

# SPECTRUM UPDATES

## October-December 2011

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### The End of the Spectrum: Helping Families Find Solutions to their Autism Housing Needs.

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Dear Friends,

*We have reached the end of an amazing year! With Minnesota the #1 state for cases of autism, many more agencies, legislators and governmental entities have become interested in our cause. Families from around the state continue to find their way to our door, and we persist in trying to help with their housing needs as we all weather the current moratorium. The plight of no autism housing has come to the attention of Public Television/TPT and we are working on a project to expand public awareness. Overall, both our work load and our impact have increased exponentially this last quarter of 2011.*

*Blessings on the new year ahead,*

*Sheryl Grassie / Executive Director*



**Board of Directors Executive Committee**

### Legislative Progress



Rep. Kathy Lohmer from Lake Elmo (left) has come on board to co-sponsor our Bill (HF1683) for an Autism Housing Pilot Project, along with Rep. Kim Norton from Rochester. Sen. David Senjem continues to be our sponsor in the Senate, and we are scheduled for the Bill to be introduced on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Documentary

Spectrum has been approached by Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) about doing a documentary that would highlight the autism housing conundrum in Minnesota. Utilizing research from Sheryl Grassie's 2009 Dissertation at The University of St. Thomas, children with severe autism and their families would be profiled. The project is a joint venture between TPT and Spectrum, with Spectrum's ½ the cost being approximately \$40,000. Any contributions to this project would be greatly appreciated. Look for a formal fund raising campaign to begin in 2012.

## Minnesota Still #1

A December 9<sup>th</sup> article in the Los Angeles Times had a nice graphic of autism rates around the country. Thank You to Tim and Laura Kasemodel for monitoring statistics.

<http://graphics.latimes.com/usmap-autism-rates-state>

## Holiday Party



Executive Directors John Rentschler and Alison Campbell (above left) from Cooperative Community Programs (CCP) joined us in celebrating.

## Wish List for 2012

- \* Volunteers for Grant Writing
- \* Volunteers for Lobbying
- \* Donations of Office Supplies
- \* Monetary Donations
- \* Land/Housing
- \* New Meeting Space
- \* Pottery and Goods for Spring Fundraiser
- \* Funds for TPT Documentary



Hostess Nancy Anson smiles for the camera along with Spectrum's fund raiser Frank Phelps of F.T. Pharos.



Many new families have become involved with Spectrum this fall. Some drove from as far as two hours away to connect with other families at our holiday social.

*A special **Thank You** to Mike and Nancy Anson for hosting this year's party.*

## End of Year Giving

**We are always grateful for everyone's donations, and hope you will keep us in mind with your end-of-year giving.**

**[Thank You to everyone who supports work with autism in Minnesota!](#)**