



One Voice Brevard

1 April 2026



A Mother's View of Autism Awareness Month

by: Nicole Grabner

As a mother, autism isn't something I think about just in April. It is how my children experience the world every single day. This month, though, gives me a chance to pause and share our story, and to help others understand that behind every label is a child full of personality, strengths, and dreams.

Raising children with autism has taught me to celebrate progress in ways I never expected. Milestones may look different for us, but they are no less meaningful. A new word, a moment of connection, or a small step toward independence can feel like the biggest victory. It has also taught me patience, resilience, and the importance of truly listening; even when communication doesn't come in typical ways.



Autism Awareness Month is important, but for me, it's also about moving beyond awareness to acceptance and inclusion. It's about creating communities where my children are not just accommodated, but welcomed and valued. It's about educators, neighbors, and leaders understanding that support and accessibility make a real difference in our daily lives.

Most of all, this month is about love. It's about recognizing that our children are not defined by challenges, but by who they are: their joy, their uniqueness, and the way they see the world. As a mother, I don't just want awareness for my children; I want opportunity, respect, and a future where they can thrive exactly as they are.

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Understanding FES UA



**By: Christin Carlisle,
FES UA Advocate**

As a parent, it's been difficult to watch the growing debate around Florida's scholarship programs, especially when so much of it doesn't reflect the reality families like mine live every day. Recent articles have suggested widespread fraud and misuse of taxpayer funds. Still, those claims often come from a misunderstanding of how the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA) actually works and who it serves. To truly understand its purpose, and why it matters so deeply to families, it helps to look at how this program came to be.

In 1999, as part of broader education reforms under Governor Jeb Bush, the McKay Scholarship Program was created to give students with disabilities access to educational options beyond their assigned public schools. What began as a small pilot quickly expanded statewide, becoming one of the largest school choice programs for students with special needs. However, it was limited in scope, primarily covering private school tuition.

Recognizing that many students needed more than a change in school placement, Florida introduced the Gardiner Scholarship in 2014. This program functioned as an education savings account (ESA), allowing families to customize their child's education by funding therapies, specialized services, curriculum, and even homeschooling supports. In 2021, these two programs were combined into FES-UA, expanding eligibility and providing a more flexible, comprehensive approach for students with disabilities.

FES-UA exists because traditional systems do not work for every child, especially those with complex needs. For many families, this is not about preference, but access to an education that is truly appropriate. Without it, children may lose access to essential therapies or be placed in environments that do not support their development, leading to stalled progress or even regression.

Criticism of certain expenses often misses this reality. What may appear unnecessary to some can be highly therapeutic and developmentally appropriate for a child with unique needs. Experiences that engage sensory processing, communication, and social interaction are not extras—they are essential tools for growth.

Protecting FES-UA means protecting access to individualized education, therapies, and supports that help children build independence and thrive. For many families, this scholarship is not a luxury—it is a lifeline.



Building Sensory-Friendly Spaces

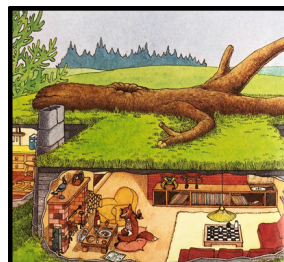
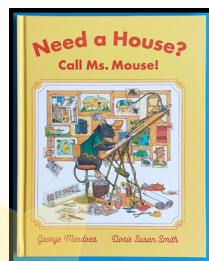
by: Nicole Grabner

A home isn't just a place where children live; it's where they regulate, explore, and feel safe. For autistic children, thoughtful design can transform a space from overwhelming to supportive. Neurodiversity-affirming interior architect Hami Lawton, PhD, emphasizes that sensory-friendly homes help children "learn, play, engage, focus, connect and thrive," allowing each child to feel secure while exploring their environment.



Lawton recommends creating flexible zones within the home that support different sensory needs: quiet corners for regulation, playful spaces for movement, and calm areas for focus or homework. Soft lighting, muted colors, organized storage, and acoustic adjustments can reduce sensory overload while giving children choice and control over their environment, which reinforces safety and independence.

In the book "Need a House, Call Ms. Mouse", written by George Mendoza and illustrated by Doris Susan Smith, it celebrates the power of skilled, caring professionals who design homes that meet both practical and imaginative needs. Imagine if every family could consult someone like Ms. Mouse, or a neurodiversity-informed architect, to create a home that is not only affirming of a child's sensory and developmental needs but also inspiring, joyful, and full of possibility.



By intentionally designing homes with sensory needs and creativity in mind, families create environments where autistic children can thrive, learn, and connect in spaces that truly feel like their own.

Caregiver Corner: Alternative Therapy Options

By: Nicole Grabner, Director, One Voice Brevard

As a special needs parent, finding quick, simple, and realistic ways to take care of ourselves in the middle of everything else is essential. One resource that another parent I recently stumbled across is the “Caregiver Breathing Room” podcast, and it’s been such a helpful find.

It can feel impossible to carve out time for self-care, which is why this podcast stands out. Each episode is just a few minutes long and walks you through a guided breathing exercise you can do anywhere, whether you’re in the car, waiting at an appointment, or finally sitting down after a long day.

What I appreciate most is how approachable it feels. It’s not about adding one more thing to your list; it’s about giving yourself permission to pause, even briefly. Hearing another caregiver talk about finding those small moments of calm really resonated with me.

If you’re looking for something gentle and doable, this might be worth trying. Sometimes, just a few intentional breaths can help reset your day and remind you that your well-being matters too.

Another great option to explore might be something called “walking therapy.” Walking therapy is a simple but powerful way many caregivers are finding moments of clarity and calm in their day.

Stepping outside for a walk, while intentionally reflecting or processing your thoughts, can feel like a reset button. Combining movement with techniques from cognitive behavioral therapy, like reframing stress or focusing on small wins, makes it both practical and grounding. It doesn’t require extra time, just a shift in how you use it. Whether it’s around the block or through a quiet park, walking therapy offers a gentle, accessible way to support your mental well-being.

Extra resources for walking therapy:

1. De Nobriga, Amy (2026, May). *The Walking Therapist*.
<https://www.thewalkingtherapists.com>
2. Haupt, Angela (2026 March 17). *Why you should take a 10-minute “Thinking Walk”*. Time Magazine.
<https://https://time.com/article/2026/03/17/thinking-walk-benefits/>
3. Multiple Authors (2025 Feb 5). *Walk-and-Talk Therapy Versus Conventional Indoor Therapy for Men with Low Mood: A Randomised Pilot Study*.
<https://www.https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11795730/>



Caregiver Breathing Room

Charlotte Bayala

★ 4.5 (21) - MENTAL HEALTH - UPDATED WEEKLY

The Caregiver Breathing Room is a short-form podcast offering practical breathing practices and grounding moments for caregivers carrying ongoing stress. Each episode delivers a five-minute reset designed [MORE](#)

▶ Latest Episode





Waves of Acceptance

A Free Family-Friendly Event

by Nicole Grabner



Families across our community are invited to come together for a joyful and inclusive afternoon at Waves of Acceptance, a free, family-friendly event celebrating individuals with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Designed with accessibility and connection in mind, this event creates a welcoming space where everyone can feel comfortable, supported, and included.

Waves of Acceptance will feature a variety of sensory-friendly activities tailored to meet diverse needs. From engaging hands-on experiences, families can explore at their own pace in an environment that respects different sensory preferences. We will have bounce houses, a foam machine, slides, and much more!

In addition to the fun, the event will host a range of information vendors from local organizations and service providers. These vendors will be available to share valuable resources, answer questions, and help families connect with supports in the community. It's a great opportunity to gather information in a relaxed, approachable setting while also building relationships with others who understand the journey.

More than just an event, Waves of Acceptance is about fostering a sense of belonging. It's a chance for families to meet, share experiences, and celebrate the unique strengths of their loved ones. Whether you're new to the community or have been part of it for years, you'll find connection, encouragement, and support.

Join us for an afternoon filled with fun, laughter, and meaningful connection. Together, we can create a community where acceptance isn't just encouraged—it's celebrated.



Space Coast Harley Davidson



25 April 2026



11:00 AM to 2:00 PM



<https://forms.gle/L7t4eCSNYoD6CXQc6>

Waves of Acceptance

F	L	Z	A	E	T	U	S	A	T	E	T	O	A
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G	T	O	M	U	A	H	N	T	U	V	L	C	O
C	V	Z	D	F	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	Q	M
O	J	M	S	U	U	M	E	R	Z	L	S	S	M
M	A	W	Q	U	H	N	J	N	G	D	V	W	U
M	P	U	A	P	P	C	A	O	E	P	B	A	N
U	G	T	T	T	O	P	A	O	D	S	X	V	I
N	P	R	N	I	E	K	O	N	D	I	S	E	C
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Y	W	C	O	N	N	E	C	T	I	O	N	D	I
X	G	F	A	M	I	L	Y	O	O	K	Y	P	O
N	W	E	G	P	I	N	C	L	S	I	O	N	

AUTISM
AWARENESS
INCLUSION
COMMUNICATION
FUN
COMMUNITY
FRIENDS
FAMILY
SUN
WATER
CONNECTION
SUPPORT
FOOD
WAVES
AFTERNOON



UF Trains Dentists to Care for Patients with IDD

by Brian Smallwood, D.M.D., M.P.H., C.P.H.

(Reprinted In Part by Permission of the Author)



For years, a mother drove five hours and paid nearly \$4,000 per visit so her son with intellectual and developmental disabilities, or IDDs, could receive routine dental cleanings under IV sedation. She arrived to see Dr. Bryan Smallwood at the Marion County Department of Health, expecting another operating room waitlist; past providers insisted that sedation was the only safe option.

“She cautioned me that he would need sedation and that he had never tolerated dental work without it,” Smallwood said. But “never tolerated” meant no one had ever tried. “I talked to the patient, explained each step, and worked slowly,” Smallwood said. He completed a comprehensive exam, full radiographs, and cleaning — no sedation. The visit cost less than \$100 out-of-pocket.

For a mother accustomed to 10-hour round trips and thousands in expenses, it proved the barrier wasn't her son. It was a system that never gave him a chance. This is a familiar narrative. Families are often told loved ones with IDDs are “too difficult” to treat, funneling them to operating rooms, not because they need it, but because most dentists were never taught an alternative.

“Most new patients who come to my office have been told they need an OR dentist,” Smallwood said. “Everyone tells them this is the only way to treat patients with IDDs. Nothing could be further from the truth.”

In Florida, an estimated 470,000 residents have IDDs, according to the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council. Most will struggle to find a dentist trained to treat them. Nationally, only 56 percent of adults with disabilities visited a dentist in the past year, compared to 70 percent of adults without disabilities, according to a 2024 State of Oral Health Equity in America (SOHEA) survey.

First-year UF dental student Lauren Mai wanted to know why. Mai began researching barriers to care for patients with IDDs alongside faculty mentor Astha Singhal, B.D.S., M.P.H., Ph.D., as part of the 2025 cohort for the UFCD's Summer Research Program. She interviewed 15 general dentists across Florida and found 14 of them felt underprepared by their dental school training to independently treat patients with IDDs. She also found fear. Dentists worry about inadvertent harm to patients or staff, which reinforces their reluctance even when training opportunities exist.

Mai identified four strategies to address the crisis: targeted continuing education, early exposure in dental school, mentorship opportunities, and systemic support. UFCD's training and care model incorporates all four approaches.



UF Trains Dentists to Care for Patients w/IDD (continued)



Of the 300 patients with IDD's Smallwood has treated in the past two years, only 17 required operating room care. That means 94 percent received routine treatment in a standard clinical setting because the provider knew how to adapt.

“The part that requires training is actively analyzing the most effective type of communication,” Smallwood said. “Some [patients] do better with pictures, others with numbers and some need to be shown everything step by step.”

It’s the same clinical reasoning dentists use to adapt to different clinical situations, for example when a patient has neck pain: adjust the chair angle and be careful with head positioning. Dental care for patients with IDD's just requires more adaptations, documented systematically, Smallwood said.

That said, he understands that sedation is sometimes necessary. Some patients with IDD's have medical or behavioral or other complexities that require it. But for Smallwood, those 17 cases, out of 300, prove sedation should be the exception, not the reflex.

The problem for most patients with IDD's intensifies when they age out of pediatric care. Most pediatric dentists receive some training during residency to treat children with disabilities, but most adult dentists don’t receive the equivalent training, a recent CareQuest Institute for Oral Health article explained.

These patients lose access to equipped providers precisely when their oral health needs grow more complex.

At 21, Medicaid dental benefits in Florida expand for individuals with IDD's to cover crowns, root canals and extra cleanings. Yet many dentists don’t accept Medicaid, meaning coverage doesn’t guarantee access. At the same time, while Florida Medicaid covers medically necessary sedation, the co-pays and deductibles attached to facility fees, anesthesia and pre-op consultations are where families can get trapped.

These reimbursement gaps and limited provider networks mean families can still face out-of-pocket costs exceeding \$4,000 per visit, as Smallwood’s recent patient anecdote proves.

UFCD providers like Smallwood underscore the population of 41 percent of adults with disabilities who don’t require any major accommodation, according to the SOHEA survey. They simply need a provider willing and prepared to treat them.

*To read the entire article, go to:

<https://dental.ufl.edu/2025/12/22/uf-trains-the-dentists-patients-with-idds-need/>





Adventure Coffee Camp

by Dr. Joseph Werner, OTD, OT/L, Director, Child and Family Consultants

For individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities, employment can be an especially significant challenge in life. The benefits of employment extend far beyond financial independence: they foster social inclusion, personal growth, and a deeper connection to community. Beyond the workplace, employment connects individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities to the broader community. Whether it's through customer interactions, participation in community events, or simply being seen as a contributing member of society, employment helps break down barriers, challenges, and the stigmas that often surround disabilities. This connection to the community is vital in fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion, both for the individuals themselves and for the community that benefits from their contributions.

Every spring, the Brevard Autism Coalition offers our Adventure Coffee Prevocational Camp, providing 12 young adults with the opportunity to develop work skills by running the Adventure Coffee Café. This year's camp was held at the Field of Dreams in West Melbourne. Young adults with autism and other neurodiversities learn about personal care for employment, filling out applications, taking part in mock interviews, and learning customer care while running the Adventure Coffee Café.





Adventure Coffee Camp (continued)

The coffee shop becomes more than a work place; it's a place to grow. Participants make coffee, and sell water, soda, and other snacks to the public. The young adults have described how they enjoy the sense of purpose and community the program provides as they brew coffee and greet customers. This year's Adventure Coffee Camp also has the support of community businesses such as Lauch Bank, which has been a consistent supported of the Brevard Autism Coalition and its prevocational programs. The success of Adventure Coffee Camp will likely lead to greater opportunities to expand the program in the public, and provide greater visibility for young adults with autism and other neurodiversities to find future employment and learn life skills.



Family Care Council Updates

by Nicole Grabner



As a parent, attending one of the recent forums hosted by the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities felt like an important opportunity to better understand what enrollment into services could mean for families like mine. These forums, held both in person across the state and virtually, were designed to help families navigate waiver enrollment and ask questions directly to agency staff.

Walking into the room, there was a shared sense of hope—but also uncertainty. Many of us are on long waiting lists, and the possibility of enrollment into services like the iBudget waiver can be life-changing. The forums created space for families to learn about next steps, timelines, and what services might look like if selected.

From a parent's perspective, what stood out most was the chance to connect, not just with APD staff, but with other families who understand the journey. We shared questions, concerns, and, in many cases, similar experiences navigating a complex system. While not every question had a clear or immediate answer, the effort to engage families directly felt meaningful.

If you missed the Brevard forum, the next option would be the Virtual Forum that APD will be hosting on 1 April from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. To register, you need to click the following link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3506465080741987157>

Other updates include the upcoming release of the Family Care Council Guidebook, which should hopefully be published soon. The next Area 7 Family Care Council meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday of the month (15 April) from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Go To Meetings.

<https://fccflorida.org/area-7-fcc>

To apply for services, please click the following link (the application is online):

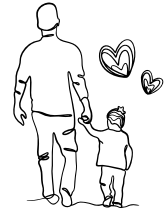
<https://applynow.apd.myflorida.com/>

To see the newly launched “Roadmap to Family Resources,” click here:

<https://apd.myflorida.com/resources.htm>

Dad's Corner

by Guest Author Christopher Grabner



Hello, and welcome to Dad's Corner! As a dad of two kiddos on the spectrum, April—Autism Awareness Month—carries a deeply personal meaning to me. It is not just a time for awareness; it is a time for recognition, acceptance, and a renewed commitment from the world to understand children like mine. Awareness is often the first step. When AJ was diagnosed, I quickly realized how little many people truly understood about autism (including myself). Misconceptions were everywhere—assumptions about behavior, communication, and capability. Autism Awareness Month creates an opportunity to replace those misunderstandings with accurate information. It invites conversations that might not otherwise happen and encourages people to learn what autism really looks like in everyday life. Even to this day, I still hear some of the same rhetoric from those who just don't know, and sometimes even scarier rhetoric from those who should know better.

But for families like mine, awareness alone is not enough. What we truly hope for is acceptance. My children experience the world differently—sounds can be overwhelming, routines are essential, and communication may not always come easily. During this month, when communities emphasize inclusion, it helps create spaces where my child feels welcome rather than judged. A simple act of patience in a grocery store or understanding in a classroom can make a profound difference. That being said, my family and I see the world from an entirely different perspective; we see things from a neurodiverse perspective, which is awesome!

This month also shines a light on the challenges autism families face daily—navigating therapies, education plans, financial strain, and emotional exhaustion. Yet, it is equally a time to celebrate victories, no matter how small they may seem to others. A new word spoken, a successful social interaction, or a moment of independence can feel monumental. Autism Awareness Month gives us a chance to share these moments and redefine what progress and success truly mean.

Perhaps most importantly, it fosters connection. It reminds parents like me that we are not alone. There is a community of families walking similar paths, advocating, learning, and loving fiercely. It also invites others—educators, neighbors, policymakers—to stand alongside us in building a more inclusive world. Autism Awareness Month matters because it humanizes a diagnosis. It tells the story of people who are unique, capable, and deserving of understanding. And for me, as a parent, it is a time to hope that with every passing year, awareness grows into acceptance, and acceptance grows into genuine inclusion. I'm a fairly pessimistic person by nature, and I tend to focus on solving the next problem, but as my wife likes to remind me, sometimes you need to take a moment to revel in the victories. So take some time and reflect on the past year, tally up those wins, and celebrate neurodiversity!

“When you've met one person with Autism, you've met one person with Autism” (Dr. Stephen Shore)



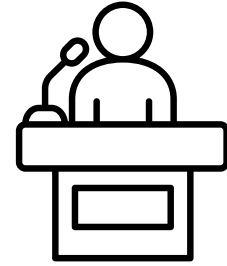
Monthly Art Submission



This month's art submission was provided by Danny Palm, and inspired by Challenger League T-ball starting in April. He provided this illustration when asked "What does baseball mean to you?"

Bill Buzz

By: Nicole Grabner, Director, One Voice
Brevard



Florida lawmakers are set to return to Tallahassee in April for a special legislative session, following the close of a regular session that ended without agreement on key issues. This upcoming session, beginning mid-April, is expected to focus primarily on finalizing the state budget and addressing redistricting, both of which carry significant implications for communities across the state.

You can check for updated information on either the Florida House or Florida Senate websites.

The need for a special session stems largely from a budget impasse between the House and Senate, with roughly a \$1.4 billion gap in spending priorities still unresolved. Without a finalized budget, lawmakers must reconvene to ensure the state meets its constitutional obligation to pass a spending plan before the new fiscal year begins on July 1.

You can also check back on our website, <https://onevoicecoalitionflorida.org/advocacy>, for updated information.

	Senate	House
Medicaid Rates	Broader provider rate increases	More limited increases
Behavioral Health	Expanded crisis & treatment funding	Maintains current levels with oversight focus
Long-Term Care	Increased HCBS & nursing home support	Maintains funding with limited expansion
Workforce Development	Expanded GME & rural incentives	Maintains core funding, limited new initiatives
Public Health	New investments in maternal health & surveillance	Maintains existing programs

*To find who your State Legislators are, please see the Florida House and Florida Senate websites.

Bill Buzz, Part 2

By: Nicole Grabner, Director, One Voice
Brevard

As we head into the Budget negotiations, we are asking families to contact their legislators for help with advocating for a rate increase for personal services providers as well as direct support professionals.

Please see below for an example script and legislator contact information as provided by Melissa Mazaeda from J&M Support Coordination Services, LLC:

**Your SUPPORT,
Their CARE.**
A Rate Increase is Essential for Stability and Quality.

Essential Support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities starts with **Stability and Competitive Rates** for providers. This will ensure the **Quality Care** I need.

My name is Clint and I love living in my own apartment. **Direct Support Professionals**, like Arnel, help me stay healthy and provide me the confidence to learn how to be responsible. He is my favorite!

Direct Support Professionals play a **Vital Role** in my life and future by helping to maintain my care, my safety, my skills, and my happiness while enabling me to do the things I love in my own community. He and others like him have provided invaluable care and support in my life, allowing me to reach my **Full Potential**.

Your Support for this crucial workforce is fundamental for me to be **Successful**. We are asking for a rate increase for providers.

Special acknowledgment for this campaign to The Arc of Florida, Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, and J&M Support Coordination Services, Inc.

CALL SCRIPTS:

1. For iBudget/CDC recipients:

“Hello, my name is _____. I receive services through the APD iBudget Waiver. Thank you for supporting HB 915 and HB 565 this session which make meaningful improvements to the waiver program.

As the budget conference continues, I respectfully ask that you support the Senate funding for direct support provider rate increases (Item 254, in the APD budget) and the workforce recruitment and expansion funding (Section 71, in the back of the budget).

These investments help iBudget providers retain staff and responsibly expand services. Thank you very much for supporting people like me & others who rely on these services.”

2. For families of iBudget/CDC recipients:

“Hello, my name is _____. My family receives services through the APD iBudget Waiver. Thank you for supporting HB 915 and HB 565 this session which make meaningful improvements to the waiver program.

As the budget conference continues, I respectfully ask that you support the Senate funding for direct support provider rate increases (Item 254, in the APD budget) and the workforce recruitment and expansion funding (Section 71, in the back of the budget).

These investments help iBudget providers retain staff and responsibly expand services. Thank you very much for supporting families like mine.”

3. For friends & other good people who care about our folks:

“Hello, my name is _____. I’m a Florida resident calling to thank you for supporting HB 915 and HB 565 this session, which make meaningful improvements to the APD iBudget Waiver program.

As the budget conference continues, I respectfully ask that you support the Senate funding for direct support provider rate increases (Item 254 in the APD budget) and the workforce recruitment and expansion funding (Section 71).

These investments help strengthen the iBudget workforce and ensure people with developmental disabilities receive the services they depend on. Thank you for your time and support.”

Bill Buzz, Part 3



TOP 17 PRIORITY LEGISLATORS TO CALL

Sen. Ed Hooper – Senate Appropriations Chair | Pinellas County

Capitol: 850-487-5021 | District: 727-793-2790

hooper.ed.web@flsenate.gov

Rep. Lawrence McClure – House Budget Chair | Hillsborough County

Capitol: 850-717-5068 | District: 813-759-3970

lawrence.mcclure@flhouse.gov

Sen. Jay Trumbull – Senate Budget Leadership | Bay, Walton, Washington, Holmes

Capitol: 850-487-5002 | District: 850-747-5454

trumbull.jay.web@flsenate.gov

Rep. Danny Perez – House Speaker | Miami-Dade County

Capitol: 850-717-5116 | District: 305-225-2249

danny.perez@flhouse.gov

Sen. Ben Albritton – Senate President | Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Polk, Charlotte

Capitol: 850-487-5027 | District: 863-534-0073

albritton.ben.web@flsenate.gov

Rep. Sam Garrison – Clay County

Capitol: 850-717-5011 | District: 904-278-2085

sam.garrison@flhouse.gov

Rep. Chase Tramont – Volusia & Brevard County

Capitol: 850-717-5030 | District: 386-238-4830

chase.tramont@flhouse.gov

Sen. Daryl Rouson – Pinellas & Hillsborough Counties

Capitol: 850-487-5016 | District: 727-823-3400

rouson.daryl.web@flsenate.gov

Sen. Kathleen Passidomo – Senate Leadership | Collier & part of Hendry County

Capitol: 850-487-5028 | District: 239-417-6205

passidomo.kathleen.web@flsenate.gov

Sen. Joe Gruters – Sarasota & Manatee Counties

Capitol: 850-487-5022 | District: 941-378-6309

gruters.joe.web@flsenate.gov

Sen. Jim Boyd – Senate President-designate | Manatee & southern Hillsborough Counties

Capitol: 850-487-5020 | District: 941-742-6445

boyd.jim.web@flsenate.gov

Bill Buzz, Part 4

Rep. Will Robinson – Manatee County
Capitol: 850-717-5071 | District: 941-748-4865
will.robinson@flhouse.gov

Rep. James Buchanan – Sarasota County
Capitol: 850-717-5074 | District: 941-361-6000
james.buchanan@flhouse.gov

Rep. Lauren Melo – Collier & part of Hendry County
Capitol: 850-717-5082 | District: 239-423-0510
lauren.melo@flhouse.gov

Sen. Tom Wright – Volusia County
Capitol: 850-487-5008 | District: 386-304-7630
wright.tom.web@flsenate.gov

Rep. Karen Gonzalez-Pittman – Hillsborough County
850-717-5065 | 813-673-4673
karen.gonzalez-pittman@flhouse.gov

Rep. Jennifer Canady – Polk County
850-717-5050 | 863-413-2647
Jennifer.canady@flhouse.gov

If you prefer to not have a “script” here are the talking points:

Talking Points for Families Contacting Legislators

- Introduce yourself
 - “Hello, my name is _____.”
 - “I live in Representative/Senator _____’s district.” ***IF YOU DON’T, LEAVE THIS OFF***
 - Identify your connection to the program
 - “My son/daughter receives services through the Medicaid Waiver Program administered by the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities.”
 - Thank the legislator for supporting key legislation this session
 - Express appreciation for the passage of **House Bill 915** and **House Bill 565**.
 - Note that these bills will improve the waiver program statewide.
 - Briefly explain why the bills matter
 - They create **more realistic rules that allow people on the waiver to work (HB915)**.
 - They will **improve the quality of services and supports across Florida (HB565)**.
-

Bill Buzz, Part 5



- **Emphasize that funding in the final budget is critical**
 - The success of these bills depends on the **financial support included in the Senate budget.**
- **Highlight the direct support professional rate increase**
 - Ask them to support **Item 254 in the APD Budget** in the Senate budget.
 - This item provides a **much-needed pay increase for personal service providers and direct support professionals.**
- **Highlight workforce retention and provider capacity funding**
 - Ask them to support **Section 71 in the back of the Senate budget.**
 - This funding helps **recruit and retain service providers, including support coordinators, and expand capacity so more people can be served.**
- **Close with a clear request**
 - Ask them to **support both of these funding items during the budget conference.**
- **Thank them**
 - “Thank you very much for your support of families in the APD Waiver Program.”

Direct support providers are the backbone of our disability service system. They show up every day to help our loved ones live safely, build independence, and stay connected to their communities. Yet across Florida, these essential workers are underpaid and leaving the field, creating a growing staffing crisis that directly impacts families.

That’s why it’s so important for families to speak up and advocate for a rate increase through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. When provider rates don’t keep pace, agencies struggle to recruit and retain qualified staff, leading to gaps in care, reduced services, and increased stress on families.

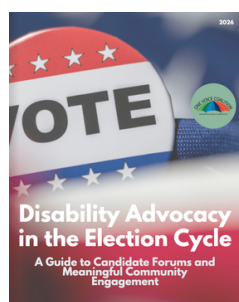
Our voices matter! Lawmakers need to hear directly from the people affected, those who rely on these services every day. By sharing our stories and advocating together, we can push for meaningful change that strengthens the workforce and ensures our loved ones receive the consistent, quality support they deserve.

Announcing our “One Voice Candidate Conversation” movement in our newly published magazine!

Check out our newly published magazine:

Disability Advocacy in the Election Cycle: A Guide to Candidate Forums and Meaningful Community Engagement

Website: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/9f6c4d55ae.html>



Bill Buzz, Part 6

By: Nicole Grabner, Director, One Voice
Brevard

We still need help making phone calls, sending emails and sending letters to ask that the State of Florida, withdraw from it's lawsuit, Texas vs. Kennedy.

Governor Ron DeSantis
Office of the Governor
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Attorney General James Uthmeier
Office of the Attorney General
PL-01, The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050



I am writing to you today as a disability advocate to respectfully urge you to withdraw the State of Florida from participation in **Florida vs. Kennedy, Case No. 5:24-CV-00225**, particularly with regard to the claim seeking to set aside the Final Rule that protects the rights of people with disabilities to live and receive services in the least restrictive environment.

As Floridians, many of us rely on policies and protections that support the health, safety, and well-being of our communities, including individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, seniors, and other vulnerable populations. Continued involvement in this litigation raises significant concerns about potential impacts on critical services, supports, and protections that families across Florida depend on. Withdrawing from this lawsuit would reflect a commitment to protecting access to essential supports and ensuring that Floridians can continue to receive the care and services they need to live, work, and participate fully in their communities.

Thank you for your time and service to the people of Florida, and I urge you to stand with Florida families by withdrawing from this lawsuit.

Respectfully,

[Full Name]

[City, Zip]

[Phone Number]



OVCFL 2026 Legislative Platform



ONE VOICE COALITION 2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



Health Care

- Protecting and Expanding Medicaid - Ensuring Floridians have access to quality, affordable health care.
- Standardize and update the legal definition of autism in the Florida Statutes.
- KidCare Rollout - ensure effective implementation of this benefit

Protect children with disabilities by ensuring the protection of OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs), OCR (Office of Civil Rights), and protecting IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.



Education



Collaboration

Bring collaboration and transparency to every aspect of policy affecting those with disabilities. It is imperative to ensure that our voices are heard when decisions are being made - Nothing about us without us!

Resources and Contact Information


- Brevard Autism Coalition; <https://brevardautismcoalition.com/>
- Angels Bridging Gaps; <https://angelsbridginggaps.org/>
- The Parker Foundation; <https://www.theparkerfoundation.com/>
- S.O.A.K.; <https://www.soakautism.com/>
- Down Syndrome Association of Brevard; <https://www.dsabrevard.org/>
- UCF CARD; <https://ucf-card.org/>
- Florida Developmental Disabilities Council; <https://www.fddc.org/>
- Project 10; <https://project10.info/>
- Vocational Rehabilitation; <https://www.rehabworks.org/contact/area3.html>
- FLAPSE; <https://apse.org/chapter/florida/>
- The Arc of Space Coast; <https://www.arcofsc.org/>
- Promise in Brevard; <https://promiseinbrevard.com/>
- Brevard Resource Center for Disability Solutions; <https://rcdsfl.org/>
- The Family Cafe; <https://familycafe.net>
- Family Liason Project; <https://familyliasonproject.com>
- Early Steps Space Coast; <https://spacecoastes.org>
- Family Care Council Area 7; <https://fccflorida.org/area-7-fcc.html>
- Bright Feats magazine
- Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Mobil Response Team 24/hour line (321) 213-0315
- Feeding Florida (food bank information) <https://www.feedingflorida.org/>
- Everything Brevard (resource website)
<https://www.everythingbrevard.com/blog/guide-space-coast-food-pantries>







For more information or questions, please see our Facebook page.


Brevard County Delegation

CONTACT US
Brevard County Delegation







Senator Debbie Mayfield
District 19


 District Office (321) 409 - 2025
 Capital Office (850) 487 - 5019
 debbie.mayfield@flsenate.gov
 <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/S19>
 900 East Strawbridge Avenue
 Room 408
 Melbourne, FL 32901







Rep. Tom Wright
District 8


 District Office (386) 304 - 7630
 Capital Office (850) 487 - 5008
 tom.wright@flsenate.gov
 <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/S8>
 4606 South Clyde Morris Boulevard
 Suite 2-J
 Port Orange, FL 32129

CONTACT US
Brevard County Delegation







Rep. Chase Tramont
District 30

 District Office (386) 278 - 1640
 Capital Office (850) 717 - 5030
 chase.tramont@flhouse.gov
 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/detail.s.aspx?MemberId=4867&LegislativeTermId=91>
 Suite 201D
 5889 South Williamson Boulevard
 Port Orange, FL 32128-6110



Rep. Tyler Sirois
District 31

 District Office (386) 304 - 7630
 Capital Office (850) 487 - 5008
 tyler.sirois@flhouse.gov
 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/detail.s.aspx?MemberId=4748&LegislativeTermId=91>
 Suite 206
 260 North Tropical Trail
 Merritt Island, FL 32953-4806

CONTACT US
Brevard County Delegation



Rep. Brian Hodgers
District 32


 District Office (321) 497 - 8200
 Capital Office (850) 717 - 5032
 brian.hodgers@flhouse.gov
 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/detail.s.aspx?MemberId=5064&LegislativeTermId=91>
 Building B #202
 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
 Viera, FL 32940-6605



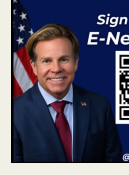



Rep. Monique Miller
District 33


 District Office (321) 497 - 8170
 Capital Office (850) 717 - 5033
 monique.miller@flhouse.gov
 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/custom/details.aspx?MemberId=4913&LegislativeTermId=91>
 Suite 5
 2539 Palm Bay Road Northeast
 Palm Bay, FL 32905-3534

CONTACT US
Brevard County Delegation




Rep. Robert Brackett
District 34

 District Office (772) 365 - 9230
 Capital Office (850) 717 - 5034
 robert.brackett@flhouse.gov
 <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/detail.s.aspx?MemberId=4870&LegislativeTermId=91>
 Suite B2-203
 1800 27th Street
 Vero Beach, FL 32960-0310



Sign up for my E-Newsletter!



NEED HELP WITH A FEDERAL AGENCY?

For assistance with:

- Social Security
- The IRS
- Veterans Affairs
- Medicare
- Immigration/Passports

Call (321)-632-1776 or scan the QR code

MIKE HARIDOPOLOS
PROTECT. INSURE. FULFILL.
PROFESSIONAL DISTRICT



April Events

World Autism Awareness Day and Autism Acceptance Month

2026						APRIL							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
26	27	28	29	30									

- Community Playdate for children 5 and under, sponsored by Early Steps. Held every 4th Thursday of the month. April's event is **Thursday, 23 April**, from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at the Children's Center, 5650 Washington Avenue, Titusville. RSVP required. See flyer for additional details.
- Presented by Angels Bridging Gaps, Sip and Shop Food Trucks and Market, **Saturday, April 11th**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 4880 Stack Blvd, Suite E6, Melbourne. Check the flyer for additional information.
- Down Syndrome Association of Brevard presents two Music Therapy classes. Class 1 is open to ages 11 and over on Wednesdays, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (closed group). Class 2 is open to ages 0-10 (open to siblings) on Thursdays, from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. For more information, go to <https://dsabrevard.org/events/>
- Angels Bridging Gaps, Adult group, beginning **6 January**. Events are scheduled from 11:00 am to 2 pm, Tuesday through Thursday. For more information, contact Angels Bridging Gaps at: <https://angelsbridginggaps.org/abgworks-program-calendar>
- NAMI Talks Webinar, "Understanding Autistic Lived Experience, A Conversation for Families", **Monday, April 20**, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. To register, see flyer.
- Bright Path Education offers Home Education Co-Op for ages 5-12. Opened in January. See flyer for additional information.
- Art classes and workshops provided by Arts For All Studio, weekdays after school and evenings. Pre-registration is required. See flyer for additional details.
- UCF CARD and PALS co-sponsor the monthly Brevard Community Connect, at the Field of Dreams, 3053 Fell Rd West, Melbourne. April's event will be **Friday, April 24th** from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. RSVP is required. Scan QR code on flyer.
- Waves of Acceptance brought to you by One Voice Coalition Florida. Free Family Festival, **Saturday, 25 April**, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Space Coast Harley Davidson, 1440 Sportsman Ln, NE, Palm Bay. (*Please note, this is a **new location**.) There will be bounce houses, a foam party, an art show and much, much more! Admittance is free - please RSVP at link on the flyer to help us plan.
- Disability Awareness Event presented by Eastern Florida State College. Three dates, three locations. **Tuesday, 14 April** at the Cocoa campus, **Wednesday, 15 April** at the Melbourne campus, and **Thursday April 16th** at the Palm Bay campus. Vendors, giveaways and education materials. See flyer for more information.
- **Save the Date!** Brevard Autism Coalition presents Camp 2 Can 2026. Registration opened on January 17th. Camp dates are **June 8-12, June 15-19, June 22-26, July 6-10, July 13-17, and July 20-24**. See flyer for registration information.
- **Save the Date!** Empower and Connect, sponsored by the Palm Bay Police Department. Free indoor event, **Saturday, May 2** at the Tony Rosa Community Center, 1502 Port Malabar Blvd, NE, Palm Bay. See flyer for additional details.
- **Save the Date:** Florida Voices for Health 2026 Summit, Reclaiming Community in an Era of Change, **Tuesday May the 5th** and **Wednesday, May the 6th**, Lake Mary Events Center, 260 N. Country Club Rd, Lake Mary, FL.
- **Save the Date:** One Voice Helping Hands Conference, **Saturday, August 29th**, Melbourne Auditorium, 625 Hibiscus Blvd, Melbourne. Watch this space for more information.
- **Save the Date:** The 28th Annual Family Cafe, **Friday, 12 June - Sunday, 14 June**, at the Hyatt Regency, Orlando. To register see flyer.
- The League of Women's Voters presents "Why Vote": a Discussion On How We Should Respond. **Saturday, 4 April**, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Suntree/Viera Public Library, 902 Jordan Blass Dr, Melbourne



Event Flyers

COMMUNITY PLAY DATE
Under 5's

EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
From 9:00am - 10:30am
The Children's Center
5650 S. Washington Ave.,
Titusville 32780
RSVP to Mary: 321-292-1370
SPACES ARE LIMITED!

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER
early steps

All Inclusive Community Playgroup
Hosted By: Community Pathways for Kids

Location: Field of Dreams Park
When: April 11, 2026
Time: 9am-11am
All Ages and Abilities are Welcome

FREE

***Parents or guardians must stay and actively supervise their children during the event.

VOICE COALITION
EMPOWERING DISABILITY COMMUNITIES

FREE WAVES OF ACCEPTANCE
Family Festival

25 APRIL 11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM
SPACE COAST HARLEY DAVIDSON

- Bounce Houses
- Food trucks
- Foam Party
- Art Show
- Vendors
- and more!

Come together with us to celebrate and support autism families at this free community festival!

Admittance is free, but please RSVP at the link to help us plan!

Autism Coalition
SUPPORTING OUR ASD KIDS
Florida Disability Expo Inc.
NAMI

April Edition of
NAMITALKS

UNDERSTANDING AUTISTIC LIVED EXPERIENCE: A CONVERSATION FOR FAMILIES

Presented By: Mandy Pinckley, MS.

About the Webinar:
Autistic advocate Mandy Pinckley shares reflections from her own life growing up autistic and how those experiences led her into advocacy, peer support, and mental health work. This presentation offers families a window into autistic lived experience and explores how understanding, connection, and supportive communities can make a meaningful difference for neurodivergent individuals. Mandy will also discuss the importance of peer support in mental health and share how she launched the first virtual neurodivergent support group within NAMI Florida in January. The conversation highlights how community spaces like NAMI can help autistic individuals and their families feel supported and less alone.

About the Presenter:
Mandy Pinckley is a mental health advocate and peer supporter focused on neurodivergent identity, lived-experience leadership, and community-based support. She holds a master's degree in psychology from Saint Leo University and is a graduate of Florida Partners in Policymaking, where she was honored with the Alan C. Wesley Award from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council for her advocacy and leadership. Mandy serves on the CARD-USF (Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida) Constituency Board and works with several National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) affiliates to expand peer-led support opportunities for anyone who identifies as neurodivergent. She helped launch the first virtual neurodivergent peer support groups within NAMI Florida and collaborates with advocates across multiple states to strengthen community support networks.

REGISTER HERE

DATE: 4.20.26
TIME: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

Serving Orange, Osceola, Brevard and Seminole Counties
Telephone: 407-253-1900
Email: information@namifc.org www.namifc.org
NAMI Central Florida

Event Flyers

dsdb DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF BREVARD

Florida MUSIC THERAPY

MUSIC THERAPY

Class 1:
MUSIC MEET UP AGES 11+
WED. 5-6PM (CLOSED GROUP)

Class 2:
LITTLE MELODIES AGES 0-10
THURS. 4-4:45PM (OPEN TO SIBS)

Autism Coalition of Brevard

CAMP 2 CAN

2026

SAVE THE DATE!
Registration opens on January 17, 2026

Summer day camp for individuals with Autism and related conditions

Register for one or more weeks. \$285 per week

ACTIVITIES	EVENT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building friendships Learning and using social skills Exploring nature Sports and games Learning various functional skills Fieldtrips Leisure activities Arts and crafts 	June 8 - 12, 2026 June 15 - 19, 2026 June 22 - 26, 2026 July 6 - 10, 2026 July 13 - 17, 2026 July 20 - 24, 2026 *No camp during the week of June 29 - July 3

FOR MORE INFORMATION
BrevardAutismCoalition@gmail.com
www.brevardautismcoalition.com
facebook.com/BrevardAutismCoalition

WE WELCOME ALL NEURODIVERGENT ADULTS TO:

BREVARD COMMUNITY CONNECT

FREE MONTHLY EVENT!

RSVP REQUIRED TO ATTEND:

Snacks & Refreshments Available
FOR PURCHASE

02/27/2026
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

FIELD OF DREAMS
3053 Fell Rd. West
Melbourne, FL 32904

What to Expect:

- ✓ Conversation practice & Skill-building mini-lessons
- ✓ Games, discussions & community connection
- ✓ Supportive facilitators trained in ASD

SPONSORS: MINDSHIFT ND, DEVIANCE COALITION, PALS, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, NEW BINKERS

Brevard Community Connect

EVENT SCHEDULE

SOCIAL GROUP FOR NEURODIVERGENT ADULTS
📅 LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- 2/27 Connection & Shared Understanding
- 3/27 Advocating for yourself
- 4/24 Autism Awareness Month — Acceptance, Identity & Belonging
- 5/29 Social Energy & Boundaries
- 6/26 Showing Up in Your Own Way
- 7/31 Nurturing Connections
- 8/28 Community Growth
- 9/25 Navigating Difficulties Together
- 10/30 Halloween Bash
- 11/20 Friendsgiving
- 12/18 ALL Holiday Celebrations

Sign up to keep updated on monthly event times and locations!

SPONSORS: MINDSHIFT ND, DEVIANCE COALITION, PALS, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, NEW BINKERS

Event Flyers



2026 SUMMIT
FloridaVoices
forHealth

**RECLAIMING
COMMUNITY
IN AN ERA OF
CHANGE**

MAY 5 & 6, 2026
Lake Mary Events Center
260 N Country Club Rd, Lake Mary, FL



BRIGHT PATH EDUCATION
IS NOW OFFERING:
**A HOME EDUCATION
CO-OP**

A small group environment for
students with disabilities &
learning differences

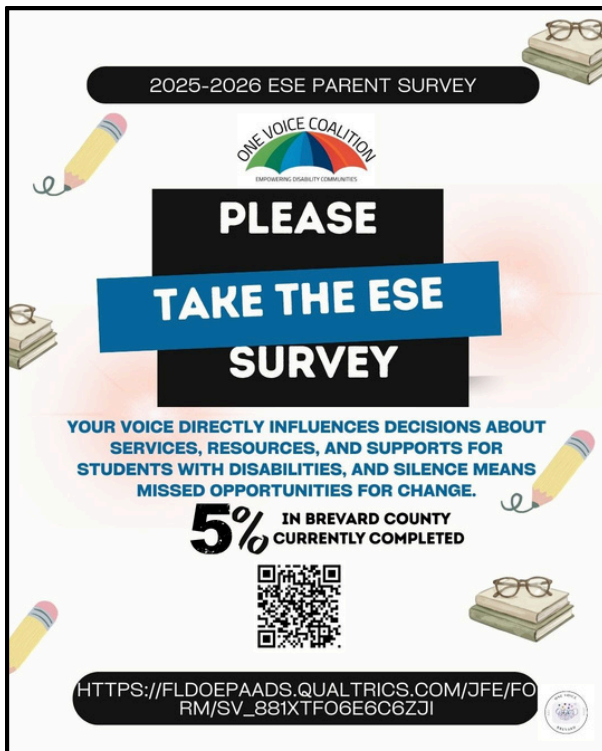
DETAILS:

- Academic & Social supports
- Monday- Thursday 8:00-2:00pm
- Fun Friday option available for those interested
- Accepting Scholarships & Private pay options
- 6:1 ratio
- Led by certified teachers & behavior technicians
- OT & Speech Language services can be contracted through local collaborative agencies

OPENING IN JANUARY

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
(321) 307-8240
1240 Rockledge Blvd, Suite 6
Rockledge, FL
BrightPathEducation2025@gmail.com

AGES 5-12



2025-2026 ESE PARENT SURVEY

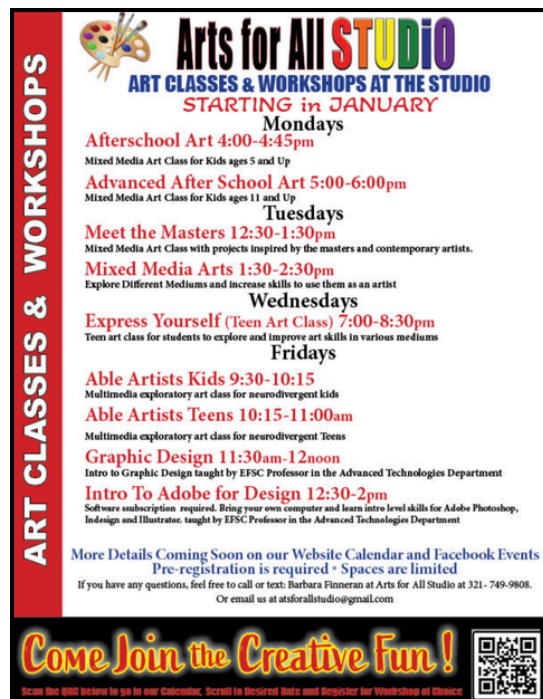
ONE VOICE COALITION
EMPOWERING DISABILITY COMMUNITIES

**PLEASE
TAKE THE ESE
SURVEY**

YOUR VOICE DIRECTLY INFLUENCES DECISIONS ABOUT SERVICES, RESOURCES, AND SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, AND SILENCE MEANS MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE.

5% IN BREVARD COUNTY
CURRENTLY COMPLETED

[HTTPS://FLDOEPAADS.QUALTRICS.COM/JFE/FORM/SV_881XTF06E6C6ZJI](https://fldoepaads.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_881XTF06E6C6ZJI)



Arts for All STUDIO
ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS AT THE STUDIO
STARTING in JANUARY

Mondays
Afterschool Art 4:00-4:45pm
Mixed Media Art Class for Kids ages 5 and Up
Advanced After School Art 5:00-6:00pm
Mixed Media Art Class for Kids ages 11 and Up

Tuesdays
Meet the Masters 12:30-1:30pm
Mixed Media Art Class with projects inspired by the masters and contemporary artists.

Mixed Media Arts 1:30-2:30pm
Explore Different Mediums and increase skills to use them as an artist

Wednesdays
Express Yourself (Teen Art Class) 7:00-8:30pm
Teen art class for students to explore and improve art skills in various mediums

Fridays
Able Artists Kids 9:30-10:15
Multimedia exploratory art class for neurodivergent kids
Able Artists Teens 10:15-11:00am
Multimedia exploratory art class for neurodivergent Teens
Graphic Design 11:30am-12noon
Intro to Graphic Design taught by EFSC Professor in the Advanced Technologies Department
Intro To Adobe for Design 12:30-2pm
Software subscription required. Bring your own computer and learn intro level skills for Adobe Photoshop, Indesign and Illustrator. taught by EFSC Professor in the Advanced Technologies Department

More Details Coming Soon on our Website Calendar and Facebook Events
Pre-registration is required * Spaces are limited
If you have any questions, feel free to call or text: Barbara Finneran at Arts for All Studio at 321- 749-9808.
Or email us at atforallstudio@gmail.com

ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Come Join the Creative Fun!

Scan the QR below to go to our Calendar, Scroll to Research Date and Register for Workshop of Choice

Event Flyers

SATURDAY APRIL 11TH
10AM - 2PM

FOOD TRUCKS & MARKET



SHIP & SHOP
 4880 STACK BLVD SUITE E6
 MELBOURNE, FL 32901
 INFO@SHIPANDSHOPFL.COM
 321-327-2124

A Village Filled With
ABCworks Inc.
 Enrichment • Employment • Resources
Each One Teach One



THE PALM BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT
 COMMUNITY RESOURCE UNIT
 PROUDLY PRESENTS:

Empower & Connect

AN EVENT TO EDUCATE, PROVIDE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, AND FAMILIES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, INCLUDING CAREGIVERS SUPPORTING LOVED ONES LIVING WITH DEMENTIA BY CONNECTING THEM WITH LOCAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES.

FREE INDOOR EVENT

SATURDAY MAY 2ND, 2026
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

TONY ROSA COMMUNITY CENTER
 1502 PORT MALABAR BLVD NE
 PALM BAY, FL 32905

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Parents & Caregivers
- Family Members Seeking Support
- Individuals Seeking Local Programs

WHY ATTEND?

- Food Truck Vendors
- Giveaways & Resources
- Connect with Local Vendors

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 COMMUNITYRESOURCEUNIT@PALMBAYFLORIDA.ORG




SAVE
 the
 DATE

AUGUST 29, 2026
MELBOURNE AUDITORIUM
 625 E. HIBISCUS BLVD, MELBOURNE

ONE VOICE COALITION
 EMPOWERING DISABILITY COMMUNITIES

One Voice Helping Hands Conference







Event Flyers

APRIL 2026
DISABILITY AWARENESS EVENT

Vendors Giveaways Educational Materials

Disability Awareness Week will aim to educate students, faculty, and staff about the spectrum of disabilities and how to think "Outside the Box" about what disability looks like, resources available in Brevard/Central Florida, and how barriers can be eliminated in their communities.

Cocoa April 14 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bldg. 11 - Titan Hub	Melbourne April 15 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bldg. 10 - Atrium	Palm Bay April 16 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bldg. 1 - Atrium
--	---	---

Eastern Florida STATE COLLEGE
For more information, please email SAII@easternflorida.edu or call 321-433-5939

JOIN US AT
The 28th Annual Family Café

Register: [Bit.ly/RegisterForCafe28](https://bit.ly/RegisterForCafe28)

Speak Through arts

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22ND
5:30PM - 7:00PM
KIWI RACQUET AND FITNESS CLUB
30 TRADEWINDS DRIVE
INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH, FL 32937

FREE art clinic, all materials provided. Collaborative and individual projects with Buddy Ambassadors and team - Individual Art station, group art with Melissa and more!

Open to children, teens and young adults with ASD's and special needs and their siblings. Parent/caregiver must stay on site. Space is limited: Register through Eventbrite separately for each session; please cancel registration if you are unable to attend.
<https://Earthdayart.eventbrite.com>

the parker foundation
Autism and Child Development

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SPACE COAST
(Now a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)

"DEFENDING DEMOCRACY; EMPOWERING VOTERS presents:

"WHY VOTE?"
HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

◆◆◆◆◆

Join Us on Saturday, April 4th
The Public is Welcome!

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Suntree/Viera Public Library
902 Jordan Blass Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32940

◆◆◆◆◆

Find out more about the League!
Visit: lwv-spacecoast.org

Event Flyers





**Autism Society
Florida**

**AUTISM SAFETY
FOR
PARENTS & CAREGIVERS**

**9:00am-1:00pm
April 25th, 2026**

Location:
Deltona Regional Library
2150 Eustace Ave,
Deltona, FL 32725

Lunch will be provided.

LEARN VITAL SAFETY & COMMUNITY RESOURCE TOPICS

- + CPR & First Aid
- + Water Safety
- + Law Enforcement Education
- + State Disability Programs & Crisis Support
- + Parent/Guardian Rights & Safeguards within schools
- + Local Resources & Community Connections

SCAN TO REGISTER



Meet other parents & Caregivers

Connect with experts Gain practical safety tools & resources

For questions, contact:

✉ Alexis Ferguson at alexis@autismfl.org

✉ Rachel Arazashvili at rachel@autismfl.org



LOTUS
LEADERS OUTREACH FOR THRIVING UNITY & SUPPORT

Join us for Yoga in the Park



Friday, April 17, 2026
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Lori Wilson Park (North Side)
Cocoa Beach, FL





Are you a student (ages 15-21) with a disability enrolled in a high school, college, or homeschool program?



Would you like to develop or improve your leadership and self-advocacy skills?



Wondering what it's like to transition to college, employment, and/or independent living?

Then the Florida Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is for you!



FLORIDA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

**We encourage you to apply for an
engaging and transformative Forum.**

July 7-11, 2026
Florida State University- Tallahassee, Florida



**For more information and applications, please scan the QR code,
visit <https://floridasilc.org/youth-committee/>
or contact Sarah Goldman at sarah@floridasilc.org**





FILC
EMPOWERING PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES