

Homes for Autism

The Brightest Hope for People with Autism

Happy 2016 to all our friends and supporters!

During these past winter months, we at HFA have been busy planning all of our events for the upcoming year. We begin the celebration of spring on Sunday, April 24th, with our 21st Annual Irish Pub Night. A new venue has been chosen -- O'Connor's Public House on Main Street in Downtown Rochester. As always, the evening will include good food, libations, raffle prizes, silent auction and live entertainment. We hope you will plan to join in the fun!

A new event is planned for this year -- Music in the Park at the Wildwood Theatre in Orion Township on June 26th. Wildwood Theater (exit 81 from I-75 Joslyn road 3 miles north to Orion Township property) has a new music shell located on the side of a gentle hill. There is plenty of room to sit or spread a blanket to listen to renowned George Sinnott and his band. George is a local favorite jamming away on his saxophone. Event starts at 4:00 p.m. Contribution is \$20 for adults; veterans and kids and disabled are free. Hope you can make it.

Homes for Autism's "Walk for Autism" will take place on Saturday, September 17th, at the Detroit Zoo. Check-in begins at 7:00 a.m., followed by the start of the Walk at 8:30 a.m. As always, our walkers are welcome to stay at the zoo for the remainder of the day, until the park closes at 5:00 p.m. Plan on sharing a terrific day with the whole family!

We are still in the process of making plans for our 20th Annual Ring of Hope Dinner, to be held on Saturday, November 5th, at The Village Club in Bloomfield Hills. Please visit our website, homesforautism.org, in the upcoming months for important details and updates regarding all of our events.

We have been very fortunate to receive notable donations and grants from AT&T and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). These generous contributions made possible some much-needed, major home improvements on our six residences, including exterior painting of all homes and garages; interior painting; floor replacements; a deck refurbishment; tree removal and trimming; fence installation; exterior stairs leveled and secured; egress window resealed, followed by basement waterproofing; paving of driveway; and various electrical and plumbing repairs. In 2016, we will focus on roof replacement and repairs.

We thank all of our donors, contractors and craftsmen for helping to make our Homes for Autism safe and secure.

With our best regards,

Bill Schramm, President



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On Saturday, November 5th, we experienced one of the worst snowstorms in 2015. Nevertheless, our brave guests weathered the elements to honor the recipient of our Golden Ring of Hope Award, Chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, Michael Gingell, as well as our 2015 Golden Service Award recipient, Allison Geist, multiple award-winning special education teacher, currently Program Associate in the MISD Autism Program. As the snowflakes continued to fall outside, inside The Mansion at Pine Knob, our guests enjoyed a warm and beautiful environment to eat, drink and celebrate our 19th Annual Ring of Hope Dinner!

Our sincerest respect and congratulations to our award recipients. We are grateful to their family and friends for their participation. We would like to recognize and thank our board, sponsors and dinner committee members for their enthusiastic contributions and willingness to join our commitment to provide housing and fulfill dreams for adults with autism.





AT&T recently presented a check for \$5,000 to Homes for Autism. Left to right: Michigan House of Representative for Orion Township, Brad Jacobsen; State Senator Jim Marleau; Lori Dougherty (AT&T); HFA Board President, Bill Schramm

Upcoming Events

21st Annual Irish Pub Night

Sunday, April 24, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

O'Connor's Public House, Main Street, Downtown Rochester

Join us for an evening of fun and camaraderie. \$50 per person includes hearty hors d'oeuvres, 2 drink tickets, raffle prizes, silent auction and live entertainment.

Music In The Park

Sunday, June 26, 2016, 4:00 p.m.

Wildwood Theatre, Orion Township

(I-75, Exit 81, Joslyn Road, 3 miles North)

Bring chairs or a blanket to spread and enjoy an early evening listening to a jazz performance by George Sinnott and his band. Contribution is \$20/adults, free admission for veterans/kids/disabled.

The Walk for Autism

Saturday, September 17, 2016

The Detroit Zoo

To raise awareness and support of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and to help improve the quality of life for individuals affected by autism, come enjoy a day at the Detroit Zoo through pledges collected from friends and family. Check-In starts at 7:00 a.m. and admission to the Zoo is free. Participants are welcome to stay at the Zoo until closing at 5:00 p.m. For more information, visit our website: homesforautism.org for future updates. With your help, we are looking forward to the prospect of continued success this year!

20th Annual Ring of Hope Dinner

Saturday, November 5, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

The Village Club, Bloomfield Hills

Plans are now being finalized for our guests to enjoy a wonderful evening to include a cocktail reception, silent auction, and a gourmet dinner followed by a live auction, entertainment and dancing. For information detailing the opportunities and benefits for you or your company to participate - Sponsorship, Program Book and Live/Silent Auction donations - or to answer any questions, call 586-477-0493.

Introducing lulupegs™!

Initially designed with babies and young children in mind, Liz Lee and Jerri Lynn Liechty, of West Monroe, Louisiana, created their handmade fabric dolls, filled with a proprietary blend of natural grains that could be warmed up, and named them “lulupegs” after their mothers. It was such a cute name, and one they knew would appeal to kids. They put a few dolls out for sale in Liz’s store, little bella, and within days, they were practically walking themselves out the door.

Serendipitously, their appeal has rapidly spread to those at the opposite end of the spectrum as well: the elderly community suffering from dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. Fear of unfamiliar surroundings and agitation are common challenges faced by those with dementia, and we have discovered that lulupegs™ have an immediate, calming effect on them. Unlike stuffed animals, the weight and feel of lulupegs™ play a big part, and they are especially effective when warm.

Ironically, both Liz and Jerri Lynn’s mothers have suffered from Alzheimer’s disease, and once the tearful connection was made, these dolls took on a whole new meaning, as only those who have been touched by Alzheimer’s disease can fully understand.



It was suggested that lulupegs™ might also be soothing to those on some—if not all—spectrums in the autistic population, from children to adults. When put to the test, the results were positive in every instance. In fact, the results were so encouraging that lulupegs™ plan to make an appearance at the 47th Annual Autism Society National Conference in New Orleans in July. For more information, please visit www.lulupegs.com.