide contact information as well as what day of the week, time and with what frequency you would like to meet.



**Please support your
local United Way.**

The South Carolina Autism Society is a participant in many United Way organizations across the state.

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

Thank you from SCAS and United Way.

Welcome to Our New PSP Volunteer Mentors

The S.C. Autism Society’s Parent-School Partnership has its first volunteer mentors, Brande Smalley and Tammy Ruiz.

Brande, a Newberry County resident, has three children, including James, 5 years, who has autism. She serves on the Newberry Disabilities and Special Needs Board and is a graduate of Partners in Policy Making. She will assist parent-school mentor A.J. Cheshire in several counties in the Piedmont region.

Tammy, from the Lancaster area, is the mother of Ray, 5 years, who has autism. She serves as the parent representative on the leadership team at Lancaster County School District, and is attending classes for Partners in Policy Making (a program of the S.C. Partnership of Disability Organizations). Tammy will volunteer in Lancaster and surrounding counties.

Tammy and Brande are former recipients of PSP services who went on to work with their school districts to improve programming for their children and others.

State Summit on IDEA Set for March 21-22 in Charleston

The State Department of Education, Office of Exceptional Children, will hold a Summit on the Shared Implementation of IDEA March 21-22 in North Charleston.

The summit will focus on increasing family involvement in the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) process to improve the delivery of services to children with disabilities.

The summit will be free of charge. A limited number of parent stipends will be available to cover costs to attend.

For more information, contact Norma Donaldson-Jenkins at 803-734-8224 or rbenjami@sde.state.sc.us.

SCAS Programs

- **Information and Referral:** Information for parents and professionals about autism spectrum disorders and available services.
- **Advocacy:** Advocacy on many levels, from individual to systems change.
- **Autism and Informed Response:** Training for emergency responders (law enforcement, EMS, firefighters) on autism and risk factors.
- **Awareness Training for Dept. of Social Services Caseworkers:** Training on autism and other developmental disabilities, their effects on families, and what professionals can do to help. Funded by the S.C. Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC).
- **Palmetto Housing Options:** SCAS administers program for Partnership of Disability Organizations. Goal is to increase housing options for adults with developmental disabilities. Funded by a grant from the DDC.
- **Parent-School Partnership:** Assists families and schools by building relationships between the two. Goal is the best education possible for children with autism spectrum disorders.

Mission Statement
South Carolina Autism Society

The Purpose of the South Carolina Autism Society is to enable all individuals with autism spectrum disorders in South Carolina to reach their maximum potential.

SCAS is a chapter of the Autism Society of America.

2003 Board of Directors

Chair Cheryl Bauerle Myrtle Beach	Directors Amy Weeks Aiken	Denise Chastain Goose Creek	Erik Drasgow, Ph.D. Columbia
Vice Chair Aixa Rodriguez- Mariana Georgetown	Ute Anderson Columbia	Mary Pate Duncan	Margaret Moore Columbia
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	Alex Holbert Conway	Roy Williams Lexington	Beverly McCarty Charleston
		Shirley Ballard Sumter	Susan DuRant Columbia

S.C. Autism Society Staff

Reach us at 803-750-6988 or 800-438-4790. Extensions are listed below. Our fax number is 803-750-8121. Our website is www.scautism.org. E-mail us at scas@scautism.org.

President and Chief Executive Officer	Craig C. Stoxen (ext. 106)
Administrative Assistant	Vickie Stowe (100)
Program Administrative Assistant	Sheila Raulerson (109)
Bookkeeper, Coordinator for Palmetto Housing Options	Mary Bennett* (105)
Development Director	Johanna Nwanagu (104)
Training Coordinator, <i>Update</i> Editor	Carol Niederhauser* (102)
Office Clerk	Paula Devan (108)
Information and Referral Specialist	Lynn Ragsdale (108)
Parent-School Partnership Coordinator	Melanie Marquis* (101)
Parent Liason	Jan Mandeville*
Parent Mentor, Coastal	Dandrea Woolridge* (304)
Parent Mentor, Horry	Sarah Pascarella* (305)
Parent Mentor, Midlands	Kim McHugh* (103)
Parent Mentor, Midlands	Spring Slagle* (303)
Parent Mentor, Pee Dee	Lissa Waring* (302)
Parent Mentor, Piedmont	A.J. Cheshire* (301)

* parent of child with an autism spectrum disorder

Join the SCAS Consumer Review Panel

Monitors are needed for the Consumer Review Panel, which visits DDSN Autism Division residences and reviews “quality of life” issues for the adults who live in them.

The homes and apartments are located in greater Columbia, Spartanburg and Charleston. Just a few hours, two to three times a year, is required from monitors.

Monitors check on the condition of the residences and interview clients and staff to determine whether their needs are being addressed.

For example, a monitor might check on safety, diet and health issues; transportation; and whether the person’s recreational interests are being met. Training needs may be noted, as well as whether the client’s person-centered plan is being followed.

Melanie Marquis, coordinator of SCAS’s Parent-School Partnership, has monitored

homes and says it’s a great opportunity for parents of younger children to learn about residential offerings.

“It’s basically a very well rounded way to check on whether they’re happy and well and well taken care of,” Melanie says.

“My son is 14 years old, and it’s not too soon to look at whether there will be housing and what it might be.”

SCAS President Craig Stoxen said the Autism Society will be glad to share its consumer review procedures with parents and agencies such as Disabilities and Special Needs boards.

If you are interested in being a monitor, please contact board member Joyce Nielsen, panel chair, at anielsen@sc.rr.com or call her at 843-875-5763.

Or you may reach Joyce through the Autism Society by calling 800-438-4790.



South Carolina Autism Society

Together We Can Solve The Puzzle

652 Bush River Road, Suite 203
Columbia, SC 29210

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