



# GHAzette

SPRING 2014

## “GOLF FORE AUTISM” SCHEDULED FOR MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> AT CAPE FEAR NATIONAL

Plans are well underway for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “Golf Fore Autism” scheduled for Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Cape Fear National Golf Club at Brunswick Forest in Leland, NC. We appreciate the continued support of our presenting sponsor

**Anlyan&Hively** and the tireless efforts of Bill Anlyan and GHA Autism Supports board member Jim Hively. Located in Brunswick Forest, one of the Coastal South's fastest growing communities, Cape Fear National is just 5 miles south of historic downtown Wilmington and was recently named the “#11 Best Course You Can Play in NC - 2013” by Golfweek. Cape Fear National is an absolute must-play for both the beginner and the avid golfer! The morning will begin with muffins, fruit and coffee with registration beginning at 8:00 am. The driving range will also open at 8:00 am, followed by a shotgun start at 9:30 am. At the conclusion of play, all in attendance will enjoy a southern-style pig pickin’ lunch. For more



information on volunteering for the event or to register as an individual or a team, please contact Ginger Longino at (910) 619-1449 or by email at [vlongino@ec.rr.com](mailto:vlongino@ec.rr.com).

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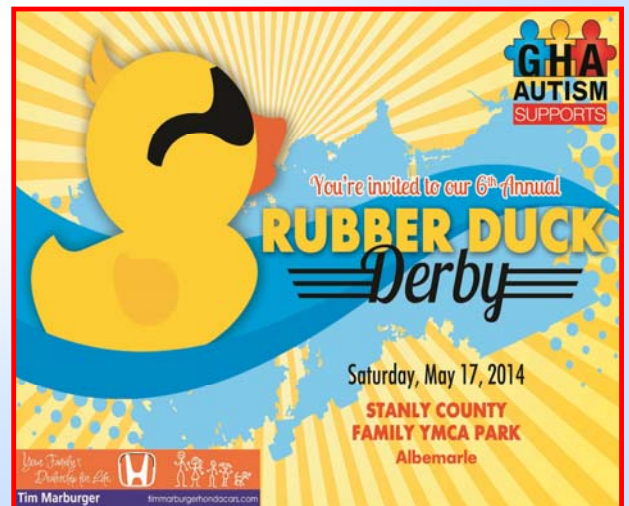
Robert Thompson

## DON'T “DUCK” THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$3,000!

Make plans to join the fun at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual GHA Autism Supports Rubber Duck Derby presented by Tim Marburger Honda on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the new event location at the Stanly County Family YMCA Park in Albemarle! There will be family-free activities from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm including inflatables provided by All 4 Fun Inflatables of Albemarle, numerous children’s games, balloon art by Dr. Colin Moffett, face painting by Vicki Galloway and other exciting activities courtesy of the Albemarle Police Department, Albemarle Fire Department and Stanly Regional Medical Center. In addition, we are thrilled to have a Joe Gibbs Racing showcar on display. The fun begins with the Duckie Scavenger Hunt in the park playground area at 11:30 am and lots of yummy food will be available for purchase.

Most importantly, adopt your rubber ducks now for a chance to win \$3,000 and numerous other exciting prizes. All ducks sold will plunge into the YMCA pool across the street on event day at 1:00 pm. A complete list of prizes and event rules can be found at [www.ghaautismsupports.org](http://www.ghaautismsupports.org).

Purchase your ducks by visiting the website, by calling (704)982-9600, ext.125 or simply stop by the administrative office at 213 North Second Street in Albemarle Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Grab a nest, flock or flotilla now before they are going, going gone!





## April Autism Awareness Month



Staff and individuals from GHA marked World Autism Day on April 2<sup>nd</sup> by visiting the campus of Pfeiffer University where several events took place, including a balloon release to educate the community about autism as a growing health crisis.

### CDC RELEASES NEW ASD DATA

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released that one in 68 U.S. children has an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a 30% increase from 1 in 88 two years ago. The newest estimate is based on the CDC's evaluation of health and educational records of all 8-year-old children in 11 states: Alabama, Wisconsin, Colorado, Missouri, Georgia, Arkansas, Arizona, Maryland, North Carolina, Utah and New Jersey. The incidence of autism ranged from a low of 1 in 175 children in Alabama to a high of 1 in 45 in New Jersey, according to the CDC. In addition, children with autism continue to be overwhelmingly male. According to the new report, the CDC estimates 1 in 42 boys has autism, 4.5 times as many as girls (1 in 189).

### GHA REPRESENTED AT FFTC ANNUAL MEETING



Attendees included Chet & Elaine Gurski who were instrumental in the creation of the Foundation for the Long-Term Care of Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Over 1,500 attendees, sponsors and presenters gathered together at the 2014 Foundation For The Carolinas Annual Meeting at the Charlotte Convention Center on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Each year, the Annual Meeting luncheon convenes nonprofit, business and community leaders from throughout our region to celebrate the spirit of philanthropy and honor those who strengthen our communities. This year, the Foundation was delighted to announce record financial results including more than \$1.3 billion in assets, \$287 million in 2013 contributions and \$178 million in 2013 grantmaking. The Foundation manages two endowment funds for GHA Autism Supports including the "Autism Endowment Fund" and the "Foundation for the Long-Term Care of Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder". This year's keynote speaker, [Eric Whitacre](#), dazzled guests with his awe-inspiring presentation and groundbreaking "Virtual Choirs." Eric inspired in us the power of collaboration, teamwork and community building. For more information on how to contribute to the endowment funds to ensure the long-term success of GHA's programs, please contact Chief Development Officer Beth Olivieri at (704) 982-9600, ext. 125.

# GHA PARTNERS WITH AUTISM SOCIETY FOR 4th ANNUAL COASTAL RUN/WALK FOR AUTISM

Heavy rains did not keep the more than 400 runners and walkers away from the 4th annual Coastal NC Run/Walk for Autism at the Mayfaire Town Center in Wilmington on March 29th. The fundraising effort that benefitted GHA Autism Supports and the Autism Society of NC was also an awareness event and included a 5K race as well as a 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk. Tom Clifford of Wilmington took first place with a time of 15:28. Donations exceeded \$30,000 and most importantly, the event was an opportunity to educate the Cape Fear area about both organizations and the supports provided to individuals with autism and their families. The event would not have been possible without the generous support of sponsors including the following: Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys at Law, PPD, Mayfaire Town Center, Try Sports and Dr. Halley White Pediatric Dentistry, *Champions*; Coastal Behavioral Sciences, Cape Fear Center for Inquiry, Cape Fear Camera Club, OT Solutions and Towne Tap and Grill, *Advocates*; Wilmington Dermatology, Piedmont Service Group, Starbucks, Chick-Fil-A, Trader Joe's, Atlanta Bread Company, Ken's Bagels and Azalea Gynecology, HomeCare Management Corporation, Law Office of Richard Poole and US Cellular, *Friends*.



## ATHLETES BRING HOME MEDALS AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Several Stanly County athletes showcased their basketball skills on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Special Olympics State Tournament. The Bobcats Team (3 on 3) faced stiff competition, and celebrated by bringing home the bronze medal, while several individuals won medals for individual skills competition including Michael F., who brought home a gold medal and John P., who won a bronze medal. Congratulations to all of our participants!



Photos courtesy of David Hearne, D & E Photos



Jonathan joins South Stanly High School student, Camden Diggs, at the Special Olympics Regional Swim Meet at the Greensboro Aquatic Center on April 26.



Several individuals supported in our Coastal NC programs serve at the Wilmington Branch of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. Chris, Jenny, Katie and Eleanor were recently named nominees for the "2014 New Hanover County Volunteer of the Year" award at a ceremony on April 28th. Congratulations to all of these individuals and hats off for their contributions that have made such an impact in the coastal community!



## GHA PROGRAMS

A group of autism professionals from Japan, eager to learn more about GHA's services, toured several sites on March 6th. They were most impressed with the professionalism and commitment of the staff and the happiness and friendliness of the individuals they met. This tour group is one of many that have visited GHA programs over the last decade in hopes of taking knowledge and practices back to their native countries.



CEO Dawn Allen and Chief Professional Services Officer Janet Banks joined Japanese professionals on their tour of several GHA programs.



Special thanks to Senator Gene McLaurin for touring several GHA programs on March 11th including Carolina Farms. We always appreciate the opportunity to highlight our services and supports!



Rise and shine! Dawn Allen and Beth Olivieri from GHA Autism Supports, along with Leica Anzaldo and Kerri Erb from the Autism Society of NC joined the crew on the Plaza at the Today Show on the morning of Friday, April 11th. Both organizations had representatives attending the Autism Science Foundation conference in NYC.



Numerous family volunteers organized the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual GHA Family Network Yard Sale on April 4<sup>th</sup> in Albemarle. Special thanks to members of the extended GHA family that donated items to the event that raised nearly \$1,300 for the Family Network fund used to purchase staff gift cards during the holiday season. Volunteers Sherry Poplin, Sue Martin and Maureen Morrell always find time to squeeze in some fun along the way!

### Dates to Remember

**May 17** — Rubber Duck Derby in Albemarle

**June 8** — Family Network Regional Meeting in Raleigh/Chapel Hill

**May 19** — Golf Fore Autism in Wilmington

**November 15** — "That 70's Auction" in Albemarle