

The Autism Society of Oregon

(ASO) goals and objectives are to increase awareness of needs, interests, problems and solutions related to autism in Oregon's local communities.

We have a statewide information and resource network via **Regional Chapters** covering each county in the state of Oregon.

Please visit our website

www.oregonautism.com

or call 1-888-AUTISM1 toll free to find the Chapter Representatives in your area.



Dennis Debbaudt speaks to parents in Portland

We accomplish our goals via a number of ways and communication vehicles. One avenue of outreach has been to host **seminars, workshops and conferences** that focus on topics that parents, educators and professionals are currently experiencing. The attendees take away **information** that they can implement immediately with the autistic individual, be they a child, adolescent or adult.

www.OregonAutism.com

ASO sponsors the **Autism Walk-a-thon** on the Waterfront Park in downtown Portland. The walk is an easy stroll along the beautiful Willamette River so that **children on the autism spectrum** can participate in this fun event. The walk is held during the month of **April which is Autism Awareness Month** and people from all over Oregon come to enjoy this event.

ASO annually purchases **books on autism** as a donation for libraries in virtually every county in Oregon.

ASO authors' resource guides such as the **Respite Care Guide**, which helps families looking for assistance in this area. We have developed other "self helpers" including the **911 Form** that families can use to enter information about their child for the 911 database. This is especially helpful should a first responders come to a house where an autistic person lives and the caregiver is not available.



Young walkers for a worthy cause at the annual Autism Walk-a-thon

Become an ASO Member Today!

Membership has its benefits including...

Discounts to ASO seminars, workshops and conferences

Membership in the national Autism Society of America

Subscription to the ASO's Quarterly Newsletter, *The Insider*

Subscription to ASA's bimonthly magazine, *The Advocate*

Annual fee is \$40 for an individual membership, \$50 for family membership and \$25 for a student membership.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (home): _____

Phone (work): _____

E-mail: _____

ASO is a non-profit organization.

We depend on fundraisers and donations to fund our programs.

Your tax-deductible donation will help us continue to offer worthwhile programs.

Please make check payable to ASO and send to:

P.O. Box 13884, Salem, OR 97309.

Autism Facts:

Child psychiatrist Leo Kanner first described autism in 1943. For many years, autism was referred to as Kanner's syndrome. In 1944, Hans Asperger in Vienna described a high-functioning form of autism which is now referred to as Asperger syndrome.

Some autistic children are different from birth, whereas others are normal and then become autistic sometime between 12 months and two years of age. A few children develop autism in their third year of life.

For a very long time, autism was a rare disorder, affecting 1 in 2,000 children. Starting in the mid-1980's, autism has increased dramatically. According to the Center for Disease Control (2004), the prevalence of autism in the U.S. is, on average, 1 in 166 children. Oregon has one of the highest rates in the country.

There are many symptoms or behaviors associated with autism. These include: gastrointestinal problems, food allergies, difficulty sleeping, little or no language, abnormal social interactions, repetitive behaviors (e.g., spinning, hand flapping), little or no pretend play, obsessive-compulsive behaviors, anxiety, hypersensitivities (e.g., auditory, touch), aggression, self-injury, and severe tantrumming. Most autistic individuals exhibit some to many of these symptoms, but only a few exhibit all of them.

Autism is more prevalent in males. The ratio is 4 males to 1 female.

There appears to be many causes of autism, and there is likely a genetic predisposition for some of them.



Autism is a medical condition, and it is treatable. There are many effective interventions, such as a gluten and/or casein-free diet, a selective carbohydrate diet, certain nutritional supplements such as vitamin B6 with magnesium, applied behavior analysis (ABA), structured teaching, social stories, and more.



AUTISM SOCIETY OF OREGON

Open the Door to Hope and Success.



The Autism Society of Oregon is a non-profit organization that empowers individuals with autism, their families and their service providers and strives to improve the quality of their lives through support and information.

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