

# SPECTRUM UPDATES

## April- June 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,*

*The second quarter of 2013 in Minnesota saw an impossibly long winter blossom into a rainy, stormy spring and now, embrace a spectacular summer. When you live with such extremes it is difficult not to focus on them, and so too with autism. Our children live with extremes in their sensory perceptions that generate experiences from stormy to frozen, and everything in-between. Imagine what the world be like if it was snowing one minute and sweltering hot the next. Imagine the challenge of regulating your perception with a completely unpredictable world around you. This is what it is like for our cherished children. They live in a world where sensory challenges can come out of nowhere like an unexpected storm. It is why they crave routine, why they crave sameness....and why they need an autism sensitive environment.*

*Our work continues in the hopes of seeing those environments became a reality.*

*All my best,*

*Sheryl Grassie / Executive Director*

### The End of the Spectrum

The End of the Spectrum started late in 2009 with a group of parents coming together who all needed placement for their children. Over the following three and a half years children went to live in treatment centers, hospital settings and group homes. Children changed

placements, were kicked out of group homes, experienced neglect and abuse. Testimony of these trials was what convinced the legislature that things needed to change. In the past, twelve months, all of the many children associated with The End of the Spectrum seem to have found viable placements, meaning adequate for the time being, and our parents and board have unexpectedly been given a much needed respite. Unfortunately many of the placements will not be adequate long term and the question of adult housing and programming is starting to loom.

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

What started as a rainy morning developed into a fabulous afternoon that brought throngs of shoppers to our annual pottery sale. Thank you to everyone involved!



Nancy Anson setting up after the rain ended



Jackie, Holli and Ceci Trap  
shopped for gifts



### Autism Group Homes

The Department of Human Services in Minnesota is still working towards the development of the three autism group homes required by our 2012 legislation. Nothing tangible as yet, the wheels of government seem to be moving slowly.



Board Member Zach Marell  
purchased pots for the cause

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





On June 6th Seth Grassie moved to the Laura Baker School in Northfield MN. Laura Baker is a campus model residence that was grandfathered in. Seth and his family are thrilled with the move. Check it out at [www.laurabaker.org](http://www.laurabaker.org)