



First Annual Step Up for Autism Walk & Fun Run Set for June 28



Plans are in full swing for the first annual Step Up for Autism walk. Make your plans to join Little Friends, Inc. for this exciting event on Sunday, June 28 in downtown Naperville. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the walk and fun run will step off at 9:30 a.m.

Designed to raise awareness about autism, a complex developmental disability that affects an estimated 1.5 million Americans, the Step Up for Autism walk is the first of its kind to be held in Naperville. Funds raised from the inaugural event will benefit children and adults with autism served by Little Friends, Inc. and the Little Friends Center for Autism.

This family-friendly event promises to be a morning of fun for walkers and runners of all ages. Festivities will include a three-mile walk and fun run and a one-mile kid-friendly route. The inaugural event will also feature a Resource Fair and a fun-filled Kids' Area, complete with interactive displays, face painting, moon jumps and much more. CBS 2 Chicago's weekend meteorologist and Naperville resident Mary Kay Kleist will serve as the emcee for the event. Kleist will be joined on stage by Honorary Walk Chairperson Mayor George Pradel.

Visual picture schedules of the walk festivities will also be available, courtesy of the Little



Friends Center for Autism and Minuteman Press. Schedules will be available for pick up at Little Friends, Inc. beginning in early June. Schedules are also available online by visiting www.littlefriendsinc.org.

There is still plenty of time to get involved with this exciting event. Teams of walkers and runners are needed to ensure that the inaugural event is a success. Interested walkers and runners can register online. Community volunteers are also needed to assist in a variety of roles at the event.

Premiere sponsors of the 2009 Step Up for Autism walk include 95.9 The River, the *Daily Herald*, PowerToolz, Inc., Minuteman Press, *Naperville Magazine*, Hard Hat Services and Northwestern Mutual Financial Network.

To get involved today, please visit www.stepupforautism09.kintera.org.

Foursomes Available for the Seventh Annual Little Friends Golf Classic

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Little Friends Golf Classic on Monday, September 21. Now in its seventh year, this year's outing will be held at the historic Naperville Country Club, a private, award-winning course in Naperville.

Festivities will begin at 11 a.m. with lunch in the clubhouse and practice on the driving range and putting green. Participants will enjoy a complimentary cocktail reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dinner, awards and exciting live and silent auctions will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. Foursomes are available for \$1,200, which includes 18 holes of golf

with a cart, lunch, dinner, raffles, awards, gift bag, hole-in-one prizes and special gifts for the winners.

A variety of sponsorship opportunities for this year's Golf Classic are available. Sponsors are recognized through event signage and placement in the event program. Sponsors who donate in excess of \$5,000 will also receive a foursome for this year's outing. Individuals and organizations are also invited to take advantage of an exciting new sponsorship level at this year's Golf Classic. Introduced at last year's event, the Friends of Little Friends Welcome Circle Sponsor is available for \$125. Sponsor

benefits include signage placed along the welcome circle at Naperville Country Club.

To learn more about this year's Golf Classic or to reserve your foursome, please contact Cally Edwards at (630) 281-1882 or via e-mail at credwards@lilfriends.com, or visit www.littlefriendsinc.org.

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Save the Date

Family Council Picnic Slated for June 20



The sixth annual Little Friends Family Council Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 20, at the Little Friends Administrative

Building, located at 140 N. Wright Street in Naperville. Clients and their families are invited to be our guests at this summertime celebration. The rain date for this year's picnic is Sunday, June 21.

This annual get-together provides Little Friends families with the opportunity to meet and visit with each other. Festivities include a picnic lunch, entertainment, games for the kids and much more. Little Friends staff members will be on hand to assist throughout the picnic, but one-to-one assistance will not be available. Make sure to bring lawn chairs or a blanket.

To reserve your place at this year's Family Picnic, please R.S.V.P. by June 12 by contacting Special Events and Volunteer Manager Cally Edwards at (630) 355-6533 or via e-mail at credwards@lilfriends.com. We hope you will join us for this fun-filled afternoon. 

Save the Date

FRIENDS OF LITTLE FRIENDS ELECTRIC PARADE

Friday, November 27
Downtown Naperville

Watch for more details in upcoming issues of *Focus*.

Of Note...

In Appreciation of Your Dedication...

FROM THE DESK OF JACK RYAN

July 1 is the beginning of a new year for us, as it marks the beginning of a new fiscal year. We don't really celebrate like we do on January 1, but it is a time that has some notable moments.

For example, it is a time to say goodbye to Board members who have completed their terms. It is with deep appreciation that we extend our thanks to Tom Falcone, Rae Martin and Dennis O'Shaughnessy.

Each has contributed generously of his or her time and talent in assisting the Board in fulfilling its governance responsibilities, and as an ambassador of Little Friends in our community.

Stepping in to fill their shoes are two individuals whom we are confident will carry on the tradition of commitment to our mission that Tom, Rae and Dennis exemplified. Mark Lee, a Fine Home Specialist with Prudential, and Matt Johanson, Vice President of Discover Financial Services, will be joining us for three-year terms. Both bring to us considerable business experience, a history of support, a broad knowledge of the agency and a deep interest in the well-being of those we serve.

These are troubling times. Funding cutbacks have caused program and staff reductions and even more difficult times seem to loom ahead. We are fortunate to have a strong, knowledgeable Board that works in good cooperation with our staff to make the difficult decisions that the times demand, while keeping the well-being of our students and clients as the top priority.

Welcome aboard, Matt and Mark!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Ryan".

Zaidi's Celebrity Bartender Event Raises Nearly \$2,400

A standing-room-only crowd packed Zaidi's Steak Sushi Seafood for a Celebrity Bartender fundraiser for Little Friends, Inc. on Wednesday, April 22. The generous crowd of more than 250 people helped to raise nearly \$2,400 for the agency.


A number of Naperville's most notable residents tested their bartending skills by volunteering their time as Celebrity Bartenders for this fun-filled event.

Celebrity Bartenders included Naperville Park District Executive Director Ray McGury, Minuteman Press Partner Ray Kinney, *Glancer* Magazine Publisher Lindy Kleivo and *Naperville Sun* News Editor Cynthia Goldberg.

Festivities got underway at 6 p.m. in the Z Bar and continued throughout the evening. Guests were treated to a special musical performance by Michael Heaton. Our sincerest appreciation to Zaidi's for hosting this amazing event and a special




Oh, What A Night: Special thanks to Little Friends Board Member Zaidi Syed, pictured here with V.P. of Development Kathleen Malecki, for hosting such a wonderful event.

hat's off to each of our celebrity bartenders for both their tireless efforts behind the bar that night, and also for their efforts in helping spread the word within the community in the weeks leading up to the event! 

Bridge High School Hosts Annual Vocational Awards Ceremony

Representatives from Little Friends, parents, teachers and community members were on hand to recognize 15 students from the Bridge High School during the school's Vocational Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 14, at the Marriott Conference Center in Lisle. Held annually, the Vocational Awards Ceremony recognizes and celebrates those students who have worked throughout the community during the school year.

Congratulations to the 2009 Vocational Awards Honorees: Jon, Bennett, Cammy, Brian, Jillian, Michael, Dan, Eric, Conor, Mike, Heyoka, Shawn and Jon. 




A Job Well Done: Congratulations to Vocational Award Honoree and 2009 Bridge High School graduate Dan, pictured here with his mom and dad.

Nicor Employees Volunteer at Little Friends



Volunteer Spirit: Special thanks to this dedicated group of Nicor employees for volunteering at Little Friends last month.

More than 35 employees from Nicor volunteered their time at Little Friends on Saturday, May 16, as part of the company's Annual Nicor Service Day. Organized as part of a statewide effort, the volunteers worked on landscaping projects, washed windows and painted at the agency's main campus on Wright Street, and at one of our residential properties in Naperville. In total, more than 1,000 volunteers from Nicor participated at 17 different locations throughout Illinois.

Special thanks goes out to this wonderful group of volunteers. 

Walk Fever Hits Downtown Naperville

Excitement about the agency's first-ever autism awareness walk is spreading throughout Naperville, thanks to walk planning committee member Joann Pierce. Pierce and her sister own Papier Girl, a fine stationery studio located at 124 S. Webster in the heart of downtown Naperville. Committed to getting the word out about our inaugural event, Pierce graciously agreed to display a six-foot Step Up for Autism banner in front of her store. Special thanks to Joann and Papier Girl for helping to spread the word! We look forward to seeing you on June 28! 



Walk Fever: Excitement about the first annual Step Up for Autism walk is spreading into downtown Naperville.


Kane County Cougars Outing



Join the Little Friends Family Council for an exciting evening of baseball fun as the Kane

County Cougars square off against the Clinton Lumber Kings at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 8, at Elfstrom Stadium. After cheering on the Cougars to a victory, plan to take in the post-game fireworks with family and friends.

Hosted by the Little Friends Family Council, this is a great opportunity to connect with other families from across the agency. All clients and their families are welcome to attend. Tickets are \$12 per person and include reserved seating and free general parking.

Reservations and payments must be received by Friday, June 19. Please make checks payable to Little Friends, Inc. Due to the ticket guarantee date, all tickets reservations and payments are due on this date – no exceptions. For more information or to request handicap seating, please contact Special Events and Volunteer Manager Cally Edwards at (630) 281-1882 or via e-mail at credwards@lilfriends.com. 

WISHES GRANTED...




Thank you to the following organizations for their generous support:

- ◆ *United Way Combined Federal Campaign- \$2,604 in support of general operating costs*
- ◆ *DuPage Human Services Fund- \$8,610 to support the creation of a computer lab at Spectrum Vocational Services for clients to learn computer skills and apply for jobs online*

Serendipity Resale Shop Seeking Donations

It's Spring Cleaning Time...Please remember our very own Serendipity Resale Shop this spring when you are cleaning out your closets and tidying up your home.

Little Friends' Serendipity Resale Shop, which is located at 12 W. Jefferson Avenue in downtown Naperville, is currently seeking donations of clothing, linens, household items and collectibles. Donations of men's, women's and children's clothing of all sizes are welcome. Donated clothing should be in excellent condition. Donors are asked not to include items that are stained or torn. The resale shop is also seeking donations of linens and home decorating items, such as lamps, dishes and clocks. Other household items, jewelry and collectibles are always welcome.

Donations may be brought to the Serendipity Resale Shop, which is located at 12 W. Jefferson Avenue in downtown Naperville, anytime during the store's regular hours. Donations may also be dropped off at the Administration Building, 140 N. Wright Street. To learn more about the shop or to volunteer, please call Serendipity at (630) 357-3610. 

Little Friends, Inc.

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Ronald Biegun	Steve Monteith
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PRESIDENT & CEO - Jack Ryan

Focus is published every two months. It is designed to keep our families, volunteers and donors informed about Little Friends programs and events.

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Pizza & Beer Tasting Raises \$33,000


The Children's Center for Autism once again teamed up with Nick's Pizza and Pub to host its annual Pizza & Beer Tasting on Thursday, April 30. More than 350 supporters helped the Little Friends affiliated agency raise more than \$33,000.

Now in its sixth year, the Pizza & Beer Tasting included a silent auction, cash raffle, gift raffles and a host of children's activities. This year's silent auction featured original client artwork from the four children at Sage House, including a hand-painted Adirondack chair, bird houses, a treasure box and original acrylic on canvas. Guests also enjoyed taking part in a pizza making contest between the cooks from Nick's Elgin and Crystal Lake locations.

Our sincerest thanks to Nick's Pizza & Pub for donating all net profits from the




Amazing Generosity: Special thanks to Nick's Pizza & Pub for once again donating all net profits from the day to the Children's Center for Autism.

day, from both dine-in and carry-out orders, to the Children's Center for Autism in Cary. Special thanks to all of this year's participating breweries for helping to make this year's event a success. 

Special Thanks to...

Over the past year, the **Downers Grove Newcomers Group** has generously supported Little Friends, Inc. The group's service efforts have included a lunch food drive for Krejci Academy, a benefit concert, a holiday gift card drive for the Community Living Services program and a donation drive for the Serendipity Resale Shop. Most recently, the organization and its members donated \$1,000 to the agency.

The **Bloomington Women's Group** hosted its 34th Annual Fashion Show on April 26 in Addison. Little Friends' Community Living Service program was one of the proud beneficiaries of this exciting event. In their 37 years of service to the community, the Bloomington Women's Group has donated more than \$366,000 to various charitable organizations throughout Chicagoland. 

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