

Parents as Partners

Educational Development Center • 705 Trafalgar • San Antonio, TX 78216
(210)442-3700

Tito Newby

Recently Tito and his friend were sitting together at a table in science class. Tito looked at her and said, “Why are you only using one eye?” She said, “Well, my hair is kinda long and it sometimes gets in my eyes.” Tito said, “Well, kinda like a cyclops.” She said, “That’s funny. I guess so. Are you ever a cyclops?” Tito laughed and said, “Noooooo. My hair isn’t long enough to be a cyclops.” They both laughed.

When we, Tito’s parents (Yolanda and David), received his diagnosis of autism at the age of two, it was not a complete shock since we already knew he had a significant speech delay and sensory seeking behavior. Still, it was difficult news for us to hear.

At the time he was receiving speech and occupational therapy for several months. I had to keep reminding myself that nothing had really changed, just the assignment of a new label. Our hopes and dreams for Tito were significantly modified; private school and college were all thrown out the window in an instant. I could only focus on what was essential. What would the quality of his adult life be like? Would he even have one friend? I envisioned a life of loneliness and isolation for him, especially as Tito is an only child and has few cousins. It was a terrifying and painful thought.

Well, fear drives action. We subsequently added Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and a lesser known therapy called Relationship



Tito Newby



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Save the Date!

Parents As Partners Meeting

January 9th 6:30pm
at Howard ECC
Financial Planning for Families with Loved Ones with Special Needs

TAPPEstry Conference

February 17th
8:30-4:30pm
For parents, teachers and professionals, special education focus

Texas Transition Conference

February 21-23rd
Westin Galleria Houston, Texas
Focused on evidence-based practices for a smooth transition from school to adult life for youth with disabilities

Tito Newby Continued..

Development Intervention (RDI). Tito participated in both of these therapies for about two or three years. Although we did not continue for very long with RDI, there were a couple of life changing concepts that we were forced to think about and practice. One was this idea of dynamic versus static thinking, and the other had to do with imperative and declarative language. RDI caused us to reflect on our parenting style and our use of functional language with Tito. We continue to go back and forth even now, about how the other could have said or done something differently or better to further stretch Tito's thinking or executive function. An RDI exercise that to this day I found to be invaluable was to write a story about Tito in the future, five years away from when he was two years old. I remembered being confused and thought, "Well, I want what every parent wants: a life of love, fulfillment, happiness, and success; no surprise there." The purpose of developing a detailed story for Tito, however, was to provide a map of sorts for how they made decisions as a family when confronted with social choices. Through the years, I have come to see the realization of aspects of the two stories we each wrote years before - when he was much younger, spoke in two or three word sentences, and had little engagement with others. Recently, I announced to David that two new stories were in order but we have yet to pen them.



Tito and his parents - Yolanda and David



Tito and his nana

Tito cycled through several private pre-schools, as well as the PPCD program at a Northside Elementary School where we were living at the time. None of these, for varying reasons, were a good fit. I felt that I was moving mountains to get Tito and his teachers the support they needed. It was actually one of our therapists that brought up the idea that maybe we needed to move on, again. Enter Alamo Heights.

I was not sure what to expect, having graduated many years before and not really remembering much in the way of an integrated special education population. After enrolling in the Alamo Heights School District, I felt that a weight had been lifted from our shoulders. One reason was because we were immediately surrounded by a team of professionals that were very familiar with his diagnosis. As well, the regular parent support group gatherings really buoyed us. I always attended and walked

away better informed and sometimes even with the name of a swim teacher, therapist, new therapy, or summer program.

Tito started at Howard in Pre-K and was lucky enough to be one of Mrs. Large's and Duffy's pupils. There were many behavioral challenges that year. What I will never forget and always be grateful for was Mrs. Duffy's "can do" attitude. She never allowed herself to be defeated by any of his outbursts. She always had a new plan of approach that she shared with me at after school pick-up. That year set the bar in terms of what I have come to



Tito and his dad

Tito Newby Continued...

expect from Tito's teachers in terms of communication and collaboration.

The district is fortunate to have an outstanding group of teachers. I hesitate to name any for fear of leaving someone out. At Cambridge Elementary, Mrs. Natalie Brown recognized his math and reading potential. Mrs. Wanieck went out of her way to learn new software technologies to help develop Tito's writing. Lunch bunch sessions with Ms. Masters provided an opportunity for guided peer interactions. General education teachers Mrs. Lageaux and Mrs. Prevost, they always welcomed dialogue, collaboration, and both David and myself as parent volunteers for their classroom work. I remembered Mrs. Craig telling me about the Lemonade stand at the Bike Rodeo when he was in first or second grade. The idea of giving the kids an opportunity to practice functional math would have been enough to celebrate but it was Tito's careful maneuvering of the figure eight and hearing his peers cheer him on that became a highlight of the year. We practiced and practiced and were not sure he could perform amidst all the chaos of the rodeo - but he did!



First day of 6th grade

Mrs. Kubany, Tito's 5th grade teacher deserves special recognition. No doubt I had met my match in terms of meetings and academic expectations. She was a passionate advocate for Tito and was always open to my suggestions. I remembered one of my suggestions in particular that she welcomed. Tito's language therapist went to the classroom to talk about a special friend she had that had differences. She looked for commonalities between the students and her special friend. At the end of her class discussion she revealed that her friend was Tito. I was looking for a way to "secure" Tito's safe circle of friends that I hoped would understand him better and be his remain his "upstanders" at the Junior School the following year. The children were curious and engaged with the information regarding autism and even wanted her to come back to the classroom for a follow up session.



Tito saddling up Skeeter before a ride

Tito was excited about attending the Junior School but I of course was apprehensive. I met with Mrs. Escalante, Junior School special education department chair, and Mr. Haak, vice principal, on several occasions in the spring of his 5th grade year and I felt confident by the beginning of the school year that Tito and the Junior School team were off to a great start. Again, I cannot say enough about the district's teachers including Mrs. Sadosky, Mrs. Arranaga, Mrs. Saucedo, Mr. Goetzl, Mrs. Butts, and Mrs. Jaynes. They are passionate teachers that are invested in Tito's academic success. Together they have been able to tweak some behaviors and raise the bar for expectations academically and socially.

The addition of Ms. Nichols and Mr. Boyer to the ACE department has been a real coup for the Junior School campus. Together they make a great working team. Ms. Nichols' passion, ability to think outside the box, and willingness to collaborate with others has come at a much needed juncture in terms of providing a more formalized and desperately needed social skills curriculum.

Tito's summers have always been full of activities including karate, equine therapy, and camping. He has also been attending CAMP Camp from the time he was legally able to go. This was a big leap for

Tito Newby Continued...

us but it forced me to focus on his independence including person-privacy issues, not waiting until he was an older teen. Summer at Heights has also provided invaluable learning opportunities. I remembered when Mrs. Venita Mitchell approached me to invite Tito to her summer cooking class. I was lulled into complacency because I knew he would be in good hands but I nearly swallowed my tongue when I saw him slicing vegetables with what looked to be a very sharp knife. Stepping back and letting go one of the hardest things to do as a parent but if allowed to happen, can provide opportunities for growth and tremendous rewards. It is never far back in our minds that David and I will not be around forever.

Most recently Tito has joined the Boy Scouts, Troop 365. His troop members mostly go to other schools but they welcome him. He is an active member and relishes the company of the scouts. The weekly meetings and frequent campouts have significantly amplified his social opportunities. He is eager to earn merit badges and wears his uniform with pride and confidence. One of the most difficult badges he has earned has been the hiking merit badge. Who knew Tito had the grit to complete a 20 mile hike?

Tito is now 13 years old and thriving in the seventh grade. He is making gradual progress socially, occasionally gives me timely related school information spontaneously and coherently, when I pick him up from school. This year one of his goals is to learn how to electively advocate for himself. In other words, learn when to use phrases like “I don’t get it”, “I’m confused”, and “but Dad said I could”, and even more peer appropriate terminology like “Huh?”. I recently heard him telling his music therapist about “the dab” dance move. Tito still requires significant academic support but his patience and determination are remarkable. He reminds me almost daily “Mom, I’m big now. I’m 13 years old.” Fortunately, he continues to demonstrate a strong willingness to do what is right. I will be lucky if this does not change but will be as ready as I can be if it does.

Tito has come a very long way but he has an even longer way to go if he is to live independently. As parents we are hopeful he will find a companion and live a rich life full of meaningful relationships. When we ask him if he thinks he is different than his peers, Tito says, “No.” Likely, this is because of lack of insight but we will take this at face value and continue to celebrate every success no matter how small or seemingly insignificant.



Tito hiking with his Boy Scout troop



< Yolanda and Tito

Tito working on a Boy Scout merit badge >



HOWARD ECC

Meet Andrea Shields

Growing up, Andrea was always volunteering in her community with her mom Lyndell, a social worker. She inspired Andrea to pursue a profession where she could help others in some way. Andrea thought she would be a teacher, but when she heard about the role of Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), she decided to give it a try and major in Communication Sciences and Disorders. This is her third year as an SLP.

Andrea currently leads the BELLS (Beginning Early Language and Literacy) program at Howard ECC. BELLS is a therapeutic preschool setting that combines typically developing peers with children who have been identified with articulation and phonological delays. She engages her students in a mixture of language activities and articulation therapy. Andrea also works with three and four year olds who come as walk-ins, and she does lots of evaluations for children who are referred due to speech and language concerns at home or at preschool.

Andrea loves working with young children, and really enjoys finding ways to incorporate speech and language therapy into fun activities. She loves that she gets to share a room with three other SLPs, and bounce ideas and questions off of them.

Andrea advised parents not to be afraid to ask their teachers questions. “It is also super helpful if parents are willing to work on speech sounds and language goals at home with their children. Progress is so much faster when practice happens at home as well,” Andrea shared.

If parents wish to meet with Andrea they can give her a call at any time (210)832-5900 or send an email to ashields@ahisd.net and she will be happy to respond.

Andrea is originally from Longview, located in the heart of the ‘good ole’ piney woods of East Texas. She earned her undergraduate degree from The University of Texas at Austin, and received her master’s degree from The University of Texas in Dallas.

Andrea has lived in San Antonio for almost three years. She married the most wonderful husband named Joe. She and her husband love to travel anywhere and everywhere, exploring new cities together. She also likes to take Smart Barre classes, and to try out new recipes she finds on Pinterest.

In her spare time Andrea has a small watercolor business. She has always loved making items for friends and family. Recently, with lots of help from her husband, she opened up an online shop. She makes greeting cards, stationery, invitations, and does custom watercolor work. Her website is www.goldenpinedesigns.com.

*The beautiful thing about learning is
no one can take it away from you.
~ B.B.King*



Meet Kathryn Bryant

Kathryn has worked in education for 10 years. This is her 4th year as a special education teacher. She previously worked for NISD as a PPCD teacher, in their preschool program for children with disabilities. She loves working with three year olds in the Howard PPCD program and shared, “Every day is something new!”



She always wanted to be a teacher, but it was not until her own children were grown that she was able to go back to school to get her teaching certificate. Her first substitute teaching job was in a special education classroom and she knew it was a perfect fit for her.

Kathryn reminds parents that they know their children best of all. “What you as parents think, feel and say is important,” She recommends that parents open up the lines of communication with their teachers and be fully involved in decisions that affect their children.

If parents wish to meet with Kathryn, her conference time is at 2pm Monday through Friday. She recommends that parents make an appointment. She can be reached via email at kbryant@ahisd.net or by phone at 210-832-5900.

Meet Ellen Rush

Ellen is a speech language pathologist (SLP) at Howard who works with the PPCD classes, Pre-K, and walk-in students that come to Howard only for speech services. Before joining the Howard team, Ellen worked as a speech pathologist for three years.

During college at Baylor University, Ellen switched her major several times before deciding to pursue a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She knew she finally decided on the right career path. She attended the University of Dallas for graduate school.

Ellen enjoys witnessing her students make progress. Whether its learning how to say the ‘s’ sound or a student in the PPCD class starting to use words to communicate, she finds these milestones very rewarding.



Ellen recommends that parents keep track of important goals that they would like to see their children meet. “Bring these goals up to the ARD committee so that school staff can help,” she advised.

If parents wish to meet or speak with Ellen she can be reached by calling Howard ECC at (210)832-5900 or emailing her at erush@ahisd.net.

Ellen lived in Alamo Heights as a baby, but grew up in Boerne. She moved back to San Antonio a year and a half ago, after living in Dallas. She is lucky to have a wonderful family who all live about two minutes away from each other here in Alamo Heights.

During her summers, Ellen and her family travel to Jackson Hole, Wyoming for vacation. She also enjoys her time off back here at home.

In her free time she loves to cook and bake, take her dog for a walk, and learn how to garden.

ESC ♥ 20 TAPPESTRY CONFERENCE

FACING | THE | FUTURE TOGETHER

PARENTS • TEACHERS • PROFESSIONALS

FEBRUARY 17, 2018



TAPPEstry is an annual conference that brings together Parents/Caregivers, Teachers, Administrators, and other Professionals that have or work with children with special needs.

REGISTER NOW! www.esc20.net/tapestry

COST

Parents/Caregivers: \$25 per couple includes lunch and materials
Professionals: \$25 per individual includes lunch and materials

Date: Saturday, February 17, 2018

Time: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Location: Education Service Center, Region 20; 1314 Hines Avenue; San Antonio, TX 78208

Breakout session topics range from early childhood to planning for life after high school and cover a variety of disabilities and ages.

Over 70+ exhibitors will be on site

More information can be found at: www.esc20.net/tapestry

If you have questions, please call (210) 370-5466.



**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER:**

Rick Daynes

www.keepittogetherman.org



Kimberly Baumgardner, M.Ed.

Educational Specialist Program Manager,
Family Engagement
Education Service Center, Region 20
Kimberly.Baumgardner@esc20.net



Please note: Children ages 0-17 are not allowed at the TAPPEstry Conference. Childcare will be provided offsite with Respite Care of San Antonio. You must register your child by Friday, February 9th . Go to www.esc20.net/tapestry for childcare registration or call (210)-737-1212.

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Meet Alison Monnich

This is Alison's 8th year working full time at AHHS. She spent five years as a teaching assistant in the life skills classroom and two years as a teaching assistant in the ACE classroom. This is her first year as a co-teacher in the social studies department. She is especially excited to be working in two engaged classrooms this year.

Alison's interest in teaching, specifically in special education, began when her youngest son was a student at Howard ECC in Mary Ellen Cook's classroom 18 years ago. She volunteered one hour a week with Mrs. Cook, who taught next door to Linda Duffy's classroom. She was so inspired watching Linda teach her students with special needs that she asked her if she could volunteer in her room as well. That's when she fell in love with teaching! She started substitute teaching for special education classrooms at all AHISD campuses before she was hired full time in 2008.

Alison developed her teaching philosophy from her elementary school's mission statement "A child is not a vessel to be filled but a lamp to be lighted." Alison shared, "As a teacher, I'm dedicated to ignite the potential in each child!" She enjoys spending the day with her students. "Not sure how much they realize how much I learn from being with them!," she declared.

Alison is originally from Dallas and graduated from the University of Texas in Austin with a degree in Communications. She has lived in San Antonio for 23 years. Both of her sons graduated from AHISD, David in 2008 and Warren in 2012. They have three dogs. During her summers she enjoys spending time with her family.

Alison encourages parents to reach out to her if they have questions. Her conference periods are 4th and 6th period and her email is amonnich@ahisd.net.



Meet Candice Chapman

Candice has been a teacher for 21 years, teaching mainly math and science 2nd through 8th grade. During college she completed a self-study with a mentoring professor who suggested that she pursue teaching as a career.

At the high school, Candice teaches modified algebra, geometry, and math models. Aside from teaching mathematics, she enjoys building relationships her with students.

Candice recommends that parents engage in regular communication with their child's teachers, which leads to a successful student. Her conference times are 2nd and 7th period. Parents can email her at cchapman@ahisd.net.

Her family is from Birmingham, Alabama..."Roll Tide!", she shared. They moved to San Antonio when she was four. She completed her undergraduate work at the University of North Texas (BS) and graduate work at the University of Texas at San Antonio (MS).

She is an avid reader and spends her summers relaxing, reading, and traveling.



WOODRIDGE ELEMENTARY

Meet Hannah Morgan

Hannah became interested in teaching after she started her first education class in college. She planned to teach general education classes but the more she was exposed to special education, the more she fell in love with it. This is Hannah's first full year of teaching. Hannah shared, "I am the first teacher in my family!"

Hannah provides special education services for fourth and fifth graders at Woodridge Elementary School. She works specifically on Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals which includes English/Language Arts (ELA), reading and math. She also provides in class support for several students by aiding in their general education classroom.

Hannah encourages parents, "If you have a question, whether it be how to help build a skill at home, what kinds of activities to do for a certain subject, or even just a general question, do not hesitate to ask!" She



believes that building the continuous practice and providing consistency between school and home helps children to achieve their goals. She recommends that parents ask questions about changes or any concerns they have before their child's Admission, Review and Dismissal meeting (ARD), so that these items can be addressed during the ARD. The best way to contact Hannah is via email – hmorgan@ahisd.net. Her phone number is 210- 826-8021 ext.1327. She typically has ARD meetings on Friday and her conference time is 10:55-11:55 Monday through Thursday. If you need anything just let her know.

Hannah is originally from Arizona and graduated from Arizona State University. She moved to San Antonio two months ago. During her summers she enjoys hiking, traveling, movie watching, cooking, and anything active. She loves to create things for her classroom to make it more welcoming, using different craft tools.

Alamo Heights Unified Club Earns Recognition - First in State !

The high school's Unified Champion Schools club has received Special Olympics state banner recognition. In order to receive the recognition, the club had to meet four standards of excellence as set by Special Olympics. Alamo Heights High School will be the first school in Texas to receive banner recognition.



Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools**

The first requirement is that the school offers a fully-inclusive Special Olympics unified sports team, composed of athletes both with and without intellectual disabilities. The high school is forming their first competitive unified track team and will boast a recreational unified tennis team in the spring.

The second requirement is that the Unified Champion Schools leadership board is constituted of youth, both with and without disabilities. Alamo Heights' UCS leadership team has 12 athletes and 25 partners. These team members work together to lead advocacy, awareness, inclusion and other Special Olympics activities across the campus throughout the school year that meets more than twice a month.

The third banner requirement is that the school contains whole-school engagement awareness and education activities to promote inclusion. Alamo Heights had a whole-school pep rally celebration to commemorate

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Meet Darcilyn Woods, New Junior School SST Teacher



Darcilyn always wanted to teach but thought she wanted to teach math. It wasn't until she volunteered at a camp for children with special needs that she discovered that she was blessed with a passion for special education.

Darcilyn started out as a caregiver for people with disabilities, with ages ranging from children to mature adults. She has worked in education for three years. Her role as an SST teacher is to create a learning environment which helps students to grow and mature into contributing members of society.

She enjoys working with her students and loves the challenge of finding different ways to reach each one. The interactions she has with each of her students, including working through challenging situations, helps her to learn and grow as a teacher as well as a person. She appreciates when a student is able to achieve a milestone or make a happy choice which they were not formerly able to make, such as choosing a positive way to release emotions rather than a negative one.

The best advice Darcilyn can give to parents to help them prepare for their child's future is to have an end goal in mind. "Know your child and be able to think of how you can best prepare them for their adult life," shared Darcilyn. "For example, if parents have the end goal of wanting their child to be able to hold a job, they can make goals which will help them ultimately reach that end goal. Having an end goal will also build a cohesive education plan between the parents, caregivers, therapists, and teachers which will improve the probability of reaching that goal."

Darcilyn encourages parents to let her know if they ever have any questions, comments, or concerns. She thinks that communication is key to ensuring each student receives the best education. If parents wish to meet with Darcilyn, her conference period is third period, from 10:25 to 11:10. She can be reached by e-mail at dwoods@ahisd.net.

Unified Champion Schools continued...

the Special Olympics athletes and for the whole school to take the pledge to not use the r-word. The whole school was equipped with 'Spread the Word to End the Word' shirts. In 2017, students created a promotional video to promote the end of the r-word on National Spread the Word to End the Word day. And later, the video was played during advisory across the high school campus to spread the message and promote discussion.

The final requirement is that the club must be self-sustaining to ensure that the club will continue into the future and truly become part of the school culture. Alamo Heights has achieved sustainability through 2017's Run, Walk or Roll into Inclusion 5k. The 5k aimed at promoting inclusion across the community and to raise funds for more unified sports.

Unified Champion Schools revealed the banner to the School Board Dec. 14th. The banner will be displayed in the gym at the High School. Everyone is invited to come see it!

Meet Carrie Bellemey, New Junior School Science Co-Teacher

Carrie has been a teacher for 15 years. She became interested in special education when she worked as a paraprofessional. Carrie has taught special education for 13 years. She also taught English as a second language (ESL) for two years. Carrie had a very high refugee/immigrant population in all of her classes, hence she truly is a special education/ESL hybrid teacher.

Carrie co-teaches 6th and 8th grade science. Her role as an advocate and case manager is to make sure her students are getting what they need. She advocates for them and makes sure they are doing well in school.

Carrie's students brighten her day and the reason she teaches. She knows that everything she does has an impact on their lives. Carrie reflected, "The crazy part is that they have impacted my life in ways I could never have imagined."



Carrie is available 9th period if parents would like to visit or meet. Email is the best way to get ahold of her, cbellemey@ahisd.net.

On a personal note, Carrie has only lived in San Antonio for one year. She grew up outside of Chicago and lived in Arizona for 10 years. She received her bachelors degree from Ball State University in Indiana and her masters degree from the University of Arizona.

During her summers, Carrie enjoys spending time with her family in Chicago. She is one of six children and absolutely loves children and values family.

A fun fact about Carrie - she is a singer and a musician. As a result, she is constantly using music to teach and she sings to her students.



Tip: Download the Legal Framework mobile app to use during your ARD, if questions arise. Go to: <https://framework.esel8.net>

The Legal Framework is a statewide leadership project partnering the Texas Education Agency and Region 18 Education Service Center. The project which includes contacts from each educational service center is a compilation of state and federal requirements for special education organized by topic in a user-friendly format.

This site includes frameworks, publications, and resources helpful in the special education process. There is a glossary of terms and acronyms, links to laws, rules and guidance; and a search feature.

The Mobile Site resizes content for use on mobile devices like phones and tablets so you can even take The Legal Framework with you wherever you go.

Local school board policies of all public schools across Texas are linked to the framework. These policies can be accessed by entering the county-district number in the area provided above.



The Arc
of San Antonio

Serving People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Funded in part by:
The Texas Department of State
Health Services

Planning for the Future Series 2017-2018

A series of workshops designed to help self-advocates and parents/caregivers of children/young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities plan for the future

Long Term Services and Supports **September 16th, 2017**

This session will provide an overview of Long Term Service and Support Medicaid Waiver Programs including CLASS, HCS, MDCP, Texas Home Living, and DBMD.

Guardianship and Alternatives **October 14th, 2017**

This session will provide a better understanding of the process of Adult Guardianship, as well as provide an overview of Alternatives to Guardianship including Supported Decision-Making, Powers of Attorney, Representative Payee, and others.

Financial Planning **November 11th, 2017**

This session will provide general information with regard to Financial Planning for individuals and family members with Special Needs. Information on Special Needs Trusts and ABLE Act will also be provided. Special Needs Trusts allow individuals to retain vital resources without losing essential benefits.

Life After High School **January 13th, 2018**

During this session, we will explore and discuss different post-secondary programs including day programs, residential options, and support services that young adults can utilize as they transition from a school to a community setting. TWC-VR will also present program information.

Summer Recreation Fair **February 24th, 2018**

Featuring 30+ organizations offering summer programs, camps, respite care, support groups, and many more recreational opportunities!



No registration required for this event only



Social Security Overview **April 14th, 2018**

Attendees of this session will learn the difference between SSI and SSDI, as well as eligibility and the application process. Additional topics include fair share, appeals, and Disabled Adult Child (DAC).

WHEN?

Saturdays
9:00a-11:00a

WHERE?

The Arc of San Antonio

Pam Stephens Center

6530 Wurzbach Rd.
SATX 78240

Childcare is **not** offered by The Arc of San Antonio during these sessions.

However, respite is available on-site through Respite Care of San Antonio with registration and reservation. For more information, contact Respite Care of San Antonio at 210-737-1212

Registration Required

To reserve your seat, contact Liz Perez at 210-490-4300 ext. 103 or email lperez@arc-sa.org

AHISD PARENTS AS PARTNERS



January 9th, 2018

Financial Planning for Loved Ones with Special Needs

This session will provide general information with regards to financial planning for individuals and family members with special needs. A few of the topics covered include a brief timeline, how to provide support to loved ones while retaining public benefits, Special Needs Trusts, and the ABLE Act.

Brian Lynch, presenter, is a financial professional with AXA Advisors that has concentrated his practice around serving families with special needs loved ones. Having seen firsthand the impact this can have on a family's financial future, Brian provides his clients with a broad range of investment and financial strategies to help accumulate and preserve the assets they have worked so hard for. He helps his clients create a concrete plan for two or more generations of financial well-being focused around special needs. Brian's mission is to continue growing his team of specialists throughout Texas in order to better connect the special needs community to the resources that are available to them.

Brian's vision began at a young age when his younger brother, Tommy, was diagnosed with Autism shortly after birth. Watching his parents Bob and Mary work diligently throughout the years to provide the best life possible for Tommy and the whole family was instrumental in fueling his passion to serve the special needs community. Brian currently lives in Austin where he is able to stay close to his family, which also includes his younger sister Jenny.

WHEN: Tuesday, January 9th, 2018 at 6:30 pm

WHERE: Howard Early Childhood Center, Library

WHO: Parents with children of all ages

RSVP: to Tracy Maxwell, tmaxwell@ahisd.net or 210-442-3700

CHILDCARE: Available with RSVP

PAP 1/9/18 Please return this form to your teacher for future events and correspondence.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Campus: _____ Child's name: _____

Yes, I will attend ____ Number of children and ages for childcare _____ No, I can't attend ____

Email _____



You can help reshape our community’s system of care for people on the autism spectrum.

Autism Lifeline Links (ALL) is a collaborative of non-profit agencies and service organizations working together to positively effect change for people on the autism spectrum.

Joining forces with **ALL** can help everyone living with autism in many ways, including:

What you GET when you register	What you GIVE when you register
<p>Referrals – You will be linked to a team of community providers for diagnosis, therapy, respite, and other support services regardless of where you are on the spectrum now and in the future as your needs evolve.</p> <p>Care Coordination – You will be linked to a Care Coordinator who will provide seamless referrals to ALL member agencies and information on other community services requested. If no referrals are needed, a Care Coordinator is available for future support and contact.</p> <p>Resources - Visit our website to view our <i>Community Resource Guide</i> designed specifically for individuals with ASD and their families/caretakers.</p>	<p>Advocacy - Help shape legislation relating to autism issues. One voice is important. Many voices can make the difference.</p> <p>Contribute - Visit our website to recommend resources for our Guide, helping others get connected.</p> <p>Hope - Your registration in ALL will help us continue to identify the current gaps in services for people with autism, educate our community on barriers, build awareness and improve the system of care for people living with autism.</p>

Can we count you in?

Visit <https://autismlifelinelinks.org> to learn more

To join click the button...

Registration information is confidential.



Usted puede ayudar a reformar nuestro sistema comunitario de atención para las personas en el espectro del autismo.

Autism Lifeline Links (ALL) es una colaboración de agencias sin fines de lucro y organizaciones de servicios que trabajan juntos para afectar positivamente el cambio para las personas en el espectro del autismo.

Uniendo fuerzas con **ALL** puede ayudar a todos los que viven con autismo de muchas maneras, incluyendo:

Lo que se OBTIENE al registrarse	Lo que DAS cuando te registras
<p>Referencias– Usted estará vinculado a un equipo de proveedores de la comunidad para el diagnóstico, terapia, servicios de relevo, y otros servicios de apoyo, independientemente de donde usted está en el espectro de ahora y en el futuro a medida que sus necesidades evolucionan.</p> <p>Coordinación del cuidado – Usted estará vinculado a un coordinador de atención que proporcionará referencias sin fisuras a los organismos miembros de ALL información sobre otros servicios comunitarios solicitados.</p> <p>Si no se necesitan referencias, un coordinador de atención está disponible para el apoyo y el contacto futuros.</p> <p>Recursos - Visite nuestro sitio web para ver nuestra <u><i>Guía de Recursos Comunitarios</i></u> diseñada específicamente para personas con ASD y sus familias/cuidadores.</p>	<p>Apoyo - Ayude a formar legislación relacionada con temas de autismo. Una voz es importante. Muchas voces pueden marcar la diferencia.</p> <p>Contribuir - Visite nuestro sitio web para recomendar recursos para nuestra Guía, ayudando a otros a conectarse.</p> <p>Esperanza - Su registro en ALL nos ayudará a seguir identificando las brechas actuales en los servicios para las personas con autismo, educar a nuestra comunidad sobre las barreras, crear conciencia y mejorar el sistema de atención a las personas que viven con autismo.</p>

¿Podemos contar contigo?

Visite <https://autismlifelinelinks.org> para obtener más información

Para registrarse haga clic en el botón... > Regístrese ahora

La Información de registro es confidencial.

Parent Liaison

In an effort to provide additional support to parents and children in the special education program, AHISD has a Parent Liaison, Tracy Maxwell.

Tracy assists parents and staff with communication, advocacy, support and resources. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her position. She is a parent of a student who received special education services beginning with PCD at Howard and who graduated from AHHS. She was very involved in his educational experience and she is passionate about helping other parents along their journey.



As a Parent Liaison, Tracy works with parents to form support networks and addresses concerns that pertain to special education students and their families. She organizes and facilitates the parent meetings for all schools in AHISD including Parents as Partners (PAP) meetings. PAPs are meetings with a guest speaker on a topic related to special education such as Medicaid waivers or recreational therapies, with childcare and pizza for children so that families can easily attend.

Tracy continues to create opportunities for parents to gather, get to know each other, and share. She welcomes your ideas, questions, and concerns. She maintains a resource library of books and videos that are housed at EDC, located at 705 Trafalgar, 78216.

Tracy invites you to become active participants in your child's educational experience. Reach out to her if you need help with something or if you need someone to listen. She is a parent first and understands your experience with raising a child or children with special challenges.



Kinetic Kids offers year round, comprehensive group programs for children with special needs with physical and cognitive disabilities. Their sports and recreation programs include art, basketball, dance, swimming, baseball, and more. The programs run in four seasons including Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall.

For more information about their programs and events, visit their website:
<http://www.kinetickidstx.org>