Summer 2019 Newsletter



**The Virginia Autism Foundation team is glad to share our plans for the coming year.**

We are proud to announce that after a 12 year effort our Autism Insurance Reform legislation has become law in Virginia!

Over 25,000 families will now benefit from this legislation that becomes effective January 1st 2020. We hosted a formal bill signing ceremony with Governor Northam in June and we wish to thank all our Senators and Delegates who assisted us in championing this much needed legislative change.

We sponsored the first Tidewater Autism Safety Fair on Saturday, April 6th 2019, in conjunction with Autism Speaks and the Floyd E. Kellam Jr. Family Fund. First Responders from across Tidewater came together to introduce safety programs for our families.

We are sponsoring and participating in the 3rd Annual Els for Autism Golf event at the Princess Anne Country Club in July. The Els for Autism Foundation offers innovative, evidenced-based programs for families and individuals across the life-span.

We are participating with Ashworth Racing at this season’s Virginia Raceway, race driver Matt Ashworth has dedicated his season to support our families with Autism. The Virginia Autism Foundation logo will be displayed on the car and at the track.

We have worked with businesses and the City of Virginia Beach in support of World Autism Awareness Day April 2nd 2019. Many of our City landmarks and businesses participated in “Light It up Blue” and Mayor Bobby Dyer issued a proclamation in support of our families with Autism.

We participated in the Autism Speaks Sun Trust financial planning workshop in January at the Virginia Beach Westin.

Planning is underway for our 2019 Autism Summit This will be our 11th year and we anticipate hosting over 1000 people! The summit will be held at YMCA’s Camp Grom Saturday October 19th Our foundation provides free toys, food, admission & door prizes for all families as well as grants for Swim lessons and Project Lifesaver Safety Bracelets. Our Summit is the largest gathering of Autism Service providers under one roof in the Mid Atlantic. This event is held at no cost to vendors and families.

Please consider joining us at this year’s event!

The Virginia Autism Foundation team looks forward to assisting many of our Autism families this year. We are grateful for the support of so many in our community who contribute and allow us to provide needed services. We are proud to be a part of this community and have you as a contributor and friend.

Donate at [www.virginiaautismfoundation.com](http://www.virginiaautismfoundation.com)

Mark Llobell -Virginia Autism Foundation Founder - Melanie Miller – Virginia Autism Foundation Vice President

 **Virginia Autism Foundation - 757-572-5412** **- Mark@VirginiaAutismFoundation.com**

 **Virginia Autism Foundation – 757-567-9805 –** **Melanie@VirginiaAutismFoundation.com**

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