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*Life is not waiting for the storm to pass, it is about learning to dance in the rain"*  
(Autism Mom's Love).

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**2017 AUTISM AWARENESS WALK IS SATURDAY APRIL 1**

The annual Autism Awareness walk presented by the Autism Society of the Quad Cities, is scheduled for Saturday, April 1. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 9:00 a.m. The walk is at the Pepsico Center, 1025 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island. It is an indoor facility.

The event includes an indoor walk, information tables, a DJ, face-painting, food, and activities for children. We plan to have showings available of an episode of the PBS show "Dinosaur Train," which will feature the characters' reactions to a young dinosaur who is "different

There is no charge to attend.

For more information: [www.autismqc.org](http://www.autismqc.org)

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**SEE A SPECIAL DOCUMENTARY ON APRIL 13**

"The Swim Team" is an inspiring documentary film about a swim team made up of teen boys on the autism spectrum whose parents organized a competitive swim team for them.

The Autism Society of the Quad Cities will present a free screening of this award-winning documentary on Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Putnam Museum Theater, 1717 W.12<sup>th</sup> Street, Davenport,

There is no charge to attend. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Those who attend can register for prizes offered by the Putnam Museum, including a one-year family membership/

Our collaborators are Hand in Hand and the Royal Ball Run for Autism.

For more information: Call Gary Rowe 309-948-3403 or [gnrowe47@gmail.com](mailto:gnrowe47@gmail.com)

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### **ASQC ASSISTS FAMILIES WITH COSTS AGAIN IN 2017**

Autism Society of the Quad Cities will continue our program that assists both children and adults on the spectrum with expense associated with autism and its effects.

Examples of eligible expenses fees for children include occupational therapy and speech therapy, medication, counseling fees, or registration for therapeutic activities like Challenger Little League or Davenport Junior Theatre's "Theatre on the Spectrum" program.

For adults, eligible costs include medication, bus passes, or the cost of books for students enrolled in post-high school college classes or training.

Reimbursement is limited to \$250 per person per year.

In order to be reimbursed, the individual must submit a request for reimbursement that includes an invoice from the provider or vendor of service.

The form used to request assistance is attached.

ASQC will issue checks once a month after the board meets on the third Thursday of the month.

In 2016, the first year for the program, ASQC provided \$4,492.56 to 21 different individuals in our service area.

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### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

There are a number of events scheduled in the coming months that can be of interest to persons on the spectrum. The calendar also is on our website at [www.autismqc.org](http://www.autismqc.org).

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## **March 10—WINTER WONDERLAND**

The Augustana College Speech and Language Clinic students are sponsoring a "Winter Wonderland" (indoor) event for persons ages 16-40 who have disabilities.

What: A fun evening of friendship, fun, music and dancing, games, snacks, photo booth, and winter-themed surprises!

For Whom: Individuals with disabilities ages 16-40

Where: Pepsico Center at Augustana College  
1025-30<sup>th</sup> St. in Rock Island

When: 6:30-8:30 PM, Friday, March 10,2017 ,

Charge: Free! This community event is funded by the Augustana College Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

How to Register? Clients of Hand-in-Hand should register through Hand-in-Hand. Other participants should RSVP by sending the following information to Dr. Allison Haskill at [allisonhaskill@augustana.edu](mailto:allisonhaskill@augustana.edu):

- participant's name
- caregiver's name
- caregiver's phone number

## **MARCH 23--ROYAL BALL RUN TACO NIGHT FUNDRAISER**

What: Deluxe Taco Meals available prepared by Adolph's Mexican Foods. Donations will be accepted. Bake Sale, race registrations, fun raffle items, "Light it Up Blue". All proceeds will benefit Quad Cities area autism programs and efforts to increase autism awareness. Presented by the Royal Ball Run.

When: Thursday, March 23 1st 5pm-7pm at

Where: Milan's Camden Centre 2701 1<sup>st</sup> Street E, Milan

Charge: There is no charge to attend. Donations are accepted.

For more information: [www.royalballrun.com](http://www.royalballrun.com) or [royalballrun@gmail.com](mailto:royalballrun@gmail.com)

## **APRIL 1—AUTISM AWARENESS WALK**

What: The annual Autism Awareness walk presented by the Autism Society of the Quad Cities. The event includes an indoor walk, information tables, a DJ, face-painting, food, and activities for children.

When: Saturday, April 1, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Where: The Pepsico Center, 1025 30<sup>th</sup> Street at Augustana College in Rock Island.

Charge: There is no charge to attend.

For more information: [www.autismqc.org](http://www.autismqc.org)

## **April 8— HAND IN HAND SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCES EXPO**

What: This event will provide "one stop shopping" on a wide range of services for children with mental and physical disabilities in the Quad Cities. Literature and resource people will be available to provide information regarding programs for children with disabilities from birth to adults.

When: Saturday, April 8 9:30 a.m.-Noon

Where: Hand in Hand 3860 Middle Road, Bettendorf

Charge: There is no charge to attend.

For more information: Call Elizabeth VanCamp 563-332-8010 or [elizabeth@handinhandqc.org](mailto:elizabeth@handinhandqc.org)

## **APRIL 13--SHOWING OF "THE SWIM TEAM"**

What: "The Swim Team is an inspiring documentary film about a swim team made up of teen boys on the autism spectrum whose parents organized a competitive swim team for them.

When: Thursday, April 13 6:30 p.m.

Where: Putnam Museum Theater 1717 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street Davenport

Charge: There is no charge to attend. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Collaborators: The Autism Society of the Quad Cities will present this film. Collaborators are Hand in Hand and the Royal Ball Run for Autism.

For more information: Call Gary Rowe 309-948-3403 or [gnrowe47@gmail.com](mailto:gnrowe47@gmail.com)

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## **ASQC RECEIVES GRANTS, GIFT**

ASQC has received two grants in recent months.

A \$2,000 grant from the **Hussman Foundation** will provide swim lessons and art lessons for persons on the autism spectrum. Swim lessons are available at the **Davenport Family YMCA**, the **North High Davenport YMCA branch**, the **Bettendorf YMCA branch**, and the **Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center**.

Art lessons are available through **Mid Coast Fine Arts**.

The **I-80 Group** made a \$500 grant for the same purposes.

Details are in the following story (Swim lessons and Art lessons are available).

The **Iowa State Council, Knights of Columbus**, made a \$2,193.39 gift to ASQC for our work with persons on the spectrum. The gift was through the Knights of Columbus Our Lady of the River Council # 13084

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## **SWIM LESSONS AND ART CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE**

Thanks to grants from the **Hussman Family Foundation** and the **I-80 Group** the **Autism Society of the Quad Cities** is able to underwrite the cost of swim lessons for persons on the spectrum.

- ASQC will issue a check to each of these organizations for an amount of money that is to be restricted for swim lessons. The **Scott County Family YMCA** will administer funds for all three Iowa locations.
- A parent or guardian who wishes to enroll their child for lessons will contact ASQC (by phone, mail, or e-mail) to request funding.
- ASQC will issue a voucher on our letterhead authorizing the use of funds for swim lesson.
- The parent or guardian can present the letter for credit when they register their child for swim lessons.

ASQC will pay at the start of services, since the **YMCA's** and the **Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center** expect payment at the start of lessons. Our practice has been to reimburse the provider after services are rendered.

Participating facilities are:

Davenport Family YMCA  
606 W. Second St.  
Davenport, IA 52801  
563-322-7171  
Davenport Aquatic Dir.

North Family YMCA  
624 W. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Davenport, IA 52806  
563-391-7771  
North Aquatic Director

Dan Cardenas  
322-7171

Brett Busch  
563-391-7771

Bettendorf Family YMCA  
3800 Tanglefoot Lane  
Bettendorf, IA 57222  
563-359-9622  
Bettendorf Aquatic Dir.  
Emily Jacobsen  
563-359-9622

Rock island Fitness & Activity Center  
4303 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
309-732-7375  
RIFAC Aquatic Director  
BJ Ballard  
309-732-7375

For information contact: Gary Rowe 309-948-3403 or [gnrowe47@gmail.com](mailto:gnrowe47@gmail.com)

We will get more complete information about the art lessons and publish that as soon as we have it.

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**GANZO'S 5K IS SATURDAY MAY 6 BENEFITS ASQC**

Ganzo's Restaurant and Cantina, 3923 N. Marquette, Davenport will again benefit the Autism Society of the Quad Cities thanks to proceeds from its "Nacho Ordinary 5K" race on Saturday, May 6. Held in conjunction with the Cinco de Mayo Festival, the race kicks off at 9:00a.m. More than 1,000 runners are expected this year.

Last year Ganzo's donated \$1,750 to the Autism Society for our work in education, services, and advocacy.

The Autism Society has agreed to provide volunteers for the water stations. Working at a water station is a fun and easy way to be part of the festivities. If you want to be part of this day, contact Gary Rowe at [gnrowe47@gmail.com](mailto:gnrowe47@gmail.com) or call at 309-948-3403.

Please note that the race start area and party feature loud music and lots of commotion. It might not be comfortable for everyone.

**Autism Society of the Quad Cities will host an information table at the walk as well.**

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**2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS JULY 12-15 IN MILWAUKEE**

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From the Autism Society: "The Autism Society's vision since our founding in 1965 is to increase the quality of life of everyone living with autism. Our 49th Annual Conference is the best way for individuals, families, educators, care givers, service providers and all concerned with ensuring basic human rights to gain insights and learn concrete

strategies that allow people to interact with one another and the world in their own terms.

“The Autism Society’s Quality of Life [goals](#) are essential aspects of the human experience and we promote treatments, accommodations and acceptance with them in mind.”

“Please plan on joining us in [Milwaukee](#) this July for this one-of-a-kind opportunity to change lives! We are planning many wonderful sessions, exciting keynotes and optional social events to make your experience both educational and fun!

“Early bird registration is now open! Please [click here](#) to get in at this early rate. Additional discounts are available. The conference will take place at [The Wisconsin Center](#) which is connected by skybridge to our conference hotel [The Hilton Milwaukee City Center](#). The Hilton is offering a special rate for our conference attendees. Please register directly with the hotel – no third party vendor is authorized by the Autism Society to book your hotel rooms.”

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## **SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS**

Autism Society of the Quad-Cities offers support groups for families, teens, young adults, and adults with Asperger’s Syndrome. All support groups are offered free of charge.

### **Friday, March 3, 2017-- Older Teens, Young Adults**

Social support group for young adults with autism. It is called the YES! Support Group (Young, Exuberant, Spectrumites). It meets the first Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. with locations changing depending on the activity. There is no charge to attend.

Please RSVP to Dr. Theresa Schlabach (563) 333-6279 or [schlabachtheresal@sau.edu](mailto:schlabachtheresal@sau.edu)  
St. Ambrose University 1320 W. Lombard St., Davenport, Iowa 52804

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## **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT GROUPS**

### **Hand-in-Hand/Tessa’s Place**

3860 Middle Road Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 (563) 332-8010

Non-profit organization that assists families and children/teens/young adults with special needs through provision of respite programs and year round enrichment activities. Social and leisure options for teens and young adults include: Friday movie nights,

Saturday overnights, bowling league, meal preparation with friends, Get Fit, Inspiration Studio (teens/young adults with art interest/talent) and summer day camp (for school-age and young adults). Teen & Young Adult Nights are offered two Saturdays each month. Meets at Hand-In-Hand 3860 Middle Road, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 (563) 332-8010

**April 7, 14, 21, 28—People with Purpose**

Meets at Hand-In-Hand 3860 Middle Road, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 (563) 332-8010

Provides volunteer opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Meets weekly on Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Contact [molly\\_handinhand@yahoo.com](mailto:molly_handinhand@yahoo.com) for more information. There is no charge to attend.

**ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS**

Numerous online support groups offer opportunities for exchanging ideas, education, and sharing. For a listing of these sites, see our website at [www.autismqc.org](http://www.autismqc.org).

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**CONTACT US**

Autism Society of the Quad Cities  
P. O. Box 472  
Bettendorf, IA 52722-0008  
(563) 343-1057

Autism Society of America  
4340 East-West Hwy, Suite 350  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814  
1-800-328-8476  
[www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org) (website)  
[info@autism-society.org](mailto:info@autism-society.org) (e-mail)

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