



Making A Difference In: SOUTH CAROLINA

April 2009

MISSION

www.AutismSpeaks.org

Autism Speaks is dedicated to increasing awareness, research, advocacy and family services for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorders.

SCIENCE: Local Grants

www.AutismSpeaks.org/science

Autism Speaks has committed over \$104 million in grants to support 883 promising research projects and fellowships into the causes and treatments of autism with \$131 million in total research funding since inception. The investment in these research grants alone has been leveraged into nearly \$153 million in NIH and other funding. Locally, 5 projects representing over \$500,000 in investments have been funded:

- **Medical University of South Carolina – Charleston, SC**
 - A comparative study evaluating the dose-responsive effects of Methylmercury and Thimersal on select nervous, immune and enzyme parameters (Environmental Factors)
 - Enhancing current capacity for surveillance of autism spectrum disorders: 4 year old surveillance (Augmentation & Bridge)
 - A randomized, double blind, placebo controlled study of omega-3 fatty acid supplementation in autism (Treatment)
- **Greenwood Genetic Center – Greenwood, SC**
 - Mapping the breakpoints of a balanced translocation in a patient with autism (Research)
- **Accelerations Educational Software – Columbia, SC**
 - Generalization support project for the DT trainer (Innovative Technology for Autism Bridge Grant)

AWARENESS

www.AutismSpeaks.org

- As a result of the award-winning Autism Speaks “Odds” campaign in partnership with the Ad Council, there has been a 43 percentage point increase in public awareness of ASDs.
- In December 2007, the United Nations declared April 2nd World Autism Awareness Day.
- In South Carolina, Autism Speaks volunteers and staff organize a number of Autism Awareness Days and team fundraisers to build awareness in the community.

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

www.walknowforautism.org

A volunteer network of over 8,000 supporters will work to raise awareness about autism, raise funds, and advocate for statewide autism legislature through the Carolinas Walk Now for Autism on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at Lowe's Motor Speedway. To learn more and register visit www.walknowforautism.org/carolinas.

These grants help community organizations expand existing programs to serve more individuals with autism, and create new programs that demonstrate true innovation in providing services in one of the following areas of need: Education, Recreation/Community Activities, Equipment/Supportive Technology or Young Adult/Adult Services.

In the state of South Carolina, one grant for more than \$18,000 has been awarded in the past two years.

- ***Richland School District 2 – Columbia, SC***
Listen: The link is Specialists Training Educators Now

ADDITIONAL FAMILY RESOURCES

- ***100-Day Kit for Newly Diagnosed Families*** – this free kit provides helpful, personalized information which includes local resources, support groups, where and how to find services, local conferences and recreational activities (also available in Spanish).
- ***School Community Toolkit*** – available online to assist members of the school community in understanding and supporting students with autism.
- ***Family Services Resource Guide*** – lists over 150 South Carolina resources and more nationwide. This extensive, searchable online database brings resources to families, like early intervention to adult services, and is searchable by zip code.
- ***Autism Response Team (ART)*** – the ART team is comprised of full-time, paid employees who are also parents of children with autism. The ART specialists are experienced and trained to respond to a variety of questions and concerns from families affected by autism. Call 1-888-AUTISM2 to speak with an ART representative.

In June 2007, the South Carolina House and Senate overrode Gov. Mark Sanford's 11th hour veto of a bill requiring health insurance coverage for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. The bill, "Ryan's Law", previously passed by both the House and Senate, was vetoed on June 6, 2007 by the Governor, and was brought back to the floor on June 7, where the House and Senate voted unanimously to override the veto. To learn more about Ryan's Law, visit www.autismvotes.org.