

Celebrate Differences  
Autism Acceptance  
Month  
Page 3

Heart Campaign  
Page 3

Legislative News  
Page 7

Walk for Autism  
Page 6

**AUTISM SOCIETY**  
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism  
Maine



*Maine*

# Autism Connections

## The Power of 45!

By Cathy Dionne



SPRING 2021

This year marks the 45th Anniversary for the Autism Society of Maine. I am sure you were wondering what the Power of Forty-Five is. When I think about ASM being here for Maine families for 45 years that is an incredible feat. I have been with ASM for 24 of those 45 years and have met with a lot of families and individuals with autism. In those past 45 years ASM has come a long way. I am happy to share the journey with you.

It all started in 1975 when a group of parents asked if there were any other kids with their unique characters and behaviors. These children at that time were attending Mariah Clark School it was a behavioral school program. It would take that year to pull together parents of these special kids to start a support group to talk about their unique differences and how they can help each other. They would come together on and off that year with the help of their Special Ed Teacher Lynda Mazzola. You may recognize that name as Lynda is the founding member of ASM.



*ASM organized a bus trip to Washington DC for families and individuals to attend a conference sponsored by "Unlocking Autism".*



*ASM contributed photos of Maine children and it was held on the mall grounds.*

In 1976 this group wrote the first grant to fund ASM. We were not called ASM at that time we were known as Maine Society of Autistic Children (MSAC). Through this funding we were able to get funding for summer services at the Mariah Clark School. It funded a kid's program, transportation, teacher training and for conferences to be held in various locations across the State. This was the year that defined what our mission and goals would be to help Maine families who have a child with autism.

By 1977 we were an official Chapter and became part of Autism Society of America. We were now known as Maine Chapter of the Autism Society of America (MCASA). It was a long title and we soon realized that there was another agency with that acronym, so we changed our name one more time and this one stuck: Autism Society of Maine (ASM). By 1985 we became Incorporated.

continued on Pg. 4

*Maine* **Autism  
Connections**  
*A publication of the  
Autism Society of Maine*

**Board of Directors**

Tiffany Rooney, *President*  
Christina Nason, *Vice President*  
Joshua Nash, *Treasurer*  
Bobbi-Jo Boisvert, *Secretary*

Brigid Rankowski      Malarie Clark  
Scott MacCallum      Dick Farnsworth  
Bobbi Jo Boisvert      Kim Webber  
J. Richardson Collins      Jon Youde

**Staff**

Cathy Dionne  
*Executive Director*  
Susan Vincent  
*Communications Director*  
Tara Perry  
*Office Assistant*  
Betsy Mahoney  
*Community Outreach Liaison*

---

Maine Autism Connections is a  
quarterly publication of the  
Autism Society of Maine  
72B Main Street  
Winthrop, ME 04364  
Phone: 1-800-273-5200

---

*Graphic Designer:* Tara Perry  
*Proofreader:* Susan Vincent  
*Contributing writers:* As bylined

*Send article ideas and suggestions for  
our newsletter to:*  
info@asmonline.org

*Statements made by various authors regarding treat-  
ment, products or services represent the views and  
opinions of solely those authors, and do not constitute  
a recommendation or endorsement by ASM.*

 **AUTISM SOCIETY**  
*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*

Visit us online at: *Maine*  
<http://www.asmonline.org>

Stay up-to-date for  
Legislation issues, fund-  
raising events, volunteer  
opportunities, and  
upcoming happenings.



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Autism-Society-Of-Maine/107781499258293>



## President's Message

Hello ASM Community,

We have now reached the one-year mark of the pandemic's impact on Mainers. The Autism Society of Maine (ASM) was hit hard, as were many organizations. Resilience is the ability to recover quickly from difficulties... and that is exactly what ASM did. They adjusted to a virtual format for fund raising events and informational webinars, and events. Families and individuals on the spectrum have also demonstrated resilience; making significant adjustments and changes in routines to meet the restrictions of masking and distancing -not an easy adjustment for any child. Over the past year resources and services were minimized or discontinued altogether. Yet people adjusted their work schedules and pulled resources within their families and communities to help meet these gaps. This resilience was humbling to witness. I thought this was an excellent time to share strategies for strengthening resilience in ourselves. The Maine Resilience Building Network published the following guidelines on building resilience. I hope you find it helpful.



**1. Begin with yourself!**

- Take care of your own emotional & physical health
- Develop healthy coping devices (regular exercise, reading, listening to music, etc.)
- Seek out healthy family/friends for support
- Use community supports (counseling, substance abuse treatment, self-help programs, faith-based groups, etc.)

**2. Make connections**

- Good relationships with family, friends or others are important. Accepting help and support from people who care about you and will listen to you strengthens resilience.
- Get active in civic groups, faith-based organizations or other local groups for social support.
- Assisting others in their time of need can benefit you as much as them.

**3. Take control**

- Look for your own inner strengths.
- Have a healthy, positive view of yourself.

**4. Set goals**

- Set goals and take steps to move toward them.

**5. Expect the unexpected**

- Avoid seeing crises as insurmountable problems. You can't change the fact that stressful events happen, but you can change how you interpret and respond to these events.
- Accept change as a part of living

Stay well and stay strong,  
Tiffany Rooney  
ASM Board President

**"Challenges are what makes life interesting  
and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."**  
Joshua J. Marine

Editorial Notes: Maine Autism Connections and Autism Society of Maine programs and services are made possible by donations from people like you and funding from the Maine Department of Health & Human Services. We hope you will also visit us online at <http://www.asmonline.org>, where we have a great deal of information available about autism, programs, resources, news, a calendar of events, legislation and more.

# Autism Acceptance Month



SPREAD AWARENESS, PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE,  
IGNITE CHANGE!

For April, National Autism Acceptance Month, ASM is proud to Celebrate Differences by providing educational resources, autism facts and statistics, and providing opportunity for community engagement.

Stay in touch with what is going on by visiting ASM online!

There will be autism awareness events, resources and information listed on ASM's online channels:

- [Email listing](#)
- [Facebook Page](#)
- [Autism Acceptance Page](#)
- [Calendar of Events Page](#)

**The Autism Society of Maine works every day to improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by autism.**

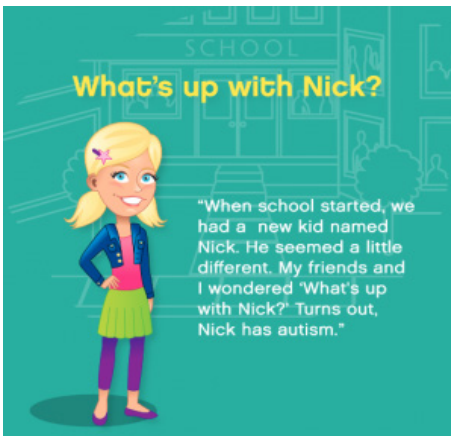
**AUTISM SOCIETY**  
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism  
Maine



The Autism Society of Maine (ASM) is offering businesses or agencies the opportunity to sell puzzle piece paper hearts for \$1 each to your customers or clients. They would put their name on the heart and your agency would display them. You have seen a variety of stores/businesses sell them to show support for a cause. This is a great way for you to support the Autism Society of Maine. ASM would supply you with the hearts and you would provide a check at the end of the campaign for the total amount of hearts sold. It's that simple.

Call ASM if you want to participate at 1-800-273-5200 or visit [www.asmonline.org](http://www.asmonline.org) – we will provide a shout out on Facebook to all businesses or agencies that participate. Share your pictures with us.

## Kits For Kids



### What's up with Nick?

"When school started, we had a new kid named Nick. He seemed a little different. My friends and I wondered 'What's up with Nick?' Turns out, Nick has autism."

Educators, would you like to have a presentation done in your classroom around autism? Teaching kids about autism will help them better understand their classmates who might appear odd, or different. The Autism Society of Maine is offering to send an Autism Information Specialist to your school and present to your class, second grade through eighth grade.

There will be a short video, activities for the kids and discussion. Depending on the grade level the presentation can be anywhere from 20 minutes to 30 minutes.

**ASM will provide all the material which includes: crayons, How We Fit Together Activity, What's Up with Nick book, Activity Booklet for Kids, Certificate of Friendship and fidget toys.**

Reach out to ASM [infospec@asmonline.org](mailto:infospec@asmonline.org) ask for Kits for Kids if you're interested.

## Coffee with Cathy

Join Cathy once again for a month of exciting, informative Coffee with Cathy segments, check out the guests Cathy will be chatting with in honor of April Autism Acceptance month:

**March 18-** [Dr. Matt Siegel & Dr. Emily Siegel](#)-Autism & Depression in Children

**April 1-** [Nancy Clements](#)- Social Thinking Methodology and Social Competency

**April 8-** TBA

**April 15-** [Dr. Jed Baker](#)- Dealing with remote learning & behavior issues specifically related to New Normal

**April 22-** [Dr. Jed Baker](#)- Key Components of Effective Social Skills Traing For All Learners

**April 20-** [Dr. Tony Attwood & Dr. Michelle Garnett](#)- Exploring Depresson & Beating the Blues

Click on the Speaker's name to register for webinar!

For more information and description of each webinar go to [www.asmonline.org](http://www.asmonline.org)



In May of 2013 we officially had our non-profits status and became a 501 (c) (3). We were and still are a big part of the Autism Society of America.

As I looked back at how the agency has developed over the years, we still have the one simple mission:

**Provide education and resources to support the valued lives of individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.**



**The very first fundraiser ASM did was at a Memorial Day Parade in Lewiston. We held a bake sale and raised \$78. (1997)**

The first big program ASM developed was the Family Retreat Weekend. This was a weekend that families would attend along with all their children and sometimes even grandparents. They would come together to attend some workshop while their children had their own activities with respite providers. It truly was a unique weekend. The first weekend was at Owls Head, each family had their own cabin. What an experience that must have been, by the time I came along they were no longer able to meet at Owls Head as it was sold to another owner and we could not continue at this location.

Over the years the retreat has moved around the state from Machias, Kents Hill, Biddeford and Standish. Each site had its special qualities, and each family has their favorite part of the weekend. Coming together and sharing I have to say is the most important, we are not alone!

There are many programs over the years that ASM has started that it is hard to name them all but here are a few more that we have accomplished over the last 45 years.

**Autism Information Specialist Program** – ASM trains parents, individuals and professional to become consultants all over the State to help families who may need help at an IEP meeting or PCP meeting. They learn about policies and regulations and can provide presentations to local agencies. This program started in 2003, there have been 98 current and past AIS in this program.



**Family Retreat Weekend at UNE (2008)**



**Camp Summit a summer camp for children with autism was started in 2003 and this was the first group of college students to participate in this program. Today we now have 2 summer camps the original in Farmington and we added the Biddeford site in 2017**

**Summer Camps** – The first camp was in Farmington with collaboration through University of Farmington Psychology Department. The college offered our camp as a class to take, the students received credits for the class, and we received the one on one we needed for the children. Our second camp was open in Biddeford through University of New England. Without both colleges our camp would not have seen the light of day – we are very thankful and so are many families and children.

**Autism and Law Enforcement Training** – Back in 2004 Matt Brown a retired Federal Probation Officer and a dad of a child with autism decided to write a training for Law Enforcement Officers. He recognized the need of having officers understand the uniqueness of individuals with autism and help them learn how to interact with this population. Today the program is offered at the Police Academy twice a year and ASM provides the training through CIT to all police across the state. Over 8,000 officers have been trained through this program.

Workshops and Presentations are part of our mission to continue educating parents and professionals across the state. We added a conference in the northern part of the state as well.

We consider ourselves **“A Friend for Life”** to all families and individuals. We were here in 1976 and will be here for many years to come.

**Sensory Friendly movie event sponsored by Lewiston/ Auburn Rotary has been ongoing from 2007 through 2019**



# Through the Years



We had the honor to meet Fran and Kim Peek. Kim Peek was the person who Rain Man the movie was based on. Kim had autism and he was a savant. The Oscar was truly heavy....



In 2002 ASM had the chance to participate in the Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival as one of the charities – we were assigned Fried Dough



The first "Ride for Autism" was in 2007 at Pepperell Park in Saco. It was the hottest day of the summer, I remember we even had a gentleman ride in a kilt



The first "Walk for Autism" was held in 2003 at the University of New England, we raised over \$12,000.



From 2012 thru 2018 ASM held Softball Tournaments for Autism.



Christmas Wreaths (2003)



Play a Hand of Hope - Poker Run Ride was held in 2008 and started in Scarborough and went through Falmouth, Lewiston, Byron, and ended in Rangeley for a BBQ.



ASM has sponsored a racing car for a couple of years to bring attention to autism awareness. The driver was Travis Dunbar car #44.



ASM has been the charity for the Portland Pirates on many occasions – we finally received one of the sought after jerseys

ASM has attended many conferences over the years and given many scholarships for families to attend conferences.



## 19th Annual Walk for Autism April 1st - April 30th

NEW this year! The 19th Walk for Autism will now be a **WALK** and a **RUN**... and it's all virtual! You choose when and where you walk... or run! From April 1 - April 30, join hundreds of walkers and runners throughout the state in supporting the Autism Society of Maine.

We are excited to "roll-out" our NEW registration platform "Classy" that is a MUCH easier and enjoyable experience to register and fundraise! Celebrate the Heroes in your life and [register](#) today!

### How Can I make a difference? Why fundraise?

1 in 54 children may be diagnosed with autism in the United States. At this prevalence rate, everyone knows someone affected by autism; maybe a loved one in your family, a student at school, a neighbor, or a co-worker. **You can make a difference**, every donation, no matter how big or small, is important!

The funds raised through the **Heroes Walk** go directly towards ASM's programs for children, teens and adults living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families, caretakers and those that work with them.

### Register and start Fundraising!

- Register and receive a welcome item in the mail.
- Create a fundraising page, share with your friends and family by email or facebook.
- Let them know that this cause is important to you.
- Ask everyone to donate just \$5.00 or more, if they can.
- Ask your employer to match your efforts.
- Each person who registers and raises \$100 online will receive a special gift after the event!
- Prizes awarded for the top three individuals who raise the most money!



### Walk or Run!

April is a beautiful time to get outside for a walk or run! Make a personal goal and tailor to what is best and most fun for you AND at your convenience!

Share your photos/videos on your fundraising page, share on ASM's facebook page, or share with hashtag: [#autismsocietymaine](#)

**BE a HERO! Have FUN! THANK YOU!**

## 130th session

The first session of the 130th Maine Legislature has begun, with a big change from the past. The State House is closed to the public and committee hearings are being conducted remotely.

Because the second session of the 129th legislature ended abruptly last March due to the pandemic, many bills were left unfinished and have been reintroduced in similar form this year. More than 2000 bills are expected to be introduced in total, a number of which would impact ASD/IDD families. Of special interest to the ASM community are the governor's supplemental budget (making changes to the current budget) and the FY 2021-22 budget

ASM supports an amendment to the Governor's 2021 Supplemental Budget that would increase Medicaid reimbursement rates temporarily for direct service providers who work with those with ASD/IDD, until the biennial budget kicks in this July.

We are also supporting the biennial budget that provides rate increases for direct service providers who work with those with ASD/IDD and partially address the waitlists for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). The budget will fund 30 additional Section 29 waiver (HCBS) offers each month.

Legislators have introduced a number of bills addressing wages for direct service providers. As these bills are printed, we will add them to the Legislative Tracker on the ASM website.



## Education Issues

ASM, a member of the Maine Coalition Against Restraint and Seclusion, supports the Keeping All Students Safe Act, sponsored by Rep. Rebecca Millet. The bill would forbid unlawful restraint and would require the state to track incidents of restraint and seclusion in public schools and produce an annual report.

While Maine law requires that physical restraint and seclusion be used only as an emergency intervention to prevent injury, Maine schools use restraint and seclusion at a rate four times the national average with over 22,000 incidents during the 2018-2019 school year alone. A similar bill introduced by ASM Board Member, former Rep. Dick Farnsworth, passed last session but was not enacted due to the funding attached.

We are also tracking the effort spearheaded by Dick Farnsworth to evaluate the provision of early childhood services for children from birth to age 5 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It has been proposed that these services, which are currently administered by Child Development Services (CDS), be transitioned to local School Administrative Units. Consultants hired by the state recently issued a proposed transition plan that the Legislature's Education Committee is currently studying, with Farnsworth's active participation.

Please check the ASM website [legislation tracker](#) for updates on these bills.

## Family Retreat Weekend

The Family Retreat Weekend has been an event that everyone looks forward to each year. Last summer we had to cancel due to COVID unfortunately, things are not looking good for this summer either. However, there is a ray of hope!

ASM is planning to host multiple day events in locations across Maine. Right now, we are thinking about one event in each of these areas: Southern, Central and Northern Maine. There are still restrictions in various areas and mask wearing is a must, but we really want families to be able to come together, see each other and enjoy a day of fun. We are planning on having some Respite available to support families as needed.

All events will be held in June, but we do not have specific dates yet, this is a work in progress. We are hoping that by hosting three separate day events more families may be able to join us and not have to travel far, just pick the event closest to you. Our search for where the events will take place has started with some great options. Each event will have a different venue and there will still be limits on the number of people. Be on the look-out with more information by the end of March. We will advertise the events on Facebook, our website and by emailing families. We hope to see you soon!



# Coffee with Cathy

In honor of Autism Acceptance month Cathy has brought back her weekly Coffee with Cathy segment, Every week she will be joined by a guest speaker, covering various topics. All of these webinars are *free* but do require registration. For more information please call 1-800-273-5200 or visit [www.asmonline.org](http://www.asmonline.org).

## ASD & Mental Health

**Thursday March 18 @ 2:00pm**



Join us for an important discussion around Autism Spectrum Disorder and Mental Health. It has been one year since many families and individuals changed their way of life. From having to self-isolate to wearing a mask everywhere. Today the discussion will be around the effects of a yearlong pandemic and how this relates to mental health issues and autism spectrum disorder. What can we do? Will there be a lasting impact?

Dr. Siegel is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics of Tufts University School of Medicine, Vice President of Medical Affairs, Developmental Disorders Service of Maine Behavioral Healthcare, and Faculty Scientist II at Maine Medical Center Research Institute. He has developed a continuum of treatment and research for individuals with autism, intellectual disability and co-occurring mental illness and challenging behaviors.

Emily Siegel, Psy.D., is a licensed psychologist with two decades of experience providing mental health services to youth with developmental disabilities and their families. She worked in the Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics department of Maine Medical Center for a decade and is currently in private practice in Yarmouth, Maine.

## Social Thinking Methodology and Social Competency

**Thursday, April 1 @ 2:00pm**



This workshop focuses on using the Social Thinking Methodology and Social Competency Model to anchor the “why” and the “how” to help our most vulnerable social learners. Participants will be provided with state-of-the-art information to promote social engagement, self-awareness, self-regulation, and organized thinking through the lens of the social mind in action.

Nancy Clements is a speech language pathologist and Executive Director of Social Thinking Boston®, the East Coast sister clinic to Social Thinking Stevens Creek and Social Thinking Santa Clara. She brings her highly creative approach to her clinical practice, where she maintains a very active and varied caseload ranging from early social learners through adults.

**\*\*\*Nancy Clements' webinar will not be recorded.\*\*\***

## Managing Frustration, Anxiety and Meltdowns in the New Normal - Thursday, April 15 @ 2:00pm

Effective Social Skills Training - Thursday, April 22 @ 2:00pm

Individuals with social-behavioral challenges often present with difficulty regulating their feelings and interacting socially. Changes to routine imposed by Covid often present particular problems for such individuals. These webinars describe how to handle restricted activities, remote learning, and altered school routines. It also covers how to deal with meltdowns and design effective behavior plans to prevent frustration and manage anxiety. The second part of the presentation details strategies to motivate individuals to learn, ways to teach social skills, how to generalize skills into the natural setting and increase acceptance and tolerance from peers.

Jed Baker, Ph.D. is the director of the Social Skills Training Project, a private organization serving individuals with autism and social communication problems. He is on the professional advisory board of Autism Today, ASPEN, ANSWER, YAI, the Kelberman Center and several other autism organizations. In addition, he writes, lectures, and provides training internationally on the topic of social skills training and managing challenging behaviors.

## Exploring Depression and Beating the Blues

**Wednesday April 28 @ 6pm**

For people with ASDs, depression is common, and has particular features and causes. the webinar will explain and describe depression, the forms it can take, and how it looks and feels for a person on the autism spectrum. The webinar will help to increase self-awareness, including identifying personal triggers, and provide the tools to combat depression.

Professor Tony Attwood PhD is an internationally recognized clinical psychologist, educator, and author. Recently featured on ABC's Australian Story, Tony is one of the world's foremost authorities on autism. His book Asperger's Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Professionals is an international bestseller and seminal in the field.

Dr Michelle Garnett PhD is a clinical psychologist who has specialized in autism within her own private practice for over 27 years. Her peer reviewed research has informed understanding of early detection, the female profile and the importance of good mental health for autistic individuals. She has co-authored six highly regarded books on autism, five with Prof Tony Attwood.





## Why Should You Join the ASM Family?



By becoming a member of ASM you are helping to connect families and individuals in Maine to valuable resources, information, people and programs to help them obtain the best quality of life possible.

By becoming a member of ASM you are helping to provide presentations and workshops to providers, educators, employers and community members to help spread awareness and teach others about autism.

By becoming a member of ASM you are helping to advocate for families and individuals at the State house.

By becoming a member you are also helping to fund the following programs that are so important to families, individuals and the general community here in Maine.

- **Lending Library**- a free service to provide informational books and DVDs to anyone in the state.
- **Autism Information Specialist Program**- A free service to connect an individual or family with someone who can help them navigate the DHHS system, Voc. Rehab, assist with filling out forms and applications or just provide general support, whatever is needed.
- **Summer Camps**- (Camp Summit & Finding the Pieces) Free day camps for children with autism, giving them the chance to experience camp in a safe, nonjudgemental environment. Open to paid members.
- **Family Retreat**- An annual weekend for the whole family to come together, relax and have fun. Open to paid members.
- **Fall Conference**- A free event in Bangor, a chance to bring great speakers and information to a rural area.
- **Teen Social Group**- A chance for teens to hang out with their peers who truly understand them and allow them to be themselves.

For more information on how you or your business can become a member of ASM please contact us:

[www.asmonline.org](http://www.asmonline.org)

800-273-5200

[info@asmonline.org](mailto:info@asmonline.org)

[library@asmonline.org](mailto:library@asmonline.org)

Everyone who renews their membership will receive a coupon for a 20% discount on any purchase from the ASM Store!!

If you sign up as a NEW member, ASM will send you a free coffee mug embellished with a Temple Grandin quote!

\$25.00 Individual/Family Member

\$25.00 Teacher/Student

\$150.00 Professional

\$200.00 Agency/Organization

\$1500.00 Lifetime Member

[Click Here to Join!](#)

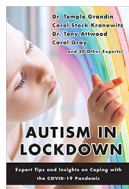
Free Gift for New Members!

# Welcome to the ASM Library

ASM's Lending Library is a valuable and free resource for parents, caregivers, educators, children and professionals working with children and adults on the autism spectrum. The Lending Library is a FREE resource for Maine residents. The collection can be viewed on the ASM website or you may request a printed list to be mailed to you. Stop by the office, or have material sent to you (we will include return shipping label) by calling or emailing: 1-800-273-5200 email: [library@asmonline.org](mailto:library@asmonline.org)  
Visit our online library page [HERE](#)

The library has its own room with a TV to watch DVD's. Children are always welcome to play with toys or read.

## NEW BOOKS!!



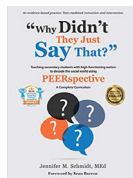
### **Autism In Lockdown**

The COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, schedule changes, safety protocols, and school closings have added unique challenges to everyone's lives. Autism in Lockdown includes the most needed tips and insights from 34 of the world's leading autism experts, including: Dr. Temple Grandin



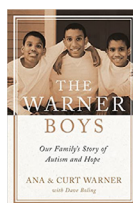
### **Winkle In The Lunchroom**

Winkle has a HUGE problem! Nobody sits with this little owl during lunch. With help from Screech and Echo, Winkle learns how important it is to tell someone when bullying takes place. Find out how Winkle becomes a super hero!



### **Why Didn't They Just Say That?**

The curriculum is popular among students with ASD as well as their NT peers, leading to friendships and relationships far beyond the classroom.



### **The Warner Boys**

Story of the life-changing truth that love for family and each other—no matter how challenged—is the path to healing and peace. The Warner Boys is the true story of a family who fought for their children and how they grew stronger against all odds.

## ASM Social Groups

### **Teen Group (Online)**

I am happy to say our online teen social group is going strong and we are having such a great time! In the past months we have had a "virtual" Halloween party, done a couple of scavenger hunts, played themed bingo, answered some would you rather questions and had show and tell with our favorite Christmas gifts. We have a really great group of teens who are enjoying our monthly meetings greatly! Being out of school and not having contact with their schoolmates and friends has been hard on all of them but this group has given them a chance to meet and make some new friends and they truly support each other. They give words of encouragement when one of them are having a badd day or are struggling. I am so lucky to be able to hang out with these teens each month! If you have a teen (11-18) and think that they might benefit and enjoy joining our group send an email to [tara@asmonline.org](mailto:tara@asmonline.org) or call ASM at 800-273-5200 for more information.

### **Young Adult Social Group (Online)**

We are also excited to announce a second online social group for young adults (16-26) has begun. This group is facilitated by our very own Autism Information Specialist, Kendra Campbell. If you are interested in learning more about this group, please email Kendra at [bridgtonais@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgtonais@yahoo.com).

### **Adult Social Group (Online)**

Our Adult Social Function Group is also meeting each month and have been successful in adjusting to the ZOOM platform. The group has been able to have a Christmas and Valentine's Day Party. This has been a great way for everyone to stay in contact during this time and they are definitely enjoying it! If you are an adult who would like more info on the Adult Social Function Group please email Tara at [tara@asmonline.org](mailto:tara@asmonline.org) or call ASM at 800-273-5200

### **Parent Support Group (Online)**

Just a reminder that our Executive Director, Cathy Dionne also facilitates an online parent group each month. If you have specific questions, concerns, or would just like to meet others who are going the same things then this group is just what you are looking for. For more information send an email to [asm@asmonline.org](mailto:asm@asmonline.org) or call ASM at 800-273-5200.





*In honor of April Autism Acceptance month, we are offering a 15% discount on any purchase from the ASM Store through the month of April.*



**Silicone Chew Necklaces**  
Animals & Shapes- **\$9.00**  
Raindrops & Circles-**\$8.00**



**Lanyard**  
**\$6.00**

**Autism Society of Maine**  
72 B Main St, Winthrop, ME 04364  
Call: 1-800-273-5200  
  
Items can be seen  
and ordered from ASM's online [store](#)



**Magnets**  
Ribbon Magnet **\$5.00**  
Puzzle-Magnet **\$6.00**  
Window Cling **\$3.00**  
**AUTISM AWARENESS**



**Stretchy**  
**\$4.00**



**Wristband**  
**\$3.00**



**Glass Pendant**  
Sm. **\$10.00**  
Lg. **\$12.00**



**Puzzle Tree Earrings**  
**\$8.00**



**Lapel Pin**  
**\$5.00**



**Face masks-**  
**available in**  
**three sizes:**  
**Toddler:**  
**Child:**  
**Adult:**  
**\$5.50**



**Charm Bracelet**  
1 Charm  
**\$8.00**



**Owl Charm**  
**\$3.00**



**Autism Charm**  
**\$3.00**



**Colored Heart Charm**  
**\$3.00**



**Owl Keychain**  
**\$5.00**



**Spacers**  
**\$1.00**

## Email- Social Media- Online Groups



The Autism Society has a vibrant facebook community including parents, professionals, and anyone interested in autism. If you are not already a friend to our facebook page, we welcome you.



Searching for autism information on the web can be overwhelming. The ASM website has relevant autism information and resources for Maine Residents.



We have a great collection of videos and will be adding more throughout the year!



Follow us on Twitter as we 'tweet' about autism!



Sign up to get interesting news and updates delivered to your email inbox from ASM!



My Autism Team: A reputable and friendly place to connect with other parents in Maine.



The Vitalxchange app is a health community that wants to connect you to everything you need when you need it.

## Donations

### In Honor of:

Ella M. and her Family  
From: Adele and Roland Martel  
Gene Reardon  
From: Kathy Neddeau  
Richard Lord  
From: Nancy Osher Blumberg  
Karen & Ron Casey/Smith  
From: Zachary Smith  
Paxton Lovejoy  
From: Charlotte Blier  
Sullivan & Phinneus Smyth-Shannon  
From: Susan Fusillo

### In Memory of:

Roland Preble  
From: Robert & Anna O'Malley  
Candance Maldonado  
Judith & Dennis Miller  
Fred & Marlene Douglas  
Waldo Gilpatrick

### New Memberships

Constance Mazelsky  
David Frankel & Kathy Lyons  
Ashley Charpentier  
Laurie Cavanaugh  
Jessica Lawhun  
Dean Wilt  
Summer Christian



### Membership Renewals

Joanne Mason  
Nancy Murray  
Wendy & Ed Derzawiec  
Debra Larwin-Pennesi  
Sandra Merrick  
Dick Farnsworth  
Mary Chouinard  
Sharon Crosby  
Kelly Gray  
Lisa Marin  
Jeannie Lowell  
Kathleen Vanadia  
Sarah Nye  
Sherry Pike  
Jay Richardson Collins  
Wendi Woolhouse

### Donations/Sponsorships Employee Matches/Grants

Sea of Blue- The Heel Family  
Katherine Kerkam  
People's Choice Credit Union  
Ann & Dean Crocker  
Peter & Cheri Wilkins  
Rick Dionne  
Tiffany Rooney  
Volk Packaging  
Natalie Gilbert

### Donations/Sponsorships Employee Matches/Grants

Bangor Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 772  
Front Street Shipyard  
Hannaford Community Bag Program  
Ken & Kathleen Pierce  
Meredith & Myron Hamer  
Maine Developmental Disabilities Council  
Arkatechure  
Creative Options, LLC  
Terry Johnson  
Children's Odyssey  
Dick Farnsworth  
Franklin Savings Bank  
Libra Foundation  
Maine Hempworks  
United Way of Central Connecticut  
Webster Lodge 164 AF & AM  
Jack David Design  
Calzolaio Pasta Company  
Mike Werts  
Bob McKillop  
Jordan White  
Maine Behavioral Healthcare  
Bob's Discount Furniture  
Eric Small  
Quirk Auto Group- Bangor  
Realty of Maine  
Camden National Bank  
Allenfarm Fence Co.  
Dean Wilt

## Birthday Fundraisers

From the months of December thru February, \$1,125 has been raised by Facebook's Birthday Fundraisers to benefit ASM!

This is an amazing amount of donations! 100% goes directly to ASM! Facebook covers ALL fees for donations made to charitable organizations. We want to thank the following people who supported ASM with a birthday fundraiser:

Jessica Weed	Olivia Roy	Darren Gilbert
Katie Robinson Call	Sarah Veins	Kellie Kennie
Brendan Wilson	Paul Darling	Rachel White
Todd Delaney	Alina Gagne	Cassie Gross



Do you want to create a facebook fundraiser for ASM? It's easy! Just go to the [ASM fundraiser link](#) or to the tab or your facebook page to get started. Thank you!

## Giving Tuesday

Last December 1st was Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving. Your generosity shined through, and we give sincere appreciation for all donations that we received during our Facebook Fundraising Campaign.

Together, we raised \$600! Your donations gave us the opportunity to provide information and continued advocacy throughout the pandemic.

Malarie Clark  
Robin M Johnson Reed  
Tena Hinds  
Karen Wilson Rea  
Ivy Jordan  
Tiffany Marie  
Lauren Weston  
Courtney Giusti Welsh



Your support made a difference in time of need to the autism community.  
Thank you for your support.