

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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Tuesday, September 6, 2016

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

#AUT2KNOW

The Right to Live Where You Want ... HUH?

Typical personal example: So, perhaps my son with autism wanted to be able to choose where, how and with whom he would live. Giving him his choice, at one time, would have meant him living with we his parents and his siblings, with all of us accommodating his screaming, tantrums, obstreperous behaviors, habits and mannerisms, both here in our house and neighborhood and in public places, giving him what he wants when he wants it, regardless of the inconvenience and annoyance to others.

Instead, we chose that he would live for a time where he got the residential care and treatment, the intensive behavior-shaping and the habilitative training he needed in order to eliminate or reduce his disabling characteristics to the point where he -- like his non-autistic brother and sisters -- could enter our community on the community's terms -- to the fullest extent possible. It worked out: he lives in a supervised group home, has a job. He visits, we visit, share holidays, trips. No family is closer.

Yet, the illogical notion currently persists as gospel -- from such as ARC, ASA, IOCC and Autism Speaks, among others -- is that those with special needs have the "right" to choose how and where they want to live and with whom, and it somehow is the responsibility of society to make it so. No one, gifted or special needs or anywhere in between, has this "right," or the "right" to be given, this choice -- or ever has had this "right" in civilized society. It is a pre-requisite to have judgmental competence and possession of self-sustaining ability, both of which are acquired over time and development of the skills to enable survival and the overcoming of the challenges of genuine community living.

This truth applies equally to children and adult-age individuals on the autism spectrum who do not possess the mental capacity to make informed decisions regarding their short and long-term welfare, and hence must rely on their caring parents or guardians to make these decisions for them.

[Read more...](#)

...AUT2KNOW

NEWS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

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

New for September:

- **Legends Football Classic**
- **FREE to Local Employers**
- **Heidelberg Apartments for for Adults with Autism -- and Others**
- **DHS Continues Push to Increase Access to High-Quality Services, Announces Telephonic Psychiatric Contracts**
- **For Kids on the Spectrum, Drug May Keep Weight Gain at Bay**

...and more!

[Click here to view our recent articles](#)



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.

