



Upstate NY Autism Alliance

Hello!

March 2019

The number of children diagnosed with autism or related disorders has grown at an alarming rate. Thirty years ago, autism affected 1 in 2,500 children. Today, Autism is now at a rate of about 1 in 59 children according to estimates from the CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. A more recent study from the federal National Center for Health Statistics showed between 2014 and 2016 the number of 3 to 17-year olds with autism rose by 23% yielding a new autism rate of 1 in 36!

Upstate NY Autism Alliance, Inc. is doing its part by making a *real and immediate* difference in the lives of local children affected by this disorder.

This year we will be celebrating our 12th annual "Walk for a Difference" and Family Fun Day on May 5th, 2019 at the Harry J Betar/Moreau Recreational Park in South Glens Falls.

All funds raised stay directly within our community allowing us to provide the much needed resources, supports, and programs for several hundred families in Warren, Washington and Saratoga counties as well as the Greater Albany area.

We are a not-for-profit, volunteer-run organization located in Queensbury, NY. Our mission is to advocate for positive inclusion in our community where children can grow, learn and be successful and enjoy typical childhood experiences that may not otherwise be attainable.

We are proud to share some of the programs that we have successfully integrated into our community this past year:

- Co-host the area's largest annual Autism Expo at Saratoga City Center with resources for families and providers
- Adaptive Gym and Fit Camp Program in collaboration with 32 FiT Gym in Glens Falls keeping kids active
- Sports Are For Everyone (SAFE), an adaptive sporting program offering Soccer and Basketball with support from Glens Falls School District and SGFs Girls HS Soccer team and HFs and FE HS Basketball teams
- Camp Ohana, a summer "Family Camp" for local children and their families providing typical camp experiences in a safe and supported environment and providing respite and resources for parents and caregivers
- Proud sponsor of "Camp under the Woods", a one week summer camp for children with special needs
- Adaptive gymnastics program for kids with special needs at Aerial's Gymnastics in South Glens Falls
- "Sensory Friendly Films and Theater" at Bow Tie Cinemas, UNO Pizzeria and in collaboration with Broadway Upstate for a positive experience for differently abled children and their families
- Music and Theater Programs in collaboration with the B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge 81 in Queensbury provided at no cost with Licensed Music Therapists and Theater Education Instructors
- Lecture Series for parents and educators by world renown Autism Specialists brought locally to our area
- Family Recreational and Educational Programs at many local businesses such as, The Fun Spot, Rocksport, Party Palace, 32 FiT Gym, the YMCA, Sky Zone, Six Flags, Crandall Library and the Cool Insuring Arena

Autism is a complex condition that is the result of both neurological and biological factors that together affect the normal functioning of the brain impacting development in the areas of social interaction and communication skills making all these adaptive programs so vital in the lives of these local children.

Please consider supporting our 2019 "Walk for a Difference" so we may continue our mission. We Thank you!!

Kristin Howarth
Director

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