



FUNDACION AUTISMO ARUBA

Newsletter

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Light It Up Blue Aruba 2011!

Promotions had barely started, when like wildfire the invitation for Aruba to participate in Autism Speaks' Light It Up Blue Campaign, were everywhere! It seemed that asking families, companies, schools and other foundations to put up a blue light bulb for the evenings of April 1st and 2nd was not considered as just another April Fool's prank, but was taken seriously by several companies and individuals who decided to participate and wear blue in order to commemorate World Autism Awareness Day 2011.

As an added bonus, the campaign caught the attention of several government officials on the island, including the Prime Minister Mr. Eman, who allowed government workers to get a friendly visit from our very own "Blue man" in the Government Office. Minister of Education Mr. Dowers, Minister of Social, Cultural and Economic affairs Mrs. Hooyboer-Winklaar and the Minister of Health Mr. Visser gave speeches on the evening of April 1st 2011 after plugging in the blue lights of the local monument and museum Willem III tower in Oranjestad.

After April 2nd, pictures of individuals and companies that participated in the campaign were gathered in order to make a beautiful collection, which will be sent to Andy Shih, from Autism Speaks.

In this issue, we will feature more from the Light It Up Blue campaign of 2011 and other ways Aruba celebrated WAAD this year.

Autism Awareness Month continued throughout the month of April and the FAA is thrilled to report that government subsidy is in the process of actualization, which was confirmed to us by the Minister of Social, Cultural and Economic affairs this month!



April 2nd 2011-World Autism Awareness Day

WAAD 2011 was celebrated by many in Aruba! This was evident in all the different pictures we received and the media coverage that was at one point too large for our small foundation to handle. Autism was highlighted constantly in the days leading up to April 2nd by radio programs, television programs

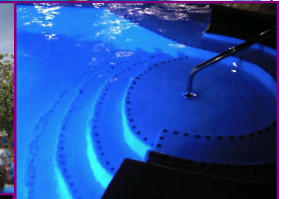
and newspapers. The FAA was especially moved by the many schools that took the time to raise awareness and promote a friendly attitude towards all who have a disorder or disability. The day of April 2nd pleasantly ended in a WAAD fun walk, organized by Maureen Kelly, who is the mother of a brilliant autistic girl, Josie.



Light it Up Blue Aruba continued....

For the success of the LIUB campaign in Aruba we are grateful for the help we received from our main sponsor RBTT and Phil "Blue" Schouten for taking the initiative and doing a marvelous awareness task! A big "Thank You" goes out to all supporters and contributors of this campaign. The FAA also thanks Mr. Andy Shih and Autism Speaks for the invitation and wonderful collaboration.

Please enjoy some of the collection of photos taken during the LIUB campaign.



International: LIUB Campaign Around the World

Many countries in the world participated in Autism Speaks' LIUB campaign in 2011! Enjoy the beautiful scenes from around the globe and please consider participating again with us in Aruba in 2012!



FAA Services: Platform for International Disabilities Treaty

While the FAA celebrates Autism Awareness Month with multiple articles on different issues concerning Autism, another group of professionals is in continual work-mode promoting the implementation of United Nations' treaty for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In November 2010 drs. Caroll Kock of Aruba's Social Department visited the sub-regional meeting

in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago.

Since end of 2009, the FAA participates actively in Aruba's own platform along with many other foundations who advocate for people with a disability. This way, professionals in the social field keep each other abreast of developments in each foundation, but also support each other while promoting a common cause.

Here in Aruba, our community can expect an aggressive media campaign coming soon from this platform, which is striving to promote acceptance and support in our culture for people with all kinds of disabilities.

Every year the platform organizes activities that highlights feats of people with disabilities and their caregivers. For more info on how you can support this wonderful work please contact the FAA.

IPA students: Improve communication between parent & school

Francin and Annemarie are 2 enthusiastic IPA students who took a special interest in the communication issues surrounding parents and teachers of children with Autism. Usually, we tend to focus on the communicative struggles that children with ASD experience, but these observant students noticed a gap when it comes to parents and teachers discussing the needs and education of a child with special needs. Emotional and anxious parents, overworked and tired teachers...the combination is less than perfect and in some cases a recipe for unsuccessful and unfruitful meetings.

After presenting their ideas for successful communication during a regular parent meeting at the FAA, parents gave the students the green light to continue with their efforts to improve the communication between them and teachers. The IPA students handed in their handy tips in a brochure-format and designed a poster with peps, which makes their message clear; parents and teachers in Aruba can improve their meetings if they stick to some simple conversational techniques.

Download the information and poster from our website www.autismoaruba.org/



Autism & Adolescence

Aaah, the teenage years...when life is all about hormonal imbalance and awkward growth spurts that influence the shape of the one who stares back at you in the mirror. Yes, we all go through this stage and usually grow out of insecurities and transition into working towards stability in our adult lives.

For people with Autism, it is not always that simple. Especially parents with teenage sons or daughters with ASD

experience a reoccurrence of insecurities concerning not only the development of their child but also the same questions that pop into most parents' heads when they first get to hear their child's diagnosis. The questions being: How do we continue further? What can I do to help? What about my child's future? For parents of teenagers and adolescents with Autism, that future is right around the corner. Unfortunately

in Aruba, our professionals have little experience with adolescents and adults with ASD, especially higher functioning diagnoses. FAA has been collecting information on this important stage in our children's lives and invite parents of teenagers and adolescents with ASD to explore options with us.

Parents Conclude 1st Support Training at FAA

On April 21st 2011, FAA celebrated along with a group of parents, the end of an intense six-week training designed to help parents navigate and apply helpful techniques that would benefit the development of their children with Autism.

After observing parents' needs for over a year, the FAA's parent support professionals designed a Parent Support Training that covered 3 areas that

children with Autism struggle with, and parents have difficulty dealing with. The first 2 sessions were dedicated to Recognition of Emotions, followed by 2 sessions of Sensory Integration & Self-Advocacy ending the program with 2 sessions dedicated to Aggressive Behavior and ASD. Parents and professionals alike were astounded by the success stories booked during the 6 weeks and look forward to a follow-up program.

FAA thanks Marian, Cirene, Debbie, Irielle and Yosmar & Mirella for this opportunity. We are all proud to have collaborated with Valerie Paradiz, ISA and ARI on this wonderful project!



Coming Soon!

Cascabel Motorcycle Group — is holding a ride May 28th and 29th, dedicated to Autism and the FAA with proceeds going towards the efforts of the FAA in order to promote integration and inclusion of those with Autism in our community. For more information contact our office between 8.30 am-4.30 pm



Media Campaign IDT— Please remain pending for upcoming events and features of foundations who work towards improving the quality of life for people with disabilities. Support our efforts and let us know how you want to help!



ISA Sensory Scan



Your Questions and comments mean a whole lot to us!

Please keep them coming and share our newsletters with others.



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Open from 8.30 am— 4.30 pm

We are located at:
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As of April 2011 the FAA is partnering with ISA (Integrated Self- Advocacy) in offering you the Sensory Scan . Help individuals with autism advocate for themselves. For more information visit our website or contact us during office hours.

PLACE AN AD IN OUR NEWSLETTER—CONTACT FAA FOR MORE INFO!

