

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

The Nemasket Group

Issue # 49

May—June 2009

NEWSLETTER

To Family Connections Families and Friends:

As we move into the new fiscal year, which is July 1st, we are still uncertain as to whether or not any additional funding will be restored to Family Connections. That information will determine our capacity to support families. We do know that during the month of July, Family Connections will have limited staff available to respond to families. We will stay in touch and inform families we are currently serving as soon as we know more. We regret these circumstances and will continue to seek resources so that we can provide quality family support as we have over the past 18 years.

BUDGET UPDATE

(FROM ARCMASS.ORG)

The Conference Committee budget released last week by the Massachusetts Legislature offered very little good news for people with disabilities. Quite the opposite, in fact. Cuts to disability services total more than \$90 million to people with a wide range of needs:

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Family Connections Staff:

Sandra Kinney, *Program Director*
Jorge Pagan, *Family Advisor*
Gloria Villalobo, *Family Advisor*
Sherry Amaral, *Family Advisor*
Emily Murgo Nisenbaum, *Associate Executive Director*
Louis Nisenbaum, *Executive Director*
Alison Despres, *Administrative Support*

- Older caregivers at home — will be even more overburdened
- Adults with disabilities — will lose supports (and their jobs as a result)
- High school graduates with disabilities — will be left without options
- Children living at home — will be isolated with no funding for services

And if that isn't terrible enough, the Governor could now make matters worse by vetoing the little money in the budget that is targeted to disability services. His vetoes are due out June 29th. We have asked him to stop the bleeding. Disability advocacy groups also sent him a message, asking him to:

1. Not to hurt us more with his veto pen — the damage and hurt is bad enough.
2. Issue a deficiency/supplemental budget to continue funding for essential disability services, at least until more money can be found to pay for these services.

FREE CELL PHONES AND AIRTIME FROM SAFELINK WIRELESS!

What is Safelink?

Safelink Wireless is a government program available to income-eligible residents of Massachusetts (and an increasing number of other states). In Massachusetts, the program provides a free cell phone and 80 minutes of monthly airtime to households at or below 135% of the federal poverty level. Recipients may purchase more airtime at their own expense.

How do I know if I'm eligible?

You are eligible if you:

have a household income of 135% or less of the federal poverty level. You automatically qualify if you are a current recipient of one of the following programs:

- **Emergency Aid to the elderly, disabled and children**
 - **Social Security Income**
- **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program**
 - **Food Stamps**

- **MassHealth**
 - **Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children**
 - **Fuel Assistance**
- **Have a valid US Postal Address (P.O. boxes are not acceptable for shipping)**
- **Are not already receiving Lifeline Assistance through another phone carrier and no one in your household is receiving this assistance (you must first cancel Lifeline to receive Safelink)**

How do I apply?

Learn more or apply at <http://www.safelink.com>



Silverbrook Farm

Dartmouth, MA

www.silverbrookdartmouth.com

Read on for testimonials from The Nemasket Group staff member, Ross Hooley and family member,

Pam Ferro....

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Silverbrook Farm

In today's world of mass food production, our children are suffering. Autism, obesity, diabetes, and cancer to name a few are reaching epidemic levels. The intake of highly processed foods with chemically altered trans-fats, high fructose corn syrup, and artificial ingredients are affecting everyone, and for children with autism it can change the path of their lives. Pesticides that are traditionally used in farming are poison. They kill insects, are neurotoxic and when ingested, are particularly damaging to the developing brains of children. Silverbrook Farm located in Dartmouth, is one of the largest organic farms in the area and is a solution for our health, planet, and especially families of children with autism, and gastrointestinal illness. Owned and operated by Andrew Pollock, a long standing friend of the Nemasket Group, their crops are sustainably grown, which means they do not use herbicides or pesticides as many farmers do. They follow these practices because it is the right thing to do - for those who work on the farm, the environment and for the consumer.

At Silverbrook Farm, the combination of the way nature smells, with beautifully landscaped fields, and physical work, reminds us off how far removed we have become from one of the elements we need to sustain our lives, food, organic whole food. To our community's benefit, Andy Pollock is a leader, helping us reconnect with one of our basic needs. One walk through his farm and you can fully embrace the importance of food, nutrition, and our mind's well being. You will find old favorites as well as a unique variety of fruits and vegetables that are not usually available in any supermarket. Now and then they also sell herbs, local cheeses and their own eggs, honey and jams. Buying locally supports local farms and keeps green open spaces. Members can purchase a "share" of the farm that lasts for the season 19 weeks (Family Share - \$550 or Half Share - \$325). Each week, members go to the farm to pick-up their selection. All produce is freshly harvested on the pick-up day and displayed in the barn at Silverbrook Farm. You know the farmer that is producing your fruits and vegetables, and how they are being farmed. Andy also sells his harvest at farmers markets in Fairhaven, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Boston and Cape Cod areas. Trust me - the food is delicious and so very healthy!

For my Son Isaiah, Silverbrook Farm is a place to purchase beautiful organic fruits, vegetables, and is his place of employment. Organic farming is the perfect employment, for a young man who cannot be exposed to processed foods or toxins, enjoys working with his hands, enjoys a slow paced environment, and the sounds, smells, and feel of nature. He has been fortunate to find summer employment in an environment that heals his senses and is in a job where he is eager to feel the benefits of physical labor. It is one of the highlights of his week. We are thankful that Isaiah has this opportunity, in the most perfect environment. He loves his job and is proud of his contribution. He is part of something wonderful, part of the solution. Our sincere thanks to Andy for his continued support of Isaiah and several other members of the Nemasket Group who also work on the farm.

-Pam Ferro

The Silverbrook Farm in Dartmouth, is one of the largest organic farms in the area and is owned and operated by Andy Pollock, a long standing friend of the Nemasket Group. Their crops are sustainably grown, which means that they do not use herbicides or pesticides as many farmers do. They follow these practices because it is the right thing to do - for those who work on the farm, the environment and for the consumer. At Silverbrook Farm you will find old favorites as well as a unique variety of fruits and vegetables that are not usually available in any supermarket. Now and then they also include herbs, local cheeses and their own eggs, honey and jams. Buying locally supports local farms and keeps green open spaces. Members purchase a "share" of the farm that lasts for the season 19 weeks (Family Share - \$550 or Half Share - \$325). Each week, members can go to the farm to pick-up their selection. All produce is freshly harvested on the pick-up day and displayed in the barn at Silverbrook Farm. It is a creative way to eat locally and reduce your carbon footing! For the 19 weeks of the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), you know the farmer that is producing your fruits and vegetables, and how they are being farmed. Andy also sells his harvest at farmers markets in Fairhaven, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Boston and Cape Cod areas. Trust me - the food is delicious and so very healthy!

-Ross Hooley

The 11th Annual Autism Summer Institute

Show Me The Evidence: Evidence-Based Practices for Supporting Students with ASD in Schools and Communities

Event Details

Dates: August 10-13, 2009

Time: M - 8:00am to 3:30pm, TW - 9:00am to 3:30pm, R - 9:00am to 12:00pm

Registration Fee:

Professionals: \$399

Parents, Full-Time Students, Self-Advocates: \$325

Students attending for credit: \$99 (requires permission and code to register)

Keynote(s) only: \$30 each

Groups: \$375 - Groups of three or more qualify for the discounted group rate (subject to verification)

*This workshop qualifies for Staff Development Credits.

Location: UNH Holloway Commons/MUB, Durham, NH

Questions? Call 603.228.2084 or email contact.iod@unh.edu

View Brochure & Register online @ www.iod.unh.edu/events.html#asi

The goal of the Autism Summer Institute is to provide strength-based perspectives about students with Autism Spectrum Differences (ASD) to improve the quality of education in inclusive settings. Participants will gain knowledge and skills to evaluate and select supports and strategies based on research evidence that will enhance the full participation of students with ASD in their schools and communities. This Institute offers a unique combination of keynote presentations, breakout sessions, and "home" work groups.

The full Institute registration fee includes participation in all four days' activities, continental breakfast, lunch (Monday - Wednesday only), materials, and parking. A separate fee has been established for those registering for course credit and for those interested in attending one or more keynote presentations only.

Who Should Attend:

The Autism Summer Institute is designed for, and will benefit, individuals with ASD and their families, teachers, paraprofessionals, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, school administrators, guidance counselors, psychologists, school-family educational teams (see registration form for group discount information), university students, and others.

Scholarships & Family Support:

Family and self-advocate scholarships may be available from several of our collaborators. For full details, check online or call 603.228.2084.

Professional Development & Course Credit:

All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation. The Autism Summer Institute qualifies for 25 Staff Development Hours. Participants may earn 4 academic credits by registering for EDUC 757/857 in the Fall 2009 semester and attending the Autism Summer Institute (tuition and \$99 conference fee apply). **To register for UNH course credit, DO NOT continue with registration.** Please contact the course instructor, Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D., at cheryl.jorgensen@unh.edu for more information and permission to register.

Presented by the Institute on Disability's [NH Resource Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)

In Collaboration With:

*Asperger's Association of New England • Autism Society of New Hampshire
Community Support Network, Inc. • NH Developmental Disabilities Council
Parent Information Center • University of New Hampshire*

Keynote Presenters

Monday, August 10 (Morning) - Ari Ne'eman

"The Neurodiversity Movement: An Emerging Civil Rights Struggle for the 21st Century"

Ari Ne'eman, a young man who experiences Asperger's Syndrome, is the Founding President of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, a non-profit organization of adults and youth on the autism spectrum.

Monday, August 10 (Afternoon) - Dan Habib

"Inclusive Education"

Dan Habib is the director, producer and cinematographer of the documentary Including Samuel and is Filmmaker in Residence at the UNH Institute on Disability.

Tuesday, August 11 - Lana L. Collet-Klingenberg, Ph.D.

"Evaluating the Evidence"

Lana L. Collet-Klingenberg, Ph.D., is employed with the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders at the Waisman Center, UW-Madison.

Wednesday, August 12 - Cathy Pratt, Ph.D.

"Implementing Evidence-Based Practices"

Cathy Pratt, Ph.D., is the Director of the Indiana Resource Center for Autism at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community located at Indiana University.

Thursday, August 13 - Michael McSheehan

"The Role of Evidence"

Michael McSheehan, a project coordinator with the UNH Institute on Disability and Clinical Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, has been affiliated with the Institute on Disability since 1993.

Golfers

\$125.00 per Golfer

(Includes golf, cart, dinner, gift bag & prize eligibility)

Non-Golfers

Dinner \$40.00

Sponsorship Opportunities

Tournament Sponsor\$5000

(Complimentary Foursome at tournament Banner & Inclusion in literature & ads)

Cart Sponsor\$1500

(Company name on all carts, Two complimentary spots in tournament, inclusion in literature and ads)

Lunch Sponsor\$1200

(Company displayed on lunch box, Two complimentary spots in tournament, inclusion in literature and ads)

Supporting Sponsor\$1000

(One complimentary spot in tournament, Inclusion in Literature & ads)

Ball Sponsor\$700

(One complimentary spot in tournament, Inclusion in Literature & ads)

Beverage & Snack Sponsor ..\$300

(Sign at table and beverage stations, Inclusion in Literature)

Hole Sponsor\$100

(Tee Sign advertisement at one of the holes)

Raffle or Auction item.....N/A

(Inclusion in all literature and displays)

Your donation to the Nemasket Group is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law



Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

1st Golfer _____

2nd Golfer _____

3rd Golfer _____

4th Golfer _____

_____ Golfers x \$125 = \$ _____

(includes golf, cart, dinner & prize eligibility)

_____ Tournament Sponsor \$5000

_____ Cart Sponsor \$1500

_____ Lunch Sponsor \$1200

_____ Supporting Sponsor \$1000

_____ Ball Sponsor \$700

_____ Beverage & Snack Sponsor \$300

_____ Hole Sponsor x \$100.00 = \$ _____

Sponsor Name _____

_____ Meal Only x \$40.00 = \$ _____

I will contribute:

Raffle/Auction Item Value: \$ _____

Description: _____

\$ _____ Towards Tournament

TOTAL Enclosed \$ _____

Please Make Check Payable To:

The Nemasket Group, Inc.

Golf 56 Bridge Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

2009 Summer Sizzler



DATE: August 20, 2009

(rain or shine)

TIME: 4:00 - 7:00 pm

LOCATION: The Nemasket Group

56 Bridge Street

Fairhaven, MA 02719

Please R.S.V.P. to 508.999.4436 by August 10th!

the
nemasket
group

Family Connections

Joint Project of The Nemasket Group and

DDS (*Greater New Bedford Department of Developmental Services*)

56 Bridge Street

Fairhaven, MA 02719

Phone: 508-999-0077

Fax: 508-997-9239



Creating a network of family support

For individuals with developmental

Disabilities and their families