

SPECTRUM UPDATES

April-June 2011

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

Dear Friends,

This spring quarter has been an exceptionally busy time for The End of the Spectrum. We have concentrated our work on advocacy, legislation, fund raising and supporting more families who need housing for their children. Personally, I have been looking for a placement for my son Seth and now have a firsthand experience of what families are facing with the shortage of appropriate housing. This work is a wild ride; exciting, discouraging, challenging and hopeful. To all of you who have participated, I am, as always, extremely grateful.

Warm Regards,

Sheryl Grassie / Executive Director

Capital News ☺

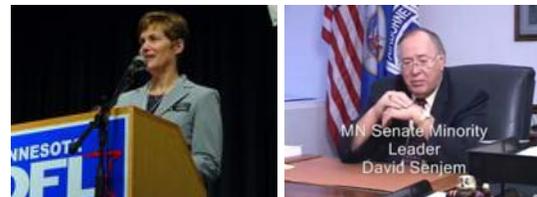


Autism Day at the Capital April 12, 2011

As part of National Autism Month (April) a rally was held at the state capital to raise awareness of the issues. A contingent of spectrum board members attended the day long rally, listened to legislators and pled our case. Housing is only just beginning to surface on the political radar.

[HF1683-SF1412](#)

With support from Governor Mark Dayton's office and the Department of Human Services (DHS) Spectrum initiated legislation to create a pilot program for autism housing in Minnesota. House File 1683 is being sponsored by Rep. Kim Norton (D) from Rochester, Mn. Its' companion



Senate File 1412 is sponsored by Sen. David Senjem (R), also from Rochester.

Currently, during the Minnesota government shut down, these bills are being verbally reconstructed for a possible special session and still have a chance of being amended this year. Otherwise work will begin for next year's session.

Fundraising

After interviewing several professional fundraisers, Spectrum chose Frank Phelps from F.T. Pharos to head our campaign for 2011. We were impressed with Frank's honesty and dedication and have great hopes for a successful outcome. Money's generated will be used to develop a first home, continue work with legislation, work on a focused PR campaign to raise awareness of the problem, further research green and sustainable practices for our residences and fund administrative costs.

Around the World



Although Spectrum is based in Minnesota, it is our long-term goal to serve individuals with autism throughout the United States. Indicative of the current shortage in autism housing, we get calls from all over the US and Canada. This past quarter we have consulted with families and organizations in places as far away as Texas and North Carolina, and Thunder Bay, Ontario. The stories are heartbreaking and as our revenue increases we hope to be able to serve more families.

"My 11 year old severely autistic nonverbal son has become so violent that the school system will no longer accept him. I need to place him in a home, but there are no homes. We are looking for options ANYWHERE."

Mary H. /Texas

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