



ASNEWS

Newsletter of the Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin

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www.asnew.org

February, 2011

(920) 264-8067

ASNEW Meetings & Events

ASNEW meets from 6:00-7:30PM the third Tuesday of every month at Harmony Cafe, 1660 W. Mason St. GB, WI. See below for meeting details.

February 12, 2011

10:30 - 12:30 PM

Gnomeo and Juliet

“Reel Movies for Real Needs” features select first-run film showings at Bay Park Theatre in Ashwaubenon. Free admission to ASNEW members. Please call ASNEW in advance to take advantage of free admission or RSVP on ASNEW’s Facebook page.

February 15, 2011

Open Support Meeting

Harmony Café

6:00 - 7:30 PM at Harmony Café

March 15, 2011

Topic - to be determined, check website for details

6:00 - 7:30 PM at Harmony Café

April 14 - 16, 2011

ASW 2011 Annual Conference

“Navigating the Spectrum”

Wisconsin Dells

Go www.asw4autism.org for more info

April 19, 2011

Topic - to be determined, check website for details

6:00 - 7:30 PM at Harmony Café.

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR CURRENT INFORMATION:

<http://www.asnew.org>

Past ASNEW Events

ASNEW was HuHot’s December Helping Hand organization

ASNEW continues to pay for members’ movie admission at Marcus’ “Reel Movies for Real Kids”!

ASNEW Grant Foundation continues to provide grants!

ASNEW has provided monthly support group meetings.

Activities



SAVE THE DATE!! The 5th Annual Autism Walk

We will see you on Saturday, September 17, 2011 at Green Isle Park for our 5th straight year! Save the date and look for updated information on our website. We are looking for sponsors, vendors, and volunteers for this event.

HuHot Mongolian Grill Helping Hands Program

Thanks to HuHot for donating \$2,377.00 to ASNEW!!



ASNEW Grant Foundation AWARDS!!

The ASNEW Foundation Grant Program is entering its second year of operations. Last year \$11,280 was awarded to families in Northeast Wisconsin who are living with autism. Grants were awarded for everything from therapy, to sensory equipment, to home modifications for safety. We are looking forward to another great year!



New for ASNEW 😊

ASNEW has recently hired Administrative Assistant to work approximately ten hours a week. Join us in welcoming Sue Mottl to our organization.



Upcoming Support meetings ...

ASNEW is in the process of planning support group meetings for 2011! Let us know if there are topics you'd like us to share more information on at our meetings and we will try to make that happen, either by finding a speaker from the community or by tapping into the expertise of our members. For those of you who haven't been able to attend a support group meeting and are wondering what it's all about, it's parents, caregivers, and educators coming together to talk about those we care about who are affected by autism.

We sometimes cover specific topics; we sometimes just talk and provide support for those in need. We often start out with a specific topic and branch out into other areas people want to talk about. We laugh a lot, sometimes cry a little, and are there for each other. Our membership is as diverse as the autism spectrum. We talk about challenges related to more classic autism as well as Asperger Syndrome, PDD, PDD-NOS, NLD, etc.

Resources



The ASNEW Holiday Wish Grant

ASNEW was able to provide several holiday grants to families this year.

- * One family in need received assistance with a handicap accessible van to attend a family funeral in another part of the state.
- * One child received an iTunes Gift cards to purchase apps for an ipad and a VHS/DVD player.
- * Two children received an iPod Touch.



ASNEW Grant Foundation

ASNEW knows the tremendous financial burden that is placed on the families of children with autism. We are very pleased to provide a helping hand to the families that we serve. Grants will be given on a quarterly basis to ASNEW members and families with first consideration given to families with an income of less than \$80,000 per year. Scholarships are available to families who cannot afford membership. The grants can be used for therapy, biomedical, equipment; safety needs...anything that is not covered by insurance.

Instructions, guidelines, and applications are available on our website at <http://asnew.org/grantapplication.html>. Much thought was put into making the application process as simple as possible. Only minimal supporting documentation is being requested. If you or someone you know has a child between the ages of 2-18 with an Autism Spectrum Disorder who lives in Northeast Wisconsin, please consider applying.

Conference Scholarships....

ASNEW will provide 2 scholarships to the ASW conference in Wisconsin Dells in April. The scholarship is for the conference only. Attendees will be responsible for all travel expenses.

Support



Young Adult and Middle School Age Social Group

New support/social groups are forming in our area for teens and young adults with high functioning Autism/Asperger Syndrome. We are also looking for parents or other adults who would be willing to work together to organize and support these groups. Contact Lisa Dillhunt at ldillhunt@gmail.com for more information.



High School Age Girls Social/Support Group

ASNEW would like to start a social/support group for high school age girls with very high functioning autism/Asperger Syndrome. Please contact Lisa Dillhunt at ldillhunt@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the list of those interested. We are also looking for parents to assist with supporting this group.



A Membership Note...

Membership dues are now paid directly to the Autism Society of America. When it is time to renew your ASNEW membership, please contact ASA. The link to their membership form is http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=join_home



We are going GREEN and saving \$\$\$!

With worldwide efforts to "think green", we will now be emailing our newsletters whenever possible. If you are not receiving this newsletter by email, we need your email address!!! Please send it to us as soon as you can at administrator@ASNEW.org. If you wish to no longer receive communications from us, please let us know that too.

Media



Check Us Out On Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/ASNEW-Autism-Society-of-North-East-WI/109746629061066?ref=search&sid=1063361756.2404924357..1>



Online

There is a caregiver focused online support group called Meetup, not affiliated with ASNEW, and is free of charge. They offer online support to any caregiver of someone with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. www.greenbayautism.com.

ASNEW Board Members

We have had a few changes to our board in recent weeks as we have gone through a restructuring phase. Our chapter is growing rapidly!! We are in the process of forming committees of volunteers to help the board work towards their goals for ASNEW. Some board members have left the board in favor of working on a committee related to their specific area of interest. One of our goals for early 2011 is to create a business plan that will guide ASNEW into the future. When this plan is complete it will be posted on our website.

President, Lisa Dillhunt ldillhunt@gmail.com

Vice President & Special Events Coordinator, Michelle Charlier mcharlier7@hotmail.com

Grant Committee, Janice Miles janicetabor@hotmail.com, Jennifer Versch, Lisa Dillhunt

Treasurer, Victoria Yunke torylee10@yahoo.com

Member at Large, Jennifer Versch jversch@wiautism.com