

Our Mission

The Autism Society is the leading voice and resource of the entire autism community in education, advocacy, services, research and support. The Autism Society is committed to meaningful participation and self-determination in all aspects of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. The Autism Society accomplishes its ongoing mission through close collaboration with a successful network of chapters, members and supporters.

Local Chapter Activities

- Summer Camp (June)
- Bowling Parties (September – April)
- Skating Parties (September – March)
- Swimming Parties (June – August)
- Advocacy
- Information Exchange
- Parent Education
- Fundraisers

Look for more events coming soon!

Our Vision

The Autism Society envisions a world in which individuals and families living with autism are able to maximize their quality of life, are treated with the highest level of dignity, and live in a society in which their talents and skills are appreciated and valued.

Autism Society Mission Areas

Advocacy

Education

Information & Referral

Support

Community

Prevalence of Autism

1 in every 59 births in the United States – **twice as great** as the 2004 rate of 1 in 125 – and almost 1 in 54 boys.



Westmoreland County
Affiliate

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disability; signs typically appear during early childhood and affect a person's ability to communicate, and interact with others. ASD is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum condition" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. There is no known single cause of autism, but increased awareness and early diagnosis/intervention and access to appropriate services/supports lead to significantly improved outcomes. Some of the behaviors associated with autism include delayed learning of language; difficulty making eye contact or holding a conversation; difficulty with executive functioning, which relates to reasoning and planning; narrow, intense interests; poor motor skills' and sensory sensitivities. Again, a person on the spectrum might follow many of these behaviors or just a few, or many others besides. The diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder is applied based on analysis of all behaviors and their severity.

For more information on developmental milestones, visit the CDC's "[Learn the Signs. Act Early](#)" site. Here are some signs to look for:

- Lack of or delay in spoken language
- Repetitive use of language and/or motor mannerisms (e.g., hand-flapping, twirling objects)
- Little or no eye contact
- Lack of interest in peer relationships
- Lack of spontaneous or make-believe play
- Persistent fixation on parts of objects

Autism Society Quality of Life Indicators

Respect and Dignity

Inclusion

Communication

Health and Well-being

Safety

Academic Success

Social Connections

Independent Living

Meaningful Employment with Fair Wages

Financial Stability

Recreation and Leisure

Subjective Well-being

Self-Identity and Acceptance

Autonomy and Self-Sufficiency

Pursuit of Dreams

 **AUTISM SOCIETY**



For More Information



Autism Society of America – Westmoreland County Affiliate

Address:

PO Box 825 Greensburg PA 15601

Phone:

724-243-2721

Email:

info@asa-wcc.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WCC.ASA

National Autism Society of America

Address:

4340 East-West Hwy, Suite 350
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Phone:

1 (800) 328-8476

Interested in volunteering, assisting with our Board of Directors, helping with fundraisers, or getting on our email mailing list?

Just let us know!