



PHILADELPHIA AUTISM PROJECT

GRants for Autism Advocacy & Support

Philadelphia Autism Project GRAAS Award Recipients

Below is a list of the GRAAS recipients and a description of the groups they are creating or expanding! Contact information may be listed for some groups, please feel free to contact those individuals if you are interested in learning more about the group and/or want to get involved. We hope to continue to update this website as more details about the groups is available and to help support the needs of the community. To learn more about the support groups in the Philadelphia area visit the Philadelphia Autism Project [support group map](#). Please contact phillyap@drexel.edu if you have questions.

ASPERation is a social group and platform for adults on the autism spectrum to meet and discuss the ways in which our neurodiversity influences our lives. We seek to engage our strengths, support each other with challenges, and come together to advocate and promote acceptance for autism. Monthly meetings will be held starting on December 2, 2017 at 2pm.

Contact: Alice Koumenis

Email: Akoumenis@gmail.com

Au-Some Lives group will serve teenagers and young adults on the spectrum by providing support, sharing resources and opportunities with their peers. In addition to providing support by sharing resources and having experts in the field come out and connect with group members, Au-Some Lives plan to provide peer engagement and vocational development opportunities.

Contact: Afea Tucker

Email: afeatucker@yahoo.com

Fumo Gaming Club is an inclusive, bully-free, and sensory-friendly club for kids who enjoy games of all kinds. Card games, console games, board games, tablet games, role-playing games, and more! Bring a favorite game from home, or use the library's collection. Attendance is free, and pre-registration is not required. However, space is limited, and on a first-come first-served basis. Meetings will be held on Saturdays from 2-4pm starting on October 21st.

Contact: John Crimmins

Children's Librarian, Free Library of Philadelphia, Fumo Family Branch Library

Phone: (215) 685-1758 and Email: crimmins@freelibrary.org

Jaden's Voice Support Group for parents and caregivers of individuals with autism. The goal of the group will be to inform, educate, and empower parents and caregivers with tools, resources, and services to become better advocates for their loved ones with autism.

Contact: Charo Jackson

Email: charo@jadensvoice.org

Local Office: 267-223-6590

Main Office: 800-825-8950

Liberty Resources and Vision for Equality (*group to be named later*) in collaboration with Bill Krebs will create a cross disability support and self-advocacy group for individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities. The goals of the group will be driven by its members and will provide a forum to discuss and share experiences, resources, and promote self-advocacy.

Contact: Bill Krebs

Email: mr.trouble64@yahoo.com

Peace of Mind Social Services is an advocacy group for parents and caregivers who are recently informed of their child's diagnosis. The group will educate parents and caregivers on how to access and advocate for resources and programs for their child's needs. Additional goals of the group include supporting transition age youth into adulthood through social opportunities.

Contact: Tisa Coleman

P. O. Box 30271

Elkins Park, Pa 19027

267-496-4866

Peaceofmind-socialservice.squarespace.com

Pennsylvania Sibling Support Network will expand their existing support groups which provide resources, training and advocacy support to individuals, siblings, parents, caregivers and family members.

Contact: Lynne Mack

Email: elynn627@yahoo.com

Project Elijah Empowering Autism will build upon their existing group, which provides weekly activities that all families can take part in, including parent support meetings and trainings.

Contact: Eric Williams

Email: elijah@peea.org

Refugee Autism Support Group will focus on creating a forum to address the needs, education and advocacy for families of children with autism from the Burmese and Bhutanese communities. Led by a community leader, this group's goals are to provide support to community members through discussion around education, behavior management, advocacy/access to services, reduction of stigma, and increased communication between parents.

Contact: Melissa Fogg

Email: melissa.fogg@muralarts.org

Self-Advocacy Group (*group to be named later*) **facilitated by Dylan Moody** is committed to serving young adults on the autism spectrum through resource sharing and social activities. The group will invite speakers to talk about employment, housing, volunteer work, or other resources.

Contact: Dylan Moody

Email: coldsummer91@gmail.com

Social Xchanges is a support group serves college students with autism who attend Temple University. The group participants meet weekly to provide peer support and social engagement, including a discussion of a social learning topic and a recreational activity.

Contact: Aaron Spector

Email: spectora@temple.edu

The Southwest Child Guidance Family Support Group will expand services currently provided for parents and caregivers of children with autism at Southwest Child Guidance Resource Center. The group holds meetings on the first Thursday of each month and the discussions include topics of community resources, events, and advocacy in the educational system.

Contact: Shari Sims

Email: ssims@cgrc.org

Spectrum Success 911 will host a group that will meet twice a month and allow parents to openly and honestly express their feelings and experiences after finding out their child has autism. The group will also educate families about therapeutic games they can use to support their family. Meetings will be held at Community Behavioral Health (801 Market Street/7th Floor).

Contact: Khyllil Robinson and Michele Abraham Montgomery

Email: spectrumsuccess911@gmail.com and Phone: 215-798-8287

Supporting Families and Professionals through Communication for Autism and Special Needs will create a group to bridge the gap between families and professionals by inviting both to share their experiences and expertise. The group will help families and providers be heard by providing an open dialogue to get many answers to questions answered and assist providers in learning more about how to approach families, especially for medically involved children.

Contact: Joan Nelson

Northeast Support Group Navigated by Families,

Email: JNelson.NEPPSG@gmail.com and Phone: 267-642-1321

#wearethriving will be a peer support/advocacy group for students with autism ages 11 – 21 who attend the MYA Middle School and Parkway West High School. The group's objectives include providing a supportive environment to help in the development of resiliency skills, providing social training, determining shared interests, community integration, transition opportunities, and opportunities for parents to receive training and insight to services.

Contact: Ivey Welshans

Email: iwelshans@philasd.org

West Philadelphia Parents for Autism Children Sensory Social Supports (PACSSS) is a monthly group for parents and caregivers of teens and young adults with autism, who are dealing with transitioning and advocacy. The group seeks to inform parents and young adults on how to navigate the system and learn what is available to them. It will also be a safe place to share information and meet other families.

Contact: Roberta Bellamy

Email: westphilapacs@gmail.com