

Volunteer of the Month

January



Karen Tuohy

Bowling Night
Community Awareness
Walk for Autism

February



Jennifer Nardo

Newsletter Editorial
Committee
Drive for Autism

March



Kathleen DeNight

Advocacy Committee
Middletown Coffee Hour

Visit our website at
AutismDelaware.org

The Star



Celebrating Autism Delaware Volunteers,
Our Essential Pieces of the Puzzle!

Issue No. 4

Every Story is Important! Every Voice Matters!

What is autism advocacy?

Autism advocacy comes in many shapes and forms. Any time you share your family's personal story about how autism affects your life, you are being an autism advocate by educating the people you are speaking with. If you meet an individual who is looking for support or services for a loved one or himself, and you share your knowledge and experiences, you are being an autism advocate. By volunteering to help at an Autism Delaware event or fundraiser, you are being an autism advocate because you are showing those around you that you care about this cause.



Kathy DeNight (left) with Delaware State
Senators Henry and McDowell

Who can be an autism advocate?

Anyone can be an advocate. Some advocates are individuals who are living with autism spectrum disorder. Moms, dads, grandparents, sisters, and brothers are all advocates. No special skills are needed to be an autism advocate. You do not have to be a professional speaker. Some advocates work hard behind the scenes while others prefer to be on the front lines. We need each and every one of you!

What can you do?

You can be the voice of those who cannot speak for themselves at events such as Smart Cookie Day. **Smart Cookie Day** is a fun-filled day of advocacy at Legislative Hall in Dover when groups of volunteers meet with our elected officials to talk about the issues that concern the autism community and hand out cookies to say "Thank you." If you would like

to be a part of **Smart Cookie Day** or if you want to talk about other ways to be an advocate, please contact Alex Eldreth, Autism Delaware's public policy director at alex.eldreth@delautism.org or call 224-6020. You can make a difference!

Outstanding Volunteers

We are very appreciative of our January, February, and March volunteer of the month. All three have been volunteering for many years, and all are moms of children with autism!

Karen Tuohy runs our weekly bowling night every Wednesday at the Bowlerama in New Castle. In addition, Karen staffs information tables throughout the year and always works registration at our Wilmington Walk for Autism.

Jen Nardo is also a longtime Autism Delaware volunteer. Not only does she volunteer at our annual Drive for Autism golf tournament, but she also serves on the editorial committee of our newsletter, *The Sun*. The editorial committee meets quarterly to brainstorm ideas for themes and articles for the newsletter. Throughout the years, Jen has researched and written for the publication.

Kathy DeNight advocates on many fronts. She serves on the Autism Education Task Force and the Autism Delaware Advocacy Committee. She meets with elected officials, school administrators, and even the governor to talk about improving education and services for students with autism. She testifies at committee meetings and hearings at Legislative Hall in Dover. And she volunteers as the facilitator for our Middletown coffee hour.

JOIN THE WALK FOR AUTISM!!!

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to learn
more!

