



GHAzette



GHA Autism Supports

ISSUE 02 2012

GHA AUTISM SUPPORTS PROMOTES LIGHT IT UP BLUE CAMPAIGN AND AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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2011-2012

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In order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, April was designated as National Autism Awareness Month. The United States recognizes April as a special opportunity to educate the general public about autism and issues within the autism community. The fifth annual World Autism Awareness Day was April 2, 2012. Every year, autism organizations around the world celebrate this day with unique awareness-raising events. As part of World Autism Day, GHA Autism Supports participated in the "Light It Up

Blue" campaign on Monday, April 2nd. The "Light It Up Blue" campaign was created by Autism Speaks, a worldwide autism science and advocacy organization. "Light It Up Blue", in its third year, is a unique global initiative by Autism Speaks to help raise awareness about autism as a growing public health concern. Iconic landmarks around the world enhanced their buildings on April 2nd with blue lighting to show their support. This year's landmarks included the Empire State Building in New York City, Christ the Redeemer in Brazil, the Sydney Opera House in Australia, Niagara Falls and our very own GHA Autism Supports Administrative Office at 213 North Second Street in downtown Albemarle. In addition, staff members in Albemarle and Wilmington enjoyed "Light It Up Blue" desserts on Monday, April 2nd while several sported event t-shirts.

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CSA

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GHA Hosts Visitors From Japan

On Valentine's Day, GHA Autism Supports hosted two distinguished visitors in the field of autism from Japan. Kohei Kobayashi and Atsushi Mizuno spent the day touring and meeting a number of GHA individuals and staff. They were very impressed with how happy individuals and staff were as they welcomed them into their homes and workplaces. Mr. Mizuno and Mr. Kobayashi stated that they felt "dignity" was the word that best summed up their observation of life at GHA. They plan to



utilize some of the things they learned during their visit to positively impact the lives of individuals with autism in Japan. Thank you to everyone at GHA for being an inspiration to others.



From the CEO
Dawn Allen

Springtime at GHA Autism Supports has continued at a breakneck pace like all other times of the year! Like so many health and human service providers, we have seen our share of state and federal cuts. We have continued our efforts to educate our elected officials on how critical their support is for the continuation of our programs. I would like to commend

our staff for working tirelessly to create environments for our individuals that maintain quality, while operating with less money. We are committed to providing the best of supports for all of our individuals! As reported throughout this newsletter, we are continuing our efforts to explore revenues from private foundations and fundraisers. Thank you for your continued support and I hope to see many of you at our 4th Annual Rubber Duck Derby at City Lake Park in Albemarle on Saturday, May 19th and at "Golf Fore Autism tournament in Leland on June 14th!



Rubber Duck Derby Set for May 19th— Adopt Your Ducks Today!

Fundraising efforts continue as we gear up for the fourth annual GHA Autism Supports Rubber Duck Derby! The event is scheduled for 11:00 am – 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 19th at the City Lake Park off Highway 73 in Albemarle. There will be fun for everyone including food, face painting, inflatables and balloon animals. All ducks that have been adopted will take the plunge into City Lake at 1:00 pm!

A limited number of ducks are available for adoption by contacting the GHA Office at (704) 982-9600. You may adopt a single duck for \$5.00, a flock of ducks (13 ducks) for \$50.00 or a duck flotilla (27 ducks) for \$100. An exciting prize package is up for grabs again this year--**The first duck to cross the finish line will receive \$3,000 cash, the second duck will receive \$1,000 cash!** Other prizes include:

- Hungry Duck:** \$100 Gift Card Donated by **Harris Teeter**
- Keep Me Movin' Duck:** \$50 BP Gas Card, Courtesy of **Albemarle Oil Company**
- Travel Duck:** Two Complimentary Tickets to Biltmore House & Winery, Courtesy of **The Biltmore Company**
- Yummy Duck:** \$50 Gift Card to Dairy Queen, Courtesy of **Albemarle Oil Company**
- Dining Duck:** \$50 Gift Certificate, Courtesy of **Off the Square** 114 South Second Street, Albemarle

This event would not be successful without the support of our sponsors including **Bank of Stanly, Platinum Sponsors; Home Savings Bank and Wells Fargo, Gold Sponsors; Bear Insurance, Crook Motor Company, Davidson, Holland & Whitesell & Co., PLLC, South Central Oil Co. and Southern Pharmacy, Silver Sponsors; Deek Mechanical, Tim Marburger Honda, SimplyHome, Stanly Appliance Parts and Service and Storm Technologies, Bronze Sponsors and The Stanly News & Press and WSPC/WZKY Radio, Media Sponsors.**

INTERN VOLUNTEER



Jamie Beinkampen completed an internship this spring with GHA Autism Supports. She is a senior at Pfeiffer University. Jamie volunteered three times per week at several different GHA Autism Supports sites and had the opportunity to interact with a number of individuals. She assisted with a variety of activities ranging from clerical office work to clinical data evaluation to the construction of activities. Jamie stated, "Working with GHA really opened me up to working with special needs individuals and I absolutely love it." She hopes to attend graduate school in the fall in the field of psychology and plans to continue her association with GHA Autism Supports as a Seasonal Support Assistant. Thank you and good luck Jamie!



Greg Fischer, Grand Knight of the Rev. J.A. Cowan Council #10495, presents a check to CEO Dawn Allen and Chief Development Officer Beth Olivieri.

GHA Autism Supports receives Knights of Columbus Contribution

GHA Autism Supports is pleased to have received a contribution in the amount of \$350 from the Rev. J.A. Cowan Council #10495 of the Knights of Columbus, a local fraternal benefits organization affiliated with Our Lady of the Annunciation Catholic Church in Albemarle. The gift was made through

support secured from the Lamb Foundation of NC, which was founded in 1999 by the North Carolina Knights of Columbus State Council to support individuals with intellectual disabilities. Across the State, councils conduct drives in which they offer tootsie rolls to passers-by. Each local council retains 85% percent of donations collected to be earmarked for local organizations. In 1882, Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, along with help from the Connecticut State Legislature, chartered the Knights of Columbus with its founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity. The Knights was formed to render financial aid to members and their families and mutual aid and assistance were offered to sick, disabled and needy members. Since this time, the Knights of Columbus has grown from several members in one Connecticut Council to more than 14,000 councils and 1.8 million members throughout the United States and many countries around the world.

The Rev. J.A. Cowan Council continues to remain active in our local community through the collection of food for Stanly Community Christian Ministry, the organization of blood drives and assisting in constructing handicapped ramps to name a few.

Community Supported

Agriculture Program

GHA Autism Supports is pleased to announce the continuation of the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program at Carolina Farms for the 2012 growing season. Essentially, a CSA is an opportunity for you to purchase a "subscription" to a farm's harvest.

This growing season will be divided into two segments for shareholders including a summer session and a fall session. Weekly during each session, your investment could provide to you a dozen eggs and a variety of veggies free of pesticides. For the summer session, plans are underway to plant the following: basil, bok choy, cabbage, napa cabbage, chard, eggplant, garlic, green onions, kale, lettuce, peppers, hot peppers, yellow squash, tomatoes, zucchini, green beans, beets, carrots, sweet corn, cilantro, dill, onions, potatoes, radishes, spinach, white turnips, cucumbers, arugula, cantaloupe and watermelons.



Our fall session will include the following: bok choy, cabbage, napa cabbage, chard, kale, lettuce, winter squash, beets, carrots, spinach, white turnips, arugula, sweet potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower and collards. Pick-up times will be your choice of every Monday, Wednesday or Friday during each scheduled

session. Through your investment in this project, you share in the risks of farming which may include, but are not limited to, poor harvests due to unfavorable weather or pests. To inquire about availability of CSA shares, please contact Chief Development Officer Beth Olivieri at: 704-982-9600, ext.125 or betholivieri@ghainc.org.

Mark Your Calendar—Upcoming Events

May 19th – 4th Annual GHA Autism Supports Rubber Duck Derby at City Lake Park in Albemarle

May 30-June 1 – CARF

June 14th – “Golf Fore Autism” tournament at Cape Fear National at Brunswick Forest in Leland

August 18th – GHA Autism Supports Family Network Yard Sale in Albemarle

August 27th – GHA Autism Supports Blood Drive to benefit Community Blood Center

September 9th – GHA Autism Supports Family Network Meeting

November 3rd – GHA Autism Supports Gala Auction in Albemarle

January 13th - GHA Autism Supports Family Network Meeting

Coastal NC Run/Walk for Autism

On Saturday, April 21, the Autism Society of North Carolina and GHA Autism Supports held the 2nd annual Coastal NC Run/Walk for Autism. Over 570 runners and walkers participated in the event, which included a chip-timed 5K race, a recreational 1-mile run/walk, and a kids' dash.

The Run/Walk raised over \$40,000 to support individuals and families affected by autism in the coastal region of North Carolina.

Donations are still being accepted at www.coastalncrunwalkforautism.com.

The Coastal Run/Walk for Autism was part of World Autism Awareness Weekend, which included a variety of family-friendly activities, including a Family Day in the Park at Wrightsville Beach Park and water sports hosted by Surfers Healing.

The Autism Society of North Carolina is a non-profit organization that provides support and promotes opportunities for individuals with autism and their families statewide. Support services include advocacy, education, supported living services, vocational and day services, recreational opportunities, training, consultation, and legislative and policy advocacy. For more information, visit www.autismsociety-nc.org.



We have our dates for CARF!



The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) has provided GHA Autism Supports with our survey dates. Our CARF team will be here for three days: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 through Friday, June 1, 2012. During this time, the surveyors will conduct a comprehensive review of our documentation over the past three years, interview some supported individuals, family members, Board Members, employees and other stakeholders, and provide some on-site observations about our services.

In an effort to prepare our staff, we devised a CARF Quiz game. Our game started January 20, 2012 and will end on May 7, 2012. The winners of our bi-weekly quizzes are: Regina Crump, Ridgecrest; Amanda Handy, Starr Apartments; Adam Presson, Taylor Home; Betty Horton and Chemega Peoples, the Potting Shed; Jessica Forrest, Day Program; Alicia Atkins, Taylor Home and Georgia Haywood, Marie Smith Home. Thank you to all who played the game, and congratulations to our winners!



CARF Quiz Winner
Chemega Peoples

Many people have worked long hours to prepare for our upcoming CARF Survey. Our staff has supplied examples of exemplary work provided by GHA Autism Supports that will be showcased during our visit. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with the surveyors as well as to learn more about these national standards of excellence. In 2009, GHA Autism Supports received the highest rating a provider of service can receive — a three-year accreditation. We anticipate achieving the same outcome in 2012.

Tickets Sold—Slam Dunk for GHA Autism Supports!

Thanks to a very generous donation, GHA Autism Supports auctioned off 2 center court seats to the UNC Tar Heels/Duke Blue Devils basketball match up at Cameron Indoor Stadium on Saturday, March 3rd. Thanks to an out-of-state buyer, the tickets sold for \$4,000 on the “Stub Hub” website (www.stubhub.com)!



WWW.GHAUTISMSUPPORTS.ORG

Golf Fore Autism Tournament Scheduled for June



GHA Autism Supports is pleased to announce our upcoming golf tournament “Golf Fore Autism”. The fundraising event is scheduled for

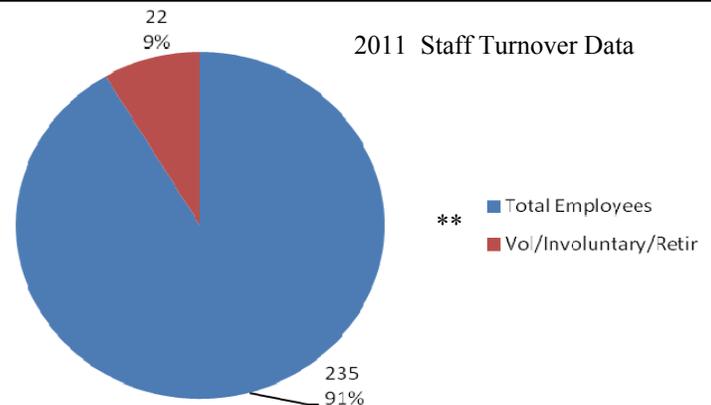


Thursday, June 14th at Cape Fear National in Brunswick Forest in Leland, NC. Players from New Hanover, Brunswick, and surrounding counties will be participating in the four person shotgun start at 9:30 AM followed by a pig pickin’ lunch.

Exciting prizes will be awarded including a chance to win a car from Parkway of Wilmington for a Hole-In-One on #9. For more information and to register visit

www.capefearnational.com/autism.

2011 Staff Turnover Data



****Data collected for 2011:** Turnover data indicates GHA had a 9.4% turnover rate for 2011. [45% voluntary – 55% In-voluntary](This includes one retirement of a staff with 15 or more years of service)

ABOVE and BEYOND AWARDS

Congratulations to the following staff for receiving the ABOVE and BEYOND Award! They are:

David Billingsley – Wilmington

Courtney Hobbs - Wilmington

Crystal Jackson - Albemarle

Beverly Reynolds – Albemarle

These (and others) were nominated by their supervisor and were then selected by a random drawing.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

SURVEYS Annual SATISFACTION Surveys along with SAFETY Surveys have been sent to all staff to complete. Answers are in the process of being compiled as each site returns their survey boxes. Results will be available in the next newsletter.