

## **Relationships and Adults with Autism Resources**

### **\*National Support**

**Autism Network International (ANI):** an autistic-run self-help and advocacy organization for people on the spectrum. <http://ani.autistics.org>.

**Autreat / Autscape:** autism-community social events (conference) hosted by and for people on the autism spectrum.

**Family Village:** a global community of disability-related resources that integrates information, resources and communication opportunities on the internet for persons with cognitive and other disabilities, for their families, and for those who provide them services and support. [www.Familyvillage.wisc.edu/](http://www.Familyvillage.wisc.edu/) Waisman Center/University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. 53705

**Aspires:** Asperger Syndrome Partners & Individual Resource, Encouragement, & Support, is an online resource for spouses and family members of adults diagnosed or suspected to be on the autism spectrum. Aspires is an email subscription list for individuals with ASD, and those who have a parent, spouse or child with AS. Family and relational experiences are shared, as well as resources, survival tips, encouragement and hope. [www.aspires-relationships.com](http://www.aspires-relationships.com).

**Interactive Autism Network (IAN)** is an innovative online project bringing together tens of thousands of people nationwide affected by ASD and hundreds of researchers. [www.iancommunity.org](http://www.iancommunity.org)

**Asperger's Association of New England (AANE)** is committed to providing a supportive, understanding community for individuals, families and professionals throughout New England. They serve adults with AS, families of children and teens with AS, educators and professionals. They also offer support and services to individuals with high-functioning autism, PDD-NOS and Nonverbal Learning Disability. Comprehensive services include phone consultations, professional consultation and training, social and activity groups, on-site training, online support and more. [www.anne.org](http://www.anne.org)

**The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation:** [www.djfiddlefoundation.org/](http://www.djfiddlefoundation.org/). The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation is a national organization focused on adults living with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The mission of the volunteer-run organization is to develop and fund *The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation Signature Programs* that address critical needs and gaps in services and supports for the diverse population of adults living with ASD. *The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation Signature Programs* can be found throughout the United States and include residential, vocational, educational, recreational, and health/ wellness programs that are blueprints for replication in grassroots communities everywhere. It is a leading advocacy organization, inspired by autistic adults and their families, and their own self-advocate advisory board. Their goal is to create awareness that adults living with ASD are capable citizens and have the right to be respected and valued members of society.

**Easter Seals:** [www.autism.easterseals.com](http://www.autism.easterseals.com) (national site) [www.ri.easterseals.com](http://www.ri.easterseals.com) (state site)

*Services for Adults with Autism* – multifaceted programming

*Making Friends Program* – encourages adults with autism to be participants in all areas of community life including social and recreational activities

**Autism Living and Working, Inc.** [www.autismlivingworking.org/friends](http://www.autismlivingworking.org/friends)

*Adult Services* – formed over 25 years ago to address and meet the needs of adults with autism in the Greater Philadelphia area; however now has a national site.

### **\*State Support**

**AANE RI Chapter (see description above):** Co-directors Barbara Whalen and Toby Liebowitz.

**Groups for Parents of Adults and Adults with Asperger's Syndrome:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month 6:30-8:00 p.m. Bradley Hospital, Providence, RI (401) 432-1000. Pizza night on the last Friday of each month!

**The Groden Center:** participates in selected research activities and provides adult programs in both RI and MA. [www.grodencenter.org](http://www.grodencenter.org)

Pizza Night for AS Adults: Last Friday of each month 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Neurodevelopment Center, 260 West Exchange St, Providence, RI (401) 333-1705.

**The Autism Project of Rhode Island:**

[www.theautismproject.org](http://www.theautismproject.org)

*The Breakfast Club* - for young adults to meet at a weekly breakfast to socialize

*Adult Community Group* – meets once a month at designated community locations so adults with autism can interact and develop friendships

**Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities, Providence, RI:** [www.ric.edu/sherlockcenter](http://www.ric.edu/sherlockcenter)

*Community Supports Navigator Program* – one piece of this comprehensive program for young adults with disabilities is to help guide individuals in identifying opportunities for recreation and meaningful participation in community life including to help develop friendships and appropriate leisure activities

*Family Support Program* – helps transitions those with disabilities from school to adult life encompassing all needs which could include social supports

**J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center, Warwick, RI:** [www.trudeaucenter.org/adult/rec/comm.asp](http://www.trudeaucenter.org/adult/rec/comm.asp)

*Community Support Services Program*- assists adults with disabilities in increasing their independence and maximizing their social participation in the community

*Recreation and Social Services Program* – offers persons with developmental disabilities opportunities to develop friendships and increase community involvement