

The Star



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

Issue No. 7

*Volunteer of
the Month*

September



Mark Stanzilis
Bike to the Beach
Blue Jean Ball

October



Rob Dixon
Beach Picnic
Junior Golf
Fall Festival

AutismDelaware.org

A Great Evening of Appreciation

Autism Delaware held its annual Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Night on October 14 at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino. It was a special evening of thanking and celebrating volunteers, scholarship recipients, board members, and POW&R employers and employees. The night wrapped up with the announcement of this year's **Volunteer of the Year — Kathy DeNight**.



Autism Delaware's associate director Brian Hall, Volunteer of the Year Kathy DeNight, executive director Teresa Avery, and board president Pete Bradley

Kathy not only facilitates our Middletown coffee hour, but she also meets with legislators and school officials to advocate for people and families living with autism. She works tirelessly to try to improve education and services for students on the spectrum. Kathy brings a positive attitude to everything she does — as she said when accepting the award, ***We may not win all the battles, but we'll win the war.***

Outstanding Volunteers

Congratulations to **Mark Stanzilis**, our September Volunteer of the Month. Mark volunteered at Bike to the Beach this summer and did an awesome job serving as volunteer coordinator at this year's Blue Jean Ball. Our October Volunteer of the Month is **Rob Dixon**. Rob is an adult with autism spectrum disorder who has become an invaluable volunteer at our Sussex and Kent Co. events. He was a tremendous help at our beach picnic, junior golf, and fall festival.

Tickets Available for our Auction Gala

Click below to buy tickets for the Autism Delaware Fall Auction Gala on November 4. With the theme Disco Inferno — Burning Up the Dance Floor

for Autism, the event takes place in Wilmington at World Café Live at the Queen. Guests will enjoy cocktails, small plates, and a large selection of live and silent auction items. So put on your platforms and bell bottoms and boogie the night away as DJ Josh Grant spins groovy tunes and oversees our version of *Lip Sync Battle*.



Blue Jean Ball and Fall Festival

Autism Delaware staff and volunteers were busy this fall with the Blue Jean Ball on September 16 and the fall festival on October 22. The Blue Jean Ball was held at Nassau Valley Vineyards in Lewes. Guests enjoyed great food and drinks, bid on auction items, and danced to the rich sounds of the musical group Carnivale. Best of all, the event raised \$65,000 to support social and recreational activities, parent training, clinical services, and advocacy.

Killens Pond State Park was the setting for



Ginger Shaud at our fall festival

our annual fall festival. Hot dogs and snacks were provided as families painted pumpkins and played games. Many guests got into the Halloween spirit by dressing in costume.