



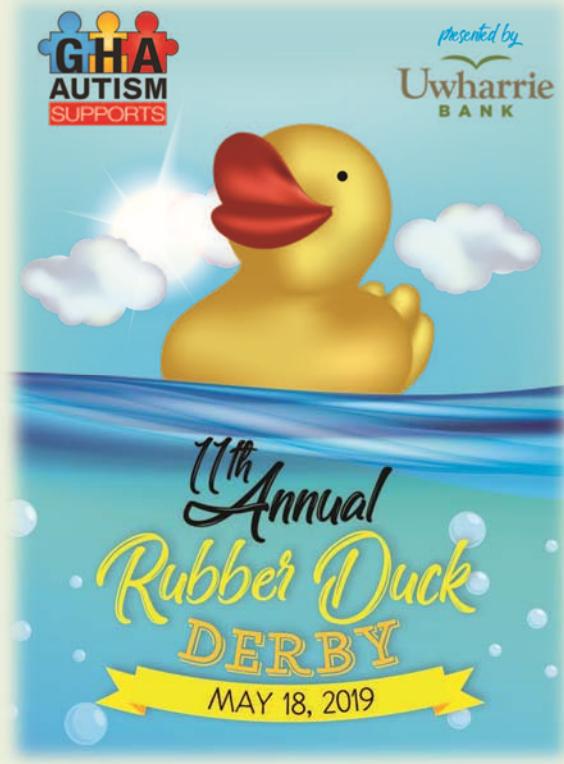
GHAzette



MAY 2019

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

Make plans to join the fun at the 11th Annual GHA Autism Supports Rubber Duck Derby presented by Uwharrie Bank on Saturday, May 18th at the Stanly County Family YMCA Park in Albemarle! There will be free, family-friendly activities from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm including inflatables provided by All 4 Fun Inflatables of Albemarle, numerous children's games, a balloon artist, face painting by Vicki Galloway, rides on the Amazi'N Blazi'N Fire Truck and other exciting activities courtesy of the Albemarle Police Department, Albemarle Fire Department, Stanly County Health Department, OT Clinic, GHA Autism Supports Creative Arts Program, Stanly County Sheriff's Office, Lake Tillery Equestrian Center and Carolinas HealthCare System-Stanly. The fun begins with the Duckie Scavenger Hunt in the park playground area at 11:30 am, and food will be available for purchase courtesy of Second Street Sundries. 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.ghautismsupports.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 Thursday from 8 am to 4:30 pm and on Friday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. *Grab a nest, flock or flotilla now before they are going, going gone!*



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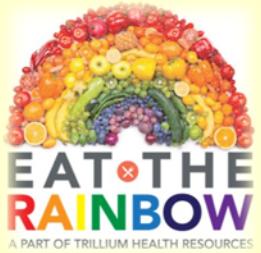
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PORT CITY ACADEMY PARTICIPATES IN “EAT THE RAINBOW” SERIES

Starting in February 2019, Trillium Health Resources began offering a course titled “Eat the Rainbow,” educational classes on healthy eating and basic food preparation. Each month focuses on a different color of the rainbow and the

variety of fruits and vegetables in that color. Individuals at Port City Academy, GHA’s licensed day program in Wilmington, are enjoying the course including the recent lesson focusing on all things orange. Participants observed a demonstration of how to peel an orange and tangerine by using their hands and a peeler, as well as the use of an orange juicer. To top things off, all individuals were given participation certificates and a bag of oranges and tangerines to take home!



PORT CITY ACADEMY RECEIVES GRANT FROM TRILLIUM

GHA is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant from Trillium Health Resources earmarked for GHA’s licensed day program in Wilmington, Port City Academy. Specifically, the grant is part of Trillium’s Healthy Movement Project aimed at increasing their members’ access to physical fitness activities with Peloton™ bikes for indoor cycling. Port City Academy is one of 16 programs in the Trillium catchment area that will receive a Peloton™ bike. Peloton™ designs commercial grade bicycles which are durable, user-friendly, and have interactive classes that help guide and promote use.



Several individuals from GHA are participating in the The Next Chapter Book Club, a book club designed for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities which encourages reading, learning, making friends, and having fun together in a public setting. Club meetings are held at the Stanly County Library every Thursday. During this session, participants have been reading *The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan.

Cowan Home Paint Party



Cowan Home residents enjoyed a paint party at Second Street Sundries recently. Special thanks to Larry & Martha Hupp and GHA Creative Arts Coordinator Kyoko Rorie-Bruton for organizing this opportunity!



The NC Zoo in Asheboro is one of our State's crown jewels. Individuals from the Albemarle

Day Program took advantage of the blue skies and the start of spring at the zoo in late March.



The GHazette is a quarterly publication. If you would like to submit story ideas, please contact a member of the GHazette Editorial Team: Beth Olivieri, betholivieri@ghainc.org or Denise Drye, denisedrye@ghainc.org.



"ADLIB FOR AUTISM" RAISES OVER \$5,000

ComedyWorx, Raleigh's renowned improv comedy club, hosted the first ever "Adlib for Autism" on Sunday, April 14th at their studio located in the Royal Bakery building in Raleigh. The fundraiser to benefit GHA raised over \$5,000! There was a full house present for the show, and attendees had the opportunity to walk away with enticing spring items from the silent auction. Special thanks to our organizers Rob & Maureen Morrell, Chuck Lamothe, Cary LaMay and Tonia Camina and to our incredibly talented improv comedians for providing an entertaining afternoon!



Special thanks to referee and organizer Cary LaMay and to the numerous comedians that donated their time and talents for the afternoon.

Organizers Rob Morrell, Chuck Lamothe & Maureen Morrell grab a spot on the red carpet during the April 14th event.



Quality Management Specialist Jennifer Rorie-Bruton and Chief Regulatory Officer Melissa Rivera shared information to attendees at the Autism Society of North Carolina's Annual Conference on March 22nd and 23rd.

A Sweet Celebration Hosted by Pine Grove UMC

Many individuals from GHA Autism Supports, along with individuals supported through Monarch, Elite, Easter Seals and Lifespan, attended the annual Sweetheart Dance on Saturday evening, February 23rd. In its 10th year, the event is hosted by volunteers at Pine Grove United Methodist Church in Albemarle, and is specifically organized by the Young Women's Fellowship Group. Although the event itself kicked off at 6:00 pm, the pampering began far earlier in the day! Many attendees had their hair and makeup done through the Cosmetology Department at Stanly Community College. Attendees enjoyed music and dancing and a variety of food prepared by church volunteers. Nearly 200 people took part in the day's events that made this year's Valentine's Day festivities a little more special!



Dressed most appropriately in their red, Residential Manager LaKisha Merriman grabs a photo with Chris at this year's Sweetheart Dance.



GHA REPRESENTED AT FFTC ANNUAL MEETING

Over 1,700 attendees, sponsors and presenters gathered together at the 2019 Foundation For The Carolinas Annual Meeting at the Charlotte Convention Center on April 2nd. 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 financial results including more than \$2.4 billion in assets and \$363 million in 2018 contributions. 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 Chef José Andrés is a culinary innovator, television personality and owner of ThinkFoodGroup, as well as a noted advocate for food and hunger issues. World Central Kitchen, the nonprofit he founded, along with #ChefsForPuertoRico, served 3.5 million meals in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. Andrés and World Central Kitchen also responded to Hurricane

Florence here in the Carolinas, feeding first responders and those impacted by the storm. Additionally, he was recently nominated for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. Chef Vivian Howard of PBS' A Chef's Life and Chef & the Farmer in Kinston, NC, led a conversation with Andrés after his presentation. Howard has also played an important role in relief efforts in eastern North Carolina.



Congratulations to Adam and Michael who were members of the 4X50 Special Olympics relay team that took the gold at the Greensboro Aquatics Center on April 27th!

GHA Autism Supports
P.O. Box 2487
213 N. Second St.
Albemarle, NC 28002
704-982-9600
704-982-8155 (fax)
www.ghautismsupports.org

MISSION

GHA Autism Supports provides quality, community services to meet the unique needs of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.





Residents at Carolina Farms gathered together for a pizza party. So who can say no to pizza?



Spring is in the air! The annual GHA Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 17th where participants searched for eggs at Carolina Farms followed by a cookout. Special thanks to organizer Tina Sturdivant for her planning efforts!

Vision—To create environments where people of all ages with Autism Spectrum Disorder are understood, valued for their diversity and are given opportunities to grow as well as contribute to the community.

2019

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How Satisfied are Individuals Served by GHA Autism Supports? Results of Quality Management Survey

During May 2018, we carried out our annual survey asking about individuals' satisfaction with their services as well as happiness with their day-to-day life. Every individual had an opportunity to complete an Individual Satisfaction Survey. The way the survey was answered matched the needs of the participants. For some individuals, the survey was completed independently, while other individuals completed the survey with staff reading each question.

Thirty-five individuals chose to answer the questions, a participation rate of 38%. Six questions employed a *Yes/No* format. At the end of the survey, an open-ended question was included: *Anything else you would like to tell us?* The table below summarizes answers with *Yes* being the positive response to all questions.

2018 GHA Autism Individual Satisfaction Survey:

Survey Questions	Percentage of Positive Responses	Number of Positive Responses	Number of Total Responses
1. Are the people you see every day nice to you?	97%	33	34
2. Are you pretty happy with what you do every day?	97%	33	34
3. Do you feel safe almost all the time?	100%	34	34
4. Do you know who to tell if someone is mean to you? If so, who?	93%	28	30
5. Overall, are you happy with your life?	94%	33	35
6. As a result of services with GHA, is the quality of your life better?	100%	33	33

A Summary of Responses

Responses to all survey questions were very positive, ranging from 93% answering *Yes* to 100% answering *Yes*. The GHA Management Team as well as the Quality Management Department review the Individual Satisfaction Survey results, following up as needed. GHA Autism Supports considers *satisfaction* a key component in attaining the life each individual would like to have. To this end, we will continue these important annual surveys.

GHA creates and maintains an environment that respects and supports individual's and staff's diverse backgrounds (i.e.: culture, ethnicity, beliefs, age, race, gender, etc.)

DHHS Issues Final Guidance on Eligibility, Enrollment for Behavioral Health and Intellectual Development Disability Tailored Plans in Medicaid Managed Care

Reprinted from the NCDHHS website

Released Mar 18, 2019

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services today released guidance detailing the eligibility requirements and enrollment processes for Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Developmental Disability Tailored Plans as a part of the Department's transition to integrated managed care. The [Final Guidance document](#) is available on the Medicaid Transformation website.

In November 2019, most NC Medicaid beneficiaries will begin to transition to managed care, enrolling in Standard Plans designed to meet the needs of most people in the Medicaid program. In July 2021, individuals with higher intensity behavioral health or intellectual and developmental disability needs (such as serious mental illness, severe substance use disorder, or a traumatic brain injury) will enroll in Tailored Plans designed to meet the needs of these more complex populations.

"We are breaking down the barriers separating our physical and behavioral health care systems to focus on whole person health," said DHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "Tailored Plans will help us deliver on that goal for people with higher intensity behavioral health needs, providing a specialized managed care plan with additional resources and expertise."

This final guidance outlines the eligibility criteria for Tailored Plans and describes how people will enroll in these plans, how transitions between Standard Plans and Tailored Plans will work, and what benefits will be covered in Tailored Plans. Much of this content is an update to information included in the November 2017 [Concept Paper](#) that outlined the Department's vision for the establishment of the Behavioral Health and Intellectual Development Disability Tailored Plans.

This guidance document is the first in a series that will be released over the next year as part of the Department's commitment to transparency throughout the Tailored Plan design and implementation process.

Beneficiaries who are eligible for a Tailored Plan will not enroll in managed care until Tailored Plans launch in July 2021. They will remain in their current delivery system, receiving behavioral health services through LME/MCOs and other Medicaid services through the current fee-for-service structure, unless they choose to enroll in a Standard Plan.

Visit the DHHS Medicaid Transformation website to learn more about the Medicaid and NC Health Choice transformation to managed care: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid-transformation>.

While the department always welcomes feedback on our publications and policies, we are releasing this final guidance to be transparent about our intended policy when BH and I/DD Tailored Plans launch in 2021. The department also welcomes questions about the content of this document at any time.