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Foundation Goals

The objectives of the Canadian National Autism Foundation are charitable. The Canadian National Autism Foundation has been formed to provide funding for:

- * Educating the general public and professionals;
- * Providing information and resources to families of children with autism;
- * Providing funding for Canadian based research and development; and
- * Promoting national autism awareness

Mission Statement

The Canadian National Autism Foundation promotes the positive improvement and quality of life for people with autism in Canada.

Upcoming Events

*Autism Fashion Show with
7th Annual Silent Auction & Brunch
Spring 2007*

*featuring some of our special children with autism
Look for more details coming soon!!!*

*With help from our generous sponsors of the October 27, 2006
Autism Comedy Show with 5th Annual Dinner & Dance and Live Auction
With Special Guests ~ Hockey Greats Harry Howell & Ralph Stewart and
CNAF Goodwill Ambassador Walter Gretzky
Special Thanks to MC Chris Mei and Comedian Harry Doupe
We made over \$9200.00 for Autism!*



Thanks to our Sponsors





Event Updates

*3rd Annual Golf Tournament for Autism ~ Friday, August 26, 2006
raised over \$7000.00 for Autism!*

*Wayne Bordian Memorial Golf Tournament ~ Saturday, September 9, 2006
raised over \$4200.00 for Autism!*

Ask the Expert ~ A 22 Year Old Man with Autism

The following questions were posed to a 22 year old man with autism who did not talk until he was 10 and just graduated from College in October 2006, by the father of a 7 year old with autism.

Permission was granted to the Canadian National Autism Foundation by the 22 year old to reprint his responses to the following questions. (Names have been changed to protect their identity.)

We hope that you find these as insightful as we did.

1. Do you find that your learning is different from what you believe how others learn?

Not really, I am a very visual learner and I have learned how to do things when I was younger by imitating. Things that would've helped me through school were if the teachers conveyed their learning methods by incorporating more visual means, such as pictures, graphics, videos and other visual means. I think these days that most people learn things well if they can see what is happening, such as myself.

2. Are you sensitive to stimuli? Our son finds that when concentrating he finds that sounds are disturbing to him and normally reacts in an inappropriate manner. Mind you he is only 7 years old.

I used to be. I would easily get distracted by other sounds in my immediate surroundings because I couldn't concentrate on what sound I needed to focus on. But from then up until now, I have worked very hard to fix this problem and now, it has disappeared altogether. It's something that if you work long and hard enough at it, you will find good to great results.

3. If you are sensitive, how do you manage to ignore them?

It depends on my location, but in a classroom setting, for example, I asked to work in a quiet room. Basically, if I could, I moved to a location with little or no distracting sounds that would otherwise throw my focus directly towards it.

4. Are you able to understand "love" that your parents talk about? At the present time my son lives with his mother. He wants to move here with me and is constantly voicing his opinion at home and lately at school. Although he is aware when asked if he misses me he tells me "No". He says that he "doesn't miss people".

Absolutely, since I didn't speak. This is because they gave me lots of affection and attention. I understand the difference between love for romance and love for my parents. As for your son, it would seem like he is misinterpreting the term "miss" like I'm very sure that he misses you if he really wants to move back in with you.

5. Jason, the 9 year old brother of Sam wonders why his brother hits and screams at him?

Aggression is a part of the disability and people with it, especially at that age, from my experience, would be very likely to be aggressive if they cannot get what they want. Maybe he is jealous, maybe not, or maybe it's something more. The point is that it can be controlled. Nathan is either upset, jealous, or really wants something of Jeremy's.

6. How did you handle puberty?

Puberty was the roughest stage in my life and everybody experiences things differently. I noticed myself becoming very aggressive and the slightest thing would tick me off and would kick my aggressive behaviour into high gear. This behaviour in me was caused because I had no way of dealing with the huge load of stress that I had during this time. I went through a number of girlfriends, one of which, became an obsession of mine. I only did that to try and escape from the stressful world. I also went through group homes and gradually became more independent. But now I am 22 years old and am very happy living in my own place and take care of myself. My advice is to not let anyone tell you how far your son can get, otherwise he might not reach his full potential.

7. My son has a "XXXXX" fixation, it does not matter the sex of the person. He will also stimulate (I think) himself by playing with his own. Have you ever experienced anything like this?

Yes I have, but I have learned that there is a time and a place for it. "Private things in private places; bedroom, bathroom" is what my mom said.

8. My son's 9 year old brother wonders why his 7 year old brother never listens to him?

"your son" might have a lack of understanding or gets distracted very easily.

9. Have you found life difficult and how did you overcome these times? I guess the question I'm trying to ask is "What does my son have to look forward to?" And how did you deal with life's problems? And have you found that there were common problems that you and others had to overcome?

I have learned to talk and communicate very well as you have been reading. I have lots of friends including an amazing girlfriend, Jessie. I go to Algonquin College and I play in Special Olympics Bowling. At college, I have been studying to become a designer of water rides/ amusement rides and it would be a dream come true if I am employed by Proslide Technology Inc. As for my bowling, my highest score is 332 in 5-pin and I have won tournaments too. I average about 200 points per night. I bowl in Orleans and my league is called the Orleans Alley Cats.

Other Inspiring Individuals with Autism

Dr. Temple Grandin, Ph.D. ~ author of many books including "Thinking in Pictures"

Luke Jackson ~ 18 year old ~ author of "Freaks, Geeks and Asperger's Syndrome"

Donna Williams ~ author of "Nobody, Nowhere" and "Somebody, Somewhere"

Submit questions to our experts via email at info@cnaf.net, by phone at 950-643-7183, by fax at 905-643-0969, or via mail at 1227 Barton Street East, PO Box 47577, Hamilton, ON L8H 2V0

The Canadian National Autism Foundation will attempt to have all questions answered in a timely manner, and to ensure that names are kept confidential. Not all questions posed will be published in a particular issue. The Canadian National Autism Foundation is not responsible for the responses given by the expert to questions posed through this outlet, and we encourage you to consult with other experts for additional advice and information.

Exciting News! “Don’t Give Up On Me (Autism)” CD is going around the world!



It is featured on the “M.T.M. compilation #19” CD by Mark Trail, and being sent to over 600 worldwide radio stations.

Order the CD online at www.cnaf.net/fundraisers

How to Contact Us

Mailing Address

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Hamilton, Ontario
L8H 2V0

Phone Number

905-643-7183

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905-643-0969

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Website Address

www.cnaf.net

Charitable Organization

#867189243 RR0001

How You Can Help

As a charitable organization, the Canadian National Autism Foundation strives to raise funds to achieve our goals and it is with the support of generous organizations, companies and people that we are able to put together fundraising events such as those we have had in the past in order to raise the funding needed.

At this time we are looking for financial support, and this can come in various forms:

- Sponsorship of portions of our events
- Donations of prizes for our events
- Purchase of tickets to our events
- Financial contributions directly towards our goals (i.e. research)
- Hold an Autism Awareness Day at your establishment
- Casual Dress Days
- Payroll Deductions
- Host a Golf Tournament or Hockey Tournament
- Sponsor or run a Walk-a-thon
- And any other great ideas that you may have, big or small!



Ongoing Fundraisers

Do you buy books about Autism or any other topics online? Buy them through the Amazon.ca link on our site, and the CNAF will receive a percentage of your sale from Amazon.ca

Disclaimer

The Canadian National Autism Foundation (CNAF) does not support, endorse or recommend any method, treatment, product, program or person for people suffering with autism spectrum disorders. The goal of our site and our responses to your questions is to provide accurate and up-to-date information about autism spectrum disorders. We believe everyone has the right to access all of the information available to them, allowing them to make their own individual choice.