



CENTER FOR SPECTRUM SERVICES

Brightening the lives of people with autism

Welcome

Welcome to another edition of the Spectrum Services Newsletter. We're in our 42nd year of improving the lives of people with autism. In these four decades we have been a key part of the evolving history of autism, especially here in the Hudson Valley, and the changing views, and expanding treatment research that has transpired.

From the very beginning, we have always followed those paths of intervention that were scientifically-based. As our program evolved, we became a model program, with other schools nation-wide replicating many aspects of our practices. We were also recognized for best educational practices by the NYS Department of Education and the National Association of Private Special Education Schools.

Spectrum Services has grown exponentially to meet the ever-growing population of children with autism. We have become the "go-to" autism experts. That's because our goal has never been to be the biggest, but instead, to offer the best in programs and services to a population of children who needed specialized educational environments, programs, and services.

Please check out our front page article about our Harvest Hop fundraiser, and read our Meet the Students piece about a special young boy attending Spectrum Services. Next to it is our Meet the Staff article, about a very special occupational therapist at our Ellenville School. Make sure to read about the local businesses and foundations that have recently supported us, and find out about ways you, too, can help support the life-changing work we do for children with autism.

Again, welcome to this edition of the Spectrum Services Newsletter, we're glad you're here!

Susan Buckler

Co-Founder
Administrative
Director

Jamey Wolff

Co-Founder
Program
Director



A Celebration of Autumn

Supporting Children with Autism

**Saturday, Nov. 4th from 7-10pm
at Diamond Mills in Saugerties**

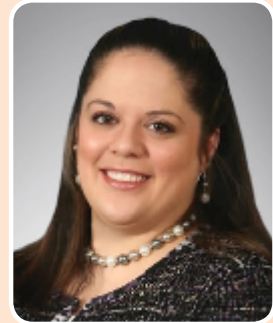
Get ready for our annual Harvest Hop Dance, celebrating the abundantly colorful autumn season here in the Hudson Valley.

Back by popular demand, Joe Veillette and The Phantoms will provide the music, both acapella and plugged in. Also returning is our auction, with a wide selection of goods, gifts, services, and more, with wide-ranging values sure to please any wallet. Auction items include a Cape Cod get-a-way, gift baskets to fit everyone's taste, stays at some of the area's trendiest places, gift certificates to the hippest experiences in the Hudson Valley, and more. Rebekah Aronson, our Auction Committee Chair, and her team members have put together quite an auction. Rebekah is a parent of one of our students, and is also one of our newest Board Members.

Speaking of board members, this year's special Harvest Hop Honoree is Crystal Jacob, Spectrum Services Board President. Crystal's years of service, her dedication to the school and its students, her volunteerism and support, are reasons she is so very appreciated by Spectrum Services, and why she is this year's Harvest Hop Honoree. "I'm honored to be this year's selected honoree," Crystal says, "but I like to think it's our students and their families who are the true honorees."

"We are just so grateful to Spectrum Services for giving us our son back. He smiles now, which I hadn't seen in at least two and a half years."

–April, Mother of Isaac



*Crystal Jacob, Honoree
& Harvest Hop Chair*



Joe Veillette and Grandson Ethan

The music will once again be top-notch. Joe Veillette, The Phantom's lead and founder, has arranged for the third year in a row for the band to volunteer their time and talent to support Spectrum Services. Joe's grandson Ethan attends Spectrum Services. "We know what this amazing organization does to help Ethan and his classmates reach their highest potential," says Joe, "and because of that, we know how important it is to support Spectrum Services." There's another familial connection with The Phantoms; Ethan's mom, Jasmine Veillette, is also one of the band members.

Note: At the time of this Newsletter's publishing, you still have time to support Spectrum Services and make your reservations for this highly anticipated event! Visit our website at www.centerforspectrumservices.org for details and to reserve your spot!

MEET THE STAFF

Susan

Sue Buzzell, COTA/L, joined the Ellenville team as part of our Occupational Department in the summer of 2012, following her impressive internship as a student from Orange County Community College. Since then, Sue has done amazing work with our students and her fellow staff members, providing students with exciting learning activities.

“One of the things that makes Sue such a pleasure to work with is her positive rapport with staff and students,” explains Sandra Brownsey, the Ellenville Program Coordinator. “Sue always wears a smile, and is willing to help out whenever needed.” This includes volunteering on projects when she’s not providing therapy, and acting as co-scheduler to optimize service delivery to the students.

“The value of Sue’s contributions to our school community is beyond measure,” says Laurie Hopkins, PT/OT Department Head. “I deeply appreciate her passionate commitment to delivering the finest therapeutic services to our students. Sue’s ‘basic standard’ is nothing less than her personal best. I certainly acknowledge her unflinching resilience for communicating the rationale behind the sensory-based strategies we practice.”

“It’s not just the students who Sue has helped,” adds Hopkins, “but also their parents and Spectrum Service staff by assisting them in better understanding the sensory needs of the child.” Sue has been very successful at providing relevant information at workshops for staff and parents.

Sue provides each classroom team with in-depth strategies to help them work with their students. She demonstrates therapeutic techniques while in the classroom and on the playground. Sue has developed creative ways in providing enriching programs that have enhanced the students’ experiences. These include bike rodeos, therapeutic horseback riding, and creating a sensory walk, where students walk a path filled with different stations for tactile discoveries.

Sue exemplifies the finest of qualities for which Spectrum Service staff have become renown; a desire to share ones professional expertise, a commitment to on-going learning, and knowing at the end of each day they have made a difference in the life of a child with autism.



MEET THE STUDENT

Isaac

Isaac is an inquisitive, cheerful young student who comes to us from the Webutuck School District in Amenia. Isaac first started at Spectrum Services last year in our pre-school program’s Red Class. Up to that point, it had not been easy for Isaac, who found transitions difficult, was extremely sound sensitive with a particular aversion to music, and had problems adjusting to new routines.

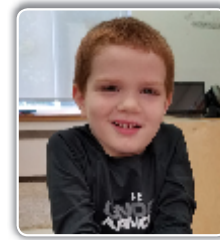
When Isaac arrived, his individualized team of educators and therapists started working with him, setting out to brighten Isaac’s world; a world that was, it would seem, just waiting for him to appear and be joyful.

“Our team worked with Isaac on many levels,” says Red Class special educator Jan Noto, “and to a point where he was actually asking for music, and transitions became easier.” Isaac blossomed in the program, and his progress was noticed quickly by staff and family alike.

“Our house has been filled with Isaac’s laughter and singing,” says Isaac’s mom, April. “Spectrum Services transformed our house from one echoing with Isaac’s screams to one that rings with laughter. We are just so grateful to Spectrum Services for giving us our son back. He smiles now, which I hadn’t seen in at least two and a half years.”

Isaac’s dad, Kevin, agrees, “We are thankful for what Spectrum Services has done for our son. As a nonprofit they must fundraise to fill the gaps because they don’t receive enough funding from local municipalities and school districts. This underscores our family’s commitment to support the school financially. Isaac’s confidence and peace of mind come from the school’s extraordinary work with him, and the least we can do is contribute to part of the enormous cost the school undertakes to provide him with such effective services.” Kevin and April believe that as their family, like all Spectrum Services families, pays nothing out of pocket for such specialized services for their child, they feel inspired to help defray those costs by donating.

This school year, Isaac moved up and into our Bronze Class, where he continues to grow and shine. “Isaac has made a very nice transition into his new class,” says his special educator, Heather Gulnick. “Isaac is learning how to be a more independent student, and is gaining social skills that will benefit him not only with his peers, but in his home, and his community for his lifetime.”



Companies “Invest” by Putting Our Students “In Vests”

One of our more salient needs over the past year has been weighted compression vests for our students with autism. These vests are scientifically proven to support students’ access to their educational program throughout the school day.

“The consistent and uniform pressure that these vests give our students creates sensory

input that enables them to maintain a calmer, more organized state of awareness,” says Laurie Hopkins, the Department Head for Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Adaptive Physical Education at Spectrum Services.

“This sensory input affects the child’s neurochemistry, which in turn can improve body

awareness and promote a more effective state of attention for learning and interaction in their environment.”

Spectrum Services is thankful to MVP Health Care, Ulster Savings Charitable Foundation, and Sawyer Motors for contributing a combined \$12,000 to support our students by investing in their vests; we are ever grateful.



Spectrum Services Administrative Director Susan Buckler and Kim DeNitto show their excitement after receiving the check from Sawyer Motors. Kim is both a member of the Sawyer Motors extended family and a member of Spectrum Services OTIPT department.



Joanna Fazio, Account Manager, Dawn Larlee, Senior Clinical Account Manager, and Andrea Lane, Clinical Account Manager of MVP Health Care, presenting MVP’s donation towards our weighted vest campaign, with Susan Buckler, Spectrum Services accepting.



John Finch (2nd from right), Ulster Savings Charitable Foundation Executive Director, Bill Calderara (2nd from left), Ulster Savings Bank President & CEO, MaryRose Warcholak (far right), Ulster Savings Charitable Foundation member, and Rocco Pucino, (far left), Susan Buckler (center), Co-Founder and Administrative Director of Spectrum Services.

Community Giving

Klock Kingston Foundation Grants \$10,000 for Expansion of Spectrum Services Music Therapy Program

Spectrum Services families are grateful to the Klock Kingston Foundation for their recent grant award of \$10,000. This grant funded the expansion of our Music Therapy program and has had a positive impact on our students.

The expansion of our Music Therapy program has had many benefits. Students have more class time with the

music therapist, those in need of one-on-one sessions have access to them, and those who need more experiences in social skills by working in small groups.

A unique benefit arose after the expansion of the Music Therapy program, in the interdisciplinary amalgamation of Music Therapy with Speech Therapy. Here, our music therapist has been

working with students alongside their speech therapist, using rhythm, music, and the latest methods in speech therapy for children with autism. A true musical "score" for our students.

Again, thank you Klock Kingston Foundation!

Create Your Own Legacy

"The goal isn't to live forever, but to create something that will."

Spectrum Service's goal is sustainable growth, so we're ready to pivot when new discoveries in autism are made, or new teaching methods validated. In order to grow our programming in the decades ahead, and to quickly adapt to the many changes sure to come, we need your help by making us a part of your legacy.

There are a number of ways you can leave your legacy, and forever change the lives of children with autism.

BEQUESTS

Consider naming Center for Spectrum Services to receive a portion of your estate through your will. In doing so, you may reduce estate taxes while supporting future children with autism. You may stipulate a specific amount or a percentage of your estate, or name a specific asset.

TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF STOCK

Appreciated stock gifts, when transferred to Spectrum Services, are tax-deductible for their full market value at the time of donation. This can potentially eliminate many capital gains taxes. You obtain tax savings, while supporting our life-changing programs for children with autism.

REAL ESTATE

Whether it is a home, building, or land, you can turn this asset into a charitable gift. If held for more than one year, real estate usually

provides the same tax benefits as gifts of securities.

RETIREMENT FUNDS

Double taxation on retirement plan withdrawals could decrease the value of the asset for your heirs. By naming Spectrum Services as the beneficiary of your retirement funds, you can avoid taxes and preserve your hard-earned assets for the good of your community forever.

LIFE INSURANCE

Perhaps you would like to contribute the proceeds of a life insurance policy, but you are not yet ready to give up ownership. By naming Center for Spectrum Services as a beneficiary, you retain ownership, access to the cash value, and change the beneficiary at any time.

MORE INFORMATION

All of the above support the Spectrum Services Endowment Fund, which is invested in prudent hands of the Community Services of the Hudson Valley. The Endowment Fund was created to make sure that we'll be here for future generations of children with autism.

If you have any questions, you can ask your financial advisor how you can make Spectrum Services a part of your legacy.

If you need more information on how you can make sure we're here to support the next generation of children with autism, please contact our Development office at 845-336-2616, extension 165.

fundraise to fill the gap between the costs of providing these programs and the shortage of funds we receive.

You can change the life of a child with autism. Making a donation is as easy as going to our website www.centerforspectrumservices.org, and clicking the Donate Now button in the left column. Any level of donation is appreciated.

You Can Help, Too!

Early Intervention can change the life of a child with autism by providing diagnostic, therapeutic, and educational services to toddlers and preschoolers. These programs are vital to very young children. When services are focused in the early years, they create significant opportunities for positive development.

We offer early intervention services to our community. BUT...this program is woefully underfunded. Each year we must



Saturday, November 4th
7:00pm - 10:00pm
DIAMOND MILLS
Saugerties, NY

Crystal Jacob, Harvest Hop Honoree
Rebekah Aronson, Auction Chair

Back by popular demand, it's our Harvest Hop Dance. Join us for a bountiful night of fun, frolic, and friends, as we enjoy sumptuous fare, live music for dancing, a silent auction, and more.

A wonderful night out for you, while supporting the programs and services of Center for Spectrum Services and the life-changing work we do with our children with autism.

- First hour complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks with a cash bar
- Dancing to the music and vocal rhythms of the nationally acclaimed The Phantoms
- A superb assortment of hors d'oeuvre and fun fare to fit the season
- A cornucopia of auction items, services, and goods

RESERVATIONS

Reservations are \$60 per person (unchanged from last year).

Make your reservations now on Spectrum Services' website
www.centerforspectrumservices.org



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Brightening the lives of people with autism

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Center for Spectrum Services is a not-for-profit organization designed especially for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. We are approved by the New York State Office of Education of Children with Disabling Conditions and the New York State Health Department.

Since our inception in 1976, Spectrum Services has served as a model special education program. With two centers located in Kingston and Ellenville, our outreach extends to children and families from throughout New York's Hudson Valley. In addition to our educational programming, we also operate the Spectrum Services Outreach Program, providing comprehensive diagnostic evaluations to children, adolescents, and adults in the community. It also offers Social Skills Groups, individual counseling, and professional and family trainings and workshops.

Annually, we attract hundreds of visitors, sponsor trainings and seminars for professionals and families, and are nationally recognized for our leadership in the field.

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ELLENVILLE
845-647-6464

www.centerforspectrumservices.org