

# THE VOICE



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Full Spectrum Players Theater Presentation: <i>The Pied Piper</i>	2
ASK Easter Egg Hunt	3
ASK Walk for Autism Flyer	4
ASK Walk Donation Form	5
ASK Walk Sponsorship Levels	6
ASK Walk Sponsorship Levels	7
Social Groups/Puzzle Partners	8
Support Group Meetings	9
NEW Hiking Group	10
Conferences and Workshops	11
Social Group and Family Event Photos	12
Clubhouse Photos	13
Meijer Gardens Family Event	14
ASK Golf Classic	15



## Calendar:

### Board Meetings

ASK Office—160 68th St. SW  
Grand Rapids, 49548

6:30 p.m.

- April 11, 2022
- May 2, 2022
- June 6, 2022

### Social Groups for Teens and Young Adults

- April 21, 2022
- May 18, 2022
- June 3 and 4, 2022 — *Pied Piper Performances*
- June 15, 2022

### Parent/Caregiver Support Groups

- 5/12/22 (Newly Diagnosed)
- 5/12/22 (Transition Age)

### Easter Egg Hunt

- April 16, 2022

### Walk for Autism

- May 7, 2022

### Trip to Meijer Gardens

- June 21, 2022

### Golf Classic

- July 29, 2022



*Happy Spring everyone!*

## NEWS FROM ASK

This Spring is extra exciting to us because we have so much planned. As you know, our Theater Group has been hard at work with weekly practices for our “Pied Piper” play. This cast is amazing! We have 22 actors on the autism spectrum and 6 mentors working with us. The Directors — Ms. Laura H., Ms. Holly, and Ms. Madeline — are really fantastic. Mr. Mike and Ms. Laura S. are working a ton behind the scenes on, well — the scenery! It's awesome! We couldn't do it without them, so thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

Don't miss this show that is truly joyful. Seeing these actors challenge themselves and blossom and grow and have so much fun is so rewarding, and you won't want to miss it. Information is in this newsletter and on the ASK website.

Of course, Spring means it's Walk for Autism season too! The Walk for Autism is

important — not only as a way for us to gather, be seen, experience fellowship, get resources, and to have fun — it's also important because the funds raised at this event pay for over half of all that we do! Please join us at the Zoo on May 7, as a walker or donor. For every \$25 you donate or raise from others, you get into the event, get a shirt, and you get a one day pass to the zoo that can be used any day in the 2022 season.

We are now the most active autism organization in West Michigan. We feel the weight and responsibility of that. In order for us to continue to provide the many programs that we offer and to continue to be available as a resource and to grow and add new things, we need you! We exist only on donations, so every dollar really does count.

Please join us at the 2022 Walk for Autism so we can continue to make an impact in the lives of the awesome, talented, funny, kind, loving and loved, special, and unique people we serve.

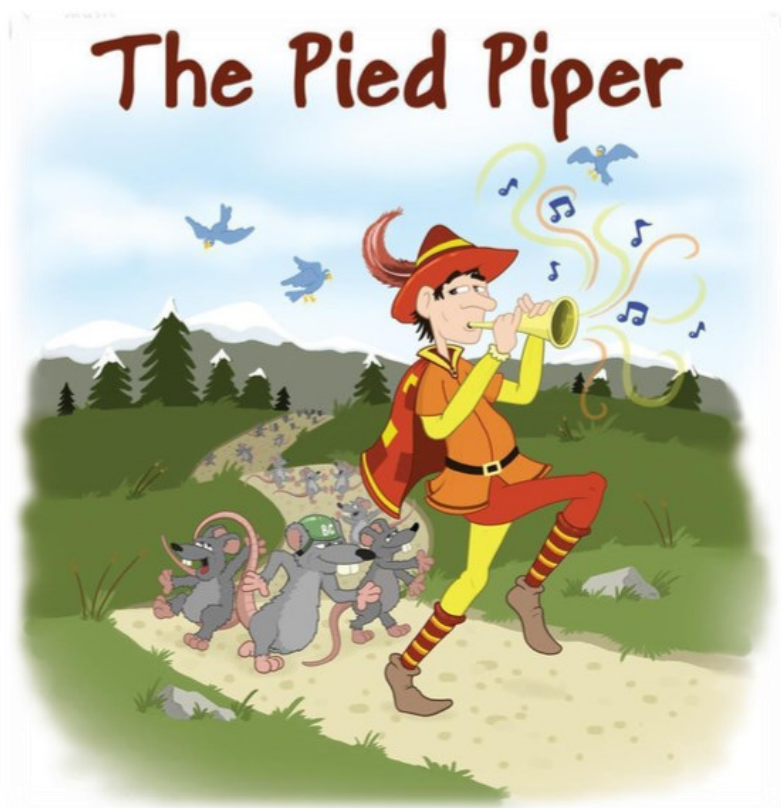
Thank you for being part of the family of ASK!

Pam Liggett  
ASK Executive Director

***The annual WALK FOR AUTISM draws a crowd of over 500 people!*** Would you like to donate an item or service to our Silent Auction? Would you like to showcase your business at our event and Resource Fair? Sponsorships start at \$150 and include benefits such as signage, participation in the Resource Fair, your logo on all t-shirts, and much more!

***Join us in supporting our family of autism at our largest annual event!***

**See pages 4 — 7 for more information!**



**NEW DATES!**

## **The Pied Piper**

Friday, June 3, 2022  
Saturday, June 4, 2022

**WE ARE THRILLED TO BE PUTTING ON OUR SECOND PLAY!**

**JOIN US AND OUR CAST OF 22 ACTORS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM FOR AN INCREDIBLE SHOW!**

Performances are Friday, June 3 at 7:00 pm, and Saturday, June 4 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each at the door and all proceeds go right back to support this program.

We will be performing in the auditorium of the Special Olympics Center. Park in the WEST lot.

For more information, contact Pam via email at [PamLiggettASKC@gmail.com](mailto:PamLiggettASKC@gmail.com), or call or text to 616-822-0944.

**See you at the show!!!!**



**AUTISM SUPPORT OF KENT COUNTY**

# **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**APRIL 16**

**10:00 TO 11:30 AM**

**DONUTS, GAMES, PRIZES,  
CRAFTS, ZOO ANIMALS, & EGG  
HUNT!**



**COST IS \$5 PER FAMILY!**

**THE EVENT WILL BE HELD IN THE GYM OF THE  
SPECIAL OLYMPICS CENTER. REGISTER AT  
[AUTISMSUPPORTOFKENTCOUNTY.ORG/EVENTS](http://AUTISMSUPPORTOFKENTCOUNTY.ORG/EVENTS)**



Autism Support of Kent County  
**WALK FOR AUTISM**

**SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022**

*Join Over 600 Participants!*



**ANNUAL WALK FOR AUTISM • Noon to 3:00 pm**

**John Ball Park and Zoo**

**1300 Fulton W, Grand Rapids**

**Fun • Food • Kids' Activities • Music • Resource Fair  
Zoo Pass • T-Shirt • Silent Auction • Walk in John Ball Park**

***JOIN TODAY AT [www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org/walk](http://www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org/walk)***

**AUTISM SUPPORT OF KENT COUNTY, INC. (GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN) IS A NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION OF PARENTS, SCHOOL STAFF, AND OTHERS WHO ACTIVELY SEEK TO SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) AND THEIR FAMILIES.**



## 2022 WALK FOR AUTISM EVENT

### Donation Form

- Date is Saturday, May 7
- Location: John Ball Park & Zoo - Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Expected attendance: 500+ people
- Resource Fair featuring autism-related businesses and services is included as part of the event
- Donated items are featured in Silent Auction or in drawings during the event
- Benefits of donating to our event include:
  - Company featured as a donor in all event publications
  - Company featured as a donor in ASK newsletter that has a distribution of over 500 people
  - Recognition as a company that is committed to the autism community

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM DONATED: \_\_\_\_\_

VALUE OF DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail form and item (gift certificates or monetary donations only please) to:**

Autism Support of Kent County (or ASK)

P.O. Box 150348, Grand Rapids, MI 49515

– or fax to **Celia Andrus at (810) 222-4892**

Contact Celia Andrus at 616-752-8577 or at [celia.andrus@gmail.com](mailto:celia.andrus@gmail.com) with questions or to arrange pick up or mailing of your donated item.

**\*\*\*Thank you for your donation! We are a 501c3 nonprofit organization, so your donation is tax-exempt and greatly appreciated! \*\*\***

## 2022 WALK FOR AUTISM SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH AUTISM SUPPORT OF KENT COUNTY

### **FUNDRAISING WALK FOR AUTISM EVENT**

Date is Saturday, May 7, 2022

Location: John Ball Park & Zoo

Expected attendance is 500—600 people

Resource Fair

- Gives you a chance to showcase your business' commitment to the autism community.
- Offers you a unique opportunity to pass out information and talk to potential customers.
- Almost every attendee will pass by your table!

Benefits of sponsorship may also include:

- Company name/logo on t-shirts that are given to all participants
- Name/logo on ASK home page
- Name/logo on ASK Facebook page
- Company featured as a sponsor in all event publications
- Company featured as a sponsor in ASK newsletter with a distribution of 500+ people
- Opportunity to welcome walkers from the podium
- Signage recognizing your company as a sponsor along the walk route
- Opportunity to pass out a coupon or promotional item to all attendees

Sponsorship benefits can be customized to meet your needs and range from \$150 — \$2,000

### **WANT TO WALK WITH US?**

<https://www.classy.org/campaign/2022-walk-for-autism-benefitting-autism-support-of-kent-county/c391310>

Register to walk with us or donate there.

Create a team and a fundraising page too.

**Contact Pam Liggett, ASK Executive Director for more information or to confirm your sponsorship.**

Voicemail: 616.752.8577

Cell Phone: 616.822.0944

Email: [pamliggettasc@gmail.com](mailto:pamliggettasc@gmail.com)

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

### **EXCLUSIVE EVENT SPONSOR — \$2,000 (SOLD)**

- Company name/logo featured on top and/or on front of t-shirts given to all participants
- Opportunity to welcome walkers from the podium
- Name/logo on ASK home page as Event Sponsor
- Name/logo on ASK Facebook page as Event Sponsor
- Company featured as a sponsor in all event publications
- Company featured as Event Sponsor in ASK newsletter with distribution of 500+ people
- TWO signs recognizing your company as Event Sponsor along the walk route
- "Welcome" sign will have company logo as Event Sponsor
- Opportunity to pass out a coupon or promotional item to all attendees
- Resource Fair
  - If desired, your company will be given a prime location to showcase your business' commitment to the autism community.
  - Offers you a unique opportunity to pass out information and talk to potential customers.
- EIGHT passes to the Zoo and EIGHT event t-shirts

Continued on page 7

**WALK SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Continued from page 6

**GOLD SPONSOR — \$1,000**

- Company name/logo featured on t-shirts that are given to all participants
- Name/logo on ASK home page as Gold Sponsor
- Name/logo on ASK Facebook page as Gold Sponsor
- Company featured as a sponsor in all event publications
- Company featured as Gold Sponsor in ASK newsletter with distribution of 500+ people
- TWO signs recognizing your company as Gold Sponsor along the walk route
- Resource Fair
  - If desired, your company will be given a prime location to showcase your business' commitment to the autism community.
  - Offers you a unique opportunity to pass out information and talk to potential customers.
  - SIX passes to the Zoo and SIX event t-shirts.

**SILVER SPONSOR — \$500**

- Company name/logo featured on t-shirts that are given to all participants
- Name/logo on ASK home page as Silver Sponsor
- Name/logo on ASK Facebook page as Silver Sponsor
- Company featured as a sponsor in all event publications
- Company featured as Silver Sponsor in ASK newsletter with distribution of 500+ people
- ONE sign recognizing your company as Silver Sponsor along the walk route
- Resource Fair
  - If desired, your company will be given a table in a prominent location to showcase your business' commitment to the autism community.
  - Offers you a unique opportunity to pass out information and talk to potential customers.
- FOUR passes to the Zoo and FOUR event t-shirts

**BRONZE SPONSOR — \$300**

- Company name/logo featured on t-shirts that are given to all participants
- Name/logo on ASK home page as Bronze Sponsor
- Name/logo on ASK Facebook page as Bronze Sponsor
- Company featured as a sponsor in all event publications
- Company featured as Bronze Sponsor in ASK newsletter with distribution of 500+ people
- Resource Fair
  - If desired, your company will be given a table in a prominent location to showcase your business' commitment to the autism community.
  - Offers you a unique opportunity to pass out information and talk to potential customers.
- TWO passes to the Zoo and TWO event t-shirts

**WALK SIGN SPONSOR — \$150**

- ONE sign with your company's name and logo that will be placed along the walk route
- Company featured as a sponsor in all event publications
- Company featured as sponsor in ASK newsletter with distribution of 500+ people

**SIGN SPONSOR & RESOURCE FAIR EXHIBITOR — \$175**

- ONE sign with your company's name and logo that will be placed along the walk route
- Company featured as a sponsor in all event publications
- Company featured as sponsor in ASK newsletter with a distribution of 500+ people
- Resource Fair
  - If desired, your company will be given a table in a prominent location to showcase your business' commitment to the autism community.
  - Offers you a unique opportunity to pass out information and talk to potential customers.

# SOCIAL GROUP

TEENS AND  
YOUNG  
ADULTS



Thursday, April 21, 2022  
UNO & Game Night  
6:30 – 8:00 pm  
\$5.00 payable at the event (free for guardians)  
Special Olympics Unified Center

Wednesday, May 18, 2022  
Trip to the Ice Cream Shop  
6:30 – 8:00 pm  
No cost to attend – ASK is treating!

Friday, June 3, 2022 and  
Saturday, June 4, 2022  
"Pied Piper" Performances

Wednesday, June 15, 2022  
Activity TBD – We hope to make our own pizzas, but this will depend on construction in the building.  
6:30 – 8:00 pm  
\$5.00 payable at the event (free for guardians)



160 – 68th Street SW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49548  
Details on the ASK Website

## Are you interested in a Social Group for Elementary-Age Kiddos?

We are gathering interest regarding the start of a Social Group for kids with autism who are in elementary school. Dates and times TBD.

If you are interested, please contact Pam – [PamLiggettASKC@gmail.com](mailto:PamLiggettASKC@gmail.com) or by phone/text to 616-822-0944.

Are you an **adult with autism over age 30**, or do you know someone who fits that description? If so, join us for support, resource-sharing, understanding, and friendship.

This group will meet later in April, so please email me for information at [PamLiggettASKC@gmail.com](mailto:PamLiggettASKC@gmail.com)

## Puzzle Partners Social Groups

Puzzle Partners is another one of our Social Group Programs. These are friendship/social groups for teens and young adults who have Asperger Syndrome, high-functioning autism, or some other social impairment. If you are interested in an opportunity to make friends and have fun, please contact ASK Executive Director, Pam Liggett, for more information. Pam's email is [pam-liggett@askc.com](mailto:pam-liggett@askc.com). The ASK phone number is 616-752-8577.

### UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

**Teens:** April 21

Email: [teenpuzzlepartners@gmail.com](mailto:teenpuzzlepartners@gmail.com) for information

**Young Adults:** April 14

Email: [puzzlepartnersya@gmail.com](mailto:puzzlepartnersya@gmail.com) for information

**Older Adults:** TBD

**ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP:** May 5 – Topic is "Dating"



Puzzle Partners creates a safe space for teens, young adults and "older" adults (over age 30) to belong, try new things, make friends, and expand their horizons. The Teen and Young Adult Groups are led by Jennie. The Older Adult Group is led by Ann Mary.



## Parent/Caregiver Support Group For Newly-Diagnosed Families

*Thursday, May 12, 2022 (In Person)  
6:00–7:30 pm*

*This group is open to anyone, but will focus on  
issues facing newly-diagnosed families.*

The group will be facilitated by ASK Executive Director, a School Social Worker, and an Autism Teacher Consultant.

Contact Pam with questions or to RSVP:  
Voicemail at 616-752-8577, text at 616-822-0944, or email at [PamLiggettASKC@gmail.com](mailto:PamLiggettASKC@gmail.com)

We will meet in room #5 of the Special Olympics Center where we house our office. It's located at 160 - 68th Street SW, Grand Rapids, between US131 and Division, on the south side of the street. Park in the EAST lot and enter under the BLUE triangular roof, and head down the hall to room #5.

## Parent/Caregiver Support Group For Transition-Age Issues

*Thursday, May 12, 2022 (In-Person)  
7:30–9:00 pm*

*This group is open to anyone, but will focus on  
issues facing kids exiting the school system  
into employment, recreational programs,  
and housing.*

The group will be facilitated by ASK Executive Director, a School Social Worker, and a seasoned parent.

We will meet in room #5 of the Special Olympics Center where we house our office. It's located at 160 - 68th Street SW, Grand Rapids, between US131 and Division, on the south side of the street. Park in the EAST lot and enter under the BLUE triangular roof, and head down the hall to room #5.

Contact Pam with questions or to RSVP:  
Voicemail at 616-752-8577, text at 616-822-0944, or email at [PamLiggettASKC@gmail.com](mailto:PamLiggettASKC@gmail.com)

Visit our website to view and/or  
download the ASK Community  
Resource Directory:  
[www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org](http://www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org)



## NEW Hiking Group Coming Soon!

WE ARE PLANNING TO LAUNCH A HIKING GROUP IN MAY!

DATES & TIMES TBD!!!

This group will meet every other week, starting in May, for light hikes that are 60 – 90 minutes in length.

Trails will be researched and planned in advance. This will be for anyone ages 10 and up. A parent or guardian will be asked to attend too.

If you are interested, please let us know.  
Email [pamliggettasc@gmail.com](mailto:pamliggettasc@gmail.com)



## Sensory STORYTIME



Designed for children that may need extra sensory support, Sensory Storytime combines traditional storytime components with sensory elements to enhance the experience... all from the comfort of your own home.



Kent District Library

[kdl.org/sensorystorytime](http://kdl.org/sensorystorytime)

Did you know that the Kent District Library (KDL) offers awesome Sensory Storytimes virtually? The content is added to each month as well!

The KDL also offers a free service called “Talking Books and Braille”. They will send a device and audiobooks to anyone who doesn’t read! It’s totally customizable with content for kids, teens, and young adults, so get off YouTube and get into books!

They even offer American Sign Language learning! Check it out online or call them today at (616) 784-2007. [www.kdl.org/sensorystorytime](http://www.kdl.org/sensorystorytime)

amazon

smile

When you shop at **AmazonSmile** and designate Autism Support of Kent County as your charity, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to ASK. For more information, and to add ASK as your charity of choice, visit: <http://smile.amazon.com>

***Thank you and happy shopping!***

## Conferences, Workshops and Webinars

### Michigan Alliance for Families On-Demand Free Webinar Series

A webinar is an online presentation you can attend without having to leave your home or office. It's an opportunity to hear an expert speak for about an hour on a topic that interests you. These webinars can be viewed at any time on the Michigan Alliance for Families YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MichiganAlliance/videos>

### Online Learning Opportunities

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/upcoming-events/>

### Autism Alliance of Michigan List of Virtual and In-Person Community Events:

<https://autismallianceofmichigan.org/events/>

### TACA's Autism Action Month Conference — Virtual April 8–9, 2022

TACA's Autism Action Month Conference will feature two tracks of presentations from a line-up of experts, covering all stages and aspects of the autism journey.

<https://tacanow.org>

### Behavior is Communication (Two-Part Webinar)

April 22 and April 29, 2022 1:00 — 2:30 PM EDT

Sally Burton-Hoyle is an autism expert, but the information in this workshop is useful regardless of the disability label your child/young adult may have.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/52v38at4>

### 21st Annual START Conference

May 2, 2022 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center

219 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing, MI 48824

Focus: Secondary Transition

<https://www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/start-conference-167.htm>

### NAC (National Autism Conference)

In-Person and Virtual Options Available

Valley Forge Casino Resort

King of Prussia — Philadelphia

May 5–6, 2022

Keynote Speakers: J.B. and Jamison Handley

<https://nac.nationalautismassociation.org/>

### Annual Michigan Autism Conference

October 6–7, 2022

Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center

100 W Michigan Avenue

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

<https://wmuace.com/mac>



## Music Therapy Videos!

MUSIC THERAPY UPDATE: Thanks to the awesome creativity of the therapists at the Franciscan Life Process Center, we are able to offer and deliver Music Therapy — despite not being able to go into classrooms. Now everyone can get Music Therapy, too! ALL 30 of our custom-made-just-for-you Music Therapy Videos are up on our website now!

*Thanks so much to the awesome Music Therapists at the Franciscan Life Process Center!*

Anyone is welcome to use these anytime they wish. They are fantastic and can be found under the Resources tab on the ASK website. Enjoy!



## COVID-19 POLICIES

- We ask all in attendance to self-screen before deciding to attend. Please do not attend if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or have recently been exposed to COVID.
- You will attend our events and programs at your own risk. All programs and services will be conducted in accordance with local restrictions and guidelines in effect at time of program.
- Please call Pam Liggett at 616-752-8577 with any questions or concerns.



## FAMILY EVENTS

### Bowling at Clique Lanes

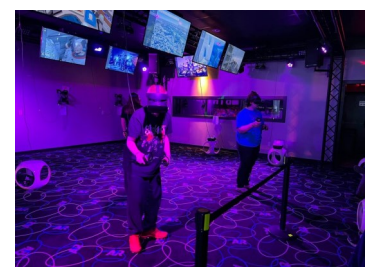
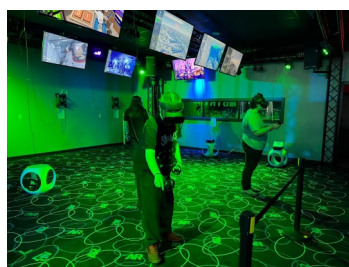
### Sensory Friendly Night at The Grand Rapids Civic Theatre



## TEEN/YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL GROUP

### Valentine's Day/UNO Tournament

### Amped Virtual Reality





**Clubhouse  
Social Program**

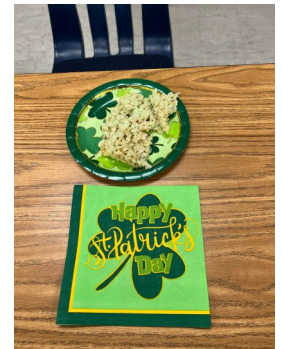
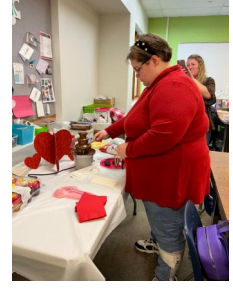
**Drumming with Josh  
Dunigan**

**Making Blankets for  
the Homeless**

**Valentine's Day Party**

**Art Workshop with  
Shannon Andrus of  
Hearts for the Arts**

**St. Patrick's Day Party**



# FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK



**Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm**

Meijer Gardens, 1000 East Beltline Ave. NE, Grand Rapids

*Join us for a wonderful trip to Meijer Gardens!*

*This event is open to anyone with autism and their family. Cost is a greatly-reduced price of \$5 each. We will meet at the main entrance to the Gardens and explore on our own.*

**YOU MUST RSVP TO Pam via email at: [PamLiggettASKC@gmail.com](mailto:PamLiggettASKC@gmail.com)  
or by text to (616)-822-0944. We hope to see you there!**



**AUTISM SUPPORT OF  
KENT COUNTY**



# GOLF CLASSIC

**JULY 29th, 2022**  
**1:00 PM SHOTGUN START**

Proceeds from this event will be used to  
make life better and more productive for  
individuals with autism.

**Sign up at: [autismsupportofkentcounty.org/ask-golf-classic](https://autismsupportofkentcounty.org/ask-golf-classic)**

## **THORNAPPLE POINTE GOLF COURSE**

7211 48TH STREET SE  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49512

**SPONSORSHIPS  
AVAILABLE!**

**\$100**

PER PERSON

**\$360**

FOURSOME

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL US AT  
**616-752-8577 or 616-822-0944**  
OR EMAIL: [pamliggettasc@gmail.com](mailto:pamliggettasc@gmail.com)

This event has been taking place for over 15 years, has a great following of loyal golfers, and event proceeds go to the important programs of Autism Support of Kent County. We provide over \$80,000 worth of programs and services annually that benefit the special people we serve!



## ***Remember ASK in Your Estate Plan***

We often receive gifts in memory of an individual who has been touched by autism. Thank you to these special families who think of ASK at such a sad time.

Please remember ASK in your estate plans, too. These gifts are treated with the utmost care and respect. Contact us for more information on how you can include ASK in your charitable giving plans at 616-752-8577.



Heart of West Michigan United Way investors can choose to designate all or part of their annual contributions to Autism Support of Kent County.

To designate your gift to ASK, use the United Way Designation Form and write: *Autism Support of Kent County, Grand Rapids, Michigan*. Thank you!

## **Do you facebook ?**

To find our Facebook page, simply type ***Autism Support of Kent County*** in the "Search" bar located in the upper left corner. Click on "like" to join our page and receive updates. *Be sure to tell your friends and family!*

### **Disclaimers**

Articles, conferences, workshops, presenters or information contained in this newsletter or at meetings are not endorsed by Autism Support of Kent County. Articles occasionally offer information about medical/pharmacological research, treatment and therapies or legal issues. This information is given for informational purposes and is not intended to act as a substitute for professional advice. Readers are encouraged to consult with their own practitioners for individual or specific advice.



## **Autism Support of Kent County**

*Autism Support of Kent County (ASK) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization of parents, school staff, and others who actively seek to support and advocate for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.*

*ASK is committed to partnering with local schools and agencies to promote the welfare of individuals with ASD in our community.*

*Please note that Autism Support of Kent County does not endorse any specific therapy, product, treatment, strategy, opinions, service, or individual.*