



Connecting the Pieces

serving families along the gulf coast for 10 years

Meaningful employment for all Extraordinary Ventures brings its message to Pensacola



Van Hatchell

As we find ourselves faced with the enormous task of creating a community for our loved ones who are becoming adults, now is a great time to learn from others who are finding a way. November 3rd, Autism Pensacola will welcome to Pensacola Van Hatchell, Managing Director of Extraordinary Ventures (EV). Extraordinary Ventures, named Chapel Hill, N.C.'s, non-profit of the year for 2012, creates businesses designed to employ adults with autism and related disabilities.

EV was started in 2007 by parents of individuals with autism. EV's mission is to train and employ the increasing number of young adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. The organization is unique in its approach to finding and filling needs of the community of Chapel Hill.

API will be presenting two sessions with EV's managing director.

The morning session will be from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Marcus Pointe Baptist Church, 6205 North W St., Pensacola. The evening session, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., will be held in Milton at First Presbyterian Church, 205 Elmira St. Sitters will be provided for the evening workshop, with reservations.

API hopes to inspire those in our area to find more creative ways to provide worthwhile work to our adults with autism.

To register for either the morning or evening event, go to Autism Pensacola's website – www.autismpensacola.org/whatsgoingon.html. For all questions, please email info@autismpensacola.org or call the office at (850) 434-7171.

Inside this issue

Director's Desk	2	Book Review	5
Sleep Panel	4	Card Corner	6
Night Out	5	Calendar	7

Teen artist creates space for awareness, understanding

Kids for Camp teen volunteer, Pensacola High IB senior, big sister, and talented artist, are just a few ways to describe BethAnne Parra. And now she can add art show curator to her list of titles. BethAnne, in partnership with Mainline Art House, will present Art Across the Spectrum, a show featuring art inspired by autism and benefiting Autism Pensacola. The art show will run from Oct. 14th through Oct. 24th, at the gallery located at 422 S. Palafox St., in downtown Pensacola. The show will also be featured as part of downtown Pensacola's Gallery Night, Oct. 17th from 5 to 9 p.m.



BethAnne Para

BethAnne began her involvement with API several years ago when her younger brother, Matthew, attended Kids for Camp. In the fall of 2013, BethAnne decided to do her Community-Action-Service (CAS) project with Autism Pensacola. As part of the IB program, each student must complete an original CAS project. An artist, BethAnne wanted to incorporate her talent and her knowledge of Kids for Camp into her project.

So, she began painting 50 individual puzzle pieces inspired by past Kids for Camp campers. The puzzle pieces were used this spring at

API's Connecting the Pieces gala as thank-you gifts for donors who "raised their paddle" to send a child to camp.

BethAnne then decided to reach further across the spectrum for Phase 2 of her project and began the process of curating an art show. Thanks to the generosity of Mikel Traffanstead at Mainline Art House, Art Across the Spectrum was born. Art from local artists, such

Teen artist, continued on page 3

Holiday gratitude and assistance program

Autism Pensacola would like to once again thank the Autism Spectrum Disorder Foundation for their generosity to families living with autism in our area. For the fourth year in a row, ASDF has partnered with API to provide gift cards to bring a little holiday joy to families in need.



We are very pleased and proud to continue our partnership with ASDF and are grateful for the difference they make in our community. We would also like to thank WEAR-TV and their Communities Caring at

Holiday, continued on page 3

From the President's Pen



What an amazing summer it has been! When I think about it, I am filled with gratitude. This summer, there were so many things to choose from for our loved ones with autism. API provided another great Kids for Camp Summer Learning Lab, as well as supported inclusion opportunities at the YMCA and UWF. Special Olympics offered several sporting activities, including softball, surfing, swimming, and stand-up paddleboard, to name a few. Our loved ones could swim at SeaStars, play baseball with

Miracle League, or ride a horse at Leaning Post Ranch. From the long-standing programs to the many exciting new opportunities, our community worked hard to show understanding and acceptance.

The newcomer that made a big splash was Autism Surfs. This group of dedicated volunteers could be found every weekend somewhere along the Gulf Coast—from Panama City to Pensacola Beach -- welcoming and supporting those with autism (and other disabilities) as they explored the fun of catching a wave. Dedicated volunteers would respond to the call each weekend, no matter how far they had to travel. Scores of families came out to enjoy the surf, the sun, and the acceptance. What a gift from this community to our families!

For the second year in a row, another group of people gave of themselves to open the world to those with special needs. Captains for Kids is the brainchild of Captain Steve Potate of Orange Beach, AL. Last September, he had the idea to have a day on the water for families with special needs – entirely free for the entire family! This year, their second annual event, 18 boat captains and their crews made 49 trips filled with more than 600 people for fishing, parasailing, and dolphin cruising! More

than 70 volunteers worked tirelessly to make it all possible. What a testimony to the kindness and caring of this area! Families traveled from all over Alabama and west Florida to participate. Next year -- the sky's the limit!

As I write this, the Gulf Breeze Masonic Lodge #347 has announced its second Sea No Limits Fishing Clinic on October 12 at the Palafox Pier in Pensacola. This amazing day is open to special needs individuals (of all ages!). There is free food, free fishing poles, and lots of volunteers helping everyone have a good time. This event is limited to the first 200 participants and is sure to fill up, but you can check the API website for links to see if they still have openings.

The exciting thing about many of these events is that Autism Pensacola did not have to create them! I personally believe the opportunities being created in our community is directly related to the work API does to increase understanding and acceptance.

Another example of this caring is API's upcoming United Way Day of Caring Parents' Night Out. For the third year in a row, United Way partners Florida Blue and Hampton Inn Airport are working with Autism Pensacola to offer a dinner out for parents.

I hope these events will inspire you to get out and try something new with your child with autism and your entire family. Things are far from perfect, but if we keep working together, we will find more and more understanding and acceptance from those around us. It is worth the risk. As Dr. Temple Grandin has said, it is critical to keep exposing our loved ones with autism to as much as possible to help them find their passion that can lead to fulfilling life work. I am grateful our community is beginning to support us as we work to show the world to our loved ones.

Happy fall!

Susan Byram

API Council

Joan Fitzsimmons, Council President
Rebecca Aman, Jean Brown, Bobby Cochran,
Wanda Cochran, Julia Cornish, Holly Hoskamer,
Kat Lea, Rita Lung, Tammy Mendiola, Cynthia
Norton, Katie Owens, Michael Owens,
Rocky Parra, Autumn Weeks, Jonathan White

API Council is a group of volunteers dedicated to making a difference. Everyone is welcome to attend council meetings and find their own place to serve. We have a variety of committees

where you can make a difference.

Email info@autismpensacola.org for information on council needs.

API Staff

Susan Byram, President/CEO
Jessica Lapen, Program Director
Jacqui O'Connell, Webmaster
Rebecca Aman, Bookkeeper
Amy Scott Lorton, Executive Assistant to CEO,
Special Needs Education Consultant
Suzie West, Office Assistant

2014 API Executive Committee

Julian Irby, Chairman	Becca Boles
John Peacock, Vice Chairman	Cate Merrill
Peg Nickelsen, Secretary	Dr. Dave Suhrbier
Bonnie Sferes, Treasurer	

Board of Directors

Dr. Leasha Barry	Dr. Brett Parra
Dana Bledsoe	Scott Remington
Larry Hutcheson	Rebecca Sterzing
Kat Lea	Sue Straughn
Teri Levin	Malcolm Thomas
Cecilia Nanni	Joe Webb
Tom Northrup	Amy Wilson
	Tim Wyrosdick

Kevin Doyle, *Ex Officio*

Past Chairs: Quint Studer, Ted Kirchharr, Fred Donovan

Celebrate the Season

Autism Pensacola is pleased to announce two great opportunities to celebrate the season this year with other families that 'get it'!

Our first event is set for Saturday, December 6, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Those with autism who are middle school age and older are invited to "Bowling with Santa" at Cordova Lanes in Pensacola. Three-hour lane rental and shoe rental will be covered by Autism Pensacola. Snacks and soda pitchers will be provided by API. Snack bar concessions and arcade games are available for purchase. A special guest will stop by to "hang out" for a while.

On Saturday, December 13th, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., API & First Presbyterian Church of Milton will host a Holiday Party for families living with autism. First Presbyterian Church is located at

205 Elmira Street in Milton. Families who prefer a quiet visit with Santa in a fun, autism-friendly environment are invited to this special event featuring light refreshments, arts and crafts, and an opportunity to take pictures with Santa. GFCF food options will be available for families needing those accommodations. A quiet room will be available.

Reservations for each event are recommended by filling out the event registration form on our website, www.autismpensacola.org/whatsgoingon.html.

Come out and have a great time with your API friends in honor of the holidays!



Teen artist... *Continued from page 1*

as Micah Lapen, Amy Lorton and Aaron Allen Jones, as well as nationally known, autistic artist Jack Carl Anderson, will be featured.

For more information about the art show, please contact BethAnne Parra at bethanneworld@cox.net.

For more information about Mainline Art House, visit their web site at <http://mainlinearthouse.com/>.

Check Autism Pensacola's web site for all upcoming events and programs, www.autismpensacola.org.

Holiday... *Continued from page 1*

Christmas partners for providing gifts to families in need living with autism. The generosity demonstrated by so many wonderful members of our community during the holiday season and all through the year warms our hearts. We are very fortunate to live in such a caring community!

To apply for the Gift Card Program, go to our web site and download the application. All application must be received by October 31st.

For questions, please call the office (850) 434-7171 or email info@autismpensacola.org.

Sleep Issues and Autism

Sleep issues are a very common problem that span all ages in persons with autism. When children do not receive a proper night's sleep, then parents do not get much sleep either. This basic necessity is fundamental for healthy psychological function.

Dr. David M. Suhrbier, D.O., will lead a panel discussion with Sacred Heart Autism Center's Debbie Keremes, BCBA, and Kerry Sise, LMHC, addressing sleep issues associated with the autistic child at API's annual meeting. Topics will include the importance of sleep, the effects of inadequate sleep on the body, short-term Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, sleep hygiene, relaxation techniques, coping tools, and common behavioral sleep problems.

Haircuts in "autism-friendly" environment

Shaggy hair, shaved heads, uneven bangs – these are some of the hallmarks of a kid who has a hard time at the hair salon. Salon owner, and API parent, Larry Loria, wants to help parents make the salon a less scary place.

Larry owns Benjamin & Larry's Salon in Pensacola. And he would like to extend an offer to any family who would like to visit and 'desensitize' their family member with autism to the haircut experience. For more information about the salon and to set up a time to visit, call Larry at (850) 438-7909.

Benjamin & Larry's is located at 400 Pickens Avenue, Pensacola.

Dr. Suhrbier said, "I hope to raise awareness of how sleep impacts the child's ability to function and learn. More importantly, how the treatment of sleep problems can benefit the child in all aspects of daily living."

Dr. Suhrbier is board certified through the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in the areas of Neurology, Child Neurology, and Sleep Medicine. Debbie Keremes is a board certified behavioral analyst and director of the Autism Center



Dr. David M. Suhrbier

at Sacred Heart Hospital. Kerry Sise is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in the State of Florida with a Master's in Counseling and holds a second Master's in Educational Psychology.

These healthcare professionals will bring to light sleep issues and solutions in an intimate panel discussion during API's Annual Evening Meeting. This panel is excited to answer questions and encourages attendees to come prepared.

API's Annual Meeting and discussion will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 21st, at the Pollak Training Center.

If you are in need of a sitter, please make a reservation, www.autismpensacola.org/whatsgoingon.html, by Friday, October 17th.

It's Coming... Save the Date!

Special Education Law *and* Advocacy Training

Saturday, February 7, 2015

9 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Marcus Pointe Baptist Church in Pensacola, FL

Sponsored by Autism Pensacola, Inc.

Featuring

Peter W. D. Wright, Esq.

Attorney, and multi-published author

Speaking on:

Special Education Law, Education Law, and Advocacy for Students with Disabilities

Registration opens Oct. 24th

Early bird registration discount if registered by Dec. 15th

Discounted fees for API members!

Visit our website for more information:

www.autismpensacola.org

CARD

Meet & Greet

Join us for light refreshments, games, conversation, and explore our lending and materials library as we get to know Dr. Chrissy Ogilvie!

Dr. Ogilvie is the new consultant for Escambia and Santa Rosa county and is so excited about joining the FSU—CARD team!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11TH
9 AM - 12 PM

OR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
1 PM - 4 PM

5190 BAYOU BLVD
SETON MEDICAL OFFICE PARK
BUILDING #2
(INSIDE THE SACRED HEART AUTISM CENTER)

Please RSVP to Karen (850-215-4330) by 10/04/2014 so we can plan accordingly.

We hope to see you there!

Book Review: *I Might Be You - An Exploration of Autism and Connection*

Facilitated Communication (FC) is one of the scores of treatments and techniques for autism that have appeared over the past several decades. Like many others, it brought hope, then controversy, then faded away- for the most part. But with the continuing improvements in technology, more and more autistic people are finding a way to share their voice.

Barb Rentenbach is one such person. In her book, *I Might Be You: An Exploration of Autism and Connection*, Barb and her therapist, Lois Prislowsky, share an amazing view of the world -- a view inside the mind of a non-verbal autistic woman.

Not only does this book show that FC can be the answer to communicating for some with autism, it reveals an amazing, insightful mind that is funny, philosophical, and inspiring. Barb's discussion of being a contemplative in an active world has much to teach us all. Her ability to see all people as "flecks of God" reveals the depth of her thinking. I looked over many comments about this book. There is so much in it; it truly should be required reading for anyone working with autistic people who have not yet found a way to share their voice.

Barb and Lois alternate chapters in the book, which took 10 years to write. It opens with these lines: "Did you hear the severe autism alert sirens wailing? Did that storm luckily miss you and yours? Not us. Our family took a direct hit. *I Might Be You* is a fresh look at the damage and emerging sun as told by an adult with autism who 'is disguised as a poor thinker' but has much to say yet

does not speak and a therapist who helps rebuild."

Barb refers to her mom as "smother," as might any young adult who has not had children of her own! Her mom shares about the book and her pride in all Barb has become, "This book is for anyone who has a disabled relative, friend or acquaintance. It has tremendous insight and is wonderfully funny ... It is a testament to what

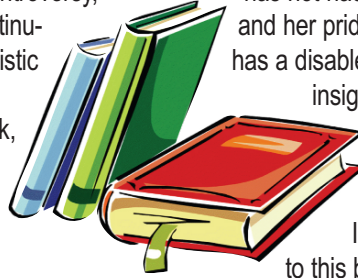
anyone can achieve no matter the hardships. Being unable to talk is one of the worst handicaps (along with the autism), and Barb has triumphed in this regard."

I can't say it any better than the person who introduced me to this book, Jess Wilson of *A Diary of a Mom* blog. She says, "This book changed me. I cannot recommend this book strongly enough. Please don't be fooled — it is not just a book for those whose lives are touched directly by autism. No, it's a book for anyone who has ever sought connection — with themselves, with their fellow human beings, with the world around them, with God.

It is not remotely an exaggeration to say that this book has changed me. It has made me a better mother, a better advocate for my autistic daughter, and, above all, a better person. I want to be Barb when I grow up. Read the book. It's a gift."

What she said: Read the book. And compel everyone you know to read the book.

Barb and Lois have recently begun a radio show. More information about Barb, Lois, FC and the writing of this book can be found at www.muleandmuseproductions.com.



Support in Numbers

Wow! We've accomplished so much together this year on GlobalGiving with API's Give Kids a Voice program. To date, more than \$8,000 has been generously donated on GlobalGiving.org, enabling us to offer discounted iPads for 22 families! And there's so much more to come. Our goal is to offer one iPad every month.

A mother and API member recently wrote us a letter about the joys of interacting with her child with the use of an iPad she received from API's Give Kids a Voice program. "I have yet to find a better way to help him self-regulate and calm him when he is overwhelmed than this little machine! He is learning to drag and drop pictures and interact with me to pop bubbles on the bubble app. We look forward



to using it to assist with his communication as well. Thank you for all that you do!"

Letters like this encourage us do more every chance we are able. The fourth quarter is the most important fundraising time of the year. We're kicking the fourth quarter off with a bang! Join us on October 15th for GlobalGiving's last Bonus Day of the year. A 30% match on all donations up to \$1,000 per donor, will last while funds remain. There is \$75,000 available in matching and matching begins at 9am EDT and lasts until funds run out or 11:59pm EDT. Tell your friends and relatives to visit <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/give-kids-a-voice-ipads-for-autism/> and help make a positive impact in our families' lives today!

A night out for parents

For the third year, United Way partners Florida Blue and Hampton Inn Airport are offering a Parents' Night Out event to API families. This is part of United Way's annual Day of Caring event.



The Parents' Night Out takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, October 10th, in the ballroom at Hampton Inn on Airport Boulevard, and includes

a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings, as well as fun door prizes. Treat yourself and someone you love to a relaxing time out.

Childcare is now FULL. But, if you would like to register for the dinner, go to <http://www.apinightout.co.nr/>.

For all questions, please call the API office at (850) 434-7171 or email programs@autismpensacola.org.



Welcome our newest CARD consultant

API would like to welcome FSU-CARD's newest consultant, Christine Ogilvie, PhD. Dr. Ogilvie joins Debbie Dubus in the Pensacola office, replacing Tammy Dasher who is now working from the Tallahassee office of CARD. Dr. Ogilvie was a middle school teacher in Massachusetts and Vermont before making the jump into higher education. A PhD graduate of the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Dr. Ogilvie has established a notable presence in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Her specific focus is working with adolescents with High Functioning Autism and Asperger Syndrome in the area of social skills instruction.

After spending five years in higher education, Dr. Ogilvie is looking forward to becoming an active and engaged member of the FSU - CARD family and working with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders, their families, the Santa Rosa and Escambia county schools, and the community at large.

Dr. Ogilvie invites families to visit during her office hours: Mondays

from 9 a.m. to noon, and Wednesdays from 2 to 5 p.m. CARD's office is located in the Seton Medical Park, Bldg. 2. CARD shares office space with the Sacred Heart Autism Center. Her email is Christine.ogilvie@med.fsu.edu. The office number for FSU-CARD is 416-4495. Dr. Ogilvie's cell is 850-324-6245.

CARD serves individuals of any age who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders – including autistic disorder, PDD-NOS, Rett's Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder.

To become a client, a referral packet must be completed and submitted. You can download the packet through their web site: <http://autism.fsu.edu/index.php/aboutcard?start=1>

CARD's web site also keeps up with listing upcoming trainings in the North Florida/Panhandle area. They also offer archived trainings for free viewing.

Check it out! <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/resources/training.html>

Upcoming Card Events

Girls' Day Out – October 9th from 6 to 8 p.m. at the CARD office. This event is open to girls, grades 7-10th, with Asperger's and High-Functioning Autism. This will be a monthly affair that will meet at different locations. CARD clients must register by Oct. 5th for the October event by calling Karen at (850) 416-4495.

• • • • •

Time to Go to Work! Pt. 1 – Four-week class begins Oct 22nd. Open to those ages 16 and up who are registered CARD clients. Classes will teach the basics of applying and interviewing for a job. Classes will be held at the CARD office. Register before Oct 15th by calling Karen at (850) 416-4495.

Young Adult Social at the Wide Awake Café – Oct. 20th at the Wide Awake Café in Milton. Bring your favorite board game or card game and join Dr. Ogilvie for some game time! CARD clients are asked to register by Oct. 15th by calling Karen at (850) 416-4495.

• • • • •

You, Too, Can Be Computer Savvy – Classes on computer basics begin Nov. 4th at the CARD office. Open to CARD clients ages 17 and up. Must bring your own laptop to the class. You must register by Nov 1st by calling Karen at (850) 416-4495.

Expect, Employ, Empower

The 11th annual Disability Awareness Conference is coming up Oct. 9th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the University of West Florida Conference Center. Sessions will be offered for students, service providers, employers, advocates, educators, and people with disabilities. There will also be a discussion panel, mock interviews, vendor fair, and lunch provided.

Admission is free, and the event is open to the public.

"We all have a role to play in — and benefit to gain from — increasing opportunities for meaningful employment for people with disabilities. This year's theme encapsulates this in three powerful words. It conveys that advancing disability employment is about much more than just hiring," said Kathy Martinez, assistant secretary of labor for disability employment policy when announcing this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month theme, which is "Expect. Employ. Empower."

"It's about creating a continuum of inclusion. And the first step on this continuum is expectation," said Martinez.

For more information, contact Sylvia Patterson at (850) 474-2694 or email spatterson@uwf.edu.

Keeping Loved Ones Safe

Families living with autism struggle with making their community a safe place for their loved one. People with autism may not be aware of the inherent dangers in the world around them. Because of this, Autism Pensacola has made safety programming a part of the organization's mission.

- Big Red Safety Notebooks – provided at NO CHARGE to our families
- Safety Conference for First Responders
- Media Campaign – increasing acceptance and understanding
- Project Lifesaver – tracking bracelets for those who wander

To find out more about any of these programs, contact the API office at (850) 434-7171 or go to www.autismpensacola.org.

Calendar of Events

Check our website often for additional events and details!

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 2 – 1 to 4 p.m. – Play date at WSRE's Imagination Station, Community Maritime Park.

Friday, October 3 – 11 a.m. – Escambia Support Chat, API office, 3916 N. 10th Avenue, Pensacola. Bring your own lunch.

Saturday, October 4 – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Fall Family Picnic, Bagdad Recreational Facility, 6860 Pooley St., Milton. Lunch will be provided. Bring your favorite dessert to share.

Friday, October 10 – 6 p.m. – United Way Day of Caring Parents' Night Out. Sign up online. Reservations required. Space limited.

Saturday, October 11 – 9 a.m. – Male Caregiver's Chat, Golden Corral, Ninth Avenue.

Tuesday, October 14 – 9 a.m. – North Santa Rosa Chat, Wide Awake Café, Milton.

Friday, October 17 – 10 a.m. – GAP Chat, API office.

Saturday, October 18 - 9 a.m. - Male Caregivers' Chat at Ryan's Buffet, Hwy 90 in Pace.

Saturday, October 18 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Respite at Marcus Pointe Baptist Church, 6205 North W St. Register by calling Rhonda at (850) 501-7142. Must call at least 7 days in advance to ensure a spot.

Tuesday, October 21 – 6 p.m. – API Annual Evening Meeting, Pollak Training Center, Arc Gateway, corner of Fairfield Drive and 10th Avenue. Sleep Study panel and API board voting.

Thursday, October 23 – 10 a.m. – API Council meeting, API office.

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 3 – Extraordinary Ventures workshops. 9-11:30 a.m., Marcus Pointe Baptist Church. 6-7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Milton. Sitters available at the evening event, with reservation. www.autismpensacola.org/whatsgoingon.html

Thursday, November 6 – 1 to 4 p.m. – Play date at WSRE's Imagination Station, Community Maritime Park.

Friday, November 7 – 11 a.m. – Escambia Support Chat, API office, 3916 N. 10th Avenue, Pensacola. BYOL.

Saturday, November 8 – 9 a.m. – Male Caregiver's Chat, Golden Corral, Ninth Avenue.

Tuesday, November 11 – 9 a.m. – North Santa Rosa Chat, Wide Awake Café, Milton.

Saturday, November 15 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Respite at Marcus Pointe Baptist Church, 6205 N. W Street. Register by calling Rhonda at (850) 501-7142. Must call at least 7 days in advance to ensure a spot.

Friday, November 21 – 10 a.m. – GAP Chat, API office.

DECEMBER

Thursday, December 4 – 10 a.m. – API Council meeting, API office.

Friday, December 5 – 11 a.m. – Escambia Support Chat, API office, 3916 N. 10th Avenue, Pensacola. Bring your own lunch.

Saturday, December 6 – Bowling with Santa, Cordova Lanes, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, December 13 – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. -- Family Christmas Party and Pictures with Santa. First Presbyterian Church, Milton.

JANUARY

Friday, January 2 – 11 a.m. – Escambia Support Chat, API office, 3916 N. 10th Avenue, Pensacola. Bring your own lunch.

Saturday, January 10 – 9 a.m. – Male Caregiver's Chat, Golden Corral, Ninth Avenue.

Friday, January 16 – 10 a.m. – GAP Chat, API office.

Saturday, January 17 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Respite at Marcus Pointe Baptist Church, 6205 North W Street. Register by calling Rhonda at (850) 501-7142. Must call at least 7 days in advance to ensure a spot.

Tuesday, January 20 – 6 p.m. – Camp Kick-off Meeting, Pollak Training Center, Arc Gateway, corner of Fairfield Drive and 10th Avenue.

Thursday, January 22 – 10 a.m. – API Council meeting, API office.

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 6 – 11 a.m. – Escambia Support Chat, API office, 3916 N. 10th Avenue, Pensacola. Bring your own lunch.

Saturday, February 7 – Wrightslaw Training, Marcus Pointe Baptist Church, 6205 North W Street.

Saturday, February 14 – 9 a.m. – Male Caregiver's Chat, Golden Corral, Ninth Avenue.

Friday, February 20 – 10 a.m. – GAP Chat, API office.

Saturday, February 21 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Respite at Marcus Pointe Baptist Church, 6205 North W Street. Register by calling Rhonda at (850) 501-7142. Must call at least 7 days in advance to ensure a spot.

Thursday, February 26 – 10 a.m. – API Council meeting, API office.

INFORMATION ABOUT ONGOING PROGRAMS

PPSP – Parent Partner Support Program – Becoming an effective advocate for your student with special needs is the purpose of PPSP, an individualized special education support program for families in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The program pairs families with a trained consultant who will offer support services. Contact the API office at (850) 434-7171 or Amy Lorton at ihelp@autismpensacola.org.

PEP – Parent Empowerment Program – Series of classes to train parents/caregivers on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. Classes include group training with a Board Certified Behavior Analyst; individual consultation with intern at the Sacred Heart Autism Center; two books by Pete Wright of "Wrightslaw"; access to web-based lectures on the IEP process; use of an iPad for your child during the class. For information, contact Susan at (850) 434-7171 or (850) 450-0656.

Special Olympics Escambia/Santa Rosa – Michael Stone is the area's new director. To join a sport, call (850) 291-6234 or email him at mstone@specialolympicsescambia.org or mstone@specialolympicssantarosa.org.

API Contact Information

To donate, pay dues, obtain membership forms or for other correspondence
mail to address below or visit www.autismpensacola.org

Email: info@autismpensacola.org

Newsletter digitally
printed by



**WHAT YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS,
WHEN YOU NEED IT!**

www.fsigroup.net

850.479.0800

**PRINTING • APPAREL
PROMOTIONAL ITEMS
DIRECT MAIL • MARKETING AIDS**



Connecting the Pieces
Autism Pensacola

serving families along the gulf coast

P. O. Box 30213

Pensacola, Florida 32503-1213

Help Unlock a Child's World!



This project will provide families on the Greater Gulf Coast with iPads to open their child's world of communication and learning.

Join us on **October 15th** for GlobalGiving's last Bonus Day of the year.

A **30% match on all donations** up to \$1,000 per donor.

Matching begins at **9:00 am EDT**
and lasts until **11:59 pm EDT**.

Tell your friends and family to visit

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/give-kids-a-voice-ipads-for-autism>

and help make a positive impact
on our families' lives today!

Kids for Camp 2014



Thank You to all the staff, parents, volunteers, and community partners who pulled together to make Kids for Camp 2014 a big success! This was our largest camp, to date. We laughed, we played, we worked, and we all learned together.

Check out the final report on our web site:
www.autismpensacola.org/camp.html