#AUT2KNOW

"It is so very disconcerting to me to watch as our government continues to delegitimize programs that work for some, but not for all."

--Micki Edelson

Ms. Edelson nails it and in a very few words that say it all - adaptation of which should henceforth be our exhortation, at every opportunity, to statist policy makers, uninformed elected officials, advozealots, CMS "final rulers" and their useful idiots - Tell them: "STOP DELEGITMIZING PROGRAMS THAT WORK FOR SOME, BUT NOT FOR ALL".

This applies to those who support the unreasoning, unrealistic elimination of:

- Public / private institutional settings
- Group homes
- Congregate living housing, farms, communities
- Sub-minimum workshop wages
- Segregated classes / classrooms
- Special schools
- ICF eligibility status
- Guardianship
- Necessary discipline
- Necessary restraints
- Locked Doors
- Ongoing Individualized Evaluation
- Complete continuum of services
- Family primacy in decision making
Helen and Ed Hoolahan - Gone, But Forever With Us...

Two members of the Autism Society of Pittsburgh assembled in the early 1960s to create the special needs Monroeville Development Center, the combined parent / legislator action committee, Monroeville’s own Camp Chipeewee for special needs kids, and then in 1967, with Connie and Dan Torisky, the Autism Society of Pittsburgh. Both passed away within 2 weeks of one another. We know Helen and Ed are together enjoying comfort and the loving presence of our Lord.

Helen Hoolahan Obituary
Edward Hoolahan Obituary

PARENTS & IEPs - BE PREPARED!
Supreme Court Ruling Alters IEP Landscape
Disability Scoop | Courtney Perkes | April 19, 2018

As parents begin discussing individualized education programs for their children this spring, disability legal experts say a U.S. Supreme Court ruling will set the stage for stronger goals and higher expectations.

But even with the backing of the highest court in the land, parents should still educate themselves and come prepared for a successful meeting, attorneys said. Read more

There's Still Time to Register for the 2018 SPEAK Program!!

There are still a few spots available for the 2018 SPEAK Program. Summer will be here before we know it so be sure that your child can be a part of the learning, activities, and fun at Camp S.P.E.A.K.!

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 2018 SPEAK application below and email it to: mwaibel@autismsocietypgh.org to reserve your child's spot on our roster. If you have 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.

Click here to download a 2018 SPEAK application
North Park displayed its new sensory playground on May 5, 2018. Designer, Maria Ciao (2nd from right) is shown with proud supporters: (left to right) Dan Torisky, Autism Society of Pittsburgh; Tina and Gary Ciao (Maria’s parents), and Alisha Templeton, Western PA Council, Girl Scouts of America. Maria is the recipient of the "Girl Scouts Gold Award" and was further named the "2018 Girl Scout Humanitarian" by the Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania and was also presented with a special recognition award for her work from the Autism Society of Pittsburgh. Maria is also the author of a limited-edition book for children with autism.

SPECIAL FROM AUTISM RESEARCH INSTITUTE - PARENTS' PRIMACY
Moving Forward in Our Understanding of Autism
Autism Research Institute | Stephen M. Edelson, PhD

Fifty years ago, when Dr. Bernard Rimland founded the Autism Research Institute (ARI), he challenged virtually every accepted belief about autism. At a time when most authorities believed that autism stemmed from bad parenting, he stated unequivocally that parents were in reality their children’s strongest allies. In addition, he made the following assertions - all considered radical at the time:

- The majority of individuals with ASD have one or more co-morbid medical conditions.
- Many "autistic" behaviors are clues to underlying medical and/or sensory issues.
- Many forms of autism result from an interaction between genes and environmental insults.

These three premises, which we now know to be true, revolutionized research in the field of autism. ARI has been at the forefront of this research, focusing our efforts on uncovering the underlying causes of autism and establishing an evidence-based standard of treatment.

CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL EDITORIAL
CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY COMBATS SSI / SSDI FRAUD
Trump Signs Bill Adding Protections For Social Security/SSI Recipients
Disability Scoop | Shaun Heasley | April 17, 2018

Individuals tasked with handling Social Security payments for people with disabilities will be subject to greater scrutiny under a new law signed by President Donald Trump.

The president signed the measure known as the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2018, or H.R. 4547, late last week after it was unanimously approved by Congress. Read more

Judge Grants Class-action Status to Parents in Developmental Disabilities Lawsuit against Ohio Institution Destroyers
The Columbus Dispatch | Rita Price

A 2-year-old court battle between the state of Ohio and legal advocates for Ohioans with developmental disabilities can proceed as a class-action lawsuit, a federal judge in Columbus ruled Friday. Read more

Siblings of Autism
Sibling Scholarships

Many people who are not impacted by autism fail to realize how expensive it is for a family to raise a child who is on the autism spectrum. Often as a family's limited income must be used to obtain the needed services and support for the family member with autism, the other children in the household are directly affected. The impacts may include lack of funds for summer camps, college tuition, or vocational training. Siblings of Autism is dedicated to supporting the siblings of individuals on the autism spectrum through scholarships for education, and is now holding its 3rd annual scholarship contest - winners will receive one $10,000 scholarship, one $5,000 scholarship and five $1,000 scholarships. The deadline for submission is 8/31/18.

Win a scholarship!
Go to siblingsofautism.org

Submissions should include one high-res photo of you with your sibling, paired with one powerful, thought-provoking sentence as to what Autism Is to you.

LEARN MORE

18 or Older - Get Guardianship!
Critics Say Insiders Dominate Committee Working on Guardianship Reforms
Journal Investigative Reporter | Colleen Held

With a new law taking effect July 1, the state Supreme Court has appointed a rules committee to get down to the details of reforming the state's adult guardianship system - but the group's composition is drawing criticism for including guardianship professionals but excluding critics and family members of incapacitated people. [Note: This is NOT Pennsylvania, but New Mexico, but this certainly is a good reminder of the importance of obtaining guardianship as soon as possible.] Read more
ANCHORAGE, Alaska - An Anchorage nonprofit that serves people with developmental and intellectual disabilities has agreed to settle allegations about false Medicaid claims.

The Arc of Anchorage will pay the Alaska Medicaid Program nearly $2.3 million, according to a statement from the Alaska Department of Law. Read more

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Home Vacancies in Verona

Missouri Gardens has four immediate openings in its licensed enhanced 6400 community home facility

WHERE
Verona Pennsylvania

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
LISA WASHINGTON, RN, MSN
lisa.washington@123phhc.com
Phone: 412-377-9102
WWW.123PHHC.COM

PL LICENSED HOME HEALTH AGENCY
UPMC IN NETWORK PRIVATE DUTY NURSING PROVIDER
EASE Research Study: Managing Emotions for Teens with ASD

WHAT:
Researchers at Virginia Tech and the University of Pittsburgh are interested in learning whether a new program helps teens and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) manage emotions.

- Participants are randomly assigned to one of two therapy programs
  - Participation involves individual sessions and online resources
    - Sessions provided at no cost

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:
- Individuals age 12-21 with autism spectrum disorders and IQ above 80

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact the Center for Excellence in Autism Research:
autismrecruiter@upmc.edu
866-647-3436
Website: www.reaact.pitt.edu

Click here to view "Perspectives" brochure
35th Anniversary Party on June 6th

Wednesday, June 6th | 5:30 PM | $25 Admission

You and your guests are invited to our 35th Anniversary Party and Charity Classic! Dance the night away celebrating 35 amazing years at the Rivers Club.

Your night will include:
- Entertainment from the bands, No Bad JuJu and Band Together Pittsburgh.
- Chef Jim’s delicious food and drinks
- Fabulous door prizes and raffles

The proceeds will be going to the following charities:
ALS, Austim Society, and EPCF.

Call to RSVP: 412.391.5227

RIVERSCLUB
A Member of the ClubCorp Family
Upcoming Autism Open Mic Events

Alcohol Not Permitted
Family Friendly Environment

Sundays 3-6pm
June 17, July 29, Aug. 26, Sept. 30, 2018

Autism Open Mic
Hosted by the Autism Society of Pittsburgh

Everyone Welcome to come and have fun, regardless of musical experience!
We have all mics, keyboards, guitars, amps and percussion available!
Pizza and soft drinks will be provided

Donations Gladly Accepted.

Autism Society of Pittsburgh
Arts for Autism Foundation of Pittsburgh
STEAMWORKS CREATIVE

4967 WILLIAM FLYNN HWY
GIBSONIA, PENNSYLVANIA
(Across from Allison Park Home Depot)

www.steamworkscreative.com
2018 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Race Week is Here!!

Kick-off Rallye
Sunday, July 1: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Black Tie & Tailpipes Gala
Friday, July 6: 6:30 pm - 11:00 pm

PVGP Historics at Pitt-Race Complex
Weekend July 6-8: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Invitational Car Show on Walnut Street
Monday July 9: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Waterfront Car Cruise
Tuesday July 10: 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Downtown Parade & Plaza Display
Wednesday, July 11: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm

Grand Prix Tune-Up Party
Wednesday, July 11: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Countryside Tour
Thursday, July 12: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

"Passport to Elegance" Jet Center Party
Thursday, July 12: 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Forbes Avenue of Speed - Parade and Driver Reception
Friday, July 13: 6:30 pm - 8:30 PM
Schenley Park Car Shows and Race Qualifying
Saturday, July 14
International Car Shows & British Car Day: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Vintage Race Practice and Qualifying Heats: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Schenley Park Race Day
Sunday, July 15: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Click here to purchase tickets or for more information

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.

Upcoming Events

Sensory Friendly Movies at AMC Lowes Waterfront 22

Deadpool 2
Tuesday, May 22nd at 7:00 pm

Show Dogs
Saturday, May 26th at 10:00 am

Solo: A Star Wars Story
Saturday, June 9th at 10:00 am

Solo: A Star Wars Story
Tuesday, June 12th at 7:00 pm

Please visit www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films for more information
Exceptional Adventures Events

Red, White, & Blue Salute Dance
Bridgeville Fire Department
Friday, May 25th from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Carnival Night
Bridgeville Fire Department
Friday, June 8th from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

June Bingo Bonanza
Bridgeville Fire Department
Friday, June 22nd from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

"Let's Go Pirates" Dance
Bridgeville Fire Department
Friday, June 29th from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Please visit [www.exceptionaladventures.com](http://www.exceptionaladventures.com) for more information

Sensory Day at Splash Lagoon

![Sensory Day at Splash Lagoon](image_url)
AUTISM RESOURCES

We know that parenting a child with autism comes with many challenges and a solid support system is essential. We have highlighted below two places to contact when faced with crisis situations as well as a link to a comprehensive list of suggested resources in our region.

Resolve Crisis Network
Crisis intervention services through UPMC available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to Allegheny County residents at no cost. Call 1-888-796-8226 or 1-888-7-YOU-CAN.

IRES (Information, Referral, and Emergency Services)
Emergency assistance available from Allegheny County 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 412-350-4457 or 911, TTY 412-350-3467.

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.
About Us

The Autism Society of Pittsburgh has comprised the local chapter of the Autism Society of America since 1967. We are volunteers, parents and professionals, working on behalf of children with autism and those of adult age on the autism spectrum throughout the Greater Pittsburgh area struggling with this neurological disorder of behavior and communication.

Our Goal

The goal of our Chapter is to help parents and professionals grow by providing as much relevant information on autism spectrum disorders as is known to us.

We cannot take your place. Parents are with their children for a lifetime: professionals for a career. Our efforts are aimed at helping both become as proficient as possible in evaluating and choosing the services, options and approaches that will enhance the growth and development of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Options, A Basic Right

The right of a family to learn about and then select options they feel are most appropriate for their family member with autism is as basic as the family itself. It is rooted deeply in the very foundation of our American democracy and is the guiding philosophy of the Autism Society of America. An advocacy organization such as ours that holds such a position is then compelled to devote its highest priorities to:

1. encouraging, expanding and developing excellence in a continuum of service options, and

2. providing unbiased information for ALL such options to parents, families and to the caring professionals who work with them to reduce or overcome autism's disabling characteristics.

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

Give us a call today!

412-856-7223

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NOW AT TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS!

**Monroeville Office:**
4371 Northern Pike, Monroeville, PA 15146

**Wexford Office:**
11676 Perry Highway #1106, Wexford, PA 15090

STAY CONNECTED

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com)
[Twitter](https://twitter.com)
[Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com)

Like us on Facebook