

# SPECTRUM UPDATES

## January-March 2013

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

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Dear Friends,

*As I write this the temperature is ebbing up into the 30's. There is no doubt that we have had a long winter here in Minnesota, where things move slowly and people wait for spring with the patience of Job.*

*Autism parents are no stranger to patience, we wait however for a different kind of spring, one that blooms with public recognition regarding the needs of our children; the need for housing, for programming and funding. What was once an obscure diagnosis is now almost commonplace with widespread public recognition. The next step is for a pervasive understanding; a tipping point in consciousness that can generate actual change. Please help us carry that torch.*

Happy Spring,

Sheryl Grassie / Executive Director



**In February, The End of the Spectrum celebrated three years as a non-profit**

### Legislative Update



In spite of the frozen ground, the hallowed halls of the State Capital were abuzz with autism activity the first quarter of this year. Our work in 2012 was instrumental in urging government to take a more serious look at the needs of our community.

### DHS Study

The study by DHS (Department of Human Services) that was mandated by our Campus Housing Bill last year came back in February. There were significant findings about the need for residential placement and the stress on families. However DHS continues to maintain that "Campus Style" housing is an "institutional model" and one they cannot support. Even with documented therapeutic effects, and the reduced fiscal impact of these models, we have not been able to garner DHS support.

## Autism Group Homes

Our secondary Bill to create three therapeutic group homes in Minnesota is moving forward. DHS conducted a statewide needs assessment study and are in the process of identifying counties and providers for the development of the three homes. They project completion in 2013.

## Pottery Sale May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Mark your calendars for our annual pottery sale and fundraiser on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3 pm in Linden Hills.



Sheryl Grassie at the Wheel

## Updated Website

Please log on and check out our updated website. [www.endofthespectrum.org](http://www.endofthespectrum.org)



## Autism Rates Rise Again

A recently released study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that the autism rate among American children in the US is now **1 in 50**. This statistic is causing continued concern as the rate over the past two decades has exponentially increased with no known cause.

## Documentary on Classic Autism

We continue to fundraise for this much needed project. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated.

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

