



***A Month Long Series of Activities for Autism Awareness***

*Sponsored and Supported by: The Erie County Planning Committee for Autism Awareness and The Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit, The Barber National Institute, and the Northwestern PA Autism Society of America*

**This series of events is intended to provide information to parents and professionals interested in one or more of the specific programs listed below.**

**#1: A Portrait in Progress: Autism and Creating a Rewarding Life**

A mother and her teenage son share their experiences of growing up with Autism. This presentation highlights the trials, challenges, successes and rewards of Graham's lifetime progress with High-functioning Autism from a family and community perspective.

**Presenters:** Graham Gravink and Marcia Anderson

**Date and Time:** April 2, 2009 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM

**Location:** Northwest Tri-County IU5, 252 Waterford Street, Edinboro, PA 16412

**Cost:** None

**#2: Child Psychiatry in Erie County: A Panel Discussion**

A panel of Erie County Psychiatrists will speak about current issues in Erie County including medicine, hospitalization, and clinical support for students with autism. They will also answer questions from the audience. This program will be beneficial for parents and professionals interested in medical treatment options for students with Autism as well as developing a better understanding of community psychiatry in Erie County.

**Presenters:** Mary Anne Albaugh, MD; Haluk Aydin, MD; Kirstin Brunner, DO; Charles Joy, MD; Eileen McNamara, MD

**Date and Time:** April 15, 2009 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM

**Location:** Barber National Institute Forum at 136 East Avenue, Erie, PA 16507

**Cost:** None

**#3: What Happens After 21?????: A Panel Discussion with Colleen Hammon (ECCM) and Jack Hewitt (OVR)**

Adult services available for individuals with autism will be discussed by program administrators from Erie County Care Management and The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

**Presenters:** Colleen Hammon, Administrative Officer of Developmental Disabilities Division with Erie County Care Management and Jack Hewitt, District Administrator of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation with the PA Dept. of Labor and Industry.

**Date and Time:** April 20, 2009 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM

**Location:** Barber National Institute Forum at 136 East Avenue, Erie, PA 16507

**Cost:** None

**#4: Bringing the Birds and Bees Down to Earth: Sexuality and Sexuality Education for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Like all people, women, men and young persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders require accurate, age-appropriate information about sexuality, and have the right to learn all they can to become sexually healthy individuals. In this three hour workshop for caregivers and professionals, attendees will learn how to best address sexuality issues, and provide sexuality education for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders of all ages.

**Presenters:** Lisa Mitchell, LSCW: Trainer and Counselor at The Cody Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Port Jefferson Station, New Jersey.

**Date and Time:** April 30, 2009 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** Barber National Institute Forum at 136 East Avenue, Erie, PA 16507

**REGISTRATION:** Go to <http://www.iu5.org> and in the lower right hand corner click on the registration icon for Coursewhere. Follow the prompts to register for the course(s) you are interested in.

**QUESTIONS:** Call Chris Dzeskewicz at 734-8455, or toll free at 1-800-677-5610, extension 8455.

**Other Upcoming Activities**

March 28, 2009 at Penn State Behrend: *Autism In Our Community Event*, with keynote speaker Bill Stillman

- Information and registration at: <http://www.Autisminourcommunity.com>

April 2-5, 2009 at the Barber National Institute: *Celebrate the Possibilities*, an art show which brings together the entire community in celebration of the artistic achievements of all persons.

- Information at: <http://www.barberinstitute.org>

April 6 through April 9, 2009 *Activities for parents and families* (skate, bowl, swim)

April 25, 2009 at Presque Isle State Park Beach 11: *8<sup>th</sup> annual Autism Walk*

- Information on the activities and walk can be found at <http://www.nwpa-asa.org>