



Celebrating the people and programs

@MAY

News from May Institute, a national nonprofit provider of behavioral health, education, and rehabilitative services

## Making Sense of a Catastrophic Brain Injury

Harvard University chaplains Pat and Tammy McLeod have a lifetime of experience helping families blind-sided by tragedy. That experience, however, didn't make it any easier when tragedy struck *their* family.

Three years ago their son, Zack, now a student at the May Center for Education and Neurorehabilitation in Brockton, Mass., suffered a traumatic brain injury during a football game. When Zack was ready to move to the next level of care, after months of rehabilitation, his parents' decision to enroll him at the May Center was the easy part.



*Zack is still a big fan of football. He was elated this year to meet his hero, NFL phenom Tim Tebow.*

"Knowing that your child will be with people who have such positive attitudes makes a real difference when making this kind of decision," Pat remembers.

The hard part has been letting go of what once was, to embrace the present day. In a candid interview, Pat and Tammy share

many of their challenges, revelations, and how they have come to accept their son's injury as a part of a larger story that is still unfolding.

To read their story, visit [www.mayinstitute.org](http://www.mayinstitute.org).

## Welcoming Familiar Faces to New Leadership Roles



In January, our Board of Trustees announced the promotion of **Lauren C. Solotar, Ph.D., ABPP**, to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of May Institute.

Dr. Solotar assumes the role after 16 years of service. She joined May Institute in 1996 as Chief Psychologist and Vice President of Clinical Services. In 2001, she was promoted to Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health Services; in 2010, she became Chief Clinical Officer.

"I am excited to take on this new leadership role and serve May Institute to the very best of my abilities," says Dr. Solotar. "I look forward to collaborating with our remarkably capable and caring staff to help me meet this challenge. Working together, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of the children, adults, and families we serve."

*continued on page 6*

## Letter from our **PRESIDENT**



Dear Friends,

Times of transition are often significant moments in a person's life.

Throughout our nearly 60-year history at May Institute, we have paid particular attention to those moments, as they often help define future life outcomes. Moments like the transitional period following the news of an autism diagnosis. The critical period following a brain injury before a child is ready to return to his or her community. The time an individual with mental illness spends in the treatment and recovery process.

And, for a young person with special needs, the months and years leading up to the transition to adulthood, and into adult systems of care.

The opening of our newest center reflects our commitment to making the most of that critical period of transition to adulthood.

The Todd Fournier Center for Employment Training and

Community Inclusion is the latest addition to our Randolph campus in Massachusetts.

The Center functions as a "school within a school," serving young people and preparing them for future success.

The recent dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Fournier Center held special meaning for many of us, as we welcomed Todd Fournier's family, friends, and co-workers to celebrate Todd's life and dedicate the Center to his memory.

This year also marks a time of transition for May Institute, and for me personally. As you will read in this issue, our Board of Trustees and I had the tremendous pleasure of announcing the promotion of Dr. Lauren Solotar to the position of May Institute's Chief Executive Officer. I know that Lauren will guide the organization forward with wisdom, compassion, and a deeply held commitment to improving the lives of individuals with special needs.

As I move closer to my retirement in 2013, I have a renewed appreciation for the work accomplished every day at our programs across the country, and for the support, generosity, and friendship of each of you. Until then, I will use this time of transition to do all I can for May Institute as we prepare for a new chapter in our history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walter P. Christian". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Walter P. Christian, Ph.D., ABPP, ABPP  
President

## Fournier Center Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Brings Family and Friends Together

**Balloons floated gently overhead at the conclusion of the dedication ceremony for the new Todd Fournier Center for Employment Training and Community Inclusion.**

The Center, named after a beloved May teacher and job coach who lost his courageous battle with cancer in 2010, is the most recent addition to the May Center school campus in Randolph, Mass. Its mission is to help young people with autism secure meaningful employment and achieve greater independence.

Among the more than 100 guests that day were members of Todd's immediate and extended family. "We are so profoundly proud of Todd and the incredible 'Todd Fournier Center' dedicated in his memory," wrote Paul and Barbara Fournier, Todd's mother and father. "Through your remarkable thoughtfulness, generosity and caring, you have given Todd and the Fournier family an unforgettable tribute that has touched all of us deeply."

They continued, "We can be comforted in knowing that it is not the number of years in one's life, but rather how well one has lived in those years. For us, the dedication was such a proud moment in which Todd and his life were thoughtfully honored. The Todd Fournier Center held the most wonderful surprises inside and out. We will forever be grateful."

To learn more or to view the event photo album, visit [www.mayinstitute.org](http://www.mayinstitute.org). 📷



*The dedication was a proud moment for Todd's parents, Paul and Barbara Fournier.*



*Members of the May Institute family joined the Fournier family for a photo as they stand before Todd's memorial.*



*May Institute President Dr. Walter P. Christian cuts the ribbon in front of the new Fournier Center as staff and family members look on.*



*Guests look on as the balloons were released.*



## MAY CENTER STUDENTS EDUCATE PUBLIC ABOUT AUTISM

Millions of commuters in Massachusetts had an opportunity to learn about autism, thanks to the return of a powerful public awareness campaign, “What Does Autism Look Like?” The popular campaign, launched during April—National Autism Awareness Month—puts a human face on the disorder.

Created by May Institute and the National Autism Center, the campaign included 1,000 informational pieces displayed in subway stations and on subway cars, buses, and commuter trains across the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) system.

This year, the campaign showcased new faces among the eight children, adolescents, and young adults featured.

For **Jill Gichuhi**, the mother of 10-year-old Josephat, the campaign provided her family with an important opportunity. “There are differences between children with autism and their typical peers, but they are still first and foremost children. Our hope is that the campaign on the MBTA helps

people understand that,” says Jill. “And, we want what every parent wants—to have our child be able to live, play, go to school, and become a successful adult. The difference? We need the supports and services to help us make that possible.” ➡



*“What Does Autism Look Like?” It looks like Amaya, one of the more than half a million children in the United States with autism.*



*“What Does Autism Look Like?” It looks like Drew, one of more than 13,000 school-aged children in Massachusetts with autism. Here, Drew sits in front of his poster.*



*“What Does Autism Look Like?” It looks like Josephat, who has benefited from early intervention and effective treatment.*

## Massachusetts DDS Commissioner Visits Cape Cod Residence

Four residents of one of our adult homes on Cape Cod had a very special visitor recently—Elin M. Howe, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

On the recommendation of the director of the Cape Cod area office, Commissioner Howe toured our residence in Hyannis following a DDS staff recognition breakfast. After her tour, she and the home's four residents enjoyed a visit.

"It was quite an honor to be the only site chosen from among all the residential providers on Cape Cod," says **Joe Realbuto**, M.H.S.A., M.Ed.,



*Commissioner Howe (middle row, second from left) during her visit with residents and staff.*

Vice President of Adult Services. "Commissioner Howe was very impressed with our Raynham Day Habilitation

program when she visited four years ago. It was nice that she was now able to visit one of our residential programs.

"We try to create a home environment that gives the men and women we serve the opportunity to become active, happy, participating members of their communities," Realbuto adds. "Our goal is to help each one of our residents achieve the highest level of independence possible."

May Institute Centers for Adult Services are located in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Florida. They serve hundreds of individuals with special needs related to autism or other developmental disabilities as well as those with physical or mental health concerns. 🍎

## Collaboration Benefits Families in Southeastern Massachusetts

When People, Inc., was awarded a grant to expand its Healthy Families Massachusetts (PIHFM) home visiting program in Fall River, Mass., the organization turned to May Institute's Behavioral Health Services division for assistance.



People, Inc., is a nonprofit human services agency that helps people with disabilities live

healthy, independent lives. The expanded grant identified Fall River as an area of priority need due to its high level of children living in poverty, and issues related to domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse.

Last fall, PIHFM and our Behavioral Health Services division formed a partnership to address the needs of that

population. May Institute's role is to serve parents referred by Healthy Families and to provide consultation to the home visiting staff in Fall River.

The collaboration works to increase parental resilience by assisting parents with mental health issues that make it difficult to build trusting relationships, maintain a positive attitude, or deal with difficult situations. It also promotes the healthy social and emotional development of children through early identification and treatment, and improved parent/child relationships. To date, our clinicians have provided mental health services to 10 families with children ages 3 and under.

"We are thrilled with the synergy created by this partnership and the positive benefit to young children and their families so

far," said **Janet Shartle**, Program Director of Children's Services in Fall River. "We are jointly developing a group series regarding stress reduction, and hope to offer specialized attachment support through the 'Circle of Security' training later this year. The Healthy Families home visitors bring a wonderful enthusiasm, sensitivity, and energy to our partnership.

"Our psychiatrists—**Roberta Apfel**, M.D., and **Bennett Simon**, M.D.—provide consultation every two weeks, and clinical services on a priority basis to identified parents. In addition, two of our staff members are currently post-graduate fellows studying at the Infant Parent Training Institute sponsored by Jewish Family and Children's Services of Waltham, Mass., with the goal of providing effective interventions for parents and their infants and children." 🍎

## Familiar Faces...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Also announced was the news that **Walter P. Christian**, Ph.D., ABBP, ABPP will retire in January of 2013 after 35 years of leader-

ship at May Institute. Dr. Christian will continue to serve as President for the remainder of this year.

"This change in leadership represents the first phase of a succession process designed to ensure a smooth and seamless transition upon Dr. Christian's retirement next year," said Board Chairman **Dr. Don Ricciato**. "At that time, Dr. Solotar will become both President and CEO of May Institute."

Dr. Ricciato continued, "During his long career, Dr. Christian has made a lasting contribution to the fields of human service management, organizational development, clients' rights, and service programming."

Another key leadership change is the appointment of **Deidre L. Donaldson**, Ph.D., as Chief

Clinical Officer. Dr. Donaldson provides clinical oversight for all Institute programs. She sets standards

for clinical practice, supervises clinical procedures and interventions, and has oversight of professional training programs and research.

Prior to her recent promotion, Dr. Donaldson served as May Institute's Director of Pediatric Psychology Services, and was the Director of the Fernandes Center for Children and Families at Saint Anne's Hospital in Fall River, Mass. 🍷



## iPad Helps Matthew Celebrate Rite of Passage



*Matthew uses his iPad during the ceremony, as parents Michael and Suzanne Emmi assist him.*

**Suzanne and Michael Emmi** decided their son's autism was not going to prevent him from having a bar mitzvah. Staff at the May Center school in Woburn, Mass., agreed. Combining high tech with high touch, they found a way to give 13-year-old Matthew a "voice" for this very important milestone.

**Jaimie Hoover**, the school's Executive Director, had the idea to use the iPad to enable Matthew, who has autism, to increase his participation in the

ceremony. Matthew's parents, rabbi, cantor, Hebrew schoolteacher, and May Center staff worked to design a unique program that would take Matthew's special needs into consideration, while also upholding tradition.

To learn about Matthew's heartwarming story, and how creativity and technology made his day even more wonderful, visit [www.mayinstitute.org](http://www.mayinstitute.org) to read his story in the *Boston Globe* or watch the FOX news segment. 🍷



### ...to Parents of Children with Autism

People can be cruel even when they don't mean to be. Yet the absence of ill intent is of little comfort to a person with autism, or a member of their family, when they are the target of a careless reference, lingering stare, or impatient gesture.

To help inform the public about how to be more supportive of the autism community, we surveyed civilian and military parents of children with autism enrolled in our programs and special education schools. We asked them to identify insensitive remarks that have been directed at them and their families.

They also weighed in on the facts about autism that most people "don't get." The resulting media advisory and feature stories in *Exceptional Parent* magazine have had thousands of "shares" on Facebook and other social media platforms.

To read the results, visit [www.mayinstitute.org](http://www.mayinstitute.org). 🍷



# The Long Journey Back

## Finding One's Place in the World

Special bonds between our staff and the individuals they serve are created every day. It is through those bonds that extraordinary milestones are realized.

This is the story of two men. One is Kevin, a 40-year-old who has spent a lifetime working to overcome a complicated set of compromising mental disorders, who is a resident of our Adult Services program in Conn. The other is 52-year-old **Ken Taylor**, a retired Navy petty officer who works as a May Institute Program Coordinator. He has played a pivotal role in helping Kevin confront and overcome his personal demons. This is the beginning of their story.

### A Mother's Heartbreak

**[Ken]** I was 39 and had just retired from the Navy, where I served in various leadership roles and spent most of my sea duty at the South Pole. My wife and I had met Kevin's mother, Betty, while working together at a local animal rescue league. She was lovely and often spoke of Kevin, who did not live at home.

Betty shared with us that her son struggled with a number of behaviors that started at a very young age. Later on I learned that these behaviors involved a complex set of disorders and medical conditions that included schizoaffective disorder, impulse control, diabetes, and Tourette's syndrome which, in Kevin's case, is displayed as stuttering when he is anxious or excited.

Like many parents of children with special needs, Kevin's mother didn't feel she

*had the ability to take care of Kevin in a way that would keep him safe. When his mother finally made the very difficult decision to transition Kevin into a state residential program at the age of 7, she unknowingly relinquished guardianship to the state.*

*According to Betty, state policies and procedures were different 35 years ago than they are today, and it was virtually impossible for her to remove him from the state's care. This caused pain and suffering for both of them in the years to follow as he was shuffled from one program to the next.*

### A Sobering Introduction

*Kevin was allowed to come home for visits a few times a month. I remember when my wife and I met him for the first time. I will never forget that day. I was*

*both horrified and heart-broken when I saw Kevin.*

*He was in his late twenties, but looked so much older. At 5'4", Kevin weighed almost 340 pounds. When he arrived at the house and shuffled towards us, he was completely disheveled, drooling a bit, and incoherent. When we sat down to eat, he stared at his fork for a full*

*three minutes before he could even put the food in his mouth.*

*No person should ever have to live that way. It was appalling to me on so many levels. But, behind his broken shell, I could still see someone in there. In those eyes, I saw a man with potential. I saw Kevin...*

To read the complete narrative of Ken and Kevin's extraordinary journey, visit [www.mayinstitute.org](http://www.mayinstitute.org). 🍎



Ken (right) and Kevin take a stroll on a recent sunny afternoon.

## notable NEWS

- More than 300 media outlets carried our recent media advisory from the PR Newswire entitled, "10 Things Not to Say to Parents of Children with Autism." The advisory included survey results from parents of children with autism enrolled at May Institute's special education schools.
- Hanna Rue**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, was interviewed by WFXT-TV FOX (Boston) about the Center's views on how to treat children with challenging behaviors. Dr. Rue's commentary was in response to a recent trial concerning the use of shock therapy.
- Walter P. Christian**, Ph.D., ABPP, ABPP, and **Lauren Solotar**, Ph.D., ABPP, co-authored "Rising Autism Rates Increase Responsibilities for All of Us" in the May issue of *The Provider*, the flagship publication of the Massachusetts Council of Human Service Providers.
- In April, *Exceptional Parent* magazine highlighted the perspectives of two of the parent authors of the National Autism Center's, "A Parent's Guide to Evidence-based Practice" — **Katherine Bray** and **Janet Amorello**. The article is written by **Patricia Ladew** and **Hanna Rue**, Ph.D., BCBA-D.
- Marisa Morelos**, Psy.D., discussed the proposed changes to the DSM-5 in the *New England Psychologist* article, "Possible Change in Autism Definition Raises Concern."
- Several clinical staff were featured in a special report on autism, published in the *Fall River Herald News*. The discussion on diagnosis and treatment included commentary from **Marisa Morelos** Psy.D., **Nina Pinnock**, Ph.D., BCBA-D., and **Leslie Sutro**, Ph.D.
- Expert columns published in the *West Springfield Republican* included "Gaining Fluency Skills Key to Learning," by **Shannon Kay**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, and "Regular Praise Can Head Off Attention-Seeking Disruptions," by **Teka Harris**, M.A., BCBA.



## GIVING @MAY

### ON YOUR MARK...GET SET...GO!

#### *May Institute Joins the New Balance Falmouth Road Race*

We are proud to be a benefiting charity of the New Balance Falmouth Road Race in Massachusetts through its Numbers for Non-Profits Program. This world-renowned seven-mile race takes place on Sunday, August 12.

This year, we received 10 bib numbers to give to 10 committed runners, who will individually pledge to fundraise \$1,000 for May

Institute. This is a unique opportunity, as the only other way to participate in the highly competitive race is through a lottery system. It is particularly special since the race will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

There are still a few bibs available. To sign up or for more information, contact Alice Silver-Heilman at 781.437.1287 or [asilver-heilman@mayinstitute.org](mailto:asilver-heilman@mayinstitute.org). We would love to have you on our team! 🍷

#### *Ride with Us in the 2012 Rodman Ride for Kids!*



*Enthusiastic riders helped us raise over \$180,000 last year.*

Join us again this fall for a fun and exhilarating 25-, 50-, or 100-mile ride in the Rodman Ride for Kids event. Last year, we raised over \$180,000 through our participation in the Ride. Funds directly benefited our programs serving children with autism, brain injury, and other special needs.

Special thanks to everyone who participated, raised funds, and helped us cross the finish line!

This year, the event will take place on Saturday, September 29, and we are looking forward to raising even more than we did last year for the special children we serve!

To make a gift or for more information about the event, visit [www.mayinstitute.org](http://www.mayinstitute.org), or contact Alice Silver-Heilman at [asilver-heilman@mayinstitute.org](mailto:asilver-heilman@mayinstitute.org) or 781.437.1287. 🍷

## 5 notable grants&gifts

*We are truly grateful to the corporations, foundations, and agencies that support our vital services through their grants and donations.*

*Recent supporters include:*

1.

Through the **2011 Combined Federal Campaign**, federal, postal, and military donors across the world pledged \$74,800 to May Institute and more than \$220,000 to the National Autism Center. Their support will allow us to continue providing specialized care to individuals with autism, brain injury, and other special needs.

2.

The **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** awarded \$9,000 in grant money to the May Center for Education and Neurorehabilitation in Brockton and the May Centers for Child Development in Randolph, West Springfield, and Woburn. The grant will provide teachers with access to ongoing training and technical assistance in the areas of curriculum development, instructional practices, and classroom assessment.

3.

**Telamon Insurance & Financial Network** matched our fundraising efforts during National Autism Awareness Month in April with a gift of \$3,000.

4.

**Kate's Voice** awarded a \$1,100 grant to the May Center for Education and Neurorehabilitation in Brockton, Mass., to provide music therapy classes three times per week. These sessions will give our students the opportunity to develop better communication skills, and gross and fine motor skills.

5.

**Community Spouses' Club of Fort Benning** awarded a \$750 grant to the May Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders in Columbus, Ga. This grant will allow us to purchase a social skills curriculum, teaching materials, and reinforcements for children served.



## Expanding Services for Civilian and Military Families Across the Country

In an effort to provide critical services to the ever-increasing numbers of civilian and military families who have children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), May Institute has opened two new centers during the past year.

The May Centers for ASD in Savannah, Ga., and Williamsburg, Va., bring to eight the number of May Institute sites that serve all branches of the military across the country.

### Tennessee Center Hosts Open House

The Center in Clarksville, Tenn., is our fastest-growing military site. Since it opened in 2010, it has expanded from a staff of one Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), to 12 BCBA's and behavior specialists who now serve nearly 50 civilian and

military families.

**Christina Giuliano, M.S., BCBA**, the Center's first employee, now oversees the Center as its Program Director. She and her staff recently hosted an open house to welcome the community to their new facility. Dozens of visitors, including families, stakeholders, and May Institute staff attended the event.

"Demand for our services has increased in the Clarksville area," says Giuliano. "We presently serve 45 families under

TRICARE, and have a waiting list of 20 children from military families, and 10 children from civilian families. We are bursting at the seams in our new office, and are already looking for additional space."

The Clarksville Center offers both home-based and center-based services to provide a continuum of care to the families it serves. Staff members plan to offer social skills groups and more parent training classes in the near future. 🍷



*Tennessee Center staff members (left to right) Ryan Jimenez, Tiffany Warrington, James Kretzer, Louise Smith, and Natasha Dziedzic, welcomed guests at the Clarksville May Center's recent Open House.*

## FLORIDA GROUP HOMES EARN TOP RANKINGS

May Institute's Florida division recently received top rankings for its intensive behavior and behavior-focused group homes from the state's Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD).

The APD regularly updates its "scorecards" for Medicaid waiver providers, such as May Institute, who serve Floridians with developmental disabilities.

"We are very proud to have been rated number one in Florida for our residential behavioral services," says **William A. Flood, M.A., BCBA**, Vice President of Services for Northeast Florida. "This rating reinforces all of the hard work and dedication of staff, from direct care to program coordinators to the administration. I am honored to work with a team of such great people, who are so very committed to improving the lives of those with disabilities."

According to the press release issued by APD, all state agencies are working to develop scorecards to increase transparency and accountability to the public. The APD provider scorecards are intended to measure, evaluate, and improve performance on key measures that are important to Floridians with developmental disabilities. The long-term goal is to improve the quality of state-funded services.

"Our Intensive Behavior Programs serve more than 40 individuals with developmental disabilities," says **Ralph B. Sperry, Ph.D., ABPP**, Chief Operating Officer at May Institute. "We are so pleased that Florida's Agency for Persons with Disabilities has given us the highest state ranking in their evaluation. Our employees are to be commended." 🍷

# names & FACES

## DIRECTOR OF FCCF NAMED



**Jeanne Paccia, Ph.D.**, is now the Director of the Fernandes Center for Children and Families (FCCF) at Saint Anne's Hospital, a joint partnership between the hospital and May Institute.

A licensed psychologist, Dr. Paccia has been on FCCF's professional staff since 2003. Dr. Paccia will oversee and continue to work closely with the Center's medical director to provide coordinated specialty medical, behavioral, and developmental services. 🍕

## ASSISTANT CFO APPOINTED



We welcome back **Debra Blair, M.B.A.**, who has rejoined our staff as Assistant Chief Financial Officer. Over the next year, she will transition into the role

of May Institute's CFO.

Blair will oversee financial operations and performance, and support the organization through efficient and effective accounting and financial systems.

Most recently, Blair worked as CFO at Riverside Community Care, Inc., in Massachusetts. Prior to that, she worked at May Institute as Director of Finance. 🍕

## VOCATIONAL DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED



**Scott Chausse, M.Ed.**, has joined us as Director of Vocational Services at the new Fournier Center (see story on page 3).

Chausse will ensure that students ages 14–22 have vocational goals and appropriate employment, and will create and foster positive working relationships with community businesses.

Chausse was previously Service Director at Community Connections on Cape Cod. He has also worked as Associate Director of Connecticut Special Olympics. 🍕

## WEST COAST @ MAY

### Bay School Families Celebrate School Staff

The Bay School (TBS) staff in Santa Cruz, Calif., were recently treated to a delicious Hawaiian-style luau by families whose sons and daughters attend the school. The celebration was in appreciation of all the wonderful things staff do for families and their children.



*Bay School staff members enjoyed the luau and the leis provided by the families of their students.*

Adorned with leis, staff enjoyed an afternoon that featured an outdoor catered lunch and festive music. This event is one of many facilitated by parents each year.

The school's annual parent satisfaction surveys reported a 97% satisfaction with the school's education/treatment services and 100% satisfaction with its environment. "We are very proud of the work we are doing with our students.

These amazing survey results and the many kind words from families let us know that we are on the right track," says **Andrea Gold, Ph.D., BCBA-D**, Executive Director of TBS.

The Bay School, a May Center for Child Development, is one of May Institute's four special education schools that provide services to individuals with autism and their families. 🍕

## FIRST FRIDAY RAISES FUNDS FOR TBS

The Bay School (TBS) students participated in First Friday, an event where local businesses in downtown Santa Cruz, Calif., display artwork from local artists.

All students—regardless of their abilities—had the opportunity to present and sell their artwork at Twist, a designer

consignment boutique. They collaborated to create dozens of amazing pieces of art, and had fun in the process! The event raised more than \$1,700 for the school.



A big thank you goes out to parent **Jesse Gonzales**, who directed the project, others who helped with the event, and everyone who supported TBS by purchasing artwork. 🍕

*"Birds," an original sculpture created by students at The Bay School, was a big hit at the First Friday fundraiser.*

## NATIONAL STANDARDS PROJECT—THE WORK CONTINUES

The first phase of our National Standards Project (NSP) culminated in the publication of a report that included 11 “established” treatments that produce beneficial outcomes and are known to be effective for individuals under 22 with ASD.

Information about these treatments and other findings from the report are highlighted in two manuals published by NAC—one for educators, and one for parents. A third manual, intended for the medical community, is underway.

Teachers, parents, physicians, and the general public are hungry for information about effective treatments for ASD. To date, there have been more than 70,000 free downloads of the National Standards Report and the two published manuals from NAC’s website ([www.nationalautismcenter.org](http://www.nationalautismcenter.org)). Thousands of individuals, organizations, and schools have also purchased print copies of the publications.

NAC is currently working on the NSP-II, a follow-up to the original project. The focus of the second phase of this project is to review the treatment literature for adults

(i.e., 22 years of age and older) with ASD, as well as for individuals identified as “at risk” for developing an ASD. Additionally, the NSP-II will update the findings for individuals under the age of 22. As was the case for the first phase of the project, experts from across the country are participating in the effort.

To date, NAC has identified more than 400 treatment articles that reviewers will evaluate based on the quality of science and the effectiveness of treatments they present. The results of the NSP-II will be published later this year. 🍎

## Promoting Evidence-based Practice at Home and Abroad

### Workshops in Canada

NAC’s Director of Evidence-based Practice, **Hanna Rue**, Ph.D., BCBA-D, recently traveled to four Atlantic provinces in Canada to provide workshops on the NSP and to promote evidence-based practice. The workshops in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, and on Prince Edward Island, were sponsored by the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA).

“The goal of the Canadian workshops was to ignite a discussion of use of evidence-based practices for the treatment of autism in early intervention and educational settings,” says Dr. Rue. As many as 140 professionals

attended each of the four-hour workshops. Dr. Rue also met with provincial educational leaders, including Hon. Jody Carr, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development for New Brunswick.

### Worldwide Webinars

In an effort to address NAC’s mission of providing reliable information about ASD, promoting best practices, and offering comprehensive resources, Dr. Rue recently participated in two webinars with international audiences.

In March, Dr. Rue joined other professionals for a webinar for families at the Aviano Air Base in northern Italy. In April, she was a guest speaker in a webinar hosted by Autism Training



(l-r) Shelley McLean, Autism & Complex Cases (Unit)—New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development; Dr. Hanna Rue of NAC; Hon. Jody Carr, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Member of the 57th Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick; and Shelia Bulmer, Autism Project Coordinator, APSEA

Solutions (ATS), an online education company dedicated to training professionals and paraprofessionals within the field of autism and related behavioral disabilities.

Both webinars included a

review of the findings of the NSP and stressed the importance of evidence-based practice. The ATS webinar is available at no charge at [www.autismtrainingsolutions.com](http://www.autismtrainingsolutions.com). 🍎



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## UPCOMING @MAY

### ➔ WORKSHOPS & FORUMS

#### **PBIS: Research to Practice**

The 8th Annual Forum on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) will be held on Friday, November 2, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Four Points Sheraton, Norwood, Mass.

Learn about advances in school-wide PBIS, academic interventions, successful interventions with students with challenging behaviors, and effective data-based decision making.

Susan Barrett will serve as the keynote speaker. Barrett is the Director of the PBIS Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center at Sheppard Pratt Health System and also works with the University of Oregon PBIS Technical Assistance Center as a resource partner.

The forum is sponsored by May Institute, partner of the National Technical Assistance Center on PBIS.

Cost is \$175 per person. The student rate is \$90 per person.

To register or learn more, visit [www.mayinstitute.org](http://www.mayinstitute.org).

### ➔ FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### **Tune In to our Latest Video**

Learn more about the Autism Spectrum Disorders Clinic in Randolph, Mass., and the early warning signs of autism.

To view the video, visit NAC's website at [www.nationalautismcenter.org](http://www.nationalautismcenter.org).



### ABOUT MAY INSTITUTE

*Founded in 1955, May Institute has its roots in a family's vision of enabling children with disabilities to lead the fullest lives possible.*

*Today, May Institute provides educational, rehabilitative, and behavioral healthcare services to individuals with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities, brain injury, mental illness, and behavioral health needs. The Institute also provides training and consultation services to professionals, organizations, and public school systems.*

*Our programs touch the lives of thousands of individuals and their families each year at nearly 200 service locations across the country.*

*Together with the National Autism Center<sup>asm</sup>, May Institute's Center for the Promotion of Evidence-based Practice, we are committed to identifying and applying universal standards for the treatment of autism and to providing care and hope to families throughout the country.*