



ABOUT ASGA

ASGA is one of more than 80 affiliates nationwide that are part of the Autism Society of America, the nation’s largest and oldest grassroots autism organization. We work to improve the lives of all affected by autism in Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne counties. ASGA is also a proud member of the Ohio Family Network (OFN), connecting people with disabilities and their families to local information and resources within their communities. We believe OFN provides opportunities to share ideas, find solutions to common challenges and inspire and strengthen each other.

EDUCATION

ASGA provides accessible and relevant information that empowers families and individuals with autism throughout the lifespan to make informed choices. Our goal is through a better understanding of autism – regardless of whether you are a parent, professional, or individual who lives with autism – there will be improved inclusion and support of individuals and families navigating the difficult world of a developmental disability.

Help Line

FREE service providing a caring support system to listen to concerns and help solve problems. It connects people to autism-related resources and services in the counties of Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne. Wendy Cline, LSW and ASGA Support Specialist is available to assist you via phone at 330.940.1441 ext 1.

Resources

Newly Diagnosed Kit: A 30-page booklet that serves as a next-steps guide for families new to autism.

Tip Sheets: Condensed information sheets offering facts and suggestions addressing topics important to families living the autism journey.

Trainings

Professionals: Police, firefighters, hospital employees, and direct service providers have benefited from these trainings that equip professionals with skills and knowledge to support and engage individuals with ASD.

Autism 101: ASGA educates small groups about autism characteristics, medical facts, and steps to engage and support individuals in the community.

Skill Enhancement

Programs on hold until 2022 due to the pandemic.

iCan Bike Camp: ASGA partners with iCanShine to host an annual bike camp to teach individuals of all different abilities how to ride a two-wheel bicycle independently.

Swimming with Autism Water Safety: Individuals with autism are 160 times more likely to die from drowning as the general pediatric population. ASGA offers nine weeks of one-on-one instruction in the spring and fall.

Upcoming Virtual Webinars

Webinars are held via Zoom with registration required.

February	Toilet Training
March	Internet Safety (Mar 22) Autism in Early Childhood Years (Mar 16) Sleep and Autism (Mar 29)
April	Autism and Puberty (Apr 29)
May	Twenty Something Free Fall
June	Mealtime Challenges Jon Peterson / Autism Scholarship
July	Great Start to Kindergarten
August	IEPs / Advocating at School Transition Age IEPs
September	Executive Functioning
October	Relationships & Safety Caring for Aging Adults with Disabilities
November	If I Had Known What I Know Now
December	Autism & The Holidays New Resolutions for My Child

AUTISM SUMMIT

February 25, 12:00-1:00pm via Zoom Webinar
 Centered on answering YOUR questions about the COVID vaccine, collected from our survey, and providing families with science-based information from health professionals. Missed the webinar? Visit AutismAkron.org/2021-Summit

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

Visit AutismAkron.org/AAM for information and activities for the month of April.

SUPPORT

ASGA creates local connections that encourage and foster a grassroots network that is an integral component of a larger community.

Social Clubs

Provides a safe place to meet new people, enjoy fun activities, discuss interests, and problem-solve.

Adults (Age 18 and Older)

Every Month | 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Group I meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday
Group II meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday

Teens (Ages 13 – 17)

Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
January to May | September to December

LEGO Club (Ages 7 - 12)

Facilitators utilize LEGOs to support social skills.
Meets Saturdays | 10:00 am – 11:00 am
6-Week Sessions begin in February, June, and October

Support Groups

Coffee, Tea & Autism: Parents/Grandparents meet to connect with other families to build a web of support through the lifespan.

Kent / Stow – Meets 1st and 3rd Friday at 7:00 pm
Ravenna – Meets 4th Tuesday at 10:00 am

Grandparents: Group discusses unique situations of being a grandparent with grandchildren who have developmental disabilities.

Meets 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
March, May, July, September, and November

Closed Facebook Group

A connection hub for families to discover educational articles, research topics, new service providers and the camaraderie of other families with the same journey. Join at [Facebook.com/Groups/CTAGreaterakron](https://www.facebook.com/Groups/CTAGreaterakron).

Take-A-Break – Food/Respite Support

ASGA understands that the pandemic has caused hard times for many families. Through Take-A-Break, you can apply for a \$35 gift card to WalMart or Giant Eagle and 3 hours of respite paid to the caregiver of your choice.

INCLUSIVE FAMILY EVENTS

ASGA creates partnerships to adapt community events so families living with autism can attend. Events below will be evaluated based on COVID guidelines and are subject to change.

Upcoming Events

May	Autism Friendly at Portage Park District
August	NE Ohio Steamer Train Rides
September	Fishing at Summit Metro Parks
October	Halloween in the Parks
December	Adapted Polar Express with CVSR

ACTIVITY BOXES & FAMILY NIGHT

Themed activity boxes include crafts, games and interactive fun for the family or sign up for an online family fun night with a party box sent to your door.

Themes & Months of Distribution

March	Easter with Virtual Easter Bunny Visits
April	Family Fun Night (Apr 23)
May	Exploring the Outdoors
July	Family Fun Night
August	Cooking Around the World
October	Halloween
November	Family Fun Night
December	Christmas with Virtual Santa Visits

STEP INTO AUTISM 54 DAY CHALLENGE

Join ASGA for its eleventh annual signature fundraiser to support individuals and families living with autism in our community! We'll kick-off on April 24 and end on June 19 with a Resource and Family Fun Day (social distance style). The event celebrates 1:54, the estimated number of children living with autism. The Challenge is walking, running or cycling 1.54 miles a day for 54 days, or choose a higher challenge level with more miles! Do it anywhere, anytime!

REGISTER: [AutismAkron.org/Step-Into-Autism](https://www.autismakron.org/Step-Into-Autism)

CONNECT WITH US!

FOR INFORMATION ON ASGA EVENTS VISIT [AutismAkron.org](https://www.autismakron.org)

[Facebook.com/GreaterAkron](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterAkron) | [Twitter.com/ASGreaterAkron](https://twitter.com/ASGreaterAkron) | [Instagram.com/ASGreaterAkron](https://www.instagram.com/ASGreaterAkron)

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