



# Salinas Circle for Children

April 2011 Newsletter

## **\*\* National Autism Awareness Month \*\***

### **Living with Autism**

**One in 150 children will be diagnosed with this devastating disorder that locks them away in their own mind. Learn how you can help them.**

From the moment our children are born, we worry. We lose sleep over how to keep them healthy and happy, whether they'll find true love, where they'll go to college (and how in the world we'll pay for it). But we don't tend to sweat the "givens," like whether our kids will attend kindergarten, say the words "I love you" — or even speak. Yet for more and more parents, those milestones aren't givens at all. And autism — a developmental disorder characterized by difficulty with language, emotions, and basic problem-solving — is the mysterious force that's taking them away.

Originally identified in 1943, autism used to be considered a rare disorder, but scientists are now warning of a rapid rise in its incidence: In 1994, one in 10,000 children were diagnosed; today, new findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention put the prevalence at one in 150 children — that's more than childhood cancer, diabetes, and AIDS *combined*. What's behind the huge jump? Some suspect that new vaccines, vaccine additives, and other environmental factors are to blame. Others say the increase can largely be attributed to improved diagnostic measures.

But most experts admit they simply don't know what's triggering the spike — or even what causes autism in the first place.

"Autism is a very complex disorder likely involving both environmental and genetic influences. But money for research hasn't been available until the last 10 or so years, so we simply don't know much about its biology," explains Andy Shih, Ph.D., chief science officer for Autism Speaks, a not-for-profit autism advocacy organization. Historically, autism has received less than 5 percent of U.S. federal funding devoted to childhood diseases. This lack of resources and information has prevented any one scientific discipline (whether psychology, psychiatry, neurology, or pediatrics) from claiming the condition as its own — and accepting the responsibility for finding a cause and a cure.

Fortunately, the tides are finally turning, thanks in part to the Combating Autism Act. Passed by Congress and signed by President George W. Bush in December 2006, this legislation authorizes \$924 million in federal funds to be spent on research related to autism screening, prevention, and treatment over the next five years. Though that's small potatoes compared to the \$2.9 *billion* spent annually on HIV/AIDS research, it's enough to lay the groundwork for the future research that could eventually bring an end to autism.

In the meantime, parents of boys and girls with autism must continue their struggle to raise children who require constant attention, surveillance, and treatment — a struggle that can leave even the most energetic and optimistic parents drained, depressed, and despairing.

*Reprinted from: Redbook*

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

**Donate to Salinas Circle for Children:** Each year SCFC provides adaptive tools, current technologies, and other products for special needs to children, families and classrooms throughout Monterey County. Your donation will help hundreds of children thrive in their living and learning environments. Designate your donation for "Autism" and 100% of your donation will go to help children living with autism.

**Get walking:** Each year, Autism Speaks (AS), a not-for-profit autism advocacy organization, hosts more than 60 fund-raising walks across the country. To register for a walk in your area, go to [walknowforautism.org](http://walknowforautism.org).

**Push for appropriations:** The signing of the Combating Autism Act (CAA), which authorizes \$924 million in federal funding to be spent on autism research over the next five years, is just step one in the process. Implementing the CAA requires that Congress appropriate funds to research agencies. To help speed these appropriations, ask your congressmen to support funding for the CAA. You can do so easily through the AS Website (go to [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org) to fill out a form letter; click on "To Get Involved," then "Support Legislation," then "Show Support").

**Call for insurance coverage:** Autistic children need 30 to 40 hours a week of physical, speech, and/or occupational therapy, which can cost upward of \$70,000 a year. Currently, only 17 states have legislation requiring at least some insurance coverage for treatment, which means most families must pay out of pocket. To find out if your state provides insurance coverage, or to learn how to send a call to action to your governor or state legislator, log on to [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org).

**Show your support:** Don an AS lapel pin (\$10) or baseball cap (\$15), or attach an AS car magnet to your bumper (\$5); all are available at [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org), and all net proceeds benefit AS. Buy one of the following at [quixtar.com](http://quixtar.com), and Artistry will donate \$1 to Easter Seals programs for kids with autism: Artistry Essential Hand Treatment with SPF 15 (\$27.25) or Artistry Perfect Moisture Lip Compact (\$34.40 for a two-pack). Or buy an Artistry Beauty Begins With Heart sterling silver cuff bracelet (\$55) or an Artistry Beauty Begins With Heart T-shirt (\$19.99), and Artistry will donate 100 percent of proceeds to Easter Seals autism programs.

**Buy this book:** *Strange Son*, written by Portia Iversen, is a memoir of two mothers who learn to teach their autistic sons to communicate. Available for \$19.96; 8 percent of proceeds go to AS.

*Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's*, written by John Elder Robison, is a thoughtful and thoroughly memorable account of living with Asperger's syndrome.

**Attend a *Wretches & Jabberers* "movievent."** The Autism Society is proud to partner with Academy Award®-winning director Gerardine Wurzburg to release her feature length documentary *Wretches & Jabberers* during National Autism Awareness Month in April 2011. The film will be released through nationwide "movievents," which will include a screening of the film and a live panel discussion featuring Tracy Thresher and Larry Bissonnette, the film's featured self-advocates with autism. Check back here for tour updates and don't forget to watch the trailer at [www.wretchesandjabberers.org](http://www.wretchesandjabberers.org).

## \*\*\*\*\*President's Message\*\*\*\*\*

Spring is here. And can we feel it, rain one week and sunshine the next. I can't wait to see what next week brings. I love to look around and see all the flowers blossoming; it's such a happy time.

Then I think of all the possibilities that lie ahead for this new season. A first on the horizon I see is our "Girls Night Out" on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at Portobello's. This is a great way to get all the ladies out and celebrate Salinas Circle for Children and to let people know what our organization does and get to know us as a group.

Another thing that I am looking forward to is a Past/Present Member function that will come soon. Actually, I can't wait to see all the possibilities for the rest of the year. We have a wonderful group of ladies who work hard and put their hearts into making Salinas Circle shine. Hopefully the sun on the Central Coast will continue to do so as well.

Now, switching gears, I know there are TOO many reality television shows out there. It seems like there are two new ones popping up in TV Guide each and every week. But, believe-it-or-not, I was inspired by a new show that I want to share with you. Some of you may have heard of it and maybe some of you watch it. It is called "Secret Millionaire". For those of you unfamiliar with the program, here's the premise: A Millionaire goes to a low income area of our country and searches for non-profits and other organizations that help and impact their community; to

make it a better place. Of course it's a 'secret' and by the end of the show, the Millionaire donates a significant sum of money to the programs featured on the show.

I am inspired by these people and what their organizations mean to them. I always see that each of them have bigger dreams for their organization. Usually there is crying, not only on the television, but also from me. The tears don't come from these organizations, just because they receive much needed monies, but because they've put their heart and soul into their organizations and into the community, and it's been recognized....in a great and generous way.

Each and every time the show ends, I think of Salinas Circle for Children and wonder, if the Secret Millionaire popped in on us, what would he/she see from us? I know they would see a group of ladies who just want to make a difference. I know they would see children, families, and special needs professionals who've are being impacted by what we do. I know they would see passion and heart!

I also think it's a great thought to think that someone is always watching us. Do you think this would make us work harder, strive more, and show even more devotion than we already do? I know it would make me feel this way.

Smiles,

*Kelli*

\*\*\*\*\***Meeting Notice**\*\*\*\*\*

**TUESDAY, APRIL 5TH**

6:00pm for social/food & 6:30 for meeting

*Terri Jefferson's* house: 898 W. Blanco Road, Salinas

Directions to meeting place:

From Salinas: -Take Blanco Road toward Marina -After crossing the river start looking to your right as you head up the hill -Turn right onto dirt road entrance (from Davis Road it is about 3.5 miles) -Follow the road up to Terri's house (it's a long way up the road.)

From Monterey: Take Reservation Road to Blanco Road -Start looking to your left (it isn't far from Reservation Road) and turn onto dirt road entrance -Follow the road up to Terri's house (it's a long way up the road.)

*Remember your secret pal for April. Active members, if you cannot attend the meeting, please notify Teresa 809-4413 or Kelli 206-1883.*



\*\*\*\*\***Happy Birthday**\*\*\*\*\*

**APRIL**

*Ginny Lott*

*Karen Morgan*



\*\*\*\***Special Activity**\*\*\*\*



*Salinas Circle for Children presents:*

# *Girls Night Out*

*Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>*

*6:00pm to 8:00pm*

*at*

*Portobello's*

*1366 South Main Street, Salinas*

*Gather with the gals of Salinas Circle for Children and  
toast to 45 years of giving. Please be our guest to eat,  
drink and be merry!*

*RSVP to your favorite Salinas Circle member by April 5<sup>th</sup> or  
call (831) 424-7232*





## “BOWL FOR A CAUSE”

### Strikes and Spares All Around!

Fun was had by children of all ages and abilities! Valley Center Bowl was filled with laughter, patience and even a tear or two on Saturday, February 26th when children with special needs and their families joined Salinas Circle for Children for a fun-filled afternoon of bowling. Adaptive bowling was available to those who needed it, and gutter ball guards were up in most lanes, allowing everyone to experience a great game. Thanks to Valley Center Bowl, Peter Casacca, and the Bowl for a Cause committee for a fun special event.



# \*\*\*\*\*Membership\*\*\*\*\*

Active dues are \$30.00, Associate dues are \$40.00, Sustaining dues are \$50.00

Dues are now past due. Please take a moment and submit your dues today. You may pay them online if you prefer (remember to indicate it's for dues in note section).



## Salinas Circle for Children Membership Application

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Active,** \$30.00 per calendar year  
I am interested in Active Membership and plan to attend meetings  
and will participate in planning and implementing fundraising activities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Associate,** \$40.00 per calendar year  
I was an Active Member for a minimum of 5 years and will continue to  
assist with fundraising activities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Sustaining,** \$50.00 per calendar year  
I am interested in supporting Salinas Circle for Children financially  
without obligation to participate in any activities.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth - Month & Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Since: \_\_\_\_\_ (if you know the year)

Please indicate how you would like to receive information regarding meetings, etc.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: home \_\_\_\_\_ cell \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_ US Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form along with payment to:

Membership Chair  
Salinas Circle for Children  
P. O. Box 2064  
Salinas, CA 93902

Please join, we  
need your help.  
Thank you!



# \*\*\*\*Hostesses for 2011 Meetings\*\*\*\*

April:	Michele & Ginny	Terri Jefferson's home
May:	Alethea & Paula	Kathy Hemenway
June/July:	Summer Social, suggestions welcome	
August:	Pre-event, details to follow	Kathy Hemenway
September:	volunteers needed	Elaine Hunt's home
October:	Trish & Vickie	TBD
November:	Carolyn & Elaine	TBD
December:	Holiday Party/Installation of Officers, suggestions welcome	



April 2011

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**Salinas Circle for Children**

The purpose of the Salinas Circle for Children is to raise and provide funds, and to perform needed services, to assist children with physical, developmental, and emotional needs in Monterey County.

Our mission is to provide the tools and support needed so they may thrive in their living and learning environments.



## 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Kelli Hemenway
1 <sup>st</sup> V.P.:	Alethea Leandro-Farr
2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P.:	Paula Taylor
Secretary:	Terri Jefferson
Treasurer:	Tamara Schwartz
Annual Event:	Paula Taylor/Alethea Leandro-Farr
Membership:	Elaine Hunt
Sunshine:	Michele Maconachy
Communications:	Teresa Slaton
Hospitality:	M.J. Viglizzo
Special Activities:	Ginny Lott & Carolyn Sanders
Parliamentarian:	M.J. Viglizzo
Discretionary:	Alethea Leandro-Farr



Salinas Circle for Children is looking for fun-loving, hard-working volunteers to help us in fulfilling our mission.

Please come and see how you can assist us in helping the children with special needs of Monterey County.

**If not you....then who?**