



News and Happenings From Marcus Autism Center

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To continue to help families with children who have autism and related disorders, this Marcus Autism Center e-newsletter has several reminders and useful information. Also, visit the Marcus Autism Center [Web site](#) for additional details.

DeKalb Autism Support Group

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 5

The DeKalb Autism Support Group will host **Melanie Johnson** and **Madeline Griffin**, parent mentors for DeKalb County Schools, who will present on "**Bridging Transitions: Helping Families and IEP Teams Build Strong Bridges for Student Transitions.**" Children who experience changes in their educational placement often face a variety of challenges. Melanie and Madeline will discuss how parents, schools and students can work together to ease the stress of these transitions.

Marcus Autism Center
1920 Briarcliff Road, First floor
Norman Shutters Resource Center
Atlanta, GA 30329-4010

No reservations are needed, and feel free to bring a lunch. Contact Moshe Manheim, L.C.S.W., at 404-785-9491 or moshe.manheim@choa.org with any questions.

Walk Now for Autism Speaks

Sunday, May 23

The Walk Now for Autism Speaks is a fun-filled, family-friendly event that funds autism research and treatment. The walk includes a large kid's area, food and drinks, as well as a resource fair of autism service providers. The 2.2 mile walk starts at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 23 at Atlantic Station. We need more volunteers to join the thousands of families affected by autism. Register today at www.walknowforautismspeaks.org and take the first step.

Camp You B You

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Every Monday to Friday from Monday, June 7 to Friday, June 25

We are hosting our second annual Camp You B You summer camp for 10 high-functioning children with autism or related disorders ages 6 to 10. Applicants must be able to commit to attending all three weeks of camp onsite at Marcus Autism Center. The total cost is \$900 for the three-week camp.

Encouraging others, playing games and sharing, these are some of the social skills every child

deserves the chance to learn, including children affected by autism and related disorders. Through fun games and group interactions, campers at Camp You B You learn these skills and so much more, including cooperation, following rules and making new friends.

[Applications](#) are due by Friday, May 7, and will be accepted until the 10 slots are filled. Applications can be submitted by mail, fax or e-mail to:

Marcus Autism Center
Attn: Sheena Coffman
1920 Briarcliff Road
Atlanta, GA 30329-4010
404-785-9425
Fax: 404-785-9315

E-mail sheena.coffman@choa.org for details.

Book Signing and Conversation

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 4

The Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MJCCA) is hosting best-selling author and actress Holly Robinson Peete and former NFL player Rodney Peete who will be presenting their new books about their personal journeys with autism. They also will share their personal stories about raising their son, R.J., who was diagnosed with autism in 2000.

In his book, *Not My Boy!*, Rodney offers an inspirational road map to help families facing similar challenges to move forward. The fictional book *My Brother Charlie* is based on Holly and her family's own experiences with autism. In this story, told from a sister's point of view, we meet a family whose oldest son teaches them important lessons about togetherness, hope, tolerance and love. Holly co-authored *My Brother Charlie* with her daughter Ryan, R.J.'s twin sister.

The MJCCA will be donating a portion of the proceeds from books sold that night to benefit the Georgia's Walk Now for Autism Speaks on May 23.

Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta
5342 Tilly Mill Road
Dunwoody, GA 30338-4426

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. A book signing will follow the event. Purchase tickets at www.atlantajcc.org, by phone at 678-812-4000 or in person at the MJCCA. Tickets are \$10.

Financial Assistance Available for Summer Camps

Deadline to Apply is May 15

The Georgia Department of Human Services has some funds available to help needy families pay for summer camp. The Summer Camp Program will provide assistance with the cost of care for children ages 5 to 12 (or through age 17 if they have special needs documentation) attending a licensed or exempt summer camp program between Friday, May 21 and Monday, Aug. 9.

There are no fees or copayments. The program will pay as much as \$318 a week or the summer camp's published rate, whichever is less. Applications must be received no later than Saturday, May 15.

Visit www.compass.ga.gov to apply. Choose the *Apply for Benefits* link, then mark the third option called *Temporary Child Care Assistance* or *Summer Camp Program Application* and continue

following the prompts to apply.

SPECTRUM Offering New Family Support Groups

SPECTRUM Autism Support Group is forming new groups on the first Saturday of each month for higher-functioning children with moderate autism-in addition to the high-functioning autism/Asperger's disorder children's groups. Grant funds from CarMax helped make this possible.

Those who enjoy the current third Saturday program will now have a second opportunity each month to participate. The small group will be limited to only six children; so sign up now to reserve your spot.

Additionally, the new SPECTRUM Saturday Social on the first Saturday of the month now includes a small group for children with moderate autism, who simply require a little more adult assistance in a structured setting. It is not intended to be a respite program, but rather a social skills building program. It is intended to help children with:

- Shorter attention spans
- Turn-taking
- Friendship-building
- Sharing
- Following rules

Participants should have emerging skills in the area of social communication and be able to take group direction with prompting. Sign up for these groups on the [SPECTRUM Web site](#). Spaces are limited.

Summer Program in England for Teens Friday, July 9, to Sunday, July 18

Teens age 16 and older with autism or a related disorder have the opportunity to travel to London with 15 others on a fascinating cultural adventure. The program is led by Beverly Daley, Ph.D., of the University of Southern California University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Jill Hudson of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence.

The cost is \$5,190 and includes round-trip, supervised, group airfare from New York. View the [flier](#) for more details.

Special Olympics for Young Athletes

Gwinnett Young Athletes is hosting a new Special Olympics for children ages 2 to 7 with developmental disabilities. Young Athletes offers children with disabilities the opportunity for meaningful interaction, leading to future relationships of mutual respect, friendship and inclusion.

The ongoing event will be the second Thursday of each month from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at:

Oakland Meadow School
590 Old Snellville Highway
Lawrenceville, GA 30046-9318

Contact Lynette Swanson at 678-226-7700 or at lynette_swanson@gwinnett.k12.ga.us if you would like to sign up or have any questions.

**Lose the Training Wheels Bike Camp
Tuesday, July 6, to Saturday, July 10**

Lose the Training Wheels uses innovative, adaptive bikes and methods to teach children with special needs how to ride a conventional bicycle and, of course, to lose the training wheels. The program was developed through research done by Richard E. Klein, Ph.D., a retired professor of mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois. The fee for the camp is \$200 a person.

The camp is located at:
The Cooler Family Skate Center
10800 Davis Drive
Alpharetta, GA 30009-4749

To participate, your child must:

- Be at least 8 years old
- Be ambulatory without an assistive device
- Have a minimum inseam measurement of 20 inches (minimum height is 40 inches)
- Can step quickly to both sides
- Wear a properly fitted bike helmet
- Weigh less than 220 pounds

Contact Joy Prettyman at bikecampatlanta@gmail.com to receive an application packet by e-mail.

E-mail Moshe Manheim, L.C.S.W., at moshe.manheim@choa.org to share news and happenings for an upcoming edition of this e-newsletter.

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