

MARCH 2023
ISSUE 08

Community Newsletter



Partners in AUTISM

FAMILY OWNED • FAMILY FOCUSED



A Word from the Owners

Building on the strengths of our staff, we've worked to establish and expand programs to benefit all our services. One program we're highlighting in this newsletter is our newly created Life Skills program. We designed the program with a focus on the person, not a specific funding source. The program is being piloted with some of our clients and then will be opened to the whole community. Read more on page 2! We are looking forward to announcing more new programs in the year to come.

- **Tommy Guest and Camile Voglewede**

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LIFE-SKILLS PROGRAM

Where Learning Leads to Independence



How do you know if food has gone bad?
 How do you plan a meal?
 How do you crack an egg or slice produce?

These are all topics we've practiced hands on in our new Life Skills program. Once a week, some of our older ABA clients visit our full-service kitchen and take an active part in learning how to be safe in the kitchen and how to make healthy food choices. Our activities and curriculum are all custom designed by our own staff, giving us the flexibility to meet our clients' unique needs.

After this first unit of "Nutrition and Food Safety," our next unit will be "Daily Living."



Preparing for a Community Wide Program

While we've been piloting our new Life Skills program with our older ABA clients, we've also had an eye on a broader future for our program. We look forward to offering an all-ages Life Skills program that will be open to the community in the near future.

During each session, we've taken notes of which activities have been most helpful and how we will change the ones that haven't met our expectations. We're working to learn as much as our clients so we can continue to improve the program's curriculum and serve a need in our community.



VOLUNTEERING TIME TO CLIENTS' PARENTS

"Hectic" and "Holiday" tend to go hand-in-hand. So we decided to give some extra time to the parents of our ABA clients. Fifteen of our ABA staff volunteered to come in on a mid-December Saturday to look after our ABA kiddos and siblings. This gave some precious time to their parents to do some holiday shopping, take care of other holiday prep, or just take a moment to pamper themselves! We all enjoyed playing games, decorating cookies, and spending quality time together. Thank you to all the staff members who volunteered - you all are amazing and so much appreciated!



Deck the Halls with Gaudiness!

We had a great day comparing sweaters bedazzled in tinsel and silly characters. Our votes went dramatically to the staff and client who had a strong DIY attitude and crafted their own "Ugly." Yes, those logs are toilet paper rolls!



FROM INTEREST TO EMPLOYMENT

Phase 1:
Discovery



How do our employment specialists help their clients obtain meaningful and fulfilling work?

First, they have to get to know their client. Often, clients aren't sure what type of job will be right for them, so our employment specialists ask about their interests and hobbies.

An individual's hobbies can reveal a lot about their skill sets. For example, having a hobby of playing Minecraft can indicate aptitude for spatial awareness, making and executing plans, and maintaining focus on multiple inputs.

As our employment specialists get to know their clients, they dig into the details and contexts of their interests. For example, an individual who enjoys baking might only be interested in baking for friends and family or they might want to work in a bakery or they might want to pursue starting their own small business.

Our employment specialists then help their clients decide how they want to apply a broad interest. For example, an individual who is skilled in creative writing might be more interested in writing promotional material as a copywriter or writing character dialog as a user-experience writer.

Community Contacts

Our Employment Specialists took part in a networking event at Electric Works this February. They made new community contacts in the fields of graphic design and copywriting. We're looking forward to future job shadowing and informational interview opportunities with these contacts!

We'd like to highlight Proximo, Blaze Pizza, Subway, and Gordon Food Service as employment partners. They have continued to provide opportunities for clients to explore careers within service industries.



BOWLING SOCIAL GROUP FOR PAC

We just hosted our second monthly Bowling Social event for our PAC clients. Open to all ages, family members, and DSPs, this group meets at Crazy Pinz for a round of "Cosmic Bowling," fun times, and meaningful relationships.

This is proving to be a great socialization opportunity not only for clients but also for their DSPs who can swap tips and strengthen connections.

Registration forms are sent out monthly. Make sure to register early and accurately so we can reserve the right number of lanes and assign lanes by age groups. We hope to see you on March 28!

PART TIME JOB; FULL TIME IMPACT

Want something meaningful to do with your evenings or weekends? Wish you could get paid to impact someone's world?

Be a DSP!

A Direct Support Professional (DSP) works one-on-one with clients of all ages in the home or in the community to help them achieve their goals and develop skills as they participate in activities that interest them. For more information or to become a DSP, email Megan, our Director of PAC Services, at Megan.P@PartnersinAutism.com.



See Our Youth on Stage!

Two of our PAC clients have been working hard since January on a stage production of Aesop's Fables. They, along with other neurodiverse youth, have been studying their lines, practicing their movements, and learning all about how to bring stories to life on stage. Come see them perform on April 7th, 8th, or 9th! Information and tickets available at <https://www.fortwayneyouththeatre.org/aesops-fables>

New Staff
ABA, PAC, and Admin



ABA - Behavior Technicians: Britany, Grace, Emily;
Admin - Benefit Specialist: Chloe;
PAC - DSPs: Emily, Aleena, Brooklyn, Amanda



ALWAYS GROWING



Hiring for

Full Time - Fort Wayne

BCBA

APPLY



PartnersinAutism.com

*Sign-on
bonus and
competitive
pay*

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE OF FAMILY OWNED

- Collaborative support with case loads
- Direct, meaningful connections with clients and families

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis
- Certified with the BACB

Want to earn a BCBA certification on the job? Learn about our Program Coordinator position and the supportive benefits we offer. Contact Courtne@PartnersinAutism.com

COMMUNITY



DR. SEUSS PARTY

"The more that you READ, the more things you will KNOW."

One fish, two fish,

Oh don't you wish

You could pack more reading and sensory fun into your day?

Then come out and join us on Sunday March 19th from noon-3 at PFW's Walb Ballroom. We'll be celebrating International Read to Me Day and the month of Dr. Seuss's birthday in this FREE sensory friendly event hosted by My Autism Ally and PFW. Find us at the "Horton Hears a Who" booth - we've been busily crafting our decor and can't wait to spend time with you and your family! Invite some friends as well and join us in celebrating the power of reading, having fun with crafts, enjoying lots of sensory fun, and sharing resources.

OUR NEWEST BCBA

Staff Spotlight



**BCBA:
Logan Neuman**

From behavior technician to program coordinator to Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Logan Neuman is dedicated to learning everything she can to best serve her clients. Logan was a Program Coordinator with us for a year, and passed her BCBA exam in early January to be a BCBA for Partners in Autism.

BCBAs create individualized treatment plans, assess client progress via observations and data, and ensure that programs are being implemented correctly and consistently so clients can reach socially significant goals.

Logan is dedicated to each client and staff in an individualized manner and truly wants to get to know each person for who they are. She is fully a client focused BCBA and is really thriving with her new caseload. She does a beautiful job creating a positive rapport with her behavior technicians and the families of her clients. We are so excited to watch her continue to grow with her new position as a BCBA! Way to go, Logan!

Upcoming Events

**Spirit Day: Wear Green -
March 17**

**PAC Client Game Night -
March 17**
Registration required in
advance to
Mariah@PartnersinAutism.com

**PAC Bowling Social Group -
March 28**
Registration required in
advance to
Mariah@PartnersinAutism.com

**Adult Aspergers Group
2nd Monday monthly
6:30-8:00pm at Partners
in Autism**

**Sensory Friendly Dr. Seuss
Party at PFW - March 19,
Noon-3pm**
Hosted by My Autism Ally

**Northeast Indiana
Disabilities Expo - May 16**