

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

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



March 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

Refreshing!

In the February 15, 2017 edition of "Education Week" ("American Education's Newspaper of Record"), commentary on the appointment of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education had center stage.

According to EW, Jean Allen, founder and CEO for the Center for Education Reform, said "...there's been a firestorm of people writing and yelling and screaming (about the appointment)...."

EW stated further that state chiefs (heads of States Department of Education) have not taken public stances for or against DeVos, stating "Pedro Rivera, Education Secretary in Pennsylvania, harkened back to his teaching career in describing what it might be like to work with her. 'As a classroom teacher, I worked with principals that I didn't necessary care for, and (under) school policies that I didn't like, but at the end of the day, we're in this role because we care about kids and nothing that happens above us is going to change that.'" [Read the article.](#)

How refreshing, and precisely our own feelings as advocates for those living with autism. Would that all our appointed and elected servants in government felt the same way!



NEWS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

[FDA Seeks Input On Autism Treatments](#)
[Pittsburgh Blues Festival will return this summer/TribLIVE](#)
[Defusing Some Autism Vocabulary Stinkbombs](#)

Q. Why must the Autism Society have a seat at the table(s) of U.S. Congressional policy makers as the new administration prepares our nation's 2017 budget?

A. Somebody must point out to the policy makers that those most deserving of entitlements are those who did not and do not choose to be care dependent, and that their parents and families were never intended by Congress or the taxpayers to be penalized for caring.

Faith-Based Guidance and Instruction for Special Needs

Continuing with our announcement in our December newsletter, below is a link to Chapter 4 of Dr. Larry Sutton's book entitled "How to Welcome, Include, and Catechize Children with Developmental Disabilities" [Chapter 4](#)

The University of Pittsburgh Center for Excellence in Autism Research

The Perspectives Program

This research project explores a **treatment intervention program for individuals with autism spectrum disorders to help them learn to interact better with others, manage their emotions, feel more comfortable in social situations and accomplish their life goals.** Participants are randomly assigned to one of two groups: Cognitive Enhancement Therapy or Enriched Supportive Therapy.

Who qualifies? Adolescents and adults qualify if:

- IQ > 80
- Ages 16-45 with ASD and able read and speak English at a 6th grade level.

What is involved? Research includes weekly visits to the University of Pittsburgh over the course of the 18-month intervention. These research interventions provide support and are designed to improve social function, problem solving, stress management and more. There are several paper and pencil testing sessions throughout the study. The testing time points also include an fMRI scan where we will take pictures of your brain.

Compensation. There is no charge to participate in the intervention program. All eligible participants will be compensated for completing eligibility testing and all testing time points.

Questions? Interested in joining the study? Please contact The Perspectives Program at 866-647-3436 or autismrecruiter@upmc.edu
ups: Cognitive Enhancement Therapy and Enriched Supportive Therapy. Eligible participants will be

randomly assigned to one or the other group.

The ASSET Program

This research project explores a treatment intervention program for individuals with autism spectrum disorders to help them manage their emotions.

Who qualifies? Adolescents qualify if:

- IQ > 80
- Ages 12-17 with ASD

What is involved? Participation involves individual sessions, online resources and home practices over the course of 14-18 weeks. There are several testing timepoints that occur before the beginning of treatment, half-way through treatment, at the end of treatment and 3-month follow up that occurs online only

Compensation. There is no charge to participate in the intervention program. All eligible participants will be compensated for completing eligibility testing and all testing time points.

Questions? Interested in joining the study? Please contact The ASSET Program at 866-647-3436 or autismrecruiter@upmc.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Invitation to Participate in Study Regarding ASD and Employment for Parents of Adults, Age 26 or Older, with ASD

James Williams, MRC, CRC, a doctoral student with ASD and a fellow ASA affiliate board member, is requesting assistance in recruiting participants for an IRB-approved dissertation study involving the investigation of the relationship between parental factors and the successful employment of adults, age 26 or older, diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The survey is brief, anonymous, and easy to complete, however the participants must be the parent of an adult with ASD, 26 years or older. This data is crucial in order to gain a better understanding of how parents and professionals can support adults with ASD to achieve better employment outcomes. Below is the invitation to participate along with the link to the study. [Take the survey.](#)

Run for a Reason May 6 & 7, 2017



MAY 7, 2017 // PITTSBURGH, PA

The Autism Society of Pittsburgh is now a participating charity in the Pittsburgh Marathon Events.

[Click here to learn how you can join or team and support the Autism Society of Pittsburgh.](#)

S.P.E.A.K. Applications are available!

The Autism Society of Pittsburgh will mail S.P.E.A.K. applications to prior year students no later than February 17th!

S.P.E.A.K. is an Extended School Year (ESY) program founded by the Autism Society of Pittsburgh in 1974 to ease transitioning between school years by preventing or reducing learning regression common to children with autism.

S.P.E.A.K is a program for children ages 5 through 21 who have a primary diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum, are in good health, mobile, and able to participate in community activities. S.P.E.A.K. provides Community Based Instruction (CBI) and addresses each child's ESY goals and objectives. The program also provides music therapy, speech services, swimming, CBI classroom trips, field trips, art activities, and adapted physical education.

Download the 2017 S.P.E.A.K. application and brochure below or click here for more information. If you have additional questions or would like to request a paper application to be mailed to you, please contact the Autism Society of Pittsburgh at 412 - 856 - 7223.

[2017 SPEAK Application](#)
[2017 SPEAK Brochure](#)

Keep an eye out for the new Autism Society of Pittsburgh **website** coming soon.

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.



Give us a call today!
412-856-7223

Visit www.autismsocietypgh.org or call us for more information and resources.

STAY CONNECTED

