



Jewish Association for Developmental Disabilities

# OUTREACH NEWS

November 2008

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This year's Walkathon was held at Votee Park on October 26, 2008. We were lucky enough to have another beautiful day for the event as we have always had in the past! Thank you to all who showed up to support this event and to all who put so much effort into making it happen. Special thanks to our committee co-chairs Barbara Bolton and Bruce Meyers and their many helpers and to Charlotte Bennett Schoen for cutting the ribbon to start the walk. Thanks also to Bonnie Hoffman for all her efforts! This year we had live entertainment thanks to Bruce Meyers and his band. Julie Meyers sang the National Anthem and it was wonderful! Thanks to Fred Katz for leading off the lively dance segment. We all enjoyed it immensely! As usual, we had our wonderful clowns from Call Us Clowns, Inc. and the contribution of bagels from Sammy's Bagels and Poppy's Bagels—they were delicious as always and your generosity is greatly appreciated. Everyone should frequent these shops as they have always been so gracious in supporting our agency!

Walkathon  
2008



## MONEY , HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT

As I read our Executive Director's Outreach message, I realized that the theme of my column, arrived at independently, had a similar concept. It is one of hope and compassion for our special needs population. Enrichment in the lives of the families we serve, both through housing and respite care is more than the monetary aspect. It is, in large part, the ability to see an adult or child with developmental disabilities smile at achieving another goal – whatever that particular goal may be. For the J-ADD agency, the ability and monetary means to assist families in availing themselves of our services, and making life a little easier is our reward. The philosophical content of Judaism is universal in nature but helping others is relevant to all peoples. Helping others is required for the moral advancement of all nations.

And so I call on everyone to lend a hand. We cannot achieve our goals without your help – both by contributions of money and time. Please try to help us to meet our goals so that this agency can continue to help our population lead their lives to the fullest potential possible.

We hope to be able to continue the level of support that we have been providing to our families and to perhaps expand services to the many families that are still in need.

At this time of year we give thanks for what we have, and bless this country for the sustenance it provides. In this difficult financial climate, let us understand that happiness is not just money - it is the wholesomeness of families striving for unity and togetherness. In sum, it is our soul.

Wishing you peace and happiness during this holiday season.

*Michael*



What a year this has been. So much has happened both in the little bubble that we call J-ADD, and in the big wide world that is out there. So much so that I am tempted to rely on the famous expression that states: "A picture paints a thousand words"...and to just paste a picture over this column. But one photo would not suffice and I venture to guess that I would need to put together a whole album and even then that would be limiting. Instead let me focus on the two worlds, one with a story and the other with a plea.

The story is a short one and really is the same story of many of our consumers and their families. As I was walking through the office the other day I noticed a family in an intake meeting. At the meeting was one of our workers, and the mother and two daughters, one of whom had a very obvious disability. As I watched from the door I was taken aback by the mothers struggle between composure and pain as she told her daughters story, and in so doing her own. I was hooked on observing the interaction and was drawn in to the conversation by the mothers engaging personality and her struggle to engage and involve her young daughter in the conversation via the use of a computerized communication system. In a soft yet authoritative voice she instructed her daughter to hit the appropriate computer keys to respond to various questions and to express her opinion at certain times. When her very shaky and poorly coordinated hand missed the key, the mother persisted until the daughter was able to express herself. When I introduced myself she required her daughter to say hello (using the computer) and look at me when saying so. I was not only amazed but impressed too. How many of us struggle with educating our children, whether with disability or without, and how many of us give up half way through the process. There is no giving up for these families. Giving up, means giving up on their children's future.

The poignancy of this particular meeting reminded me how important the resilience of each of our individuals' and their respective family is, as well as how important the resilience of each of us and J-ADD is. The global world has taken a major economic bashing and all of us in some way or another, big or small, are feeling the impacts of this. Maybe we have lost money on the stock market, maybe we have lost employment, maybe there are cutbacks in the Division of Developmental Disabilities, and so the list continues. Is there not a valuable lesson to be learned from our many consumers and their families out there? I believe there is. I believe it is the lesson of perseverance and not giving up. I believe it is the lesson that even in times of pain, of looking towards our strengths and pushing them to the limit we make sure that we continue to do our jobs. So in these trying times as our economy is under stress and the resources become more and more limited it is important that all of us continue to give both monetarily and voluntarily.

Peace to all

*John*



We would like to request that wherever possible you forward your updated email address to our office manager [bhoffman@j-add.org](mailto:bhoffman@j-add.org) at your earliest convenience. Remember we are stronger with each other's support.

Together we are better.



Over the summer The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation Hotline received a call from a Mom in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. The advocate answered some of Mom's questions during the initial call and then sent her a copy of the Resource Guide developed by the Hotline. In a follow-up phone call, the advocate asked the mom if she was finding the guide helpful. The mom thanked us and said it was "fabulous!" The mom continued and said that she has already shown it to several others and all viewers were so impressed!

Shortly thereafter, we received a phone call from the Family Support Organization (FSO) in Hamilton, New Jersey. The woman explained that a mom brought in The Resource Guide and named the mom from Lawrenceville. The Coordinator expressed her excitement with the listing of resources, and asked if we could send out copies to all the other FSO's branches in the state of New Jersey. We were delighted to do so! For more information about The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation Hotline and Resource Guide, please feel free to call us.

*The J-add Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation Hotline  
Can be reached at 201-457-0058, ext. 15*

## J-ADD'S ANNUAL MEETING



The 22nd Annual Meeting for The Jewish Association for Developmental Disabilities was held on Monday, May 5, 2008 at the J.C.C. of Paramus. New board members were sworn in and awards were handed out.

Volunteer of the Year - Susan Thaler

Humanitarian Award - Peter K. Seldin

Life Achievement Award - Charles P. Berkowitz, MSW



Staff awards were given for 10 or more years of service to ScottMeyer, Efrat Sobolofsky and Ina Friedman. Awards were received by Josanne Phillips, Icilda Goulbourne and Althea Lewis for 5 or more years of service.



Our thanks goes out to Lynn DuBroff, Lauren Glubo, Barbara Bolton and Susan Thaler for arranging this wonderful event.

## SIBSHOPS, "SIBLINGS ARE SPECIAL TOO"

I am very proud and excited to announce that the first meeting of Sibshops was scheduled for November 2, 2008 at the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades in Tenafly, New Jersey. Sibshops is a collaboration between Guttenberg Center for Special Services, J-ADD and Yachad.

These sibling workshops will provide an opportunity for brothers and sisters of children with special needs to obtain peer support and education within a recreational setting.

It is an acknowledgement that for some, being a sibling of a person with special needs can have special joys and special challenges. They can discuss common joys and concerns, learn more about the implications of their sibling's needs while having fun and making new friends.

Through Sibshops, children ranging in age from 8 to 13 years old will be given a great opportunity for personal growth and a lifelong meaningful connection to their brother or sister with special needs.

If you or anyone you know have questions or would like more information please call us at 201-457-0058 extension 23 or e-mail us at [Sibshop.nj@gmail.com](mailto:Sibshop.nj@gmail.com).

Sharon Horn, MSW

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THIS YEAR'S INTERNS

*My name is Lara VandenBerg.* I am currently a student attending Fordham University's Graduate school of Social Services. In May, I graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor's of Science in Human Services. I chose the path of social work because I have always had a desire to help people at a hands on level. I have come to understand how easy yet important it is to care for those who need it.

I am very excited to be interning at J-ADD this year. I feel fortunate to be involved in a wonderful agency with such a glowing reputation. I have started working with Flowers by J-ADD and have also made some visits to the Newbridge Apartments. Already I can see how the consumers can influence my life and provide depth and meaning. I hope I can give back at least half of what I see them giving me.

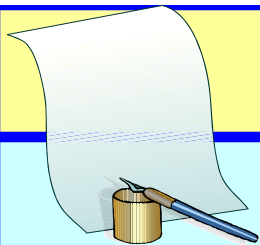
I look forward to working with the staff, administration, consumers and families of J-ADD this upcoming year. I hope that with the help from my personal experiences, education, and J-ADD supervision, this year will be productive and meaningful for everyone.

*My name is Megan Michaels* and I am excited to be a student intern this year at J-ADD. I attended the University of California Los Angeles where I received my BA in Psychology. I studied for a semester in Seville, Spain and also studied for two years in Jerusalem, Israel. After graduating from UCLA I worked and volunteered for AIPAC (America Israel Public Affairs Committee) and StandWithUs, a grassroots Israel advocacy organization. For the past two years I worked for AishHatorah, a Jewish education and outreach organization as the project manager of their college campus department.

I feel that working at J-ADD this year is a great way for me to combine my passion to be a part of the Jewish community with my desire to work with and help people. I am looking forward to forming relationships with the consumers, staff and the community. I will be visiting the Teaneck apartments, as well as working with Flowers by J-ADD and facilitating a program that brings J-ADD consumers to volunteer at the Daughters of Miriam Nursing Home .

I am working towards getting my masters degree in Social Work from Yeshiva University, Wurzweller School of Social Work. I am sure that interning at this agency will be a great experience!

## CONSUMER'S CORNER



MY NAME IS MARC RIEDLER AND I LIVE IN J-ADD GROUP HOME NUMBER EIGHT. I WORK AT THE J-ADD OFFICE IN HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY. I MAKE COFFEE, MAKE COPIES AND DO OTHER OFFICE WORK. I ALSO DO TASKS FOR OTHER PEOPLE IN THE OFFICE. I LIKE WORKING FOR J-ADD AND LIVING IN THE GROUP HOME. I ALSO LIKE THE STAFF IN MY GROUP HOME. SOMETIMES I SELL FLOWERS THROUGH THE FLOWERS BY J-ADD.



### MY FLORIDA VACATION BY JEFFREY PORTNOY AS TOLD TO JOYCE

I WENT TO FLORIDA ON AN AIRPLANE WITH MY BROTHER IVAN. IT WAS RAINING ON THE FIRST DAY. WE WENT SHOPPING. WE BOUGHT FOOD. WE BOUGHT ME PAJAMAS AND NEW SHIRTS. ON THE SECOND DAY WE WENT FOR A WALK IN THE PARK. WE SAW BIRDS AND A BIG ALLIGATOR. WE WENT TO DINNER IN A RESTAURANT, AND WE SAW BOATS. ON THE THIRD DAY, WE WENT TO A PARK FOR A PICNIC. THEN WE WENT TO MY NEPHEW'S HOUSE. WE WENT TO A HALLOWEEN PARTY. I HAD A VERY GOOD TIME EVERY PLACE.

## LIFESPIRE AFTER SCHOOL RESPITE PROGRAM

Lifespire New Jersey is running an After School/Respite program two days per week for students with Autism. The program runs from 3:30—6:30 p.m. and is housed at Bergen Regional Medical Center. The activities include, but are not limited to, basketball, volleyball, playing pool, ping-pong, video games, and seasonal crafts. We are about to start some community recreation activities. We have seen the youth over the year begin to team together to support each other, care for each other, and engage in ways that have significantly gotten better and better each day! If you are interested in these services, please contact Andrea Vaccaro at 347-262-1155 or e-mail her at [avaccaro@lifespire.org](mailto:avaccaro@lifespire.org).



# WELCOME HOME

## LEONIA GROUP HOME NEWS

SEPTEMBER WAS A VERY BUSY MONTH AT THE LEONIA GROUP HOME IN MANY, MANY WAYS. IT STARTED WITH EVERYONE ANTICIPATING MANY EVENTS THAT WERE HAPPENING AND BEING PUT INTO PLACE AT THE HOME. WE HAD 3 BIRTHDAYS; RAYNA ON SEPTEMBER 17, ROBERT ON SEPTEMBER 20 AND AMY ON SEPTEMBER 24, AS WELL AS 2 STAFF; RUBIA ON THE 8TH AND NYIA ON THE 19TH. WE WERE JOINED BY ANOTHER GROUP HOME OF THE CONSUMERS' CHOICE FOR THE PARTIES. LETS JUST SAY WE HAD LOTS OF CAKE, ICE CREAM AND PIZZA THAT MONTH!

AMY APPRECIATES EVERYONE'S WELL WISHES AND THOUGHTS DURING HER RECENT ILLNESS.

RAYNA HAD A SMALL INTIMATE PARTY AT THE GROUP HOME FOR HER BIRTHDAY AND ALSO CELEBRATED WITH FAMILY. SHE IS LEARNING NEW AND FUN THINGS WITH THE VOLUNTEER, LISA, WHO HAS BEEN COMING TO THE HOUSE ON TUESDAYS.

SHARON HAD AN EXCITING SEPTEMBER. SHE WENT ON A WEEKEND TRIP WITH THE ORGANIZATION, SPROUT, AND HAD A BLAST. THEY WENT TO PHILADELPHIA AND VISITED MANY HISTORIC SITES SUCH AS THE LIBERTY BELL. SHE HAD FUN AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO TAKING ANOTHER WEEKEND TRIP IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

DAVID KEEPS US ENTERTAINED WITH HIS SINGING, LAUGHING AND SPELLING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT. I LOOK FORWARD TO WALKING IN THE DOOR EVERY MORNING JUST TO HEAR DAVID'S GREETING OF "LOLA IS HERE!" DAVID HAS NEVER CALLED ME NYIA. IT'S BEEN LOLA SINCE DAY ONE SO IT STUCK.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST , BRIAN. HE ENJOYS HIS WEEKEND TRIPS TO HIS MOM'S HOUSE IN HOBOKEN. WHEN HE COMES HOME, HE HAS LOTS OF STORIES TO ENTERTAIN US WITH, SUCH AS WHERE THEY ATE AND WHAT THEY DID FOR AN ACTIVITY. HE NEVER LETS US FORGET THAT HE LOVES GOING HOME TO HIS MOM'S HOUSE.

EVERYONE HAD A GREAT TIME AT THE SPECIAL GAMES AND ENJOYED PARTICIPATING IN ALL THE EVENTS, AS WELL AS THE FOOD THEY ATE. WE GO TO DANCE CLASS, THE OCCASIONAL DINNER OUT WITH STAFF, IN-HOUSE PIZZA PARTIES AND OUR FAMOUS KARAOKE SESSIONS.

OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN. FEEL FREE TO DROP BY ANYTIME!

NYIA WILLIAMSON  
LEONIA GROUP HOME MANAGER

### New Apartment Opens in Teaneck

On July 21, J-ADD's 10<sup>th</sup> residential site opened in Teaneck. We welcomed Daniel into the new apartment that is in close proximity to the other two apartments already in Teaneck. Daniel is enjoying his new home and is becoming acquainted with everything that his new neighborhood has to offer.

### New faces in Management

J-ADD welcomes to its management team:

- ◆ Roxanne Nabors, who came to the agency in July as the manager of the three Teaneck apartments. Roxanne brings to J-ADD extensive experience in social services, having worked in the field in New York and Ohio.
- ◆ Linda Hill, who became the assistant manager at the Elmwood Park Home in October. Linda has been with J-ADD since 2007 and has much related experience in the field.
- ◆ Leidy Gomez, Assistant Manager of the three Teaneck Apartments.
- ◆ Carolyn Pearson, Assistant Manager at the Gordon House.

### Licensing Inspections Take Place

In July, thorough inspections by the Division of Developmental Disabilities Office, licensing took place at the residences. Each site received a full-year license, which is the maximum length allowed. We thank all of our management and staff for the continuous dedication that they show to the individuals we serve.

Scott Meyer  
Group Home Coordinator

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### GREETINGS FROM THE BERRIE HOME...

Autumn season is here. The Berrie Home has enjoyed many events with friends and family both at home and at work. A trip was organized to the Paper Mill theater to see Oklahoma compliments of Mrs. Bressman, and a fun afternoon at the circus was had by all. Carolyn and Larry each celebrated a birthday in September.

Our residents continue to become more independent at home and at work. Michelle was excited to sell J-ADD flowers for Rosh Hashanah. Brian and Larry continue to work at the Meadowlands, while Robert and Jeff enjoy the busy recreation schedule and the delicious meals. Carolyn and friends look forward to the weekly visits from our volunteer Dana. We were happy to spend the Jewish holiday with our dear friends and family.

Carolyn Dawson  
Group Home Coordinator  
Berrie Group Home Manager

*We would like to hear from you regarding your opinions and what articles you would like to see in future issues. Please call 201-457-0058, ext. 10*

*Editor: Ina Friedman*

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MORE FROM OUR HOMES.....

ELMWOOD PARK

It is a very busy time of year, changing seasons, and the start of a Jewish New Year. Things here at the Elmwood Park group home have also had some changes. There has been new staff hired and an announcement of a new assistant manager, Linda Hill. We have two new residential aides and all our guys seem excited about our new staff. Jeff has been selling flowers for J-ADD and he finds this to be a rewarding and exciting experience. He looks forward to continue with this venture and the rest of our residents are looking forward to new and exciting activities.

Lauren Kohl  
Elmwood Park Manager

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NEW BRIDGE APARTMENTS.....

The New Bridge Apartments has started off the New Year by pledging to lose weight and to make much healthier meal choices. All 6 residents have started the Weight Watchers Program and have already seen significant weight losses. They have had discussions on healthier meal plans, food preparation, and portion control. Residents and staff attend the Weight Watchers meetings once a week where they weigh in and participate in the group meeting by sharing their success stories with other members.

In support of the residents and their weight loss goal, much healthier foods and snacks have been purchased. We are counting calories and using less sugar in the preparation of meals.

Overall, the Weight Watchers Program is a success and our residents and staff plan to continue to participate. We look forward to our targeted weight loss goals and to a much healthier lifestyle.

Jennifer Hinds  
New Bridge Apartments Manager

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FALL EVENTS AT THE GORDON HOUSE.....

Thank you to Sandra McCurdy, Manager of the Gordon House, for hosting a wonderful Sukkott Party attended by residents from all our homes. Sandra did a wonderful job and the party was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed themselves in the new Sukkah tent and the Gordon House residents look forward to seeing everybody again next year!

All bedrooms are being painted and redecorated this fall and our residents are very pleased and excited with the new furniture and the progress being made.

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FISHER HOME.....

All our residents went to camp this summer and had a great time. Kenneth, one of our residents, started the Get Away Program at the JCC. He loves the group and looks forward every month to going out with them. So far, he has gone to a baseball game as well as apple picking. Kenneth as well as our other residents are looking forward to a lot more activities to come.

Rontairey Griffin  
Fisher Group Home Manager



## Hello from Teaneck!

My name is Roxanne Nabors and I would like to introduce myself and the apartments I manage in the Teaneck area. I began working for J-ADD in July 2008. I am very excited to be working for this agency and have found my experiences thus far, rewarding and exciting. Most of you are familiar with the Walraven and Lozier apartments and the consumers who live there. In mid-July, the new apartment on Hill Street opened up. At this time, there is only one consumer living in the apartment, but the apartment is operational for two consumers.

During the short time that the Hill Street apartment has been open, we have tried to incorporate some fun activities. Such as, during the month of August, our consumer went to New York City and enjoyed a day at the Jewish Museum. In September, staff and our consumer enjoyed an evening out at the Hackensack Cultural Arts Center to see a local rendition of Cabaret. We are looking forward to having the neighbors over for coffee and dessert in the next few weeks to officially introduce ourselves to them.

The consumers at Walraven are doing well and enjoying the new staff that have been added. Consumers enjoyed the festive meals for Rosh Hashanah and the prayers and candle lighting for Yom Kippur. They have also been involved with Temple Emeth and Temple Emmanuel. Spending time working out at the JCC on the Palisades is another fun and healthy activity that has been enjoyed during the past few months as well.

The consumer at Lozier is enjoying being involved with Temple Emeth and was invited to read and do some candle lighting for the High Holiday services. Spending time working out at the JCC on the Palisades has also been a staple for this consumer and is a great way to focus on heart and health. Recently, the consumer celebrated his birthday with a small gathering at Sushi Metsuyan, a local kosher sushi restaurant.

All in all, we have had a very busy summer and fall and are looking forward to many more wonderful activities.

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## Fair Lawn Group Home....

There are six men living at the Fair Lawn Group Home and each of them has their own individual style! However, they all enjoy the company of each other as housemates.

They look forward to fun filled recreational activities in the community such as dance class at the Dance Image Studio, visiting and socializing with other group homes, going out to kosher restaurants, and going to the movies. The monthly JCC dance is one of their biggest and favorite events. In addition to their busy work schedule, they are involved with volunteering at The Daughters of Miriam. Our residents are looking forward to starting The Relationship Building Course (RBC) which focuses on social skills and other interesting topics of discussion.

Fair Lawn residents continue to live a happy lifestyle in the home and the community at large.

Figena John  
Fair Lawn Group Home Manager

# OF INTEREST.....

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## **Preparing** for autistic children's teen years

### **New programs needed as students grow older**

North Jersey's autistic population is growing up, and school districts that have scrambled to start classes for the youngest students are turning their attention to the teenage years.

"This is the generation of parents that fought for high-quality programs starting at age 3," said Gary Molenaar, director of instruction at the Bergen County Special Services District. "Now these kids are aging up through the middle and high school years, and they want the same quality of service."

New classrooms for high school students are opening in Dumont and Rockleigh. In Ridgewood, a middle school dedicated to providing autism services opened this year with 24 students from Bergen, Passaic and Essex counties. Administrators expect it will grow eventually to serve 78 children. In Franklin Lakes, a new class for middle school students will open in September — and it already has a waiting list.

Expanding services for older students is a pressing need.

In Bergen County, nearly two-thirds of students with autism were found to be between the ages of 6 and 13 in a 2006 survey of 73 school districts. More than one-third of administrators said they were concerned about having adequate secondary school classes in the future.

"The input is that this is going to be a graph that looks like this," said county Special Services Superintendent Robert Aloia, pointing skyward.

Throughout North Jersey, autism programs have long waiting lists at public and private schools alike. The state has the highest rate of autism recorded in the United States, at one in 94 children, according to a 2006 federal report. There is no clear-cut cause for the increase, though growing awareness is a factor.

The disorder is associated with repetitive, socially inappropriate behaviors and impairs the communication and sensory input skills children need to learn. Individuals with autism are diagnosed by their behavior and usually are described as being "on the spectrum," a reference to their wide range of abilities. Some may never speak. Others may learn to function normally as adults.

As students enter their teenage years, they pose a double challenge for educators.

Schools must continue the rigorous, data-driven behavior modification lessons that have become the gold standard in well-regarded North Jersey programs. But they must do so outside of the controlled classroom environment in order to teach students to use their hard-earned social skills in unpredictable settings.

"You might learn something in school, but have difficulty generalizing that in the community," said Roberta Wohle, director of the Office of Special Education at the state Department of Education. "You want students to have opportunities within the community, in a structured way, to help practice those skills."

At the Washington@Ridgewood program for middle school students run by the county special services district, each day's schedule includes lessons and "errands." One frequent assignment: Place lunch orders for the staff and pick up the food. Students earn a tip for their efforts, and then head to the local drugstore or supermarket to spend the money. "They practice how to find products, how to ask people questions and how to talk to people who they don't know," said teacher Karen Piasecki. "It's also practice in counting money, and learning to wait for your change."

Time is of the essence as children approach the end of their elementary school years. Learning is labor- and time-intensive for many students with autism, who lose their entitlements to school and therapy when they turn 21.

"Ten or 11 years might seem like a long time, but truly, it might not be for the individual with autism who requires a lot of repetition to learn skills," said Linda Meyer, executive director of NJ COSAC, an advocacy group. "Your goal in adolescence is to pick what's functional for the individual to learn, so they can be as independent as possible when they graduate."

Kathy Kientz's son Ryan, 13, attends the private Epic school in Paramus. In school, he is learning skills that hopefully will foster independence later in life, such as how to visit a gym. At home in Clifton, he has learned to make his own bed and load the dishwasher.

Kientz, who leads a local support group for parents of adolescents with autism, said she hopes that Ryan's years of schooling will prepare him for life after age 21. But she worries about a persistent dearth of services for a growing group of teenagers and adults with autism.

"We know it's coming," she said. "We know we've already got a population of adults that aren't being served, and we've got one in 94 children being diagnosed in New Jersey. We have some time now to prepare."

### *Students with autism*

*The majority of Bergen County students with autism are in or approaching their middle-school years, a survey of local school districts found.*

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Our Outreach Newsletter will soon be available on our newly updated website [www.j-add.org](http://www.j-add.org)

***A MOTHER'S WISH***

*Lisa Driver 2004*

*The world rejoices over a beautiful child, bright healthy, fun and free.*

*A mother's heart bursts with love, for she can clearly see...*

*A growing babe learning many things, changing everyday.*

*Rejoicing in the world around, through music, word and play.*

*Sometimes the world is not so kind, and a child may find it harder,*

*To conquer all those special skills, that others seem to master.*

*A mother's heart still bursts with love, and hope that they'll be free,*

*To enjoy their life in this world, and be the best that they can be.*