

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Autism Society of Pittsburgh.

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*January 2017*

*Every cent raised is spent in our region  
to help improve the lives of those among us  
with autism and their families.*

## **Things you "AUT2KNOW"**

### **Opinion-Commentary**

The vaccine controversy has been triggered anew by President Trump's appointment of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to head up a panel on vaccine safety. Here is the personal case history of Mary Wildman, co-founder of the Butler County chapter of the Autism Society of America, followed by a letter to the new appointee by Daniel A. Torisky, co-founder of the Autism Society of Pittsburgh.

#### **A Mother's Perspective by *Mary Wildman***

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. has been asked by President-elect Donald Trump to chair a one-year commission on vaccine safety and scientific integrity. This was the best news that a parent who blames vaccines for their child's autism could ever imagine. I, Mary Wildman, am one such parent. [Read more.](#)

#### **A Father Perspective by *Dan Torisky***

I am a parent, an original member of the Autism Society of America in 1965, on its board for over 35 years and one of its past national presidents. I was a "disciple" of our autism society founder, the late Dr. Bernard Rimland, who literally wrote the book on autism (Early Infantile Autism) in 1964. His autism knowledgeability was without equal, and guided the policies and positions of the National Autism Society until his death in 2006. The Autism Research Institute (ARI) he also founded remains today the most reliable autism research organization in the field today. [Read more.](#)

## NEWS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

Timely news on events and issues affecting those living with autism in the Greater Pittsburgh area and Pennsylvania.

**To build a future for their son, Dallas couple plan \$12 million community for young adults with autism.**

A Dallas couple is planning to construct a \$12 million community for people with autism on nearly 29 acres of land that was formerly a polo ranch in the Denton County town of Cross Roads. It will include 15 homes, a community center and access to a 'transitional academy' that is designed to help young adults with autism develop the skills needed to live and work independently. [Read more.](#)

**A TROUBLED TRANSITION: In the rush to close institutions, Illinois ignored serious problems in group homes.**

Mark Winkeler needs 24-hour care and has lived his entire adult life at Murray Developmental Center. His mother, Rita, and others sued when the Quinn administration sought to close Murray and move residents into group homes. [Read more.](#)

### Faith-Based Guidance and Instruction for Special Needs

Continuing with our announcement in last month's newsletter, below is a link to Chapter 2 of Dr. Larry Sutton's book entitled "How to Welcome, Include, and Catechize Children with Developmental Disabilities"

[Chapter 2](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Office Opening January 2017

The Autism Society of Pittsburgh has expanded its offices to the north. The new office which opened January 2, 2017, is located in the Wexford Professional Building 1 at 11676 Perry Hwy, Wexford, PA 15090.

### January Fundraiser

On January 26, 2017, join us for a delicious way to raise money. Enjoy delicious food in a fun atmosphere along with your family and friends while earning funds in support of the Autism Society of Pittsburgh. [Click here for flyer](#)

**Top Notch Autism Referral** --This Winter 2017 edition of the Kingsley Publishers collection of autism reference publications. Call 412-856-7223 for your complimentary copy. Limited supply.

### Joey Travolta Film Camp 2016: Red Carpet Premiere

On January 14, 2017, the students of the Joey Travolta Film Camp walked the Red Carpet as their films were debuted at the Waterworks Cinemas in Fox Chapel, PA. The premiere was a huge success and the film camp family was filled with enthusiasm, energy, and delight. Congratulations to all of the campers, Arts for Autism Foundation of Pittsburgh staff, volunteers and interns who worked so hard to produce these films.





Keep an eye out for our **new website** to be complete in February 2017.

## EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

We offer a range of services, including workshops and support groups, training and educational programs, fundraising events, and community awareness building activities. We stay up-to-date on relevant happenings throughout our local autism community.

[Click here to view our calendar.](#)



## AUTISM RESOURCES

We know that those with autism can present parents, families and providers with many challenges and a solid support system is essential. Be sure to check our website for a comprehensive listing of resources involving education, family support services, vocational training, nutrition and legal.

[Click here to download our complete resource list](#)



## WAYS TO HELP

Our programs and services would not exist without the help of the caring individuals, businesses, and volunteers that support us. Contributions of any size are our lifeblood - vital to our existence and effectiveness - providing the means for us to help children with autism, their families, and professionals who work with them.



### Donate

Please consider visiting [our donations page](#) today to make a contribution through PayPal or learn about other ways to donate.

### Volunteer

From time to time we need caring volunteers to help with our programs and fundraising events. If interested, please complete [our contact form](#) and we will be in touch when a volunteer opportunity arises that meets your interests and availability.



Visit [www.autismsocietypgh.org](http://www.autismsocietypgh.org) or call us for more information and resources.

**Give us a call today!**  
**412-856-7223**

STAY CONNECTED

