



Brevard Autism Coalition
1800 Penn Street, Suite 12
Melbourne, FL 32901
Phone: 321-768-6800
Fax: 321-768-6858
Brevardautismcoalition@gmail.com

Letter from the Director:

As 2024 comes to a close, the Brevard Autism Coalition (BAC) extends heartfelt gratitude to the Brevard community for its unwavering support throughout the year. Together, we have achieved incredible milestones, strengthening our shared mission to support individuals with autism and their families.

The year began with the **15th Annual Brevard Autism Coalition 5K Run/Walk for Autism Awareness** and the sixth **Run for the Kids Race Challenge**. These events united our community in the spirit of fitness and fun, creating memories while advancing our cause. Shortly after, we hosted a free seminar at the Space Coast Health Foundation titled *"Empowering Relationships: Communication, Sexuality, and Behavior,"* aimed at empowering young adults and their families with vital knowledge and tools.

In the spring, our **Adventure Coffee Prevocational Camp** provided 12 young adults with the opportunity to develop work skills by running the Adventure Coffee Café at Child and Family Consultants. Building on this momentum, BAC partnered with the Cocoa Village Playhouse in May for another successful **Sensory Sensitive Play**. This beloved event has grown so much that two performances are planned for 2025, scheduled for late May and early June.

Thanks to generous funding, donations, and community grants, the **Camp-2-Can Summer Program** flourished under the leadership of Camp Director Heather Morway and an exceptional team of counselors. Over six weeks, 80 participants (24 participants per week) with autism and related conditions experienced a safe, social, and fun-filled camp environment. Additionally, BAC maintained its year-round initiatives, including social skills groups for adolescents and young adults and a monthly golf program led by Coach Mike at the US 1 Golf Center in Rockledge.

In September, BAC furthered its commitment to advocacy and collaboration by hosting a **Candidates Forum** at the Space Coast Health Foundation. This forum brought together local and state office candidates to engage with the disability community, sparking vital conversations about support and resources for individuals and families with disabilities in Brevard County. We were also proud to support the launch of **One Voice Brevard**, which aims to unite various disability nonprofit organizations in Brevard County, working together to educate, empower, and advocate for the voices of individuals with disabilities at both the county and state levels. One Voice Brevard started publishing a monthly newsletter—edited by Nicole Grabner and Brenda Leon—to educate and engage the community on important issues.

November marked the return of the **11th Annual Brevard Uncorked Gala** at the Hotel Melby in Downtown Melbourne. It was a memorable evening of entertainment, auctions, games, and fine dining, all in support of BAC's mission.

As we look at 2025, we invite everyone in Brevard to unite in raising awareness of the needs, abilities, and strengths of the disability community. Our focus will include promoting healthy lifestyles, mental health, and social engagement while continuing to support individuals and



Brevard Autism Coalition
1800 Penn Street, Suite 12
Melbourne, FL 32901
Phone: 321-768-6800
Fax: 321-768-6858
Brevardautismcoalition@gmail.com

families affected by autism. We also aim to address critical issues such as housing, transportation, employment, education gaps, and access to services through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). Building stronger connections with local and state representatives will be essential in these efforts.

Exciting Upcoming BAC Events:

- **16th Annual Brevard 5K Run/Walk for Autism Awareness** on February 22, 2025, at the Schechter Center in Satellite Beach. This year, BAC is proud to partner with the Flutie Foundation to make the race bigger and better than ever. Register at Running Zone and join us for a day of fitness and fun! This race is also part of the **Run for the Kids Race Challenge**, three race series!
- **Adventure Coffee Prevocational Camp**, March 17 – 21, 2024.
- **Sensory Sensitive Plays**, Saturday, May 31, 2025 and Saturday, June 7, 2025.
- **Camp 2 Can Summer Camp**, June 2-27, 2025 and July 7-July 18 (week of July 4th off).

We are currently seeking race sponsors and volunteers for all upcoming events, including the 5K Run/Walk, the Prevocational Camp, and Camp-2-Can. For more information on how to get involved or sponsor an event, please contact Joseph Werner or Heather Morway at Child and Family Consultants.

We also welcome your ideas for fitness, nutrition, wellness programs, and social or prevocational initiatives that could benefit the Brevard community. Together, let's make 2025 a landmark year for awareness, advocacy, and inclusion.

Thank you for your continued support. We are honored to work alongside you to ensure every individual and family feels valued and connected within our community. Let's keep moving forward—no mind left behind!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Werner".

Joseph Werner, OTD, OT/L
Director, Brevard Autism Coalition, Inc.