

AUTISM NEW JERSEY

OFFERING HOPE. OFFERING ANSWERS.

Parents of children newly diagnosed with autism don't know where to turn. It can be a confusing and isolating experience. Autism New Jersey, through its free help-line, support groups, referral lists and parent workshops, provides direction.

Autism New Jersey is guided by science and offers recommendations for treatments and practitioners that are reliable, safe and effective. We don't lead parents down dead ends. Early intervention can lessen the effects of autism, so time is of the essence.

At every stage of the lifespan, Autism New Jersey has support services that help. Each new stage of development — pre-school, adolescence, the promise of adulthood and independence — require parents making smart decisions. Autism New Jersey is there to help.



“I was devastated.”

...Autism New Jersey listened and let me cry.

“I didn't know where to turn.”

...they gave me a list of reputable schools to call.

“I just got the diagnosis. Now what?”

...they guided me each step of the way. Their support groups were a lifeline.

“People stare at Jacob in the grocery store. He's my little boy, he's not a freak.”

... Autism New Jersey helps spread awareness in my community.

“I need help. I need answers.”

...Autism New Jersey provided me hope. I know I'm not alone. I'm part of New Jersey's Autism Community.



We are **grounded** in science, **strengthened** by knowledge and **devoted** to creating a society of compassion and inclusion for all those touched by autism.

**Are you a parent needing support? Want to learn more about autism and what you can do?
Contact Autism New Jersey at 1.800.4.AUTISM or go to www.autismnj.org.**

AUTISM: GET INVOLVED



Junior Autism Awareness Ambassador and sibling, Daniel DeRemigi gave a presentation to his fifth grade class to educate them about autism.



Matthew Buchsbaum working hard on the job.



Dr. Dan Gottlieb, host of NPR's *Voices in the Family* and author of *Letters to Sam*, with grandson who is on the autism spectrum.

IMAGINE waking up in world where you have no way of communicating with the people around you. How would you express that you're scared, tired, hurt, hungry or need help?

- **1 in 94** children is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder in NJ.
- This year more children will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined.
- Caring for and meeting the needs of an individual with an autism spectrum disorder can cost as much as **\$3.2 million during a lifetime**. Medical costs and behavioral therapies can cost more than **\$29,000** per individual per year. Non-medical costs such as special education and child care can cost more than **\$38,000** per year.

Common Characteristics of Autism

Difficulty with Social Interactions

- Little to no eye contact
- Few initiations to interact with others

Difficulty with Communication

- Delayed development of spoken language
- Difficulty understanding body language and facial expressions

Unusual Behaviors

- Inappropriate laughing or crying
- Repetitive behavior such as hand flapping, rocking or spinning



Board President and father, Mike Aquino and fellow golfers attending the Annual Autism Charity Golf Outing.



Brothers Jacob and Benjamin work hard to master new skills and make their mother proud everyday.



Jersey City Schools are a top fund raiser. They organized a district-wide dress down day for Autism Awareness Month 2008!



Autism New Jersey (formerly COSAC) is a nonprofit agency providing information, support and advocacy, family and professional education, and consultation to NJ's autism community since 1965.

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