

THE VOICE



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Calendar:

Board Meetings

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

6:30 p.m., Public welcome.

- October 12, 2020
- November 2, 2020

Events:

Parent Support Group

- October 13, 2020
- November 10, 2020

Social Group for Teens and Young Adults

- October 10, 2020
- October 28, 2020
- November 4, 2020
- November 18, 2020
- December 9, 2020

Post Family Farms Event

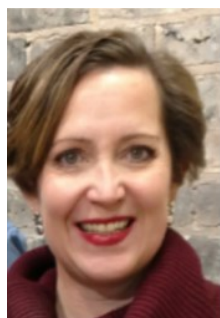
- October 19, 2020

Family Bowling Party

- November Date TBD

Family Holiday Party

- December 14, 2020



NEWS FROM ASK

Thank you all so very much for your loyal support in these strange times. We are consistently surprised by your generosity and extra efforts to make sure we have been able to stay viable in these challenging days, as we cancelled, changed and reworked our two major fundraisers. The number of people who have stepped up to give an extra donation, create a new event, work as we change things, or just help us make decisions have been astounding. We will never forget your generous gifts!

We appreciate your flexibility and willingness to follow all guidelines as we get back together. As we continue to plan events, your safety is our most important priority, so we have planned events with safety and cleanliness in mind. Please do join us if you feel comfortable doing so. As always, things are subject to change, so please check our Facebook page and website, as we update these regularly.

For the rest of 2020, we have some fun stuff planned for both families and for our Social Group. Puzzle Partners is going strong, too. We are especially proud of our new approach to supporting teachers and classrooms. We are funding mini-grants, up to \$500 each, for programs and materials for schools. Additionally, we are commissioning Music Therapy videos for viewing by classrooms at any time that works for them. With restrictions on visitors to schools, we needed a new way of doing things, and are partnering with the Franciscan Life Process Center to offer Music Therapy in this new way.

And finally, thank you all for making the Drive Through "Walk" for Autism a spectacular event! Attendance was great! The Resource Fair was so informative and awesome, and it was, as a whole, even better than we hoped for. Our sponsors are amazing! Most of them came on board before March, and they stayed and worked with us and contributed financially to help us stay afloat. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

We can't wait to see you soon! Take care!

Pam Liggett
ASK Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE:

Family Holiday Party — December 14, 2020

Details to be announced soon!

SOCIAL GROUP

TEENS AND
YOUNG
ADULTS



LET'S GATHER FOR SOME FUN!

Saturday, October 10, 2020
Grand Rapids Public Museum

Wednesday, October 28, 2020
Halloween Pizza Party
Special Olympics Unified Center

Wednesday, November 4, 2020
Dance Workshop
Special Olympics Unified Center

Wednesday, November 18, 2020
Movie Night
Special Olympics Unified Center

Wednesday, December 9, 2020
Social Group Holiday Party
Special Olympics Unified Center

Details will be available on Facebook and in
email updates. Stay tuned!



160 – 68th Street SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

Autism Support of Kent County Presents

A Virtual Support Group Featuring Hillary Hatch from the Social Security Administration

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

7:00 p.m.



Presenter:
Hillary Hatch
Area Work Incentive Coordinator
Social Security Administration

This is a VIRTUAL presentation about the ins and outs of SSI and the qualifications for it.

We plan to record this presentation and put it on our website, so choose **AUDIO ONLY** if you'd rather not be taped.

For questions, call or text Pam at: 616-822-0944.

The ZOOM Call info is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89689493524>

No password is required.

We hope to "see" you on October 13th!



Autism Support of Kent County P. O. Box 150348 Grand Rapids, MI, 49515 www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org

Autism Support of Kent County Presents

A Virtual Support Group Featuring Dr. Michael Wolff from BRAINS

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

7:00 p.m.



Presenter:
Michael Wolff, PsyD, ABPdN
Neuropsychologist/Co-Owner
BRAINS

In this VIRTUAL presentation, Dr. Wolff will address issues facing young adults on the spectrum, as well as school challenges for any child with autism. He will also leave plenty of time for Q&A.

We plan to record this presentation and put it on our website, so choose **AUDIO ONLY** if you'd rather not be taped.

For questions, call or text Pam at: 616-822-0944.

The ZOOM Call info is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89343547036>

No password is required.

We hope to "see" you on November 10th!



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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!*

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.

Conferences, Workshops, and Webinars

Michigan Alliance for Families On Demand 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 free webinars can be viewed anytime on the Michigan Alliance for Families YouTube Channel at:

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

8th Annual Michigan Autism "Virtual" Conference October 8-9, 2020

The 2020 virtual conference will include a mix of live and OnDemand offerings from 50+ speakers! Keynote sessions will be live throughout the day on October 8-9. Keynote sessions will be recorded for OnDemand access after their presentation. Workshops will be live and available on October 7th only. Workshops will be interactive and require audience participation! OnDemand content will be available for access from October 8 — November 8, 2020.

<https://www.michiganautismconference.org/registration>

MINI GRANTS FOR TEACHERS AND CLASSROOMS AVAILABLE NOW!

Applications being accepted now for up to \$500.00 each for programs and materials for schools!

Email Pam at
pam@autismsupportofkentcounty.org
for an application if you didn't receive one in an email.

Deadline to apply is Sunday, October 11, at 12:00 noon.



Heart of West Michigan
United Way

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!

Visit our website to view and/or
download the ASK Community
Resource Directory:
www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org





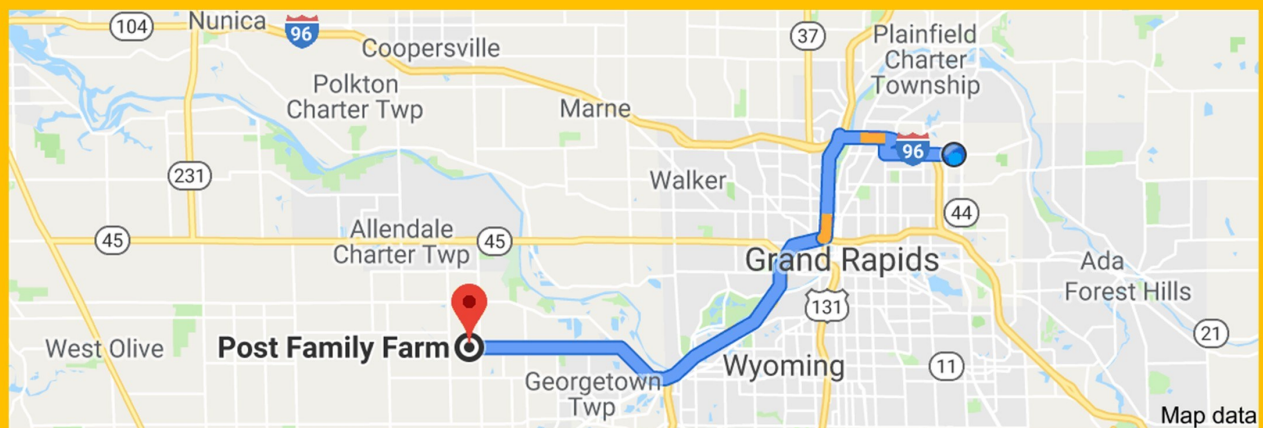
Post Family Farm and Autism Support of Kent County invite you to come out and enjoy an evening on the farm!

**Monday, October 19
6:00 — 8:00 pm**

Cider, donuts, hayride to the Pumpkin Patch and lots of fun on the farm!

Cost is \$3.00 per person — Register and pay on the website: www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org (click on "Events")

Space is limited and you must RSVP to reserve tickets.



5081 Bauer Road, Hudsonville, MI 49426



Thanks to everyone who came out to our "Walk" for Autism Drive-Thru Event!

A very special thanks to our awesome volunteers and ASK Board. Without them, nothing we do would be possible.

We are beyond grateful for our generous and loyal sponsors. Most of them came on board when this event was our traditional Walk Event. After COVID changed things, they stayed — and we are so appreciative of their loyal generosity!

Thanks also to the Resource Providers who set up booths under the unusual circumstances and spoke with families and handed out resources and goodies.

Finally, thanks to Yesterdog for coming out to offer a delicious lunch for purchase!

Visit the ASK Facebook page to see more photos!





Thanks to our generous 2020 Walk Sponsors!!

Event Sponsor

Rehmann

Gold Sponsors

CONNOR

Elias Dental

J & H Family Stores

Pienton Family Foundation

Purposeful Wealth Strategies

Putt Putts Bar

Silver Sponsors

Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM)

Behavior Analysts of West Michigan

Braintrust Behavioral Health, LLC

Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD)

Cascade Engineering

Developmental Enhancement Behavioral Health

Gateway Pediatric Therapy, LLC

Lacks Engineering

Magna

Positive Behavior Supports Corporation

Bronze Sponsors

Autism Spectrum Therapies (AST)

BRAINS

Hearts for the Arts

The Mitten Brewing Company

Kent Medical Foundation

MOKA

Sign and Resource Fair Sponsors

Early Autism Services

Pro Care Unlimited—Grand Rapids

Congratulations to our top three fundraising teams!

Team Ethan — \$1,840.00

Team Dojo — \$600.00

Team Jordan — \$300.00

Thanks for your fundraising efforts during this challenging time! We will be delivering yard signs to you soon!

AUTISM SUPPORT OF KENT COUNTY

P. O. BOX 150348
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49515

Phone: (616) 752-8577
autismsupportofkentcounty.org
Email: info@autismsupportofkentcounty.org

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.