



FUNDACION AUTISMO ARUBA

# Newsletter

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## 16,17 & 18 april - First International Autism Symposium Aruba 2010

Celebrating Autism Awareness Month, the FAA held the “First International Autism Symposium Aruba 2010” in April of this year. It was a tremendous success and got marvelous reviews from both attendees as well as the well-known international speakers from the U.S,



Netherlands, Mexico and Curacao. The symposium was larger than imagined and the number of registries far exceeded the original amount aimed for! Valuable information was exchanged and we are hopeful this will make its impact on the quality of professional care and education of individuals with Autism in Aruba.

To ensure continuity of this impacting event, Monique Kuiperi (president FAA) and Dilma Arends (Secretary FAA) sat down with ministers Arthur Dowers (Minister of Justice & Education) and Michelle Winklaar (Minister of Economical & Social Affairs & Culture) in a meeting during the symposium. International speakers Dr. Andy Shih (Autism Speaks) and

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Dr. Miguel Santana (Molemann) along with local physician Dr. Isreal Posner and Alice von Romondt discussed the current situation of those living with Autism in Aruba.

The FAA is grateful for having presented this symposium and hopes to be able to organize such high-quality events in the coming years.

We couldn't have done it without the help and support of our volunteers and sponsors! Thank You!



## Horses of Hope gallops into a new direction!

In 2009 a new project based on the therapeutic effects of horse-back riding featured in the book “*The Horse Boy*” by Rupert Isaacson, was put into practice by volunteers of the FAA. Harriette de Kool with help from Claudia de Cuba and support of Harriette’s daughters gave kids

with Autism the chance to experience this similar effect by being around horses, by riding or just relaxing on the back of the horse, stimulating many senses.

News broke that these awesome volunteers of the project dubbed Horses of Hope,

inspired by the results they noted, are in the process of organizing a foundation. This will allow them to expand their project further and accommodate more children.

FAA wishes HOH all the best and will continue to support this great project!



## Hi, I'm new here!

Okay, so technically I'm not so new anymore. In October 2009 I joined Thaisse Erasmus, Office Manager at the FAA, in tackling daily tasks concerning raising awareness on Autism in Aruba, coordinating projects and activities and attending to the needs of the foundation's target groups.

My name is Natasha Richardson and I am a proud parent of an amazing little girl with autism. I am also a social worker who strives to advocate on is-

sues concerning individuals with autism and other special needs.

Learning is my passion and I make it a point to learn something new every day. From this platform I get to learn and also implement knowledge and experience acquired.

Working at the FAA has been a great experience so far and working for a cause that I truly relate to, puts the term "going to work everyday" in a whole new perspective!



## Crea-activiteit

Trainees Irielle Cabral and Annelies Everaert did a great job searching for the best ways to help create an integration information package designed for the purpose of facilitating the integration of children with Autism in existing art groups in Aruba. The information package titled "Get to know me, understand me & Help me", is now available at the FAA at no cost.



*"Wish you could see the world through their eyes"*

The FAA wishes to thank Irielle Cabral, Annelies Everaert and Melisa Richardson for organizing the "Crea-activiteit".

Both kids and parents enjoyed this creative and sensory stimulating morning at the FAA!

## FAA Services: Parent Support Meetings

At the end of each month parents of kids with ASD get to share their experiences in a safe and friendly atmosphere. With the help of 4 professional volunteers and the Project coordinator, information based on the parents' needs is exchanged, thus increasing the parents' self-reliance in the design and application of techniques used to approach and deal with autism in their everyday lives. The professional team

of volunteers thoughtfully guides the conversations whilst promoting applicable strategies for both parents and their children. This dynamic team of volunteers consists of:  
Mirella Fingal ---Psychologist  
Yosmar Heide---Remedial Educator  
Marian Krozendijk---Social Worker  
Cirene Scholten---Social Worker



**Volunteers & Parents alike enjoy the meeting!**

## Looking for...

### • VOLUNTEERS

**Would you like to make a difference through our dynamic foundation?**

Volunteering is a great way to gain experience, broaden your perspective and meet great people. At the FAA we work with several types of volunteers. Based on your interest and availability, we'll match you with a great project or activity benefitting those with autism in our community.

**Contact us and learn more!**

### • TRAINEES

**Are you a student doing research on developmental disorders or do you wish to experience an exciting traineeship?**

At the FAA there is a lot you can choose from if you have to do projects and research papers. As a trainee you can help organize activities and lend a hand in our daily tasks. We have lots of literature to use as reference.

**Call for an appointment or hand in your written request.**

**Fundacion Autismo Aruba welcomes your donations & financial support.**

FAA relies on donations and sponsorships to carry out the work of raising awareness on Autism and ensuring possibilities for those with Autism in Aruba to develop their skills and talents whilst getting the best possible guidance, care and education.

Let us know if there are specific projects you would love to contribute to, or make a general donation via:

**RBTT account # 4276906**

## Education & Autism

A recurring topic brought forth at the FAA by parents and teachers alike, is Education. The question everyone is asking: How do we teach a child with Autism in a manner that is most effective? At the FAA we offer support and help explore proven methods that best suit the situation using our collection of reading material and when needed, ask for support internationally. Teachers and schools can also request a presen-

tation on basic information about Autism plus tips for classroom use. But our standpoint is clear; one has to get to know the individual, understand his needs before you decide on the best approach. It is also crucial to have parents and teachers communicating regularly.

The FAA invites you to remain pending for further exciting developments in 2011 concerning this topic!

*Greater progress can be made teaching these individuals when parents and teachers work on building the child's strengths and teach in a manner that is aligned with their basic pattern of thinking.*  
- Temple Grandin

## International: HBO Movie *Temple Grandin*

The HBO movie *Temple Grandin* starring Claire Danes has been nominated for 15 Emmy Awards. The movie chronicles the younger years of the now accomplished and well-known adult with Autism who actively speaks and writes about the topic. Temple Grandin's passion is animal behavior and welfare. She turned this passion

into her life's work. Currently she works as a professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University and gives lectures on Autism.

Catch her movie on the HBO channel or reserve your seat for FAA's movie night at Fantastic Gardens October 4th. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Entrance: 5,- afl. & includes popcorn & refreshments.



## Coming Soon!

**Butterflies & Autism**—Butterfly Farm is donating a plot of land to Autism Awareness! Kids with Autism, parents and volunteers are invited to decorate the plot with plants and puzzles on September 25th at 9 am.



**Movie night**— We will feature the HBO movie *Temple Grandin* on October 4th at Fantastic Gardens. Doors open at 6:30 pm, entrance fee 5,-afl.



**Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival 2010**—The FAA has been invited to appear at the festival on October 8th and 9th. We will set up a small booth with information. There will be Autism poetry readings, art done by a young Autistic talent & more!



**Self-Esteem Sports week**—Movimiento ta Bida, a non-profit organization promoting exercise, is organizing a sports week specifically for kids & teens between the ages of 8-16, who have a communicative disorder. Autism is also a part of this group, along with the deaf and children with a speech disorder. It will take place from October 25th-29th.



**Hopus Ipad application**—Liliana Braamskamp, illustrator & mother of a child with Autism wishes to introduce the new Ipad application of her children's book titled 'Hopus' on October 23rd at FAA 10:00-11:00 am. Liliana will read to children and have an interactive morning with the new Ipad application!



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**THANK YOU!** We truly appreciate your support!

