



PostCARD

Director's Note

Dear Friends of CARD,

Each year we try to create a newsletter or two that we can send out by email and to print some hard copies for families who do not have a high-speed internet connection. We especially want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported CARD during this difficult year. So many families, friends and students have supported CARD in so many ways: volunteering time, participating in our STAR 5K and Stomp the Swamp events, donations, and contacting legislators. We appreciate all your efforts more than we can say. In this newsletter you will see some photos and more information on some of our supporters!

Unfortunately our CARD operating budget has been reduced by the Florida Legislature again this year for the 4th time in the last 5 years. So, we will be operating with 20% fewer dollars than last year to serve the individuals with autism and related disabilities, families, schools and agencies in our 14 counties. While some other CARD Centers are laying off employees, we are working on a plan, with the help of our University, Constituency Board and others to keep all UF/Gainesville CARD staff employed. We are still unsure about how this reduction in funds will affect our services but we will do all we can to keep you informed. We will make every effort to work smarter and more efficiently and to use technology to support our constituents and staff. Nevertheless, it

is hard to imagine that we will be able to continue to do all we were previously able to do with significantly less resources.

As we enter into the summer months we want to remind you to continue to watch our website and calendar and to follow us on Facebook. We are planning a variety of educational programs and activities for the summer months. And don't forget to contact us by phone or email whenever the need arises.

Best wishes always,
Greg Valcante, Ph.D.

Online Trainings Available

Did you know that you can participate in many of our trainings from the comfort of your own home? Just check the location for specific trainings on our calendar, www.card.ufl.edu/calendar.html, and if it says "online via Adobe Connect" follow the directions to connect with us online.

Some of our past trainings have also been recorded. Visit our Training page, <http://www.card.ufl.edu/training>, to view trainings about:

Transition
Sensory Issues
Autism and Genetics
Potty Training
Inclusion
Overview of Autism & More

CARD Office Hours

The CARD office located at 2124 NE Waldo Road, Suite 3200 in UF's East Campus Building in Gainesville is "closed" until 12 PM on Mondays for staff meetings. Computers for making visual supports are available during normal business hours on Tuesday to Friday and after noon on Mondays. For an appointment please call Kathy Robinson at 352 392-4171 or 800 754-5891 ext. 9.

CARD Website

Go to www.card.ufl.edu for information about:

workshops

research

current news about autism & related disabilities

support groups

professional development

fact sheets

past issues of the PostCARD

CARD conference information

and more!

Want to stay informed about workshops in our area and receive other useful information? Subscribe to our bi-monthly eCARD by sending your name and email address to card-info@ufl.edu.

Staying Up-to-Date

- Enews - We send out an electronic newsletter once to twice a month that includes information on our trainings and events as well as trainings and events held by other organizations. If you would like to receive our enews please send an email with "Subscribe to enews" in the subject line to card-info@ufl.edu.
- Facebook - To get reminders about events, view information about summer camps, connect with other CARD friends, and get information about current autism news, visit our facebook page - www.facebook.com/UFCARD and "like" us.
- Website - Visit our website at www.card.ufl.edu to learn more about autism, our services, watch recordings of past trainings, view our calendar, and much more.

Special Thanks to.....

...Impact Autism @ UF for donating a portion of the profits they made from the Temple Grandin Movie Night they held in April to CARD UF/ Gainesville.

...UF's Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority for hosting the 2nd Annual Swim, Sail, and Sun-day at Lake Wauberg. Several CARD UF/Gainesville constituents received one-on-one attention while boating, swimming, and enjoying the lake.

...Eastside Side High School's Students Together for Autism Research (S.T.A.R.) especially Wes Lyons and Emma London for hosting their 4th Annual 5K Walk/Run benefiting CARD UF/Gainesville. They raised almost \$8300!

...UF's Fishing for Success program for hosting the 5th Annual CARD Family Fishing Day. Information about autism was made available to families attending the event. Erika Thompson, the event coordinator, also used this information for fieldtrips that included classes with students with autism.

...UF's Student Government and Caroline Robicheaux and Amanda Cruz for organizing and Shelley Meyer and Chris Machen, for serving as honorary co-chairs of the 3rd Annual Stomp the Swamp for Autism. There were 188 participants and over \$7000 was raised!

...the Reckson Foundation for their generous support of CARD.

UF's Fishing for Success Program provides a fun morning of fishing for everyone once a month. Check out their website for future fishing days - <http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu>



CARD's Executive Director, Dr. Mark Lewis poses with two of the STAR 5K runners, Isaac and Aidan.

Shelley Meyer, co-host of Stomp the Swamp, shows her support for CARD.

CARD Support Groups

This is a list of support groups organized by our Parent Partners or staff. To view a list that includes other support groups in our area please visit www.card.ufl.edu/localsupports.html.

- Gainesville Autism Parent Focus Group
Contact: Cheryl Brenner at 386-467-3820 or cherylbrenner@ufl.edu
Meetings are held on the 2nd Fridays of each month.
- Columbia County Autism Support Group Meeting - Lake City
Contact: Jaime Bracken at 386-397-1882 or jbracken@ufl.edu
Meetings are held on the 3rd Mondays of each month.

- Ocala Autism Support Network - SW Marion County
Contact: Ace Perales (352) 598-2514 or aperales@ufl.edu
Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursdays of each month.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Focus Group - Palatka
Contact: Cheryl Brenner at 386-467-3820 or cherylbrenner@ufl.edu
Please contact Cheryl for meeting dates.
- Support Group for Adults on the Spectrum - Gainesville
Contact: Robin Byrd 352-846-3700 or robinl@ufl.edu
Meetings are the last Thursday of every month at 12:00 noon.

UF Student Group Helps Out

The Graduate National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (G-NSSLHA) students in a class I taught during the fall decided to use some of the extra funds they had from various fundraising events over the year to buy one our CARD constituents, Harley, some basic supplies he needed to increase his success in school. A couple of my students did their final project working with Harley who is a very smart 7th grader with Asperger Syndrome. They gave Harley a desk, chair, desk lamp, desk calendar, markers, printer with ink, printer paper, pencil case, and a \$20 Walmart gift card. They also bought him a set of K'nex because he loves to build things, but only had paperclips. [Cathy Zenko](#)



Harley at his new desk.



Graduate National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (G-NSSLHA) Class of 2011

Growing Out of Growing Pains

I look to my past and reminisce, the things that I may never miss. To the times where my life was a changing season, sometimes up, sometimes down. I just wanted to flip that life upside down. I had an unknown conscience, following me around. That took things in, then spat them out. I was too young to think to end my life, didn't even know how to bring down a verbal knife. They said he was doomed to lack a normal life, lacking the will to speak his words. Always seen but never heard. I was growing out of my own skin, different emotions that could never be held within. I went out of society, society went out of me. I became a new person, worse than the best but better than the worst. I'm growing out of growing pains, and growing pains are growing out of me. [Izzy Schwartz](#)
[Izzy is a 13-year-old CARD constituent who has written some poems about his experience with autism.](#)

Online Book Study for Educators

DATE: July 5-29, 2011

This online book study will focus on the work of Sonja de Boer titled "Successful Inclusion for Students with Autism". The book is a guide for educators to develop inclusive programs for students with ASD and includes practical and evidence-based strategies for instruction, behavior, and communication. Our book study will be an asynchronous event where the views of each participant are welcomed and valued. Upon registration participants will receive further information for connecting to the book study event.

For more information please contact Ann-Marie Orlando at aorlando@ufl.edu or call (352)273-0581 to register.

Staff

Robbin Byrd, B.S. *CARD Consultant*
Susan Hill, A.R.N.P. *CARD Consultant*
Mark Lewis, Ph.D. *Executive Director*
Leannis Maxwell *Program Assistant*
Ann-Marie Orlando, M.S. CCC-SP/A ATT *CARD Consultant*
Carole Polefko *Public Education Coordinator*
John Polefko, M.Ed. *CARD Consultant*
Krestin Radonovich, Ph.D. *Assistant Professor*
Kathy Robinson *Visual Supports Specialist*
Greg Valcante, Ph.D. *Director*
Art Wallen, M.S. *Associate Director*
Alissa Yax *Intake Coordinator*
Cathy Zenko, M.S., CCC-SLP *CARD Consultant*

Parent Partners

Jaime Bracken
Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee, and
Union Counties
Cheryl Brenner
Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, and
Putnam Counties
Margie Garlin
Citrus and Hernando Counties
Amparo Perales
Marion County

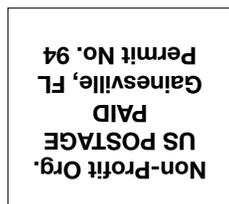
Cover Photos
3rd Annual Stomp the Swamp, Pam
Valcante

Call for Papers

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) and Providing Autism Links & Supports, Inc. (PALS, Inc.) invite proposals for presentations at the 2012, 19th Annual CARD Conference, Saturday and Sunday, January 13-16, 2012, in Orlando, FL. CARD and PALS bring together a wide range of professionals and parents to share information about individuals with autism spectrum disorders, dual sensory impairment, and related disabilities. Audiences range from families of newly diagnosed toddlers to leaders in the field of autism research and treatment. All proposals are due by August 19, 2011. Proposal forms can be downloaded from the UCF CARD website at www.ucf-card.org.

FREE Literacy Workshop

"Let's Talk! Using Literacy Activities to Develop Core Language Skills in Preschoolers with ASD and AAC Needs", a 2-day workshop designed for educational teams serving young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) needs will be held at the CARD offices in Gainesville on June 28th and 29th. Teams will learn some of the key principles underlying a program for teaching basic vocabulary to children whose communication is supplemented with manual signs, communication boards/books, and AAC devices. For more information please visit our calendar at www.card.ufl.edu/calendar.html or call 352/273-0581.



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