

#AUT2KNOW

Wendy's Investigates Firing Of Employee With Asperger's

by Nick Draper, Journal-Courier/TNS | September 21, 2018

JACKSONVILLE, Ill. - Fast-food chain Wendy's is investigating the termination of an employee with autism whose family was told he was "making guests uncomfortable."

David Rain III, 18, of Jacksonville has been diagnosed as having Asperger's syndrome, a condition on the higher-functioning end of the autism spectrum. He began working at Wendy's in May with a recommendation from the Hope Institute in Springfield.

Wendy's was an employer identified as being friendly and understanding toward those with disabilities, said David Rain III's father, David Rain Jr. [Read more](#)

From the desk of our President Emeritus:

The founding imperative of the Autism Society of America was to learn and promulgate the truth about Autism and how we might be able to reduce or eliminate the severity of its disabling characteristics - enabling those with autistic traits, to improve their lives and that of their of families by making them more accepting of, and acceptable within, the realities of communities in which they find themselves throughout their lives. In short: to treat, train and educate them to community standards, rather than use their disabilities as a battering ram for social reform. **I love my kid. Mr. Rains loves his kid.** But I'll be darned if I will eat at a restaurant where I find my meal is constantly disrupted by Mr. Rains' kid's behaviors if I can eat somewhere else. And if I'm the restaurant owner or manager my bottom line requires satisfied customers, not my employees' parents - don't assume or expect that my willingness to hire special needs people translates into willingness to lower my customers' comfort entitlements or my income.

Take this simple test: who ever you are - elected or un-elected official, bureaucrat, worker in any business, trade or profession - how many developmentally disabled people do you actively seek out with whom to regularly enjoy socializing, playing, vacationing, partying, gaming, movies, symphony, ballgames, sports, golf, bowling, visiting, dining? **Thought so...** While you're pondering, you'll understand why a primary need of families with special needs family members is for...respite, periodic respite.

In my opinion, given my 61 years as parent of a severely involved autistic son, Mr. Rain might do his son greater service by seeking a level of training to a job and job site wherein his son's autism traits will be inoffensive to those who, as paying customers, have no obligation or responsibility to care about or accommodate his son or his traits. Mr. Rains has that responsibility. They don't.

Dan Torisky

For People with Special Needs, the Housing Dilemma Persists

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | Eric Benninghoff | August 2, 2018

New local options emerge

Jeffrey Hudale, 46, has autism and is looking to live independently from his family for the first time in his life.

A Pittsburgh native, Mr. Hudale has experience moving around, having lived with his mother, grandma and aunt since his parents got divorced when he was 7.

He has a degree in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and a technician job at BNY Mellon, but struggles with social and independent living skills.

After 16 years living in Penn Hills with his aunt and cousin, his sights are set on a new home at Krause Commons in Squirrel Hill. [Read more](#)



A limited number of grants are available for qualified individuals in need of a service dog. The grants are provided by the Office of Stephen Zappala, Jr., Allegheny County District Attorney.

The deadline to apply is December 17th!

[Click here for application](#)



NEWS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

Affordable Rentals Available Now for Eligible Autistic Person in New Bridgeville Apartment Complex

2 one-bedroom apartments are now available at the Dave Wright Apartments in Heidelberg.

The Dave Wright Apartments are a unique affordable community where 50% of the residents are on the autism spectrum. Support services are available 15 hours a week at the building for all residents.

Rents include heat, water, garbage. Residents are responsible for electricity. Residents should be able to show \$1500/month income. Those who wish to apply should contact Supportive Housing Management Services for an application:

Supportive Housing Management Services
803 E Pittsburgh Mall, East Pittsburgh, PA 15112
(412) 829-3910

Wicked Witches Bar in Cheswick Raised More Than \$7,000 for the Autism Society of Pittsburgh!



The 11th Annual Ride for Autism at the Wicked Witches Bar & Grille in Cheswick on July 14th was a huge success! Thanks to the hard work and dedication of this superb group of people, over \$7,000 was donated to the Autism Society of Pittsburgh to help those with autism and their families, as well as the service providers that work to help them.

A very special thank you to Michelle, Kimberly, and Carol who work so hard year-round to make this event possible and have been helping to better the lives of those with autism for many years! Thank you to the wonderful group of riders and community members that came out to support the event and endured the brutal weather to complete this ride for such a very worthy cause.

We are grateful to announce that they have chosen us to be the beneficiary again next year so please look for more to come later about ways to help and support next year's event!

Autism Ambassador Iyengar Gives Heartwarming Speech at PVGP Victory Lap



Anita pictured at PVGP Pit Races in Beaver, PA



Anita presenting speech at PVGP Victory Lap

Anita Iyengar is the ambassador for the Autism Society of Pittsburgh to the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. She represented us superbly at the PVGP Victory Lap celebration that took place on October 24th at Hofbräuhaus. Please read her inspiring speech below:

Good Evening.

My name is Anita Iyengar and I am proud to represent the Autism Society of Pittsburgh tonight. A long time ago, or at least it seems that way to me, people like me were not treated well. Families didn't know what to do for us and very few people had answers.

Then along came two wonderful men: Mr. Dan Torisky and Mr. Myron Cope. They decided that they were going to do something about this. They started the Autism Society of Pittsburgh.

When families received the diagnosis of autism they now had somewhere to turn. The Autism Society kept adding new information and petitioning lawmakers to do things to help. It grew and grew. Jumping ahead some years.... I was diagnosed. My family turned to the Autism Society for help and received a lot of it. I went to the SPEAK camp and had fun. Lots of fun. And I learned a lot.

I don't remember Mr. Cope very well... I only met him once. I know Mr. Torisky, though. He's my buddy. My family and I are thankful for the decisions they made and the Society they built. Mostly we are thankful for all of you for volunteering and donating.

So when you are at the Grand Prix and hot and tired and thirsty remember this: There was a time that people like me had no where to turn and now, because of you, we do.

In closing I want to share the lyrics of a song by my favorite Christian Rock band Casting Crowns.... Remember these words... you make them possible for us.

"We know we were made for so much more than ordinary lives. It's time for us to more than just survive. We were made to thrive."

Can Autism be Cured?

Written by: Mark Hyman, M.D.

Today most people believe that Autism is a genetic brain disorder. I'm here to tell you that this isn't true. The real reason we are seeing increasing rates of autism is simply this: Autism is a systemic body disorder that affects the brain. A toxic environment triggers certain genes in people susceptible to this condition. And research supports this position. [Read more](#)

Vaccine Debate Pits Parents' Rights Against Community Risk

Disability Scoop | Eva-Marie Ayala and Nanette Light, The Dallas Morning News/TNS | August 28, 2018

DALLAS - After Amy Nemeczky's youngest son was born, she had him vaccinated just as she had her older kids.

The babbling baby named Nate was in and out of the doctor's office that first year with upper respiratory and ear infections. Nemeczky was worried about Nate receiving more vaccines while he was ill, but she followed the doctor's advice that he get them. It's a decision she now regrets. [Read More](#)

Autism Society of Pittsburgh Position: Bernard Rimland warned the national autism community - and all the medical disciplines - of the dangers of multiple vaccinations, and the multiplicity of vaccinations forced upon children as infants and toddlers, causing the increasing incidence of autism in certain youngsters. Dr. Rimland cited particularly the dangers of additives and preservatives necessary for multiple injections, and also the threat that they posed to them, some of whose neurological systems may not be able to tolerate it. To him it was a simple premise. All babies are created equal; their neurological systems are not. The position of the Autism Society of Pittsburgh is simply this. Insist on individual vaccinations, spaced apart, and only when disease threat is likely. ***AS-Pittsburgh is not anti-vaccination - simply anti-unnecessary vaccinations. It is worth finding a pediatrician who understand this.***

Early Death in Those with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Psychology Today | Michael A. Ellis DO | October 7, 2018

Those with autism spectrum disorder have a shorter life expectancy. Here's why:

Two recent studies will undoubtedly shock individuals and families affected by autism spectrum disorder (ASD). These studies show a much earlier age of death in those with ASD as compared with the general population. [Read more](#)

Incentives Floated For Treating People With Developmental Disabilities

Disability Scoop | Courtney Perkes | August 13, 2018

Federal lawmakers are looking to make doctors and other health care services far more available for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

A bipartisan bill introduced late last month in Washington would for the first time designate people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as a "medically underserved population" and qualify this group for additional resources under more than two dozen federal programs. [Read more](#)

Portvue Church Girls' Bake Sale Nets \$155 for Autism Society of Pittsburgh

Two young ladies from Portvue United Methodist Church have taken it upon themselves to help make their world a better place. For the past three years, Kailyn Chiaverini and Mayah Koon, both 11, have conducted fundraisers for various causes, from Children's Hospital to animal shelters.

Their beneficiary charity this year was the Autism Society of Pittsburgh, the region's first autism advocacy, information and referral responsibility center. Inspiration for this year's choice was the church's Pastor Joe and Jordan Koon, Mayah's brother.

Since 1967, the Autism Society of Pittsburgh has been a primary resource serving those with autism in the Greater Pittsburgh area, their families and the professionals who work to improve their lives.

Ensuring the Practice is Autism-Friendly

Optometry Today | Emily McCormick | September 2, 2018

We know that going to an opticians can be an anxious experience for a lot of autistic people who don't have regular sight tests. Therefore, over the last few years we have been working with a number of opticians, large and small, to support them in equipping themselves to best meet the need of autistic patients - consequently securing our Autism Friendly Award Standard. [Read more](#)

The Glades is Now Enrolling!

The Glades, a life development program, is just what is needed for families who want and need to focus on independent living for their loved one on the autism spectrum. It is a private pay program that can be thorough enough to concentrate on many life skills and is not restricted because it is not a program covered by waiver. The price of The Glades very comparable to sending your child to college, but this is more important. See below for more information:

www.gladerun.org

The Glades

Transitioning toward independent living.



The Glades is an all-encompassing two-year **Life Development Academy** that gives young adults with autism and other neurodiverse needs a place to live, learn and work in an effort to build their future in healthy, independent living.

Living — Students will reside in fully furnished single dorm units within The Glades' residential hall at Glade Run in Zelienople, PA. Here, they will develop daily living skills including hygiene, meal preparation and social interaction, as they navigate their day with the support of our on-site Life Skills Technician.

Learning — Students will attend a two-year training program, attending courses at Butler County Community College, utilizing the **Learn4Independence Curriculum** in partnership with FirstPlace AZ®, a research-based ABA curriculum comprised of 32 courses teaching skills such as finance, career readiness and conflict resolution.

Working — As students acquire skills, our Community Integration Assistant will work with them to gain real employment experiences that explore their interests, through the help of our community partners.

NOW ENROLLING!
Tuition for The Glades is similar to a public university. Payment options available.

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact:
Chris Smith, director, The Glades
724-452-4453, ext. 1112 or csmith@gladerun.org



GLADE RUN
LUTHERAN SERVICES
Inspiring Hope. Transforming Lives.

The path to independent living starts here. **Apply Today!**



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

Ralph Breaks the Internet

Saturday, December 8th at 10:00 am

Creed II

Tuesday, December 11th at 7:00 pm

Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse

Saturday, December 22nd at 10:00 am

Visit www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films for more information

PBT's Sensory Friendly "The Nutcracker"

Thursday, December 27th at 2:00 pm

[Click here for tickets and information](#)

Pittsburgh Symphony's Sensory Friendly Concert

Disney in Concert: Tale as Old as Time

Saturday, March 30, 2019, 2:30 pm

[Click here for tickets and information](#)

Autism Open Mic Events

Autism Parents: your family members with autism can really enjoy themselves - singing, dancing, pizza, soft drinks and fun!

Community Forge in Wilkinsburg
Saturday, December 15th from 3 - 6 PM

Autism Friendly Open Mic



Community Forge
1256 Franklin Avenue
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

Saturday, Dec. 15th – 3-6pm

Hosted by local musicians
Stevee Wellons & Cheryl Rinovato

Please RSVP by 12/8 - Dorothy Stubbs 412-969-8423

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.



**BAND
TOGETHER**
PITTSBURGH

**AUTISM
SOCIETY**
OF PITTSBURGH



Arts for Autism Foundation
of Pittsburgh

www.bandtogetherpgh.org

Steamworks Creative in Gibsonia
Sunday, January 13, 2019 from 2 - 5 PM



Alcohol Not Permitted
Family Friendly Environment

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.



4967 WILLIAM FLYNN HWY
GIBSONIA, PENNSYLVANIA
(ACROSS FROM ALLISON PARK HOME DEPOT)

www.steamworkscreative.com

Hope Learning Center Night with Santa
December 13th from 5-7 PM



HOPE
Learning Center

**8TH ANNUAL
NIGHT WITH SANTA**

Igloo Photo Booth Photos with Santa Raffles and Prizes
DECEMBER 13, 2018
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Holiday Crafts Live Penguin Visit

\$10 Donation for Digital Photo with Santa
Photography provided by Todd Thach Photography
rvp@thehopelarningcenter.com
or call 724.933.HOPE

All proceeds from the evening benefiting

HOPE
Learning Center



Announcing our Autism Pittsburgh Caregivers of Adults with Autism Facebook Group!

If you are a caregiver of an adult with autism please join our group. We want to facilitate a place where caregivers of adults with autism can ask questions, start discussions and address issues that our loved ones are facing everyday.

[Click here to join](#)



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.

[To Donate](#)

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

[To 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 andÂ to the caring professionals who work with them to reduce or overcome autism's disabling characteristics.

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

Give us a call today!
412-856-7223

NOW AT TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS!

Monroeville Office:

4371 Northern Pike, Monroeville, PA 15146

Wexford Office:

11676 Perry Highway #1106, Wexford, PA 15090

STAY CONNECTED



Like us on Facebook