

Hand in Hand Summer Special Activities

Summer enrichment activities for children with special needs are scheduled from June through August at Hand in Hand in Bettendorf.

The eight, week-long theme activities are available at Hand In Hand from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Field trips, weekly "swim & gym" activities and an entire music week in which children create their own musical CD are a few of the features available. Programs are being offered for people ages 5 to 21. New evening "Young Adult" programs are also available with events tailored to this age group. Call Molly Steil at (563) 332-8010 for additional details.

Registration is underway at the Hand in Hand facility known as Tessa's Place, 3860 Middle Road in Bettendorf, just west of Lindquist Ford.

"We encourage anyone interested in registering or asking questions about Hand In Hand activities to contact us as soon as possible because many programs fill quite quickly," said Mark Smith of Hand in Hand.

Arc of Scott County Board of Directors

Officers and members serving on the Arc of Scott County Board of Directors are: Tina Harper, president; Kim Armer, vice president; Carol Foster, secretary; and Kathy Bucciferro, Doug Walter, Joanne Duncan, Carol Monnard, Mark Smith and Becky Takemoto. Kim Fugate is the Arc's bookkeeper.

Autism Society of the Quad Cities Board of Directors

Officers and members serving on the Autism Society Board of Directors are: Gina Laughlin, president; Cathy Sivill, vice president; Elizabeth Hoenshell, secretary; Lyndon Heisleman, treasurer; and Barb Arland-Fye, Pat Bihn, Tom Crane, Amy Hillyer, Gail Karp, Linda Matkovich, and Peggy Wrzesinski.



A.S.A.

Advocating For People With Autism & Their Families



**Autism Society of America
Quad Cities Chapter
P.O. Box 472
Bettendorf, IA 52722-0008**

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Spring highlights

From Gina Laughlin, president of the Autism Society of the Quad Cities

Spring is budding with promise, vitality and new life. What better time to host a symposium providing fresh ideas to help people with disabilities live fuller lives?

With that thought in mind, the Autism Society of the Quad Cities is hosting its annual spring symposium April 30 at St. Ambrose University in Davenport.

Our keynote speaker is Curt Sytsma, legal director of the Legal Center for Special Education in Des Moines. He will talk about the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Sonya Wills, vice president of the Autism Society of Iowa, will speak on two topics: waiver services available for people with disabilities, and inclusion in school. The latter topic will address the best ways to communicate with teachers and administrators.

Dr. Bernard Biermann, a psychiatrist with Vera French Community Mental Health Center in Davenport, will speak on the role of medication in dealing with co-existing conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), depression, anxiety and others.

The symposium also will offer a parent panel focusing on food: a gluten and casein-free diet.

Registration is from 8-8:30 a.m.; the speakers will present from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Galvin Fine Arts Center, 518 W. Locust St., on the St. Ambrose campus. Cost is \$10 for parents and \$25 for professionals. For information, call Gina Laughlin at (563) 359-5515.

Don't forget to reserve the first Tuesday night of June for our annual meeting. We'll be installing new officers, sharing the highlights of the past year and enjoying each other's company over dinner at 6:30 p.m. June 7 at Crooners Restaurant & Catering, 2326 16th St., Moline.

A season for fresh starts

By Tina Harper, president of Arc of Scott County

Dear members and friends of the Arc,

Once again spring has arrived and with it a new beginning of life and lushness as nature unfolds her greenery. Children anticipate summer; we clean out our garages and closets and also look forward to the warm weather and a renewal of our spirit. In that breath of renewal, I am contemplating the many years I've been president of the Arc of Scott County -- so many years that I've quit counting! I've been involved with the Arc for over 16 years in some capacity or another and have found it extremely rewarding. However, it's time for me to step down as president. It's something I've wanted to do for several years now. I'm very busy in my personal life, as we all are, and with my free time I want to channel my energies into different disability organizations.

The Arc still remains the strongest and most important advocacy group for people with disabilities in the country. Through Arc's lobbying efforts, we have avoided passage of legislation that would negatively

impact people who depend on governmental services. Arc continues to advocate for all of our children and friends with disabilities.

In Scott County, I would like to see some people with younger children become involved with Arc. Our board needs new faces. I am uncertain what will happen during the next term until we fill my vacancy. We need someone to step up so that we can continue the excellent programs we provide.

I plan to stay actively involved, but Arc needs your help to keep our organization vital. If anyone is interested in more information about Arc of Scott County, please e-mail me at Tinah45@aol.com and I will be happy to talk with you. I've enjoyed being president and working with so many wonderful people! Ending my presidency by no means ends my advocacy; it's just time for change and perhaps you can be the change that makes a difference.

April is National Autism Awareness Month

Facts about autism, from the Autism Society of America:

1.5 million Americans are affected by autism.

50 children are diagnosed with autism every day.

Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States

Autism Society of the Quad Cities (ASQC)

ASQC is a Chapter of the Autism Society of America (ASA). There are no dues for membership in the ASQC. However, membership in the ASA is required, for which annual dues are charged by ASA. You can join ASA by enrolling by mail or online at www.autism-society.org or by enrolling through the Iowa Chapter, ASA (AS-IA) or the Autism Society of Illinois (AS-IL), depending on your state of residence. Although membership in AS-IA or AS-IL is not required for membership in ASQC, it is encouraged. Addresses for the national and state organizations are:

Autism Society of America
7910 Woodmont Ave, Suite 300
Bethesda, MD 20814-3067
800-328-8476

Iowa Chapter, Autism Society of America
4549 Waterford Dr.
West Des Moines, IA 50265-2059
888-722-4799
Email: autism50ia@aol.com
www.autismia.org

Autism Society of Illinois
2200 S. Main St., Suite 317
Lombard, IL 60148-5366
630-691-1270
Email: info@autismillinois.org
www.autismillinois.org

Contact is a quarterly newsletter of the Autism Society of the Quad Cities and Arc of Scott County. Comments, questions and suggestions are welcome and may be addressed to:

Barb Arland-Fye, Editor
Autism Society
of the Quad Cities
P.O. Box 472
Bettendorf, IA 52722
(563) 386-6359 or (563) 5515
e-mail: barbarland@aol.com

The New ASQC

By Tom Crane, board member

For a long time, the Autism Society of the Quad-Cities (ASQC) was an unincorporated association operating as a chapter of the Autism Society of America (ASA). As time went on, it became clear to us that we desired a corporate organization to maintain flexibility and autonomy in dealing with the unique aspects of our autism community.

An essential feature of a charitable organization like ASQC is federal tax exemption. This not only provides ASQC exemption from federal and state income taxes, but also permits contributors to deduct their donations to ASQC from their taxes. We have no independent federal tax exemption of our own; we are using the tax exemption of ASA, which is permitted for subsidiary organizations such as chapters of ASA, by federal and state law.

An important source of charitable contributions in the Quad-Cities area is the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for federal employees working in the area, including the Rock Island Arsenal. The ASQC needs its own Internal Revenue Service (IRS) identification number to qualify for the CFC. Thus, it would be beneficial for us to incorporate to obtain our own IRS ID number. Also, our independent tax exemption would help assure our contributors that money raised here, stays here.

For the above reasons, we wanted to seek incorporation under Iowa law as a nonprofit, charitable corporation and apply for our own tax-exempt status from the IRS. To help us do this, we retained the services of Lane & Waterman LLP, a well-known local law firm. Articles of incorporation were prepared, reviewed, and filed with the Iowa Secretary of State on November 23, 2004, the date of our incorporation and the beginning of the new ASQC.

We also are preparing the application to the IRS for our tax-exempt status. This is a rigorous process, which requires a lengthy application form and attachments to demonstrate that we are a bona fide charitable corporation meeting federal requirements for tax-exempt status. The IRS also conducts an intense review. We and our lawyers have been working on the application for the past few months and hope to submit it to the IRS in the near future. When we receive our own tax-exempt status, we will continue to act as a chapter of ASA, but we will have the independence and security of our own corporate and tax-exempt status.

Summer Programs 2005

Day Camps – Scott County

Camp Eagle Nest

Davenport Parks and Recreation Dept.
Open to all children ages 5-21
9a.m.-1 p.m. August 1-5
Garfield Park, Davenport
\$50

Contact person:
Sherrie Fisher (563) 888-2219

Camp Lagoon

Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Dept.
Open to children with special needs ages 7-18. Limit 12 children per session.
9a.m.-noon June 6-10, 13-17, 20-24, 27-July 1, July 11-15, July 18-22
\$30 per week

McMannus Park (rain days:
Bettendorf Community Center)

Registration: Bettendorf residents mail/drop-off April 11-15 at Bettendorf City Hall
Open registration begins April 18 at Bettendorf City Hall
For more information, call: (563) 344-4113 or www.bettendorf.org.

Summer Day Camp

Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department
Post Kindergarten-7 years:
Upper Middle Park shelter (limited to 30 children)
Ages 8-11: Middle Park Lagoon shelter (limited to 45 children)
Weekly: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,

June 6-August 5
\$80 per week

Registration: Bettendorf residents mail/drop-off April 11-15 at Bettendorf City Hall
Open registration begins April 18 at Bettendorf City Hall
Parent orientation: June 1 at Bettendorf City Hall, 1609 State Street
(563) 344-4113 or www.bettendorf.org

Summer programs cont.

Tot Lot

Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department

Ages 3-5 (must be 3 by June 7 and not have completed kindergarten). Limited to 40 children.

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, June 6-July 22.

Edgewood, Scheck and Kiwanis Parks

\$35 per week

Registration: Bettendorf residents mail/drop-off April 11-15 at Bettendorf City Hall.

Open registration begins April 18 at Bettendorf City Hall 563-344-4113 or www.bettendorf.org

Camp Hand in Hand

Associated with Family Care Solutions

Ages 5-21 with special needs Two, one-week sessions (July 18-22 and 25-29) at Camp Abe Lincoln

Register at Tessa's Place, 3860 Middle Rd., Bettendorf.

Contact (563) 332-8010 or <http://www.handinhandqc.org>

Camp Abe Lincoln Day Camp Blue Grass, Iowa

Scott County Family YMCA Day Camp ages 6-10 and Kinder Camp ages 4-5

Week-long sessions from June 13-August 19

\$140 for non-members.

Specialty activities: one-day ses-

sions for 9-14 year olds.

Additional fees of \$50-80

Contact: (563) 381-3053 or <http://www.ymcacampabelincoln.org> or www.ymca@campabelincoln.org

Other Camp Opportunities

Camp Courageous

Year-round recreational and respite care located in Monticello, Iowa

Contact: (319) 465-5916 or <http://www.campcourageous.org>

Independence Camp

Associated with Children's Therapy Center, Moline, Ill.

Ages 7-18 with special needs July 24-27

\$25 processing fee

Located at Camp Loud Thunder, Andalusia, Ill.

Contact: (309) 762-9552 extension #15 for a camper application

Albrecht Acres

Sherrill, Iowa (319) 552-1771

Summer Daycamp

The Homestead Runnells, Iowa (515) 967-4369

Camp Sunnyside

Easter Seals of Iowa, Des Moines (515) 289-1933

Other summer and educational opportunities

Playground Program for Bettendorf residents only

Ages 5-12 years

No limit to the number of attendees

12:30-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 6 to July 28.

No registration fee, but there will be charges for field trips

Located at Riverdale Heights, Meier, Hoover, Kiwanis,

Edgewood and Scheck Parks (563) 344-4113 or

www.bettendorf.org

Adapted Swim/ Splash Landing

Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department.

Special population

accompanied by an adult

Splash Landing

9:30-10:30 a.m. June 12, 19, 26;

July 10, 17, 24; August 7

\$3 per session

Contact: (563) 344-4113 or

www.bettendorf.org

Summer Swim Bash

Individuals with disabilities and their families

Splash Landing

6-8 p.m. July 9.

\$3

Those requiring one-on-one assistance must bring a companion.

For more information, visit:

www.bettendorf.org

Adapted Swim

Discounted rate

Fejervary in Davenport

General swim schedule

Questions? Call Sherrie Fisher at (563) 888-2219

Unified Volleyball

Junior high and high school

persons with disabilities

Lohmann Arena, St. Ambrose University, Davenport

6:30-7:30 p.m. April 13, 20, 27 and May 4, 11.

Register with Sherri Fisher at (563) 888-2219

Medical physical must be on file with Special Olympics

Unified Bowling

Persons with disabilities

Miller Time, Davenport

6:30-8:30 p.m. June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

Register with Sherri Fisher at (563) 888-2219

Medical physical must be on file with Special Olympics

Uno Tournament

Open to persons with disabilities Limit of 25 participants

Roosevelt Community Center, Davenport

6:30 p.m. Friday, May 20.

\$3

To register call Sherri Fisher at (563) 888-2219

Bingo Marathon

Open to persons with disabilities Duck Creek Lodge, Davenport

6:30 p.m. Friday, June 24.

\$4

To register, call Sherrie Fisher at (563) 888-2219

Davenport Parks and Recreation Special Events

A variety of summer activities are available for children with special needs.

Contact: www.ci.davenport.ia.us, click on Parks and Recreation, and then click on special population programs or call Sherri Fisher at (563) 888-2219.



Autism

Seek the Cause

Find the Cure

Mailing List/Membership Information Form

My address has changed.

Please send me information about membership in the Autism Society of America - Autism Society of the Quad Cities.

My question is:

Please send an information packet to:

Address:

Detach and mail to ASQC • P.O. Box 472 • Bettendorf, IA 52722