

AUTISM IS ON THE RISE

Statistics show 1 IN 110

Autism is a devastating neurological and biological disorder typically diagnosed in children between the ages of 18 months to 5 years of age. Autism affects each individual differently and at different levels of severity. Some individuals with autism are severely affected, cannot speak, require constant one on one care, and are never able to live on their own. However others are less severe, can communicate, and eventually acquire the necessary skills to live on their own.

Most Common Misconception About Autism:

The common misconception with autism is that persons with this disorder are like the actor Dustin Hoffman in his portrayal in the movie Rain Man. His character possessed an amazing mathematical skill of adding enormous amounts of objects or counting cards in a deck. This example is a Hollywood portrayal and is not the case with all individuals affected by autism. His performance is to be applauded, but it was only that: a performance, and should not be considered as an example of autism today.

Common Autistic Traits:

People diagnosed with autism respond, process, and interact with information in different ways. In some cases, individuals with autism may not be able to speak, may have self stimulatory behaviors (such as hand flapping, vocal utterances, repetitive behaviors), may be aggressive or be self-injurious. Each individual with autism is affected differently. But like with all people - **not all individuals with autism are alike. In fact, very few individuals with autism have the exact same issues.**

Autism: The Musical

"Autism: The Musical," a documentary directed and photographed by Tricia Regan. 94 minutes. February 4, 2010, 6:30 pm "Autism: The Musical" is anything but maudlin: It's an eyes-wide-open account of tenacity and triumph for parents and children alike. It's a film that everyone should see and appreciate.

The film focuses on parental perspectives and the unique challenges faced by five autistic children as they prepare for their stage debut. This film is filled with joy and also a tearjerker. **A panel with knowledge and first hand experience will dialogue with the audience following the film.**

The Sandwich Kid

Created by Keri Bowers, 90 minutes. February 23, 2010, 6:30 pm

Disabilities affect not only those who are diagnosed, but they have a strong impact on the siblings of people with disabilities. The Sandwich Kid seeks to give a voice to those who are impacted by the day-to-day living with a brother or sister having a developmental or other disability. The film is moved forward by 12 year old Jace King. Jace uses wit, charm, and keen insights as his "brothers keeper" to extract laughter and tears in the interviews he conducts with dozens of "sibs", ranging in age from 6 to 59. Along the way, he shares his own struggles and challenges to building relationship after years of estrangement with his quirky brother.

A panel with knowledge and first hand experience will dialogue with the audience following the film.



Learn More on Autism

Contact:

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Learn More on Autism



"Normal People Scare Me"

(title from film directed by Taylor Cross and Keri Bowers)

A Series of Events on Autism

February 4, February 23
March 19th

Events Open to Public

The goal of this series is to increase awareness of the abilities of people with developmental disabilities within the general population; increase awareness of the family issues especially the sibling issues related to their role in the family; increase acceptance within community settings for inclusive living within our communities; provide sources of support; and increase our understanding of Autism.

Meet Keri Bowers
and Taylor Cross
On Friday, March 19, 2010



Do you have a child, loved one or friend with autism or a developmental disability? Keri Bowers can help. Her life-changing talks present a new perspective on the challenges of autism and other developmental disabilities.

Bowers' passion for advocacy began 17 years ago when her son Taylor was born with developmental delays and eventually diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. A paralegal in the entertainment field, the challenge of autism redirected her career goals and today her work includes advocacy, legislative reform and education for teachers and others touched by developmental disabilities.

What people are saying. . .

"Keri teaches great key strategies and effectively communicates how strong bridges are built between parents and the community."

– Debbie Moss, Los Angeles Unified School District

"You're very inspiring. . . Thank you for your voice."

– Angela Campbell, mother of child with ASD

You are Invited to attend:

Thursday, February 4th:
Autism: The Musical
(dialogue following film)
6:30 pm (refreshments provided)
812 E. Jolly Rd., Lansing, MI

Tuesday, February 23rd:
The Sandwich Kid
(dialogue following film)
6:30 pm (refreshments provided)
812 E. Jolly Rd., Lansing, MI

Friday, March 19th:
"Real People Scare Me" with keynote speaker Keri Bowers and son Taylor Cross.
9:30 am (breakfast provided)
Lansing Center
333 E. Michigan Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933

These events will draw in several hundred friends of the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham Counties including consumers, families, elected officials, mental health professionals, educators, health care providers, and community leaders.

We invite you to be a co-sponsor of these important events.

Please join us in co-sponsoring the event on Friday, March 19th, 2010 at the Lansing Center, Lansing, Michigan.

Please check below your desired choice of co-sponsorship:

- Gold Sponsorship \$500.00 or more
- Listed on event program
 - Display table at the event (can sell products)
 - Listed in lobby area of event
 - Recognition during the event
 - Listed in media for all 3 events

- Silver Sponsorship \$250.00 or more
- Listed on event program
 - Listed in media for all 3 events
 - Recognition during the event

- Bronze Sponsorship \$100.00 or under
- Listed on event program
 - Recognition during the event
 -

Business or Individual Name

Address

Contact Name/Phone Number

Clip and Mail above form to:

Judy Hazle
Community Mental Health
812 E. Jolly Rd., Suite G10
Lansing, Michigan 48910

Checks made payable to:
Community Mental Health

For all events RSVP to Judy at
517-346-8238 or hazle@ceicmh.org.