Shannon Lukacs
Adult Support Coordinator, Niagara Chapter

LB Brown
Family Support Coordinator
Hamilton, Niagara & Brant regions
Vision: Acceptance and opportunities for all individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Mission: To ensure that each individual with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society.
Autism Ontario

Key Areas of Focus
• Advocacy and Support
• Research
• Best Practices
• Government Relations
• Public Awareness
• Governance
Who we are?

• Autism Ontario – has up to 24 regional chapters

• The organization is primarily supported and lead by parents and others that volunteer their time, talents and energy to help improve the lives of children, teens and adults with autism

• Each chapter is governed by the provincial Board of Directors and by a local Chapter Leadership Council
Autism Ontario is happy to announce that the 2014 One to One Summer Support Worker Reimbursement Fund is now open for application.

We will accept all applications received between April 28, and May 30, 2014 and have a random draw to determine eligibility.

To view the flyer, frequently asked questions and application, visit: www.autismontario.com/camp

Chers amis,

Autisme Ontario a le plaisir de vous annoncer que vous pouvez maintenant nous faire parvenir vos demandes dans le cadre du programme Fonds de remboursement des travailleurs de soutien individuel pour l’été 2014.

Toutes les demandes seront acceptées entre le 28 avril et le 30 mai 2014 et feront ensuite l’objet d’un tirage au sort afin de déterminer l’admissibilité des requérants.

Sur le site d’Autisme Ontario :
Autism Ontario Website

- Membership Information & Registration
- Sign up for Provincial e-news
- Resources for Adults with ASD
- Access to Autism Ontario Publications
- Funding Information
- Latest News & Events throughout the province
- Links to local Chapters
How to access on-line resources?
Online Resources

SPIRALE

www.autismontario.com/spirale

• Designed to help Ontario parents find professional services for their child or youth with ASD

• Professional Services include: Dentists, ECE’s, Physiotherapists, OT’s, Psychologists, Social Workers, Teachers, and more!
Online Resources

ABACUS

www.abacuslist.ca

- A free directory for parents seeking ABA services
- Provides information on ABA, how to identify a qualified provider, parents resources, and helpful checklists to assist families in choosing a provider
Online Resources

CALYPSO

www.autismontario.com/calypso

• Specialized resource designed to help Ontario parents find the right camp or camp program for their child or youth with ASD.
Online Resources

Knowledge Base

www.autismontario.com/knowledgebase

- On-line, searchable database, a series of brief, easy-to-understand documents that are relevant to the lives of youth and adults on the autism spectrum and their families

- Available in both French and English
What is the Potential Programme?

A unique service from Autism Ontario designed to directly support all Ontario families, parents and children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).
Potential Programme

• **ASD Information** - Our qualified staff are a rich resource for information on ASD, health and local social service providers

• **Access to ASD Experts** - Via speaker events and workshops related to ASD
Potential Programme

Family Support (Parent Support Groups)

• An opportunity for parents to meet other parents in an informal, relaxed atmosphere to discuss autism and related issues.

• Meetings offer peer-to-peer support for parents/guardians and caregivers, and offers special guests and expert speakers.
Potential Programme

Parent Support Groups provide the opportunity for parents to:

• Get to know other parents and caregivers
• Understand how to navigate the education system
• Share experiences and discuss common concerns
• Share successful strategies for common issues/goals
• Find out what is happening in the autism community
Potential Programme

Social Learning Opportunities (SLOs)

• Recreational activities for individuals with ASD and their families
• Events geared towards people with ASD
• Opportunity to connect with other individuals with ASD and their families
• Opportunity to practice social skills
• Networking/support opportunity for parents
• Non-judgmental and safe environment
Potential Programme

Social Learning Opportunities (SLOs)

Examples:

- Swimming
- Movies
- Mad Science
- Bowling
- Waterparks

- Cooking Classes
- Gymnastic Classes
- Legoland
- Blue Jays
- Spa days
Potential Programme

• **Connect to Resources in the Community** - Staff will help provide you with support by establishing community partnerships

• **Family Support Coordinator** role:
  – Work with the families to ensure that they are connected to services in the community
  – Have the resources they are looking for
  – Assist them if they are struggling with any services in the area.
Potential Programme contacts

Hamilton, Niagara & Brant region

• LB Brown, Family Support Coordinator - lb@autismontario.com

• Christina Beauchamp, Community Events Coordinator - christina@autismontario.com

• Chantal Mudahogora, French Community Events Coordinator - chantal@autismontario.com
The Niagara Region Chapter is your local chapter supporting families and individuals with resources, support systems, and assistance for those affected by ASD.
The Niagara Region Chapter

**Autism Ontario – Niagara Region** is one of many Autism Ontario Chapters across the province.

We support communities from Grimsby to Fort Erie by providing support systems that improve the lives of individuals impacted by autism.
The Niagara Region Chapter

Autism Ontario – Niagara
36 Page St. Catharines, ON
905-682-2776

www.autismontario.com/niagara
Location

36 Page Street, Unit 401
St. Catharines, ON
L2R 4A7

Phone: (905) 682-2776 or 1 (888) 293-9819

Disclaimer: It is important to do your own research and make your own informed decisions. Please note Autism Ontario does not endorse any specific therapy, product, treatment, strategy, opinions, service, or individual. We do, however, endorse your right to information.

Click here for a map.

Posted May 21, 2013

UPDATES to THIRD-PARTY
What We Offer

We offer a number of vital programs and services that work to support an individual’s meaningful life and help to build long-term skill development and successful independence.

See the potential...
What We Offer

- ASD Resource Library (over 800 titles available to borrow and includes books, educational resources, workbooks, reports, children’s books, CDs and DVDs)
- Bursary programs
- Programs
- Adult Support Services and Programs
What We Offer

Family Bursary

The Niagara Region Chapter offers two bursary programs designed to compensate persons with ASD and their families for the additional costs they incur to promote quality of life and inclusion in our community.
What We Offer

Family Bursary

The two bursary programs are:

1. **The Family Funding Bursary** is a reimbursement program designed to compensate families for costs they incur to involve their child or youth family member with ASD in social learning and recreational activities.

2. **The Adult Education and Training Bursary** is a reimbursement program designed to compensate teens and adults (age 16+) with ASD for costs they incur in pursuing educational and training opportunities.
What We Offer

Programs

- Summer Camp
- ASD Community Group
- ASD Recreation Group
- HFA Activity Group
- Sibling Support Group
- Teen Camp
- Builder’s Club
- Girls Only Group
- Teen Community Group
What We Offer

Adult Support Services and Programs

The Adult Support Coordinator provides information, support and referrals to adults living with ASD and their families with services including:

- Employment
- Accessing government services and funding (ODSP, DSO, RDSP)
- School issues (accommodations and strategies to support student success)
- Day Programming/Recreation and Leisure
- Coping strategies
- Health issues – depression, anxiety, aggression
- Volunteer opportunities
- Workshops and information sessions (ex. Internet Safety, Personal Hygiene and Self Care)
- Transitioning youth into adulthood
- Diagnosis
What We Offer

Adult Working Groups

• We are currently working to address issues facing Adults on the autism spectrum. Through a grant from the Fowler Family Foundation, Autism Ontario - Niagara has been able to examine the issues, gaps in services and funding that are faced by families and adult individuals living with an ASD diagnosis.

• Following a community consultation day that brought together over 40 community partners, parents and self-advocates, Autism Ontario - Niagara Chapter has taken the lead in establishing working committees to examine and address the core themes that arose from that day.

• Committees include:
  Housing
  Transition Planning
  Community Awareness & Education
  Day Programming/Recreation & Leisure
What We Offer

Adult Programs

ASD Social Club

This club is for adults aged 18 + diagnosed with High Functioning Autism/Aspergers who do not require 1:1 support. Events are organized each month with the goal of having adults with autism or Aspergers meet fellow members of their community and have fun taking part in events tailored to their interests.

Autism Ontario - Niagara Region Chapter, in partnership with the Opening Doors for Adults with ASD (ODFAWA) provincial program, supports and recognizes the ASD Social Club.
What We Offer

Up-Coming Events:

Evan’s Ride – Sunday, May 25, 2014 – Smithville

Tee Up for Autism – Friday, May 30

Cycle for Autism- Sunday, June 21- Merritt Island, Welland
THANK-YOU!!

Questions?