



The Parents Loving Children Through Autism Foundation

Volume 5, Issue 8
February 2011

The PLCTA Foundation
1243 Wyoming Avenue
3rd Floor
Scranton, PA 18509
570-341-3388

www.plcta.org

Founded May 2002

Board of Directors

Kathleen Walsh, President
Christina Santiago, Treasurer
Lori Stedina, Secretary
Mary Ellen Frommert, Children's Activity Dir
Mary Albano, Recreation Director

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John Stedina, Walk Chair
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Happy Groundhog Day!

The PLCTA Foundation is a 501c(3) tax-exempt organization.

A Message from the Founder and President

Dear Families and Friends:

Love is in the air! Make sure you get your tickets for our upcoming Valentine's Party on February 12th. A flyer is enclosed with all the information you will need. Mary designed some wonderful baskets/raffles for that night. Come out and support PLCTA. Remember you don't have to come as a "couple." Single ladies and single men are welcome! If your spouse has plans, come out and join in on the fun. Good food, good music good fun!!

Another important reminder is Sponsors for the T-shirt are due on February 18th. If you know a sponsor that would like to be on the back of the shirt now is the time to remind them that our due date is quickly approaching. If you need a sponsor form, please call our headquarters at 341-3388, print them from our website, or email me at kwash@plcta.org. This month you will be receiving your walk registration forms. Be sure to check the deadline for these. We would like to ask our families to send your registrations in as soon as they arrive. There are so many walkers to process; this will definitely help us out. Also, please note that due to the amount of walkers, sizes are limited this year. We are offering 4 sizes and adults may **not** order children's sizes. As you know, our walk continues to grow into the largest awareness event in this area. We needed to make a few changes to accommodate the growth and prepare for the years to come! We appreciate your understanding and cooperation to make it all that is can become.

Huge thanks go to Mike Dessoie who has helped me get our website back on the internet. The February Newsletter will be posted on the website. You can access the website at www.PLCTA.org. Please be patient as we develop the site in the upcoming months.

Another big thanks to Distant Thunder Motorcycle Club for the recent check presentation to our foundation. Distant Thunder holds their ride solely to support the children in our foundation. Their dedication and loyalty to PLCTA warms my heart in way I can not fully express.

May you always be blessed with unconditional love!! Happy Valentine's Day to all!

Your Founder and President
Kathleen M. Walsh

Please welcome Mary Ellen Frommert to the Board of Directors as Children's Activity Director!

Recreation News

NOTICE FOR ALL SOCIAL GROUPS

Please respect the age ranges of our social groups. We are trying to provide social opportunities for all of our children living through autism.

YOUTH SOCIAL (12 & UNDER)

The February Youth Social will be a Swim Party at the Dunmore YMCA on Sunday, February 20th, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

YOUNG TEEN SOCIAL (12-15 YEARS OLD)

The Young Teen Social will be a Pizza Party at the Pizza Hut in Clark Summit on Monday, February 7th, beginning promptly at 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Patti (563-1852) by February 6th. No siblings.

TEEN TO ADULT BOWLING SOCIAL (16 & OLDER)

For children with autism who are 16 years old or older, PLCTA's Teen Social will be held at Idle Hour Bowling Lanes, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 12th and 26th. **Please plan to arrive by 12:45** to get your shoes and ball.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

PLCTA's Headquarters at 570-341-3388 and leave a message.

Dates to Remember

February 8 - SibShops© - YMCA, Dunmore, 5:00 - 7:00 pm. RSVP required, contact Margie Cosgrove, 282-1732.

February 9 - SibShops© - YMCA, Carbondale, 5:00 - 7:00 pm. RSVP required, contact Margie Cosgrove, 282-1732.

March 11 - TABS Swim (13 & older), Carbondale YMCA, 6:00-8:00 pm, \$10, RSVP to 282-2210.

Congratulations to...

...Stephen and Roseann Polishan, and Hunter and Hope, on the birth of their son, Holden John.

Send Your Child's Photo!

Please start sending you child's school photos for the 2011 dinner to:

Kathleen Walsh
404 Carnation Drive
Clarks Summit PA 18411

2011 Walk Meeting

February's Walk meeting will be 7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 18th, at the PLCTA HQ, Scranton.

Fundraising Corner

VALENTINE FUNDRAISER

Bring your honey and dance the night away on Saturday, February 12th, 7:00 p.m. - midnight, at the Polish Club in Scranton. See flyer for details.

SWEATSHIRT SALE

In time for the fall, we are repeating the sweatshirt sale. An order form is included in this newsletter. Choose the colors and sizes you want, and send your order form and check to PLCTA. You will be contacted for pick-up.

GERTRUDE HAWK CHOCOLATE BARS

PLCTA has an assortment of Gertrude Hawk chocolate bars for sale. If you'd like to purchase some, please contact a Board Member or call the Headquarters at 570-341-3388.



Walk for Autism Awareness 2010 Teams/Contact Information

Walk Chair

John Stedina, jstedina@plcta.org,
Home 341-3454, Cell 604-9065

Walk Sponsors

Kathleen M. Walsh, kwalsh@plcta.org,
Cell 650-5485, Home 586-8358

Walk Registrations

Christina Santiago,
csantiago.plcta@yahoo.com,
Cell 510-8032

Team Registrations- Team Tent

Michael Slater,
scrantonstu31@yahoo.com

Basket Donation Team

Maura Tokash,
mauratokash@yahoo.com
Liz Dessoye,
shortcake0140@verizon.net,
Cell 815-7635

Dignitarities Team

John Gigliotti, johng@echoes.net,
Home 282-1102, Cell 267-7820

Children Activities

Mary Albano, malbano@plcta.org,
Cell 606-6930
Mary Ellen Frommert,
MEF71168@verizon.net,
Home 346-2955, Cell 877-8060

Raffle Donations

Tammy Galavitz, vitzie@verizon.net,
Home 282-1757, Cell 878-6913

Post Picnic

Mary Ann Colbert,
colbertm@lsmhmr.org, Home 562-
1207, Cell 814-8741

Information Booths

Collen Melnick, party8939@aol.com,
Cell 241-8639, Work (Scranton
Counseling) 348-6100 Ex 3540

Bake Sale Items

Laura DeLuccie, Home 343-7852
Kathy Moroski, Home 347-1435

Volunteers Set up Break Down

Mike Scarantino,
scarantinom2@scranton.edu,
Cell 561-9041

Technology Team

Mike Dessoye wemaster@plcta.org
Cell 499-4058

Important Walk News

From this point on all meetings are mandatory for committee people. It's crunch time.

By now you have received your walk registration forms. Please send them in ASAP!! This will help us project what needs to be ordered. Only people who pre-register are guaranteed a shirt and size. The day of the walk, only X-Large shirts will be available. You can only pre-register until March 25, 2011.

The deadline for sponsors to be on the back of the Walk shirt is February 18th, however baskets and gift cards will be accepted up to the day of the walk. If grandmom/grandpop want to help out, ask them to bake something for the bake sale.

All forms will be available at our website, www.plcta.org or by calling 341-3388.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS. Please consider helping us out.

Our walk is about awareness and unity. Ask your family members, friends, and coworkers to come out and support our children. Let's make this the best walk ever!!!



February 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SAVE THE DATE!		1	2	3	4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, HQ, 7:00	5
6 RSVP DEADLINE FOR PLCTA YOUNG TEEN SOCIAL	7 PLCTA YOUNG TEEN (12-15) SOCIAL, 6:00, Pizza Hut, Clark Summit	8 SibShops© at Dunmore YMCA	9 SibShops© at Carbondale YMCA	10	11	12 PLCTA TEEN TO ADULT BOWLING SOCIAL, (16 YRS & OLDER), 1:00-3:00 PLCTA VALENTINE FUNDRAISER, 7:00 pm-midnight
13	14	15	16	17	18 PLCTA AUTISM WALK MEETING, 7:00, PLCTA HQ	19
20 PLCTA YOUTH SOCIAL (12 & UNDER), 1:15-2:15, Dunmore YMCA	21	22	23	24	24	26 PLCTA TEEN TO ADULT BOWLING SOCIAL, (16 YRS & OLDER), 1:00-3:00
27	28		PLEASE SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS!			

To be included in PLCTA's newsletter, please submit your events by the 20th of the month prior to your event.

Calendar items in **bold** print are PLCTA Foundation sponsored events. The PLCTA Foundation provides notification of third-party events in our calendar as a courtesy and assumes no responsibility for those events.



PARENTS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH!

- Beliefs, Attitudes, and Assumptions of Professionals and Parents Regarding Students with Autism and Inclusion.
- Participants will attend a 3 hour training covering inclusionary practices regarding the necessary supplemental aids and services. Training will include behavior, social, sensory, and environmental supports.
- Participants will complete a pre-survey and post-survey that measures beliefs, attitudes and assumptions regarding including students with autism.

Interested Parents should Contact:

Gloria Gigliotti

gigi@echoes.net

Or by phone: 570-282-1102

No later than February 8th, 2011

Date, Time, and Location TBA by February 15th, 2011



Upon completion of Pre-Survey participants will have the opportunity to enter a raffle ticket for a gift basket. Raffle ticket for gift basket will be drawn after Post-Survey.

Basket Raffle!

Participant Letter

Beliefs, Attitudes, and Assumptions of Professionals and Parents Regarding Students with Autism and Inclusion

You are invited to be in a research study of professionals and parents beliefs, attitudes and assumptions regarding students with autism in an inclusive educational environment. You were selected as a possible participant because you are either a parent of a child with autism and/or professional for a school district or an agency that supports students with autism in an inclusive educational environment. I ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

This study is being conducted by myself; Gloria Gigliotti a graduate student for Marywood University who is completing a thesis for a Master's in Special Education

Background information:

The purpose of this study is to survey professionals (both in the mental health field and education field) attitudes, beliefs, and assumptions about supporting students with autism in an inclusive educational environment with the necessary supplemental aids and services that will support their competencies, success, and growth. The relationship of these attitudes, beliefs, and assumptions to the number of professional development opportunities with regard to autism will also be investigated. Parents' attitudes, beliefs, and assumptions about an inclusive environment will be compared to those of professionals in educational systems and human services agencies.

The research will answer what are the attitudes, beliefs, and assumptions of professionals and parents supporting student's with autism within an inclusive educational environment.

The research will also inquire does the amount in hours of professional development specific to autism influence or change the attitudes, beliefs, and assumptions of professionals and parents regarding inclusive educational environments with the necessary supplemental aids and services.

Procedures:

If you agree to be in this study, I would ask you to do the following things. I would like you to participate in a 3 hour professional development opportunity. The topic to be taught is autism and the necessary sensory, social, and behavioral supplemental aids and service strategies that will support these students in an inclusive educational environment. There will be a pre-survey given at the beginning of the training and a post-survey given at the end of the training.

Risk and Benefits of Being in the Study:

The risks are no greater than ordinarily encountered in daily life. However, some items in the survey may cause discomfort in some individuals. Individuals that experience discomfort may contact: Marywood University, Psychological Services Center, at 570-348-6269.

The possible benefit is that professionals and parents' beliefs, attitudes, and assumptions may change, which may contribute to more appropriate inclusionary practices with the necessary supplemental aides and services needed to support students with autism within an inclusionary educational environment.

Anonymity

All names, numbers, and email addresses obtain from parent participants will be destroyed the day after the training. The sign-in sheet for mental health professionals will also be destroyed immediately after the training. Once the winning raffle ticket number is drawn, all tickets will be destroyed immediately following the training.

Confidentiality:

The records of this study will be kept private. Any sort of report I might publish, I will not include any information that will make it possible to identify a participant. Research records will be kept in a locked file: only the researcher will have access to the records.

Researcher will keep the records stored within the researcher's home in a locked box that the researcher will be the only one who has a key. The researcher after 3 years will destroy the research records by shredding them with a paper shredder and disposing the shredded records appropriately.

Voluntary Nature of the Study:

Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect our current or future relations with the researcher, or Marywood University. Your participation is voluntary and withdrawal would only be possible immediately before the pre-survey and the beginning of the professional development.

Contacts and Questions:

The researcher conducting this study is Gloria Gigliotti.

You may ask any question you have now. If you have any questions later about the research, you may contact the researcher at: Phone: 570-282-1102.

If you have any questions now, or later, related to the integrity of the research (the rights of research subjects, where applicable), you may contact Dr. Maria Montoro Edwards, at Marywood University, Assistant Vice President for Research, at (570) 961-4778, or electronically at montoro@maryu.marywood.edu.



**PLCTA'S
Valentine's Day Fundraiser**

Date: February 12, 2011

At

Polish Club

1817 Brick Ave

N. Scranton

Time: 7:00pm to 12:00am

Food, Dessert, Cash Bar

Music by DJ Deb

Basket Raffles, Silent Auction, 50/50

& Karaoke

Tickets: \$20.00 Per Person

Tickets Must be Purchased in Advance

Need ticket to get in

To Purchase Tickets Contact

Mary at 570-606-6930 by Jan 26, 2011

**All Proceeds Benefit Parents Loving Children
Through Autism Foundation**



EMBROIDERED PLCTA LOGO SWEATSHIRTS ORDER FORM

(PLEASE PRINT)

ORDERS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED



ORDER WILL NEED TO BE PICKED UP – MAILING IS **NOT** INCLUDED

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY STATE ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

NAVY	RED	WHITE	SPORT GREY	BLACK
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Cost: Adult – S, M, L, XL \$ 25.00

2X \$ 27.00

Cost: Youth - S, M, L, XL \$ 20.00

QTY	SPECIFY SIZE YOUTH OR ADULT	SPECIFY STYLE ZIPPER OR PULLOVER	COLOR	COST

TOTAL: \$ _____

MAIL ORDER FORM & PAYMENT TO:
PLCTA 1243 WYOMING AVE 3RD FLOOR
SCRANTON PA 18509