

SNCARC / Family Autism Center Newsletter

May & June 2009

Big News for the Family Autism Center!



The Family Autism Center is pleased to announce that it is one of the 33 benefiting agencies participating in The 19th annual Rodman Ride for Kids Event on September 26, 2009 and we need YOU to join the Family Autism Center team!

The Rodman Ride for Kids is an umbrella matching gift charity that raises funds for children's related social service agencies in Massachusetts. The Ride for Kids and its affiliated agencies fundraise year-round, culminating with the Ride event, when 1,200 cyclists participate in 25, 50 or 100-mile non-competitive cycling tours. Held each fall since 1991, the Ride for Kids has raised over \$37 million for at-risk children.

We have been set with a goal of raising \$50,000 from now until December 2009. It may seem like a lot, but we think we can do it, with YOUR help! Every little bit makes a difference, and when we reach our goal, the Rodman Ride for Kids will match it by 15%! 100% of the expenses for the event are underwritten.

100% of the money raised will benefit programs and support groups that we run at Family Autism Center.

That's right - 100% of YOUR donation and the Ride match 15% (115% total) go directly to services for individuals diagnosed with an ASD and their families.

You can learn more about donating on the enclosed flyer, or make a donation in honor of the Family Autism Center directly on the Rodman Ride for Kids website: www.rodmanrideforkids.org

We are not listed as a benefiting agency because it is our first year participating, but you can click on the donation page and type in "Family Autism Center" as the organization you would like to donate to in the Ride for kids EVENT. We will be sending out additional information in the upcoming months and will be keeping you posted on our progress.

Thank you for your help, we know together we can raise money to keep our center going strong!



Support the Family Autism Center through the **Rodman Ride for Kids!**

WHAT: The Rodman Ride for Kids (rodmanrideforkids.org) is an all-day cycling event with over 1,200 riders cycling a 25, 50 or 100-mile route throughout Southeastern Massachusetts. In 2008, the event raised over \$6.3 million for 25 Massachusetts child-welfare agencies. We are now seeking sponsors/riders to help reach our goal of \$50,000.00 this year!

WHEN: Saturday, September 26, 2009

WHERE: Ride headquarters is on Route One in Foxboro, MA, about a mile from Gillette Stadium.



Riders take off from the Start Line at the 2006 Ride for Kids.

JOIN THE FAMILY AUTISM CENTER TEAM!

Our goal for this event is \$50K and once we reach this goal, the Ride will match us 15%! If you are unable to form your own team of riders, become a virtual rider for the Center! We will set you up with a web page where friends and family can donate to the Family Autism Center through the Rodman Ride for Kids Event. We will give you tips on setting up your page and help you with the process. The Family Autism Center has had much success over the past 13 years because of the support of families like yours- so be a part of the Family Autism Center Team working together to support the many programs and families we serve. For more details on becoming a part of this wonderful event, contact Betsy Roche at eroche@sncarc.org or 781-762-4001 ext. 310.

WHAT IS A SPONSOR? A sponsor is a company or a group of individuals who make a financial contribution to the Ride for Kids. Sponsors typically fall under one of the following categories:
Corporate sponsorship: A corporate contribution without riders.

Team sponsorship: A group of individuals form a team and each rider raises funds individually. The goal is to raise \$1,000 per rider.

Corporate and Team sponsorship: A combination of the above, where a company makes a corporate contribution, which is added to by employees who raise additional funds.



Proud FAC bowlers, the Steamrollers, show off their trophies. Our Monday night bowling group is one of the many programs run through the Family Autism Center.

WHY SHOULD WE SUPPORT THE FAMILY AUTISM CENTER THROUGH THE RIDE FOR KIDS?

- Once the Family Autism Center reaches our goal of \$50K, the Ride will match us 15%!!!
- 115% of each contribution goes directly to kids in need. 15% of each dollar raised is matched by the Ride for Kids. The Family Autism Center is extremely grateful to be a part of the 2009 Ride for Kids Event.
- It's a great cause: all benefiting agencies support at-risk children in Massachusetts.

FAMILY FUN DAYS!



**Stay tuned for more
Family Fun Days in May and June!
We will be posting them on the
web site www.sncarc.org in the next few
weeks and you will receive a
notice by mail as well!**

**The schedule of Family Fun Days will
consist of the following...**

**A Movie Day at Sharon Cinemas
Fun at the YMCA in Franklin
A Trip to see the Pawtucket Paw Sox**

**Looking forward to seeing
you and your family!**

We need your help to continue our advocacy - now the budget goes to the Senate

The Massachusetts House of Representatives sent Governor Patrick one more rebuke by passing, on a voice vote, an amendment to the House budget, that forbids the closure of state DMR institutions until the completion of a "feasibility study" and final sign off by the Legislature. Community advocates were also disappointed that House Members also failed to act on amendments by Reps. John Scibak and Alice Peisch to restore House Ways & Means Committee cuts to DDS/DMR Employment and Transportation programs.

While some members of the House spoke on behalf of keeping state institutions open for the "most fragile", many legislators who spoke in favor of the motion by Rep. Vincent Pedone (D-Worcester), expressing deep frustration with the Patrick Administration for not keeping legislators involved in the closure decision process. Some legislators demanded that legislators produce a cost analysis to show why closure made sense fiscally. Many legislators spoke bitterly about reading about the closure plan in a press release from the Governor's office, instead of having been briefed in advance. As someone involved in the evolution of the closure discussion, I was surprised that legislators who had received a heads up before the plan was released in December, did not step up to refute this assertion of failure to inform legislators.

Despite several pleas by Rep. Tom Sannicandro, legislators failed to come to terms with the recognition that most states are abandoning state institutions not because of fiscal concerns, but more so because community inclusion is the choice of families in this era and is location of best practice in the developmental disabilities field.

The other big disappointment from last night's proceedings was the failure of the House to restore reduced Ways and Means Committee funding for Employment/Day Services and Transportation accounts. ADDP, The Arc and DD stakeholders will now turn to the Senate to:

- Restore 500 jobs for people with disabilities cut by the House Ways & Means budget
- Restore transportation for people with disabilities to get to their jobs, doctor's appointments and other essential locations
- Restore the remaining dollars cut from the MRC extended employment program
- Support Community Inclusion and Support Closing State Institutions
- Protect wrap services for people in day habilitation programs dependent upon

Advocates need to take stock of the progress we've made thus far. The House has restored services for 11,000 people who would have lost service through the elimination of family support programs. The House shortfall of employment/day services and transportation is in itself, not a rejection of our efforts, but to some a strategic decision by the House to fund as much as they politically can do and then expect the Senate to respond in kind, by funding the remaining shortfall.

The legislative process is not an easy process to observe or comprehend.

We are making progress; we have had many wins and a few setbacks. We have further to go.

We will succeed.

Teen Spring Dance
Ages 13-22
Friday, June 12, 2009



5:30PM -8:00PM
DINNER AND DANCING
WITH DJ MAGIC MARK
789 CLAPBOARDTREE STREET,
WESTWOOD

PLEASE RSVP BY June 8, 2009
TO NANCY BORR
781-762-4001 Ext. 412

Melmark Parent Workshops

DMR Sponsored

**Fiske Library
110 Randall Road
Wrentham, MA
508-384-5440**

Thursday, May 21, 2009
9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Use of Visual Supports-Come and learn techniques (such as picture activity schedules and other visual cues) to promote your child's independence at home and in the community. Specific examples will be shared with parents. Participants are encouraged to also bring visual supports they are currently using.

Thursday, May 28, 2009
9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Daily Living Skills-Does your child need additional training to become independent in the areas of daily living? This training will address how to assess your child's skills in these areas along with various teaching techniques.

Limit: 20 participants
RSVP: PDennis@Melmarkne.org

Presenters are from Melmark New England
Pat Dennis, M.Ed., B.C.B.A.
Renee Dean, M.Ed., B.C.B.A.