

SPECTRUM

Autism Support Group, Inc.

www.atl-spectrum.com

Spectrum Fall 2016 Newsletter

Spectrum Monthly Meetings

Our Fall line-up has been set for our monthly meetings. Meetings take place the 1st Thursday of each month at the **First Baptist Church of Duluth** (2908 Duluth Hwy, Duluth, 230096) from 6:30-8:00 pm. Most meetings have break-out sessions for Grandparents, Dads Group, Parents of Adults with Autism and Parents of Individuals with Aspergers in addition to the main topic—watch the listserv for more details.

- September 1: **"How to Prepare for Life after the School Safety Net is Gone"** -
Presented by Donna Aldrich, Parent and Teacher
- October 6: **"Preparing Your Child for Work—it's Never Too Early"**
Presented by Jeff Allen, Georgia Vocational Rehab
- November 3: **"Importance of Teaching Self-Advocacy Skills to Your Child"** -
Presented by Deanne Luscre, PhD.
- "Update on ABLE Accounts"** - *Presented by Pamela J. Hoppe, Mass-Mutual*
- December 1: **Spectrum's Annual Holiday Party**
Bring a side dish or dessert to share! Children will have their own party with crafts and a visit from Santa.
- January 5: **"Protect Your Child's Benefits: The Nuts and Bolts of Medicaid Waiver Appeals and Special Needs Trusts"** -
Presented by DJ Jeyaram, Esq.

Social Skills Groups and Childcare Offered During Monthly Meetings

Social Skills Groups for those with autism ages 4-adult are offered during our Thursday night meetings from 6:30—8:00. Additional groups are noted below:

Teen Social Skills Groups for those with Asperger's/High Functioning Autism, **Middle School Groups** for tweens with Asperger's/Autism, **Sibling Social Group** (ages 5-12) and an **Adult Social Skills Group** for those ages 21 and up. **Childcare** is also offered for those under age 4.

No RSVP required for these groups. A \$5.00 donation is suggested to help cover the program costs. Respite/Waiver funds are accepted.

Parents Back to School Luncheon

August 16, 2016

Join Spectrum parents at our annual Back to School Luncheon on **Tuesday, August 16, 2016** from 11:00 - 1:00 at **California Dreaming**, 1630 Cross Pointe Way, Lawrenceville, GA. Note this is a **NEW** location from prior years. Parents are responsible for paying for their own lunch and Spectrum will pick up the tip. Advance registration requested as seats are limited.

RSVP at www.atl-spectrum.com



Spectrum Autism
Support Group
is on Facebook — LIKE
us today

BREAKING NEWS!

Spectrum Organizational Changes

We are happy to announce that Spectrum has hired **Claire Dees** as our new Executive Director! Many of you know Claire as she has been the face of Spectrum since its inception 18 years ago, and has served as volunteer President for many of those years. As Executive Director, Claire will now be able to focus on Spectrum on a full-time basis.

Claire will report to the Spectrum Board of Directors, headed by Kelly Laco, Spectrum's new Board President. Kelly was previously Vice-President, serving alongside Claire.

Spectrum's Board of Directors will remain active in steering the direction of the organization, and Claire will be in charge of the day-to-day operations.

We are very excited about these changes and the future of Spectrum!

Spectrum Drama Club

Our next session of Drama Club will begin on September 12 and run through May 1. Drama Club meets on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 in the gym at Annandale Village (3500 Annandale Lane Suwanee, GA 30024). **Register and get all details at www.atl-spectrum.com**

Gift of Time Respite

Gift of Time Respite is offered one Saturday per month in collaboration with First Baptist Duluth. The 2016 Fall schedule is:

August 27, September 17

October 15, November 12

Registration is required for all attendees. A donation of \$5.00 donation is requested and respite vouchers may be used.

RSVP at www.atl-spectrum.com

Camp Journey Overnight Weekends

August 19-21 and October 28-30

Camp Journey is Spectrum's overnight camp focused on social skills, building friendships, teamwork, manners, and self-esteem. Camp activities include directed social skills instruction in a typical overnight camp setting. Camp takes place at Camp Twin Lakes/Will-A-Way at Fort Yargo State Park, Winder, GA. Cost is \$185 per camper (Respite vouchers, waivers and family support funds can be used). Weekends are a great way to reconnect friends made during summer overnight camp.



Our weekends start at 6:30PM on Friday and end at 10AM on Sunday. Our staff are experienced certified teachers or paraprofessionals trained in the characteristics and strategies of individuals on the spectrum.

Register at www.atl-spectrum.com

Georgia Race for Autism & Fall Festival

Saturday, October 1, 2016

Gwinnett County Fairgrounds

We hope to see many of our families at our 10th Annual 2016 Georgia Race for Autism - Spectrum's largest fundraiser of the year.

Proceeds from the Race help support our seven weeks of summer day camp, our school-year social skills groups and lots more!

Sign up to run the race, form a fundraising team, or volunteer at

www.georgiaraceforautism.com

Volunteer with Spectrum

We are always looking for great people to help us with our programs and events. To see what is available or to be added to our volunteer roster, please visit **www.atl-spectrum.com** and sign up using our volunteer form.

Studio Movie Grill

Spectrum is proud to team up with Studio Movie Grill (Duluth and Roswell) for the sensory friendly showings. SMG offers these movies FREE for children with special needs and their siblings. Adults pay just \$6 per ticket. Check out SMG's current special needs showings at **www.studiomoviegrill.com**

Saturday Social Skills Groups

Spectrum Fun & Friends Group

Elementary, or middle/high children with moderate ASD

Spend a Saturday participating in fun activities, working on social skills and adaptive behaviors in a small group setting.

Cost: \$50 per Saturday.

Saturday Social Skills Group

Elementary age children with HFA/Asperger's. The group will meet from noon to 4PM

on Select Saturdays

The cost is \$35 plus a \$2.50 registration fee.

Respite vouchers, waivers and family support funds can be used for both groups.

Both groups meet at New Directions in Suwanee

Get more info at www.atl-spectrum.com

Our Mission Statement

Spectrum provides support, education and resources for individuals and families impacted by autism