



## **ONTARIO SUPPORTS REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PLANS** ***McGuinty Government Helps Families Save For Children With Disabilities*** **Ministry of Community and Social Services** **November 30, 2008**

Ontario is making it possible for social assistance recipients to take advantage of Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSPs). Like the Registered Education Savings Plan, RDSP's allow family members and loved ones to save money tax free until withdrawal. The program helps people plan for the future needs of children and adults with disabilities.

Changes to Ontario's social assistance rules will make sure that both RDSP assets and withdrawals are fully exempt. This means:

- RDSP contributions do not impact eligibility for social assistance.

People on social assistance can take money out of an RDSP without affecting their social assistance payments.

To further help social assistance recipients with disabilities save for their future, Ontario is also increasing the amount they can receive as a gift or payment from a trust from \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year.

### **QUICK FACTS**

- Any individual that is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit may establish an RDSP.
- British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland have also announced that they will fully exempt both RDSP assets and withdrawals.

## **New Funding Available from Family Respite Services**

Family Respite Services has sent out applications for funding that it received from the Ministry to distribute to families who have a member on the spectrum. **The applications are due back no later than FEBRUARY 13th, 2009.**

Applying does not guarantee that you will receive funding, but if you do not apply by the deadline, you will not be considered. If you did not receive an application, please call Jane Wysman at 519-972-9688 Ext. 143 to inquire about it.

## **ASI**

### ***Mission Statement***

Our mission is to identify, coordinate and assure delivery of quality supports while advocating for individuals with Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorder, to enable them to reach their maximum potential within their community.

**Autism Services Inc.**  
**3600 Curry Avenue**  
**Windsor Ontario**  
N9E 2T6  
519-966-7283

*Because Making a Difference is a  
Great way to start a New Year.....  
Many Thanks to our Donors!*

Linda Nantais  
Lucile Mckim/ Bodo Schaefer  
Angela and Dave Hanes  
Edda and Nella Nicodemo  
Nadia Pecile  
Jim McAlpine  
Larry and Marie Theresa Lampier  
Lee and Dough Marshall  
Rick and Vicki Pecnik  
Jo-Anne And Mark Neilson  
Mr. and Mrs. R. Lyle Mosey  
Janice and Richard Hancrar  
Bonnie Penny  
June and Gragg Girardin

*...Happy New Year...*

### *News from the Board*

#### *Thank you*

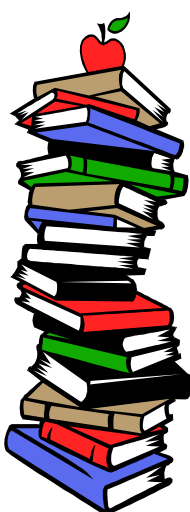
Autism Services Inc. would like to thank Suzanne Dussault for her dedicated service and commitment. Ms. Dussault has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2005. We wish her the best in her new endeavors.

#### *Welcome*

We would like to extend a big welcome to Michele Cooper to the 2009 Board of Directors. Ms. Cooper is a Special Education Teacher at St. Christopher School in Windsor.

#### *New Members*

We currently have openings for Board Directors preferably with legal or financial experience. If you are interested in being a member of the Board please contact us.



### *Lending Library*

**Monday – Friday  
8:00 to 4:00**  
Stop in and check out our books, toys and specialized computer software to create choice boards, schedules, social stories and more!!!!

### *Board of Directors 2008*

Jason Hull  
**President**

Ferruccio Da Sacco  
**Treasurer**

Norm Conkey  
**Secretary**

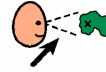
Brian Schentag  
**Past president**



#### *Directors*

Irene Carter  
Heather Clarke  
Michele Cooper  
Michelle Helou  
Dan Tromblay

## Places to go, things to see!!



Wednesday, February 4

### Autism Ontario Windsor Essex Pasta Dinner

First Wednesday of every month at the Cabot Club from 4:30 to 8:00. Dinner includes rolls, salad, pasta with meat sauce and pasta with tomato sauce. Take-out orders: \$8.00. Eat-in: Adults \$7.50, Children 5 to 10 \$5, Under 4 Free.

Saturday, February 7

### Skating at South Windsor Arena

The arena will be open to just families on the spectrum from 3:30 to 4:30 that day to skate around and have fun. Skating is free. Must provide your own skates. To register for this event please call 519-250-9410.

Saturday, February 7

### Owl Prowl

#### Pt. Pelee National Park, Leamington

Meet at the Visitor Centre and join us on our annual prowling through the park to find these elusive creatures of the night. Theatre presentation included. Free with park entry. For details call 519-322-2365 or [www.pc.gc.ca/pointpelee](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pointpelee).

Saturday, February 14

### Valentine Day Swim

At Adie Knox Community Centre. Two for one swims. Hours: 1:30 to 3:00 pm.

Sunday, February 15

### Winter Festival at Ojibway Nature Centre

Cross-County skiing, free family activities and winter scavenger hunt through the park. Hours: 12:00 to 4:00pm.

Saturday, February 28

### Autism Gala 2009

Location: Caboto Club. Tickets: \$100 per person. Please call Autism Ontario Windsor Essex at 519-250-1893 for information.

Every Friday from 1 to 2 pm

### Windsor Water World

Swimming for individuals with disabilities. Cost for swimmer \$2.00. Caregivers are free. Call 519-253-3806 for more details.

Daily

### \*New\* Monkey Town

Playspace designed for children 7 and under. Playhouse town, playground equipment, puppet theatre, velcro wall, and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission \$6.50 per child. Location: 3181 Marentette (behind Devonshire Mall). Call 519-969-0707.

## Do you have a Houdini in the Car?

**Angel Guard** helps to prevent children and disabled adults from opening their seat belts while riding in a motorized vehicle. Our seat belt buckle guard is portable so you can easily take it from car to car. At last there is a way to keep your little escape artist from unbuckling their seat belt. The ANGEL GUARD seat belt cover is the answer you have been looking for.

Available at [www.babyproofingplus.com](http://www.babyproofingplus.com)

## Special Olympics Windsor

Special Olympics Windsor provides year-round athletic training and sports competitions to children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Programs include swimming, 10-pin bowling, boy's martial gym, girl's rhythmic gymnastics, soccer, track and field and softball/T-ball.

Registrations are currently being accepted for Winter and Spring sports programs. Call 519-250-4024 for more information.

[www.specialolympicswindsor.ca](http://www.specialolympicswindsor.ca)



**NOTE:** Event information is always subject to change by the event holders. Always call ahead.

# Workshops

## January/February

Wednesday, January 28 (City Session)

### **School Entry - Learn more about registering your child with special needs for Kindergarten**

Free information sessions for parents and guardians.  
Location: Place Concorde, Richelieu Room.  
Pre-register by contacting Windsor-Essex Family Network at 519-974-1008.

Tuesday, February 3 (County Session)

### **School Entry - Learn more about registering your child with special needs for Kindergarten**

Free information sessions for parents and guardians.  
Location: Youth and Family Resource Network of Essex County, Kingsville. Pre-register by contacting Windsor-Essex Family Network at 519-974-1008.  
Childcare is available.

### **Preparing for a change: Tips for a Positive School Experience**

Workshops offered January 29 and 31 and February 3 and 7 at various locations. For more information and to register call Ensemble at 519-776-6486 x225.

Thursday, February 5

### **“Dollars and Sense”**

A Focus on the Future information seminar for families who are supporting and planning with their family member who has a disability. Location Place Concorde, Richelieu Room. Registration required. Please see attached flyer for details.

**AUTISM ONTARIO**  
Has moved to  
**Gino A. Marcus**  
**Community Complex**  
**1168 Drouillard Road**

## February/March

Monday, February 9

### **Recruiting and Supporting your Respite Provider**

Free workshop for parents. Call the Family Respite Services to register 519-972-9688.

Wednesday, February 11

### **All About Autism “Managing a New Diagnosis”**

Presented by Dr. Marcia Gragg from the Summit Centre for Preschool Children with Autism. Location ASI Library 6:30 pm. Please call 519-966-7283 or email [allaboutautism@cogeco.ca](mailto:allaboutautism@cogeco.ca) to register.

Thursday, February 12

### **Daytime Support Group**

Support Group for parents with children with autism. Meetings will take place on the second Thursday of each month from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Family Respite office on Quality Way.

Sat. & Sun. February 28 & March 1

### **Autism & Applied Behavioural Analysis**

Free two-day workshop for Parents or Professionals. Parents are encouraged to bring someone for support. Spaces are limited. Please call Summit Centre for details 519-255-1195.

Wednesday, March 11

### **Sensory Strategies Workshop**

Present by Children First. Location ASI Library 6:30 pm. Please call 519-966-7238 or email [allaboutautism@cogeco.ca](mailto:allaboutautism@cogeco.ca) to register.

### **Summit Centre Sibling Support Group**

For kids 4 to 12 years. Come meet new friends, participate in games & crafts, pizza and snacks! **R.S.V.P.** Please contact Kristy at 519-255-1195.



**NOTE:** Event information is always subject to change by the event holders. Always call ahead.