



# Dispatch

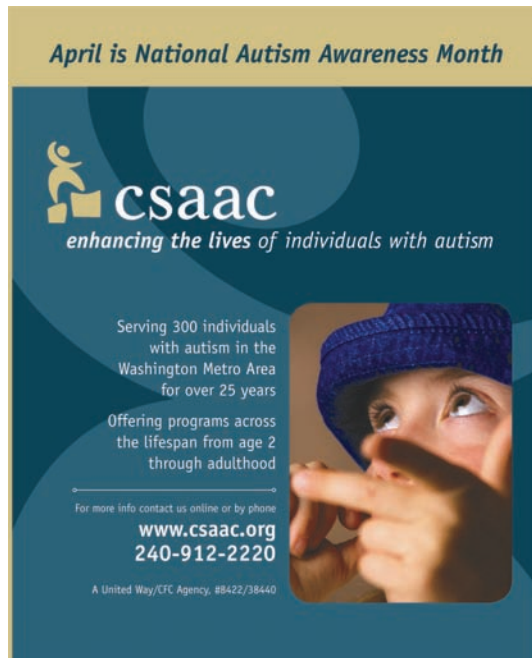
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Volume 4 - Issue 1 - Spring 2009

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## April is National Autism Awareness Month



Several years ago, April was designated as National Autism Awareness Month by the Autism Society of America. Each April, organizations around the nation commemorate the month with a variety of events to raise awareness. In addition, more media coverage is devoted to raising autism awareness during April. If you would like an electronic version of this poster for your workplace, house of worship bulletin board, or other publication, contact us at [csaac@csaac.org](mailto:csaac@csaac.org) and we will be happy to send it to you.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 4 from 1-3 p.m.** CSAAC will have an information table and book fair at the Barnes and Noble in the Montrose Crossing Shopping Center on Rockville

Pike in Rockville, Maryland. There will also be refreshments and story time with a costume character, so bring the children and grandchildren. CSAAC supporters can shop anytime Saturday, April 4 - Sunday, April 5 using a voucher found in this newsletter and upcoming e-blasts, and a percentage of every purchase will go to CSAAC. Every Barnes and Noble Store in the nation will honor the code on the voucher, code #485656, so pass this information on to your friends and family around the country.

Join us at Georgetown Preparatory School in Bethesda, Maryland on **Sunday, April 19th** as we cheer on participants in the Bethesda Triathlon to benefit Autism Speaks. Can't participate in person? You can join as a virtual participant! A portion of the proceeds will also benefit CSAAC. To register and to learn more, go to <http://www.bethesdatri.org>.

And finally, we round out April with a fun event in Washington, D.C. Join us anytime from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on **Thursday, April 23rd** at Nick's Riverside Grille on the waterfront in Georgetown for an extended happy hour to benefit CSAAC. Admission is just \$20 (pay at the door), and guests will enjoy a complimentary appetizer buffet, drink specials, live auction and raffle. Look for the printable flyer on the CSAAC web site. We are collecting RSVPs informally through the CSAAC Foundation Facebook page, visit our page and forward to all of your friends. Thank you to Co-Chairs Jesse Garchik and Kevin Rosenberg of The Meltzer Group for organizing this event!

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**CSAAC's mission is to enable individuals with autism to achieve their highest potential and contribute as confident individuals to their community.**

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## Golf Classic, June 3! Save the Date!!

Join us and our sponsors Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union for a day of golfing fun for the 2nd Annual MAFCU Charity Golf Classic to benefit CSAAC on **Wednesday, June 3**, at Blue Mash Golf Course in Laytonsville, Maryland. Last year's event was a resounding success with 90 golfers. This year, we are expecting over 100 golfers. Prizes will be awarded for Hole in One, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, and Best Foursome. Single player fee will be \$135 per person, \$500 per foursome. We are seeking sponsors at a variety of levels. Sponsorships include dropping your corporate literature in player's complimentary tote bags and event signage. Don't miss the chance to meet former Washington Redskin and CSAAC Honorary Board Member Brian Mitchell, who is scheduled to attend the event. Call Ayda Sanver at 240-912-2256 for more information.



*Golfer Mike Burch (far right) and friends at last year's event.*

## Autism Speaks and HDMA Donate Toys to CSAAC Children

Just before the holidays, Ann Gibbons, Executive Director of Autism Speaks in the Washington area, personally delivered 40 gift-wrapped toys donated by employees at HDMA in Arlington, Virginia. Each toy was hand selected for usefulness by small children with autism, and each one had a photo of the toy on the outside of the package. The toys were given to children in the CSAAC Early Intervention program, which serves 45 children as young as 18 months through 7 years of age. CSAAC thanks Ann for making the personal delivery, and Ms. Jayne Tobin and the employees at HDMA for caring about CSAAC's children making this possible.



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### Orvis for Autism

On December 11, outdoor gear retailer Orvis in Bethesda held a special shopping night for customers which included a wine tasting. CSAAC was asked to provide volunteers for the “charity gift-wrap crew.” Thank you to Orvis for including CSAAC in their special event and CSAAC parent Barbara Reid Ratti for getting us involved!



*CSAAC Director of Quality Assurance, Kim Dennie, CSAAC Parent Barbara Reid Ratti, and Director of Community Development, Ayda Sanver, wrapped gifts at Orvis on Wisconsin Avenue.*

### Howard Hughes Medical Institute Employees Make a Difference

For the past three years, Mrs. Pat Blackman and fellow employees at Howard Hughes Medical Institute have donated hundreds of dollars worth of clothing and other personal items to adults in the CSAAC Residential Program. Some residents have no surviving family members to buy them special items for the holidays or funds of their own to make the purchases they need. Mrs. Blackman is Janet Burch’s mother, Janet is the Director of In-Home Supports at CSAAC. Janet, her mom, and her sister-in-law Karen Vassallo, their coworkers and friends take a list of needed items from Sam Asiamah, CSAAC’s Director of Residential Services, such as coats, warm sweaters, socks, and gloves, and hit the malls as a family effort. Janet says, “This is a good way to teach young people (in our family and in the stores) about this disability and how we can give to others that are less fortunate than we are this time of year.” We thank everyone involved in this effort each year for caring about adults with autism supported at CSAAC.

### Family Profile- The Bykowskys

Mr. and Mrs. Bykowsky’s son Nick is 22 years old and has been a CSAAC resident for just over a year. One Saturday when they were visiting Nick’s residence, they noticed the front door frame paint was peeling. So, they contacted their son’s CSAAC coordinator and asked if they could volunteer to repaint the door frame. Mr. Bykowsky took care of the repairs himself, and the family also donated a rug and artwork, as the interior of the home was being updated at the same time. The Bykowskys had also purchased bedroom furniture and artwork for Nick’s room when he moved in last year. “Nick really likes neatness and order. He really loves his CSAAC home.” We thank Catherine and Pete Bykowsky for their involvement in their son’s residence. If any parents or volunteers would like to donate artwork, get involved in sprucing up, or perform minor repairs to one of our 52 community residences, please call CSAAC Founder Mrs. Jane Salzano, at 301-928-2653. She is organizing a spring cleaning day in the morning on Saturday April 4.



## Staff Spotlight

Anne-Marie Johnson is an outstanding job coach who has been employed at CSAAC for 14 years. Throughout her years at CSAAC, Anne-Marie has supported many individuals at their job sites, assisting them in learning job skills, improving productivity levels, and helping individuals she supports to build good working relationships with their co-workers. She is well respected by her colleagues, management and members of the community. Anne-Marie currently supports two individuals working at the Montgomery County Public Library's sorting site. She continues to act as an advocate for all individuals supported by CSAAC and is an exceptional staff person within the Vocational Department. We would like to thank her on behalf of all individuals whom we are privileged to support, for her dedication and hard work.



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## Join the "Grand Champions" Club

CSAAC Foundation's Grand Champions Club Fund began in 2006 and has grown to nearly 30 members, who are truly our Grand Champions. Why are they "Grand Champions?" Their donation of \$85 per month equals just over \$1,000 per year – a grand! Funds help support the work of CSAAC Foundation in engaging in program outreach. Members in the Grand Champions club receive this beautiful enameled pin when their giving reaches the first \$1,000. Automatic credit card payment of your monthly gift is available, if you prefer. To become a Grand Champion and start giving to the club today, call Ayda Sanver, Director of Community Development at 240-912-2256.



## Individual Spotlight

Kenny is 51 years old and has been a resident supported by CSAAC since 1979. He was one of the first few individuals to enter the residential program. Kenny has two roommates in his CSAAC residence who are his closest friends, and he has been working at Shoppers Food Warehouse for many years and loves his job. His sister, Debbie Lazovick, says, "Kenny loves to come to my house on weekends for lasagna dinner and take an extra tray home for himself and his friends. He has been so happy living with CSAAC, it has been an asset to his life, he loves his job and his CSAAC family. Has a very fulfilled life." His mother, Judy Stein, says, "Kenny is a quiet person and hardly talks, but one year after his vacation in Ocean City, he called me on the telephone and said, the bridge is beautiful! Thanks to CSAAC, his echolalia (repetitive speech) has been replaced with more functional speech. His behavior has improved tremendously, and he has learned more self-control. He is a delight to be with. We are so grateful to CSAAC."



*Kenny had a great time at the Holiday Party in December.*

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## J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation Grant to CSAAC

The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation gave CSAAC an operating grant of \$10,000 in the third quarter of 2008. CSAAC is very grateful for being among this foundation's worthy grantees. Operating grants assist CSAAC in funding aspects of our program that are not state funded, such as technology, recreation, and transportation. If you know of any grant opportunities, either through private or corporate foundations, please call Ayda Sanver, Director of Community Development, at 240-912-2256.

## Residential Program Holiday Party

Children and adults in the CSAAC Residential Program danced to DJ music and opened gifts at their annual holiday party held at CSAAC's Brookeville school campus gym. CSAAC's Therapeutic Recreation Specialist Philicia Gainous-Jones and her crew of volunteers made sure everyone had a wonderful time. Thanks to a generous donation by Barbara Denrich and ALCO Pharmacy, every individual received a winter hat as a gift at the party.



*CSAAC HR Generalist Alex Koutta was Santa, and Leah Vogel, seasonal HR assistant, was Santa's Helper Elf.*



*Earthstar and Kings Farm residents enjoy snacks and music together.*



*Richard and friends happy to be there.*



*Everyone was on the dance floor.*



*CSAAC Billing Specialist Ilija Asafiev and Therapeutic Recreation Specialist Philicia Gainous-Jones pause for a photo while serving snacks at the party.*

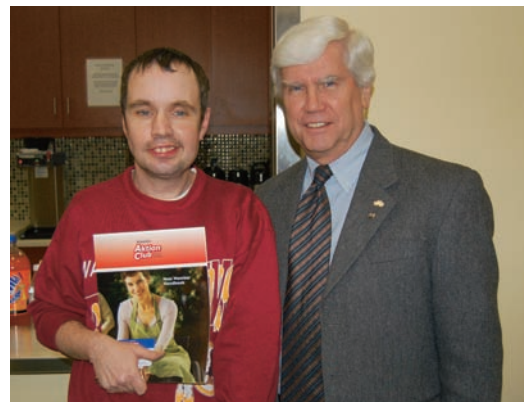
## Ready, Set, Aktion!!!!

Adults in the residential program draw together one evening every other month and learn how to better advocate for themselves and give back to their communities. Led by Kim Dennie, CSAAC's Director of Quality Assurance, this group now has national standing. Through their relationship with the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery Village, a local service organization, the Self-Advocates Group has now become an official "Aktion Club" of the Kiwanis International, called "Individuals with Choices, A Kiwanis Aktion Club."

The mission of Kiwanis International is "to serve the children of the world." Being part of a Kiwanis Aktion club provides the opportunity for adults with disabilities to develop initiative and leadership skills, to serve their communities, to be integrated into society, and to demonstrate the dignity and value of citizens living with disabilities. The club held their Charter Night on January 14th, and all of the new members were given their Aktion Club pins. Club members strive to return to their communities the benefits, help, and caring they have received, as well as develop important skills in the process. With 15 members of the Aktion Club, elected officers are: John D. (Pres.), Gary R. (V.P.), Hans B, (Sec.) and Owen C. (Treas.). CSAAC thanks the club advisor Kim Dennie, the Montgomery Village Kiwanis Club, and Kiwanis Division 17 leadership for helping to make this club a reality. The club is open to new members. If you work with an adult that would like to learn more about self-advocacy, or would like to know how to join the Aktion club, call Kim Dennie at 240-912-2241.



*Kiwanis Division 17 Lt. Governor Bob Masser (far left) with Aktion Club members, and Betty Figlure of the Montgomery Village Kiwanis Club (second from right in back) and Kiwanis Past Governor Bob Cressy.*



*Paul holds his new Aktion Club membership kit proudly next to Bob Cressy, Past Governor, Division 17 Kiwanis.*



*Betty Figlure, right, gives Kim Dennie, left, her advisor's pin.*

## Diversity Corner

The Diversity Committee Wants YOU! The CSAAC Diversity Committee is looking to recruit new members for the upcoming year. Are you interested in helping promote cultural awareness, respectful interactions and service and diversity in the workplace? Are you interested in making CSAAC an even better place to work? If you answered "yes" to these two questions, we encourage you to join this important committee. Meetings are held one Friday per month at the Jane Salzano Center for Autism. Please contact Alex Koutta at (240)912-2379 or Jerry Tarway at (240)912-2258 for more information.

## Therapeutic Recreation at CSAAC- Karaoke Night

On Friday, February 13th, adults and children supported in the CSAAC Residential program celebrated Valentine's Day with a Karaoke party at the Jane Salzano Center for Autism. CSAAC staff knew that several individuals enjoyed singing and music, but had never participated in karaoke before. Individuals from CSS, another nearby agency, were also invited to participate. The outcome of the evening was nearly 15 adults took their turn to the microphone, and the line of singers waiting their turn never slowed down! Thank you to Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, Philicia Gainous-Jones, for organizing the event, and to all of the staff who volunteered to help make the evening possible.



*John follows the words to his song on the screen.*

*Paul sang "Young Girl" and didn't miss a beat!*



*Philicia Gainous-Jones, Therapeutic Recreation Specialist*



*Jimmie wanted to give singing a try, encouraged by Ian Paregol, Executive Director, CSAAC*

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## CSAAC Launches Redesigned Web Site In Time for National Autism Awareness Month

Have you been to [www.csaac.org](http://www.csaac.org) lately? CSAAC's web site has seen site visits increase from 2,000 per month back in 2005 to over 18,000 per month in January, 2009. Why is this significant? It means that more and more families and supporters are turning to CSAAC's web site for information about our programs, about autism, to make online donations, or to read about the latest happenings at CSAAC. In addition, we are receiving more and more inquiries from around the world to come here and tour our programs. A group from Taiwan recently toured CSAAC after having read about CSAAC's programs on the web. Visit [www.csaac.org](http://www.csaac.org) often to see our new site unfold! Let us know what you think by writing to us at [csaac@csaac.org](mailto:csaac@csaac.org) – we appreciate any feedback!

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THE DATE**

Stop by our table at this event...

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## Staff Birthdays January, February and March

### January

Afiademanyo K, Francis  
 Ahanogbe, Akossiwa E.  
 Akyempong, Maimah SK  
 Anaza, Gladys  
 Awasom, Athanasius  
 Bah, Jalika J.  
 Boadi, Samuel K  
 Boko Dagoun,  
 Yenoukoume  
 Bowles, Erica  
 Cimen, Dide  
 Conde, Oumou  
 Ddumba, Brian I  
 Desouza, Selom K  
 Diallo, Amadou R  
 Diggs, Anthony  
 Donaghy, Peter  
 Fynn, Edward B.  
 Gweama, Pofinima  
 Harding, Messeleta  
 Hooper, Alexander G  
 Ireland, Lamin P  
 Kabba, Jonathan  
 Kakumba, Steven  
 Kamara, Lansana  
 Kamei, Matthew F  
 Komlan, Robert J  
 Koroma, Alfred  
 Le, Silvia  
 Lindsay, Sonia  
 Marino, Meredith L  
 Martone, David A  
 Metzger, Kirsten M.  
 Mikotakatola, Ameyo

Morris, David  
 Mutie, John  
 Mziray, Irene M  
 Nambooze, Zaitun M  
 Newman, Courtney M  
 Nohr, Brian R  
 Noubiwola, Joseph  
 Omucheyi, Butler  
 Oteng, Bismark A  
 Pratt, Wade  
 Rogers, Arthur  
 Rossomondo, Matthew  
 Sesay, Abdul R  
 Sesay, Fatmata  
 Silvey, Shelley  
 Tchabong, Armand P  
 Tulay, Foday K  
 Wanko, Nicodeme  
 Yabio, Mikael

### February

Agarwal, Shivani K  
 Agblo, Isaac  
 Alobwede, Peter E  
 Anya, Agatha  
 Asare, Sheila  
 Asiamah, Samuel  
 Barrow, Daniel K  
 Benjamin, Jemar  
 Boateng, Alexander  
 Carranza, Geladio  
 Coleman, Bernice  
 Czapary, Helen N  
 Dennie, Kim  
 Dossouvi, Messan K

Eidelman, Gabriel  
 Hammond-Sawyer, Etmonia  
 Hongla Momha, Roger  
 Horstman, Nicole K  
 Ikwueme, Adaorah  
 Jalloh, Mallam  
 Jennings, Steven A  
 Jilkova, Monika  
 Kamara, Momoduba  
 Kiah Sr., Stephen  
 Kosi, Vincent H  
 Luseni, Dennis  
 Mboe, James E  
 Miller-Vogel, Jan  
 Mintah, Kofi  
 Munu, Mbalu  
 Mwangi, George  
 Nana-Tchui meni,  
 Louis-Flaubert  
 Niamba, Cedric R  
 Olumba, Emmanuel  
 Ouaguem, Mimausetie H.  
 Pardini, Craig  
 Pressau, Jacquelyn R  
 Roberts, Isaac R.  
 Sen, Ayantika  
 Thompson, Jennifer L  
 Uddin, Mir I  
 Ventura, Glenda Y  
 Venuchekov, Peter  
 Yohannes, Yodit  
 Yon, Solomon S.

### March

Addo, Cephas Prince  
 Adjei, Daniel K  
 Adjeoda-Sepenou, Kossi  
 Ajavon, Ayikoe  
 Ajavon, Cleopatra  
 Akakpo, Yannick  
 Akate, Gnouyarou  
 Alexander, Lauren D  
 Anani, Mathilde  
 Ansah, Emmanuel  
 Aquino, Jacob V  
 Asamoah, George  
 Bennett, Marcy A  
 Blackmon, Xavier  
 Byfield, Staci  
 Campbell, Melonie T  
 Chandler, Gina  
 Covell, Seanna Marie  
 Dawson, Robert  
 Denard, Edrina F  
 Dieng, NdeyeRokhaya  
 Emery, El' Vonda Y  
 Gbessay, Foday  
 Goba, Ernest F  
 Gochicoa, Carla  
 Gomez, Yvette  
 Grant, Kelly J  
 Harrison, Gbenu  
 Hegna, Lindsay E  
 Inoue, Kaori  
 Johnson, Assiba M  
 Kabagema-Payne, Roger  
 Kamara, Ishmael K  
 Kargbo, Samuel

Kaur, Amandeep  
 Kennedy, Markita N  
 Kim, Joanne  
 Kusi, Francis A.  
 Looky, Saleh  
 Manga, Awa N.  
 Mason, Barbara  
 Mensah, Catherine  
 Mensah, Eric  
 Moses, Olunmi O  
 Mwololo, Ezekiel W  
 Nganje, Junior  
 Ngele, Julius N.  
 Nguyen, Brian  
 Nolasco-Lopez, Roberto  
 Norman, Joshua  
 Nyim-Asare, Josiah  
 Nzele, Michel  
 Osei, Francis  
 Osei, Tricia Y.  
 Osemene, Regina  
 Paymon, Holly N  
 Quarshie, Ebenezer  
 Randolph, Bone  
 Smith Jr, James H  
 Sweeney, Jaclyn A  
 Tetteh, Robert T  
 Turay, Sorie A  
 Tyaba, Irene  
 Ufot, Andrew  
 Wairimu, Kevin  
 Washington Jr, Patrick O  
 Wilkinson, Jennifer  
 Williams, Gloria E  
 Yaokumah, Evans Y

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## April is National Autism Awareness Month Join us at the following events!

- **Saturday, April 4, 1-3 p.m. CSAAC Book Fair at Barnes and Noble, Rockville.** Storytime for children, costume characters, autism information table, and refreshments. Purchases nationwide benefit CSAAC - see flyer inside this issue.
- **Sunday, April 19, 7-11 a.m., Bethesda Triathlon, Georgetown Preparatory School, Rockville.** Race for Autism Speaks, CSAAC table. Visit [www.bethesdatri.org](http://www.bethesdatri.org) for more information.
- **Thursday, April 23, 6:30-10:30 p.m., Nick's Riverside Grille, Washington, D.C.** Happy hour with live auction and raffle to benefit CSAAC. Visit [www.csaac.org](http://www.csaac.org) or CSAAC Foundation on Facebook for more information.

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