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NEWS YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO... and that's a FACT!



Families of Autistic Children in Tidewater

Because children with autism are children first

The holidays are about love, giving, family, and a sometimes an overwhelming number of events. At FACT we are very excited about our Holiday party on the 8th. Our cooking students will be having a bake sale at the party! We'll be watching the Hurrah Players in the afternoon and Caroling with the Karaoke Club in the evening of the 14th. We'll be making our annual visit to Busch Gardens Christmas Town on the 15th, and winding up the year with two Parents Nights out on the 21st and 28th! We're a little fatigued just talking about it, but super excited too.



Donors and Granters- Hoesly Gibeault Family Foundation

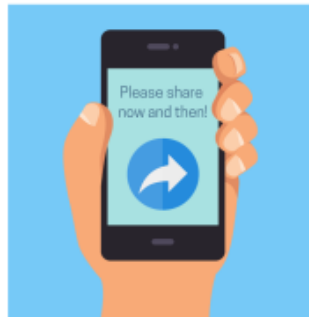
For as long as FACT has been serving children with autism, Michelle "Micki" and Mike Hoesly have been cheering us on and supporting our mission. Through her work as a financial professional, Micki recommended FACT for numerous grants from the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation. This year, the Hoesly Gibeault Family Foundation which is a Donor Advised fund of the Renaissance Charitable Foundation gifted FACT \$5,000 to underwrite our social and recreational programs. We are so grateful for the ongoing support and generosity of the Hoesly family.

**GIVING
TUESDAY
12/3/19
8AM - 1PM**

TELETHON FOR FACT

We will be going LIVE on Facebook to raise money for Families of Autistic Children of Tidewater's upcoming 2020 events!

Your donation will help local children experience camps, fun activities, and MORE!



\$4,000 is our goal!

If we're half way there by 11am, Mrs. Pam will dance in the street in a Turkey suit!

Oh and we might pie Jessie in the face, too! Tune in to see all the fun!

HOW TO DONATE:

Venmo @camp4autism
Call 757-422-2040
Online at camp4autism.com



Movers and Shakers

Our friend Mark Lobell

When Mark Lobell's grandson was diagnosed with autism, Mark quickly learned some hard truths. His grandson would need multiple therapies and services that would be difficult to find and would almost certainly not be covered by insurance. Mark leapt into action advocating for his grandson and the entire autism community.

First he organized an autism summit. This



Mark with VAF board member Melanie Miller and the board of Project Lifesaver



Governor Northam shakes hands with Mark's grandson, Mark III



Mel, Mark and Mark with mascots at the Autism Summit

event, that just celebrated it's eleventh year, gathers more than sixty vendors and service providers from all over Hampton Roads so families can learn what services are available and ask questions of providers. Mark also wanted the summit to also be a social opportunity for parents to network and children to play so each year the summit features a petting zoo, a giant inflatable slide, bubble machines, fire engines and more. This year more than 1100 people attended the Autism Summit.

Mark was a founding member of the Virginia Autism Project which sponsored the early years of the summit and lobbied extensively for insurance coverage for children with autism. Virginia passed its original autism insurance mandate in 2011 requiring coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder for children ages two to six. In 2015, legislators raised the age cap to ten.

Last year Mark founded the Virginia Autism Foundation because he wanted to cut through bureaucracy and see funding reach families in our community quickly. This year, the state legislature completely eliminated the age cap on Virginia's insurance mandate! The foundation funded swim lessons for 20 children through Kels Kids, provided 10 full scholarships to Camp Gonnawannagoagin', and gave 10 project lifesaver anklets.

Mark is a well of positivity and energy. His foundation made great strides this year and he predicts unprecedented growth in services and the legislation for our families in 2020. We're so proud to call Mark Lobell and his grandson our friends.

Gotta Love This Kid- Kameran W.

Kamren has a beaming smile and boundless positive energy that make him a kid you gotta love. The following is an email we received from Kamren's mother:

"Kamren is 7yrs old, at the age of 3 he was diagnosed with Autism, Speech Impairment, ADHD, Cognitive Disorder and Developmental Disabilities. He currently attends speech therapy, speech literacy and private occupational therapy once a week. Kamren loves sports, his favorite sport is football and he's very passionate when it comes to basketball, kickball and soccer.

Being the only child can be quite challenging for Kamren, he doesn't have any friends that live close by, we live in the Churchland area of Portsmouth so driving to Virginia Beach for Kamren to attend FACT activities and getting to see his friends means the world to him. Anything to make Kamren happy, we will do. And getting up every Saturday is what makes him happy to attend FACT activities.

Since joining FACT, FACT has made a huge impact on Kamren's life. Participating in FACT programs has helped kamren build his social skills, communication and independence. What we enjoy most about FACT is how FACT's teaching techniques that utilize a combination of structured learning and play. The interaction in everyday settings and community outings with other children improves Kamren's life and social skills. All kids are rewarded for building social relationships rather than focusing on individual deficits. Providing essential tools that are attainable to parents and children with autism is what makes us appreciate how devoted FACT is to all families."



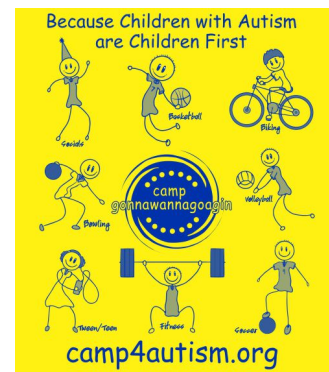
Programs and Events



Hobbies and Leisure Programs



Social Programs for Teens and Adults



Volunteer Opportunities

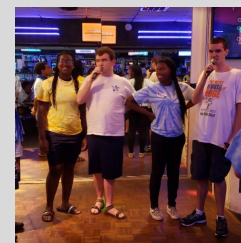


What:
Gonnaneedabreakagin'
Drop off babysitting
Who: Individuals with ASD
6 and older
When: Sat., Dec. 21 and
Sat Dec. 28 from 6:00-
9:00 at Friends School
[Register Here!](#)

Free Family Fun Day
Holiday Party
NO Registration required



Teen Time/ Social Club
What:
Busch Gardens
Christmas Town
Who:
Teen Time & Social Club
Sorry, wait list only
[Register for these programs!](#)



What:
Gonnaneedabreakagin'
Drop off babysitting
When: Sat., Dec. 21 and
Sat Dec. 28 from 6:00-
9:00 at Friends School
Who: Volunteers ages
14 and older
**please read criteria
before registering*
[Register to volunteer](#)

Sun., Dec. 8 1:00-3:00

More programs
offered



Out & About

(13 & up who require 1:1
supervision)

What: Hurrah for the
Holidays musical review

When: Sat., Dec. 14
1:00-4:30

Program info
and registration

***Coming soon:**

Winter sports: bowling
and basketball
volunteers
needed.

More about our
sports programs

Visit our Website

Stay in touch!

camp4autism.org
camp4autism@gmail.com
757.422.2040

