



Eating Disorders Program Opens
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Joint ABA Graduate Program Launched
NAC Executive Director on ABC
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Celebrating the people and programs



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

Serving Military Families in the Southeast New Georgia Center Opens Doors

Residents in and around the city of Columbus, Ga., have extended a warm welcome to May Institute as we opened the doors to our newest program, the Southeast Regional Autism Center.

The Center, which expands our existing network of services across the Southeast, is dedicated to meeting the immediate and pressing need for services for children with autism spectrum disorders in the Columbus area and beyond.

The Center also provides services to military families stationed at Fort Benning and other U.S. Army bases across the Southeast. Its proximity to Fort Benning (a few miles) offers easy access to families eager to tap into the Institute's expertise in autism.

One of the first Fort Benning families to receive services from the Center is that of Major Bill Nelson and his wife Karen, whose 7-year-old son Peyton was diagnosed with autism at age 3. Peyton has had wonderful success with the treatment he has been receiving from his behavior

therapist, **Jade Lewis, B.S., BCABA.** Peyton's treatment approach is based on applied behavior analysis, or ABA, which has been proven to be highly effective in treating individuals with autism.

"ABA was the missing link for us," said Karen. "Jade rocked our world. She is what we needed. She took Peyton out of his comfort zone. It was pretty rough at first, but we knew we would see progress, and we did—lots of it in the past two months."

"ABA was the missing link for us. It was pretty rough at first, but we knew we would see progress, and we did—lots of it in the past two months."

Karen Nelson, Parent
Fort Benning Military Base

continued on page 5

Rodman Ride for Kids Exceeds \$100K

On September 29, board members **Neil Todrys, Jory Berkwits, Robert Yelton,** and **Stephen Young** joined more than 40 May Institute employees from 12 divisions across the organization to bicycle



Our riders stood out on ride day, sporting "May Institute Rides for Kids" tee shirts!

throughout southeastern Massachusetts. Their participation on behalf of May Institute in the 2007 Rodman Ride for Kids raised more than \$100,000 to support our children's services in New England.

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PBS FORUM HOSTS "FREEDOM WRITERS" ERIN GRUWELL

Educators from across the Northeast gathered in Massachusetts on November 16, 2007, to learn about effective school-wide Positive Behavior Support (PBS) practices. Now in its third year, the forum was presented by May Institute and the National Technical Assistance Center on PBIS.



A highlight of this year's forum was keynote speaker Erin Gruwell, educator, author, and inspiration for the movie "Freedom Writers."

The forum was designed to provide tools and strategies to schools and districts searching for ways to improve academic achievement and enhance the level of behavioral support available in schools. Four distinct tracks—PBS 101, PBS and Academics, PBS and Autism, and Advanced Topics in PBS—offered a broad variety of topics related to PBS.

The day-long forum closed with speaker Rob Horner, Ph.D. (Co-Director, OSEP National Technical Assistance Center on PBIS), who shared a national perspective for making school-wide behavior support effective for all students. ●



TREATING BRAIN INJURY WITH ABA

May Institute was pleased to collaborate with the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts on a professional workshop about applied behavior analysis (ABA) and acquired brain injury.

The workshop took place on November 8, 2007, at the May Center for Education and Neurorehabilitation in Brockton, Mass., May Institute's school for children and adolescents with brain injury.



Gary Pace, Ph.D., BCBA, Program Director of the May Center and Senior Vice President of Neurorehabilitation Services for May Institute, was the featured speaker. Dr. Pace discussed

the role of ABA in treating individuals with brain injury. ●

Focus on Healthy Lifestyles New Programs Address Eating Disorders

May Institute's Outpatient Counseling Center in West Roxbury, Mass., recently launched a new program to encourage individuals with eating disorders to develop healthy eating and exercise habits.



"Our key focus is on helping people make healthy changes—not just in what they

eat, but how they eat," says **Rita Gilman** (above), M.S., Director of the program. "We focus on mindful eating—taking at least a half-hour to eat a meal and really enjoy it."

Two groups meet every week at the Center on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. A third program, which will meet on Tuesday afternoons, will include a half-hour therapeutic meal.

An after-school program is also planned to help motivate overweight youngsters to change their eating habits, learn about portion control, and incorporate more exercise into their lives. "With such high obesity rates in children and adults, it is important to work on both eating habits and exercise," says Gilman.

For more information, contact **Rita Gilman** at 617.325.6700, ext. 209. ●

TREATING TEENS ON THEIR TURF

In response to high demand for counseling services at a large inner city high school in Boston, Mass., May Institute's Behavioral Health Services Division is providing services to students on location at the school.

"We discovered that many students wanted counseling services, but were unable to go to our Counseling



Center to receive them," says **Lauren Solotar, Ph.D.,** the Institute's Chief Psychologist and Senior Vice President of Clinical Services. "By going on-site, we have been able to suc-

cessfully meet the needs of these students. It's like bringing a May Institute behavioral health clinic right into the school." ●

Students with Autism Graduate to Kindergarten

Adorned with mortar boards, the eight graduating 5-year-old students at the May Center for Child Development in Freeport, Maine, joyfully marched up the aisle to the refrains of “Pomp and Circumstance” at the Center’s recent graduation event. Parents and teachers proudly cheered as the little ones received their diplomas.

“Graduation day is always bittersweet,” said **Kathryn Marro**, M.B.A., Center Director. “It is sad that the children are leaving the Center, but we are all so happy and proud that they are entering a new and exciting phase in their lives.”

Established in 1995, the Center provides year-round, innovative educational ser-



Gabe, a May Center student, prepares to celebrate his transition to kindergarten.

vices for children from Maine, ages 2 to 8 years, with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities.

May Center programs are designed to promote communication, language, social, self-care, and play skills. In addition, the Center offers consultation services to local school districts. 🍷

Consultation Services Make the Mark

May Institute’s Northeast home-based and school consultation services have received a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

To earn this national distinction, programs undergo a rigorous peer review process and demonstrate that their services are of the highest quality, measurability, and accountability.

CARF gave May Institute staff high marks for being “knowledgeable, extremely caring, and dedicated.”

“This accreditation further confirms our commitment to excellence,” said **Walter P. Christian**, Ph.D., ABPP, May Institute’s President and CEO. “I am very proud of our staff and the outstanding services they provide.” 🍷

CLUBHOUSE MEMBERS HOOK 100-POUND TUNA

On a cool morning in September, just a little before dawn, Cove Clubhouse Director **James Petcoff** and Clubhouse members **Bernard** and **Peter** took to the Chatham Harbor in a commercial sports fishing boat for what they thought would be a typical fishing expedition.

As the sun rose, the three found themselves in a school of breaching whales. Following the excitement, the anglers, eager for a catch, cast their lines in the water. Within the half hour, much to their surprise and delight, they had hooked a mammoth 100-pound Blue Fin tuna.

Amidst the exhilaration that followed, and with the help of the first mate, the tuna was filleted, divided into 30 hefty steaks, and shared among the fisherman and crew.

“Bernard is an avid fisherman and the fact that he was on the boat brought us this luck,” said Petcoff. “This was truly one of the high points of my life.”

Ironically, the giant tuna was the only fish they caught that day.



Clubhouse members Peter (left) and Bernard (right) pose with Clubhouse Director James Petcoff and their gigantic catch.

May Institute clubhouses provide special services for adults with mental health challenges. These services include advocacy for employment, community integration, and educational and recreational activities. Clubhouses are located in Harwichport, Attleboro, Fall River, Hyannis, and New Bedford, Mass. 🍷

NPR FEATURES MAY INSTITUTE'S AUTISM SERVICES

Late this summer, National Public Radio (NPR) listeners across the country tuned in to Education Correspondent Larry Abramson's report about how Massachusetts public schools, in collaboration with May Institute, are working to build capacity to meet the needs of students in their districts with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).



Abramson, an award-winning reporter/editor, spent nearly two days at our Randolph site, attending a training that was cosponsored by May Institute and the Department of Education and entitled, "Strategies for Teaching Students with ASD in the General Education Classroom."

While on-site, Abramson also met with a number of May Institute experts in autism.

Senior Vice President of Educational Services **Joy Burghardt, M.S., BCBA**, parent Sarah Wright, and her son Austin, who attends the May Center in Randolph, were featured in the report. Austin serenaded listeners with his rendition of the popular Temptations song, "My Girl."

NPR serves 26 million Americans each week in partnership with more than 800 independently operated, noncommercial public radio stations. 🎧

MID-ATLANTIC @MAY

NJ Partnerships Enhance Teaching and Learning Collaborations with Districts Result in Success

Our Mid-Atlantic region has expanded its consultation service network in New Jersey to include Ewing and Gloucester City school districts. They join Trenton Public Schools, whose collaboration with May Institute has grown to include 14 schools now receiving Positive Behavior Support (PBS) services (see "Educating Communities" on page 2).

"At Parkway Elementary in Ewing, we are currently working on school-wide initiatives in both PBS and Response to Intervention (RTI)," says Educational Consultant **Jessica Glass, Ph.D., NCSP**. "Since August, the school has developed a school-wide behavior support plan focusing on teaching and reinforcing positive, pro-social behaviors."

Students demonstrating "paws-itive" behavior—being ready, responsible, respectful, and resourceful—receive blue, gold, or power paws from their teachers, principal, and assistant principal. Paws can earn students small weekly prizes like pencils or notebooks, or larger monthly prizes such as board games or gift certificates. Classrooms can earn extra activity time in the gym by improving the total number of paws students earn each month.

"Teachers like the fact that they are spending more time giving reinforcements for good choices rather than constantly telling students, 'don't do this...or don't do that,' says Principal Nicole Harris. "We are finding that students are being more polite and respectful of one another and of the staff because of [this initiative.]"

According to Dr. Glass, the school has also undertaken an RTI initiative. RTI is a process that expands PBS programming



Parkway Elementary School has launched a popular PBS initiative that rewards positive behaviors with "paws."

to include academic supports. It is a very effective way to prevent unnecessary placements in special education, and helps direct academic resources to students who need them the most.

In addition, a district-wide initiative in Ewing is providing training to school personnel on effective strategies to support students with problem behaviors.

This initiative will help determine which students need intervention and remediation to improve their reading and literacy skills, and begin to evaluate students' math performance.

In Gloucester City, May Institute is providing consultation and training in autism spectrum disorders for administrators, general and special educators, and other staff at the elementary, middle, and high schools. 🎧

Group Home Residents Share Adventure

It was a fun-filled and memorable day at Wild Adventures Theme Park for residents of one of our group homes in Orange Park, Fla. Residents, accompanied by eager group home staff, made the trip to take in the thrills. Pictured is Steven, posing alongside the park's pirate.

Residents and staff voted on their favorite attractions, and the clear winners were roller coasters and the snake exhibit won.

May South Behavior Analyst **John Mortensen**, BCABA, was lucky enough to accompany the group for the day of play and adventure. "This was absolutely one of the most rewarding outings I've



attended. We had a great time!"

May South's community living programs offer adults with disabilities customized services, including individualized health-care, skills development, and assistance with functional living activities. 🍷

Serving Military Families... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Jade Lewis, B.S., BCABA, watches Peyton as he completes his homework.

Jade explains how ABA therapy is truly a partnership between family and therapist. "I couldn't have made this much progress with Peyton on my own," she says. "His parents have been supporting everything we have been doing with him. I just gave them the tools they needed and they ran with it. It really is great parents that make great treatment."

In addition to home-based ser-

vices like those that Peyton's family receives, the Center offers pre-screening and early intervention services; school consultation; parent education and training to family support providers; social skills development groups for adolescents; and medical staff education.

For more information about the Southeast Regional Autism Center, contact 706.571.7771. 🍷



Peyton and his mother Karen Nelson spend time together reading.

GLOBAL OUTREACH:

...IN BARCELONA, SPAIN

Dennis C. Russo, Ph.D., ABPP, May Institute's Chief Clinical Officer, attended the 5th World Congress of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies in Barcelona, Spain, this past summer as a symposium presenter and panel discussion participant.

The World Congress is held every three years and gives cognitive and behavioral clinicians and researchers from around the world the opportunity to exchange ideas and promote and develop evidence-based therapy. This year's Congress attracted 3,000 participants.

"Participating in the World Congress gives May Institute an opportunity to forge international linkages with other organizations," said Dr. Russo.

May Institute will play a major role in the next Congress to be held in Boston in 2010. 🍷

...IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Susan M. Wilczynski, Ph.D., BCBA, Executive Director of the National Autism Center (NAC), and **Hanna Rue**, Ph.D., BCBA, Clinical Director of the Randolph May Center for Child Development, recently attended the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) International conference in Sydney, Australia.

"It was a pleasure to make a presentation on the National Standards Project at the conference," Dr. Wilczynski said. "NAC is attempting to break beyond the borders of the U.S. with the goal of eventually gaining international support for evidence-based practice in autism spectrum disorders. This conference allowed us to begin building support for the project in Australia and New Zealand.

"It also proved to be an excellent opportunity to learn what is happening in behavior analysis in other parts of the world," she added. "We learned about many projects that are being undertaken to improve access to ABA services in underserved areas." 🍷

ABA Program a TBS Success

An education program in applied behavior analysis (ABA) at The Bay School (TBS), a May Center for Child Development in Santa Cruz, Calif., is teaching school staff and community special education personnel how to use research-supported ABA methodologies to further help their students with autism and related disabilities.

Now in its second year, the program is also preparing participants to take the national certification examination sponsored by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

To date, 22 TBS instructors and 18 community educators have taken the classes and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

"The classes give you a background in behavioral theory that makes you a better teacher of students with autism," said **Stephanie Iwanciw**, who recently completed the three-course, nine-credit program and passed the national examination to become a Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst (BCABA).

"I have thoroughly enjoyed taking the ABA classes at The Bay School," reported Erica Sowder, M.A., CCC-SLP, a Live Oak School District teacher. "It has been an interesting and eye-opening experience to look at behavior in this way. Most importantly, it has given me new insight when addressing the needs of my students." 🍌

TBS Founder Featured in *Gentry Magazine*



The September issue of *Gentry* magazine brought readers the inspiring tale of Janet Lishman,

founder of The Bay School (TBS). In the article "One Mother's Journey," Lishman shares her story of raising 18-year-old twins with autism.

Lishman, who in the early 90s knew very few parents in the area affected by autism, soon became an advocate for parents everywhere. By the mid-90s, she was receiving hundreds of calls each year from parents across the country. She eventually joined forces with other like-minded parents, and TBS was founded in 1999.

Her twins were the school's first two students.

Within two years, the school expanded and moved to its current site. In 2006, the school joined May Institute's national network of programs.

"My life as an advocate will never be over," Lishman told *Gentry*. "I think back to when so few knew about autism and I have great hope for the future."

Today, Lishman is a member of the

California Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism, which was formed in April 2005 by the California Legislature.

TBS Executive Director **Ethan Long**, Ph.D., BCBA, was included in the article and shared his thoughts about

Lishman's impact. "I've been here two-and-a-half years," said Long in the article. "I was very moved by Janet's passion, along with the other founders' commitment, not just to the school but to the mission. I couldn't wait to be a part of The Bay

School. Today, thanks to Janet's vision, energy, and fortitude, we are producing measurable and lasting improvements in the lives of the young children we serve."

The school was highlighted in an accompanying piece. 🍌

“My life as an advocate will never be over... I think back to the times when so few knew anything about autism and I have great hope for the future.”

Janet Lishman, Parent and founder of the The Bay School, Santa Cruz, Calif.

Ride for Kids ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The success we have seen this year in our first-ever participation in the Ride for Kids comes from an outpouring of generosity that goes beyond the dollars raised," said **Janet Bosworth**, Director of Donor Relations and Special Events. "It has been truly heartwarming to witness the levels of participation across the entire organization and beyond."

Held each fall since 1991, the Rodman

Ride for Kids is one of the country's largest single-day bike events benefiting children and families. An umbrella matching gift charity, the Ride for Kids has raised over \$25 million for child-related social service agencies in the state.

We salute our lead sponsors Stephen H. Peck & Associates, Merrill Lynch, and Todson Inc., and congratulate all those who participated in the Rodman Ride

and/or worked to make the event a huge success—and our largest single fundraiser to date!

Remember, you have until November 30th to donate to May Institute. Fifteen percent of your donation is matched by the Rodman Ride for Kids! A complete list of sponsors and participants will be published in the winter issue of *@May*.

See more event photos on pages 8 & 9. 🍷



Teaming up for kids!



Back row l-r: Michelle Graham and Erik Wells (Team Revere), Ethan Berkwits (Team Merrill Lynch), Kelli Leahy (Team Home-Based), Nancy Lunden (Team Western Mass-EI), Antonia Fiddner (Team Quality), Amanda Horst, Christina Bellas, Jaimee Smith, Erin McCarthy, Mike Lydon, and Latasha Moses (Team Brockton)
Front row l-r: Jory Berkwits, member of May Institute's Board of Trustees (Team Merrill Lynch), Nicole Prindeville (Team NAC)

Volunteering with a smile!



l-r: Erin Connors (Development), Allison Holmes and Juanita Class (Communications) with Colin Romeiro (May friend)

Working together works!

l-r: Carolyn Reynolds (Team NAC), Kelli Leahy (Team Home-Based), Antonia Fiddner (Team Quality), Jerri-Ann Smith (Team Home-Based), and Nicole Prindeville (Team NAC)



Refuel and recharge!



l-r: Nicole Prindeville (Team NAC), Kelli Leahy (Team Home-Based), Rob Girvin, Chris Harvey, and Neil Todrys (front), member of May Institute's Board of Trustees, (Team Todson, Inc.)

Geared up!



Rene Hardy and Shawn Healey (Team Boston)

All pumped up!



Ethan Berkwits (Team Merrill Lynch)

Safety check!



Nancy Lunden (Team Western MA/EI)

Next rest stop, 100 miles!



Jim Thompson and Lori Hazard
(Team Merrill Lynch)

The fun starts here!

Neil Todrys,
member of May
Institute's Board
of Trustees
(Team Todson,
Inc.)



Pulling together!



Jaimee Smith
(l) and Mike
Lydon (r) (Team
Brockton) with
Bob Yelton,
member of May
Institute's Board
of Trustees
(Team Exec)

Stand up and cheer!



l-r: Will, Mary-Kae, Paul, and Jeff (Woburn Center family), Jaimie Hoover
(Woburn), Marlene March (May friend), and Alissa Shay (Woburn)

Out the home stretch!



Stefanie Fillers (Team Randolph)

Giving 'em the thumbs up!



Steve Young, member of May Institute's
Board of Trustees (Team Exec)

Arrival to the finish!



Brian Vieira (Team Fall River)

NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR NAMED



We extend a warm welcome to **Dana Parker, M.Ed.**, who was recently named Program Director at the May Center for Child Development in Randolph, Mass.

Parker comes to the Center from the Silver Lake Regional School District where he served as Superintendent of Schools. In addition to public school leadership, he has experience in day and residential school settings for special needs students at all age levels. At the Randolph Center he is now providing leadership in the areas of program evaluation and development, and supervising the school and residential programs. Parker earned his undergraduate degree and his M.Ed. from UMass-Amherst. He holds Massachusetts certifications as an administrator of special needs and as a superintendent. 🍷

GEORGIA VP APPOINTED



Brad Bezilla, M.Ed., BCBA, has been named Vice President of School and Home-Based Behavioral Services for May South. In his new role, Bezilla is responsible for the development,

operation, and ongoing management of all services related to home-based and school consultation services in the Southeast region. Bezilla is now in his 15th year of working with May Institute. Prior to moving to Georgia in 1999, he worked at the May Center for Child Development in Chatham, Mass. He received his master's degree in special education from Fitchburg State College. 🍷

FLORIDA VP APPOINTED



William Flood, M.A., BCBA, was recently promoted to Vice President of Behavioral Services for the Florida division of May South. Flood has been employed by the May Institute and May

South for over six years, most recently as Clinical Director in Jacksonville, Fla. His new responsibilities involve providing the clinical leadership for community-based residential training programs for children, adolescents, and adults with severe problem behaviors and developmental disabilities across the state. Mr. Flood is currently the President of the First Coast chapter of the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis.

May Institute, Westfield State College Create Joint ABA Graduate Program

Ten May Institute employees are currently enrolled in a new graduate school program at Westfield State College, working toward master's of arts degrees in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

"It was a big adjustment for me to go back to school," says **Christina Burns, BCABA**, Program Coordinator at the May Center in Easthampton, "but working at May Institute has made the transition easier, since I have already been exposed to the principles of ABA. The program is really accommodating to people like me who need to continue working full-time while going to school."

The program, a development project of May Institute Chief Operating Officer **Alan Harchik, Ph.D., BCBA**, is a collaborative effort between the Institute and the psychology department at Westfield State College. In addition to Dr. Harchik, May Institute staff members **Shannon**

Kay, Ph.D., BCBA, and **Patrick Heick, Ph.D., BCBA**, were also involved in the development of the program. All three are adjunct faculty members at the college.

At present, the program is a two-year course of study that includes 24 credits of ABA classes, 12 elective credits, 12 ABA practicum credits, and a thesis option. A four-year program option may be developed. Students who complete the program are qualified to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) examination.

For more information, contact the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education at Westfield State College at 413.572.8022. 🍷

Support May Institute Through the CFC Campaign

May Institute is pleased to announce it has been selected as a National Human Service Charity of the federal government's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

Pledges to support May Institute's programs and services can be made by federal civilian, postal, and military donors through December 15, 2007. Our CFC designation number is 11228.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 300 CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally that support eligible health and human service organizations throughout the world.

For more information, contact Ed Ahern, May Institute's Director of Corporate and Foundations Relations, at 781.437.1252 or at eahern@mayinstitute.org. 🍷

NAC FEATURED ON ABC NEWS NOW

Susan M. Wilczynski, Ph.D., BCBA, Executive Director of the National Autism Center, was featured on a live, 15-minute segment about autism on ABC News Now's *Healthy Life* show.

Hosted by Dr. Tim Johnson and Dr. Lisa Thornton, the show offers medical news and tips on how to take better care of yourself and your family. Dr. Wilczynski commented on a study recently published in the Journal of the American Medical Association about autism and thimerosal. Wilczynski was joined by Randolph May Center parent Teri Connors, who shared

her experience of raising two children with autism.

ABC News Now is ABC's 24-hour digital cable network available to over 32 million users on cable, broadband, and mobile. 📺



NAC EXPANDS COLLABORATION WITH UMASS Establishes Internship Program

NAC welcomes its first practicum student **Gillian Green**, M.A., who comes to the organization from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.



This internship initiative expands NAC's collaboration with UMASS, which began in 2006 when NAC partnered with their psychology department faculty to examine the efficacy of

Hanan's More Than Words program with children who have autism.

At NAC, Green administers, scores, and interprets data from psychological instruments the organization uses to assess autism in children. She also assists in writing reports for families, and is participating in intake interviews and feedback sessions with families once testing has been completed. Additionally, Green is contributing to the National Standards Project. 📺

NAC Continues Reduced Fee Autism Screenings

This fall, the NAC Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Assessment Clinic is repeating its highly successful reduced fee autism screening program for children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years suspected of having an ASD.

The screenings are conducted by **Laura Fisher**, Psy.D., a child psychologist specializing in autism diagnosis. The next upcoming date is November 30, 2007, with additional dates to be scheduled in January 2008. The cost is only \$10.

NAC Awarded \$50K Grant

The National Autism Center (NAC) received a \$50,000 grant from the Ludcke Foundation of Boston. This grant will be used to support multiple initiatives of the Center, including:

- The **Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Assessment Clinic**, which provides families with an assessment of their child in order to begin intervention services
 - **Mobile Screening Clinics**, which will offer families in Boston and western Massachusetts communities a preliminary assessment of their child, and referral for full diagnostic services, if warranted
 - **Pathways Parent Education Program**, an eight-session series targeted to families of newly diagnosed children on the autism spectrum, which will help parents become informed, powerful advocates and co-trainers of their child
- "We greatly appreciate the Ludcke Foundation's investment in our efforts," says **Susan M. Wilczynski**, Ph.D., BCBA, Executive Director of the National Autism Center. "Corporate and foundation support is vital if we are to achieve our goal of improving the lives of the hundreds of thousands of children across the country with ASD." 📺

For more information about the ASD screenings or other NAC programs and services, call 877.313.3833 or visit www.nationalautismcenter.org. 📺

UPCOMING @MAY

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

Teaching Independence to Individuals with Autism Using Activity Schedules

Activity schedules are simple yet effective tools that help enable children, adolescents, and adults with autism to gain more control over their lives.

On November 27, 2007, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Dr. Andrea Gold, Director of Education at The Bay School, will discuss how parents and professionals can use activity schedules to promote self-directed and purposeful activities in the home, school, and community settings, with minimal assistance from adults.

This free seminar will take place at the Student Union building (Umunhum Room, 3rd floor) on the San Jose State University campus in San Jose, Calif.

No registration is necessary. For more information, please contact 831.462.9620 or visit www.thebayschool.org.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

2008 ABA Autism Conference: Issues and Recent Advancements in the Behavioral Treatment of Autism: Practical Strategies for Changing Behavior at Home and School.

On February 8-10, 2008, the Association for Behavior Analysis International will hold its second annual autism conference at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel in Atlanta, Ga.

Two main themes of the conference are: home- and community-based interventions and curriculum and instruction in the classroom/school, which should be of interest to professional behavior analysts, teachers of preschool and school-age children with ASD, adult service providers, in-home behavioral therapists, caregivers, teacher trainers, and students.

To view the complete conference program, visit www.abainternational.org/autconf/program/program.asp.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Reduced Fee Autism Screenings

In January 2008 (dates to be announced), the National Autism Center's ASD Assessment Clinic will offer reduced fee autism screenings for children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years suspected of having an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Screenings will be conducted by Dr. Laura Fisher, a child psychologist specializing in autism diagnosis. Screenings will take place at the Clinic's 41 Pacella Park Drive location in Randolph, Mass. The cost is only \$10.

For more information about the ASD screenings, call 877.313.3833 or visit 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 and other developmental disabilities, brain injury, mental illness, and behavioral healthcare needs. The Institute also provides training and consultation services to professionals, organizations, and public school systems.

Our programs touch the lives of more than 25,000 individuals and their families each year at nearly 200 service locations in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Southeast, and on the West Coast.

Together with the National Autism Centersm, whose initial development has been sponsored by May Institute, 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.

MayInstitute
Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.

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