

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.



*Monday, February 1, 2016*

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

## #AUT2KNOW

### **An Autism Tribute from the Autism-Pennsylvania Policy Work Group**

Autism families in Pennsylvania will never be able to thank Denny O'Brien enough for his efforts to improve their lives and the effectiveness of the caring professionals who work with them.

The Adult Autism Waiver, mandated autism insurance coverage, the regional Autism Services, Education, Research, and Training centers, parents' primacy in decision making, the Autism Task Force, autism-friendly revisions to the state education code, the state bureau of autism services itself and, most recently, the Philadelphia Autism Project. These initiatives - in combination and individually - represent the first of their kind in the United States.

Denny O'Brien, as a legislator, as a city councilman, as a devoted relative, and as a friend of so many in the autism community, his leadership and inspiration has enabled it all. Incredible stamina, intensity, contagious enthusiasm, courage against all odds - call it what you will - all of us were infused with his inexhaustible energy and optimism in challenging the long-standing exclusion of autism by an entrenched status quo.

Many individuals drew strength from him in accomplishing these ground-breaking initiatives that ultimately resulted in our state's recognition of autism as a neurological disorder of behavior and communication, distinct from all other developmental disabilities - with those affected in need of ongoing evaluation understanding and availability of appropriate service options throughout their lives.

The battle continues to this day, and Denny continues to be both our leader and a foot soldier in convincing new and existing lawmakers and regulators of the value in meeting the needs of Pennsylvanians with autism.

Thank you, for all you've done and are doing, Dennis Michael O'Brien. Do stay with us.

...AUT2KNOW



**NOW IS THE TIME!**

To be with us to celebrate the presentation of this year's magnificent donation at the Pittsburgh International Auto Show at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on February 11, 2016, click [here](#) for tickets.

## NEWS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

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

**New for February:**

- **Free Tickets to "Peter Pan" Sensory-Friendly Performance**
  - **S.P.E.A.K. Applications Coming Soon!**
  - **University to Employ, House Adults with Autism**
  - **Latest on the ABLE Act**
  - **Was Dr. Asperger a Nazi?**
- ...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 parenting a child with autism comes with many challenges and a solid support system is essential. We have highlighted below some places to contact when faced with crisis situations or for information and referral services, and have also provided 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.

### **Autism Society of Pittsburgh**

Advocacy, information and referral, programs and services. Visit [www.autismsocietypgh.org](http://www.autismsocietypgh.org)

[AutismResources.com](http://AutismResources.com)

The "Autism Friendly guide to Pennsylvania" allowing families and individuals living with autism to easily look for and recommend a range of autism services throughout the state.

### [Autism Center of Pittsburgh](#)

Specialty autism clinic meeting the needs of children with autism and their families, offering evaluations, social skills groups, support groups, and more.

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

