

SPECTRUM UPDATES

January-March 2011

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

Dear Friends,

Winter has finally moved on and we at Spectrum are all breathing deeply of the spring air as we assess our work over the first quarter of the year. We continue to make substantial headway towards our goal of opening autism specific housing for children in Minnesota and are beginning to glimpse light at the end of the tunnel. As well we are exceptionally grateful for everyone's support...

Best,

Sheryl Grassie / Executive Director

Good News ☺



One of our families, the Prokosch's from Bird Island, Minnesota, has been granted an out of home placement rate for their waiver! Thanks to hard work on the part of Renville County, Keely is now living in an SLS in Brooklyn Park.

Sad News ☹



My son, Seth Grassie, has been demitted from his group home and will need to find another placement as soon as possible. His current home is not equipped to serve autism and he has experienced substantial regression during his two years in residence. ☹

Financial Update

As a relatively young non-profit, fundraising is always at the top of our list. We approached our 1st quarter campaign with direct solicitation of friends and family. This was very successful and due to a generous donation from one particular family, we exceeded our fundraising goal for this period.

Group Home Progress

We have pursued three possible avenues for obtaining a group home license for our first residence. These three options involve: setting up a home under a family foster care license, setting up a home without a license, or obtaining a license as an exception to the current State Moratorium. At the same time we have been developing programming, working with CCP our chosen provider, interviewing possible staff, looking at real estate, collecting furniture and generally preparing for our first home. We have made progress with all three licensing options and are hopeful that a definitive solution is close at hand.

Upcoming Fundraisers

2nd Annual Pottery Sale Saturday May 14th 9-3,
49th and Abbott across from Pershing Park in
South Minneapolis
Sample wares from local Twin Cities artists.



Autism by State, MN #1

Recent studies assessing autism prevalence by state have now ranked Minnesota #1 in the nation for number of cases per capita. We are discouraged to see these statistics, but hoping it will help in convincing legislators of the need for more services, especially housing.

Check out:

<http://www.thoughtfulhouse.org/tech-labs/disabilities/autism-state-rankings-prevalence.php>

Or Google:

Autism Rates Per State or

Autism State Rankings Prevalence

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