

NSASA ✦ Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE #1



1 April 2024



April 2024 Autism Acceptance/ Awareness Month!

Welcome to our first NSASA newsletter! We are so excited to share with you the latest developments happening in our organization and in the autism community.

We have had tremendous growth in our membership in the past few months. We would like to express our gratitude to all of our sponsors, donors and volunteers. With your support, we have been able to increase our programming and provide support to thousands of families.

April is Autism Acceptance/ Awareness Month, with World Autism Day being observed on April 2. At NSASA, we will continue to work on creating connections, empowering everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully. It is our vision to create a world where everyone in the Autism community is connected to the support they need, when they need it.

The first quarter of 2024 has been amazing. Our members have participated in a variety of events, including Bounce, open swim, roller skating, movies, yoga, art classes, arcades, museums, live theater, basketball games and more! Providing free supported social and recreational events for individuals with autism is the focus of our mission at NSASA.

Our organization relies on the kindness and support of our community. If you are able to donate your time or resources during April or anytime throughout the year, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your continued support!

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

*The team at
NSASA*

In this newsletter:

Autism Acceptance Month

Current Events at NSASA:

- Birthday Club
- Art at OneRiver
- First Responder Training
- Volunteer Spotlight
- NSASA Annual Golf Outing

Department of Justice & Department of Labor: Grant Updates

NSASA Event Highlights

Donate to support NSASA



Venmo



PayPal

The connection is YOU



Updates at NSASA

NSASA is excited to announce the appointment of Michele Iallonardi, MS. Ed as our Interim Executive Director. Michele Iallonardi has been involved with the Nassau/Suffolk Autism Society of America (NSASA) for 20 years. First, as a parent, after her oldest son was diagnosed with autism in 2004. Michele has also served the autism community as a service coordinator, a special education teacher, a parent trainer, a professor, a public speaker, and finally as the Event Coordinator and Assistant Director of NSASA. Michele and her husband Ralph are proud parents to three wonderful boys, Jackson, Bennett, and Luca. Michele can be reached at miallonardi@nsasa.org.



What's happening at NSASA

In February, NSASA launched a Birthday Club. NSASA member Harrison has taken a leadership role in this new program. He is the perfect person for the job! He has an incredible memory for dates, he has the neatest writing, and he is very creative. Sign ups for the club will be posted quarterly. .

NSASA recently had the opportunity to partner with OneRiver Art in Woodbury to offer a family art class. Fanciful fish and beautiful art were created alongside the OneRiver instructors. We are grateful for this new opportunity and look forward to a continued partnership.

NSASA & The Department of Justice: First Responder Training

NSASA was awarded a grant by the Department of Justice to provide free autism awareness training for First Responders across NYS. We have two trainings being offered locally in April.

- Monday April 8th 7-11pm Bethpage at the Morrelly Center
- Thursday April 11th 8am-1pm The Point in Southampton

Please share the details above with local first responders, including police, sheriffs, EMS, EMT, School or Public Safety and encourage them to attend. Anyone interested can reach out to Veronica at vgarcia@nsasa.org to register.

ATTENTION ALL EMERGENCY RESPONDERS
FREE AUTISM AWARENESS TRAINING

The Autism Society of Nassau-Suffolk, Nassau County EMS Academy & Department of Justice grant (Edna Byrne Discretionary Funding Group) present
First Responder Autism Awareness Training

Training

- Education on what autism is, how people are affected by it
- Different levels of autism & how to deal with it
- Tools to help all people with autism and sensory problems
- Calming techniques & when necessary restraints are required
- Important signs on where to look for a lost autistic child when reported missing.

When & Where
 Monday April 8th, 2024
 7-11pm
 Check in begins at 6:30pm
 Morrelly Center
 60-Bowman Rd. W
 Bethpage, NY 11704

Register
 To enroll please email vgarcia@nsasa.org or use the link: <https://forms.gle/AS4r4f5zDAM4eAV15>

CME credits for attendees

©21-682-8695 Veronica Garcia, Director of Development
 Special Thank You to all Senator Chuck Schumer for awarding funding (10/16/23-10/22/24) and the PC Child Abuse Disciplinary Funding Office. Sponsor: Nassau County Sheriff's Office. Thank you to all State Dept of Justice, Department of Justice.

FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING CONFERENCE ON AUTISM

FREE workshop for EMTs, paramedics, firefighters & other first responders, hospital & school personnel, & law enforcement

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Presentation by
 Sgt. St. Jimmy Desrosiers, Pennekamp P.D., Founder, Take Me Home Program
 Sgt. Captain Bill Connors, Westwood J.D., Program Director, Autism and Law Enforcement Executive Council

The Point | 1570A Majors Path | Southampton
 (west side of 575 building)
 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (check in by 8 a.m.)
 To register, contact Nassau-Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Emergency Medical Services at 516-352-1000

TOPICS COVERED:

- Preparing for an emergency involving a person with an ASD.
- How to identify characteristics and behaviors of a person with ASD.
- How to effectively communicate with a person with ASD.
- Special tactics, rescue techniques, and patient care.
- How to build relationships with the ASD community.
- Fire and Life Safety Education, learning techniques and safety skills.

Needs available by a grant received by U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (2019-21-22-2024) and the PC Child Abuse Disciplinary Funding Office. Sponsor: Nassau County Sheriff's Office. Thank you to all State Dept of Justice, Department of Justice.

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES EMAIL HELLO@PFPAUTISM.ORG



Volunteer Spotlight

This month's volunteer spotlight is Heartik Inc.

Heartik Inc. is dedicated to providing education and support to children in the community, with a special focus on children with special needs.

Since its inception, Heartik Inc. has organized a diverse range of activities aimed at benefiting children in need. These activities include crafting and selling handmade artworks, fundraising for children with special needs, and engaging in activities to support and accompany people with ASD.

This group has volunteered at many events for NSASA,. They have been incredibly generous with both their time and donations. We are so appreciative of their continued support!



13 May 2024

NSASA Golf Outing

We are looking forward to hosting our annual Golf Outing on May 13th, 2024, at Glen Head Golf Club. This event raises funds for the programs, events and activities that NSASA is proud to offer to its members. We hope to see you there!

- Click [HERE](#) to register, donate or become a sponsor.
- Donations of gift cards or raffle baskets items are greatly appreciated. Please contact vgarcia@nsasa.org for more information.

NSASA GOLF OUTING

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

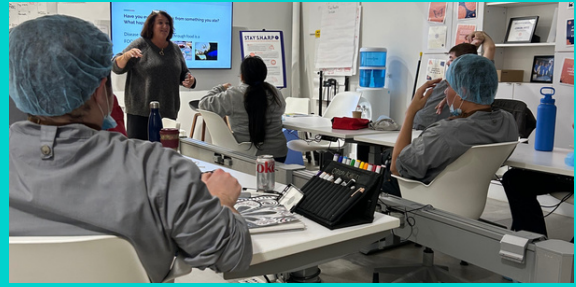
**MONDAY
MAY 13TH 2024**

Glen Head Country Club
240 Glen Cove Rd.
Glen Head, NY 11545

EVENT HONOREES
Liza and Blake Bendett
Melissa and Evan Greenstein

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
VGARCIA@NSASA.ORG

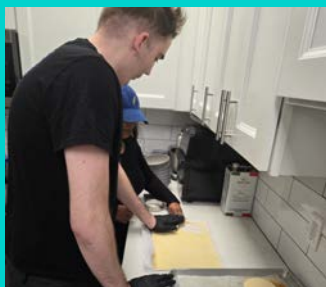
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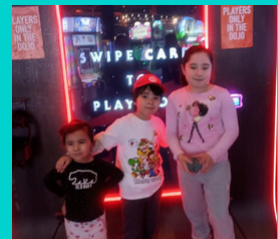
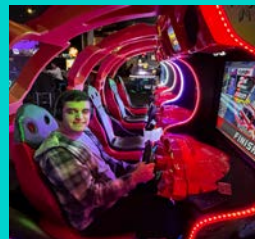
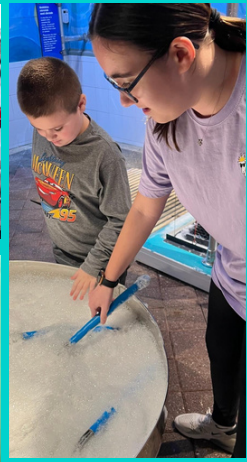
NSASA in partnership with a grant from the Department of Labor is providing pre-vocational training opportunities for adults in day habilitation programs.

Our grant partnership with the Department of Labor is in full swing. We have partnered with AHRC-Wheatley Farms Catering, Luv Michael, PopEarth, Eden and the Outback Steak House. Our programs support young adults with autism and developmental disabilities as they participate in a variety of workshop sessions.

These sessions are designed to allow the grant participants the opportunity to acquire skills in a supported learning environment. The groups work to complete tasks in the areas of cooking, meal preparation, catering, restaurant operations, maintenance and health and wellness.



NSASA Event Highlights



Thank you for reading!

NASSAU SUFFOLK AUTISM
SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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