

# THE EMPOWERING CONNECTION

Newsletter of the Autism Society of Greater Detroit

## April is Autism Acceptance Month

Take action, join our efforts to #CelebrateDifferences this April.

### What is the Autism Society-GD Goal?

Everyone deserves to live fully. At the core of our work is a goal to influence meaningful change in support of the Autism community.

### Get Involved with us

Working together, making a difference.

Learn more about the ASGD's programs & how you can get involved in [Community training](#) & building the [ASD Friendly business listing](#), completion of the [Therapeutic Community Garden](#), forming of the new [AS.PIE program](#), Public policy advocacy, and training first responders and other safety initiatives.

### Who is All in for Autism in MI?

See all the awesome community organizations that are making a difference in MI and how they are "[All in for Autism](#);" you can also watch our 2024 list unfold on FB during the month of April. Each week we will highlight a new organization and celebrate their good work in our state.

# CELEBRATE NEURODIVERSITY

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# Autism Acceptance Month Events



We want to thank everyone who came out and/or supported the ASD Youth ambassadors on April 2 when they made their first public presentation to the Sterling Heights City Council. These brave young adults from the Social Club wanted to shed light on ASD upcoming events and to thank the Council for recently passing Resolution 2024-09, designating the month of April annually as "Autism Acceptance Month" in the city.

## JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 6 [Kendra Scott Give Back to Autism Society](#)
- April 14 [Detroit Tigers Day at the Ballpark](#)
- April 27 [5k Walk-n-Talk Family Fun Day](#)
- April 28 [AS Autism Acceptance Resource Fair](#)



**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS**  
Find out how you can help [HERE](#)



Autism Society Greater Detroit

## DAY AT DETROIT Tigers

**SUNDAY APRIL 14**      **GAME STARTS 12:10**

# BALLPARK

**JOIN US FOR  
Autism Acceptance Month**

Every day, we work to create connections, empowering everyone in the Autism community to live fully. We believe that acceptance is creating a world where everyone in the Autism community is connected to the support they need, when they need it.

Your support helps us connect individuals with Autism, and their networks of support to education, resources, advocacy, local events and above all, to each other.

**FOR ONLY \$5.00**

**Enjoy a Day out  
with the Autism Society &  
the Detroit Tigers**

- Each ticket purchased enters you into the Raffle for a Tigers Signed Memorabilia Item

**USE PROMO CODE "ASD10" FOR \$10 TICKETS**

Tickets are free to individuals with a disability, Email [AS.GreaterDetroit@gmail.com](mailto:AS.GreaterDetroit@gmail.com)

<https://givebutler.com/DayAtTigers24>

Scan this QR Code to be linked directly to Ticket Purchase or Donate Today

**LIMITED SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**

- Noise Cancelling Earphones
- Accessible Seating
- Sensory bags
- Quiet Lounge

[More Information](#)      Go to our Website <https://www.autismsocietygreaterdetroit.org/>      Call us 517-220-0308      Or Email [AS.GreaterDetroit@gmail.com](mailto:AS.GreaterDetroit@gmail.com)

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

Scan this QR code to answer 9 simple questions.



It's anonymous! No personal information is asked or collected. Tell us which vaccines you've received since Fall 2023 and help us earn 50k for health equity in MI.

**Call 517-220-0306 or Visit [autismsocietygreaterdetroit.org](http://autismsocietygreaterdetroit.org)**

Autism Society Greater Detroit

## RESOURCE FAIR

Sunday, April 28  
 10:00am – 2:00pm

@Play-Place Autism & Special Needs Center  
 42301 Mound Rd  
 Sterling Heights, MI 48314

Online: 4/5 - 4/9  
In-Store: 4/6

Enter code

GIVEBACK-GIOCK

in your cart or at checkout on [kendrascott.com](http://kendrascott.com), or mention it at checkout in-store, and 20% of your purchase will benefit

Autism Society  
Greater Detroit

KENDRA SCOTT  
SOMERSET COLLECTION



## "I Love My Kids, But I Don't Always Like Them"

- A Book Review, 4.8 out of 5

This "how to guide" will support you even if you are exhausted and burnt out in improving your child(ren)'s behavior. Written by an expert with 20 years of experience, the storyteller cadence helps the book to read as if it's a casual conversation and pep talk between two parents over coffee.

Does your child struggle with age expected tasks and have difficulty socially, trouble focusing, managing school, listening to directions or with sibling relations? Is your family struggling because one of your children seems to consume all your parental energy? Are you overwhelmed when your child misbehaves (again)! This book was written to support all parents. Each chapter concludes with key points, in case you read in 5-minute increments between webinars and school pick up lines. Short, insightful, and funny! Because after all parenting can be funny!

### Ask an Expert

- by Judy Lipson

**Q:** How can I best transition my ASD learner from middle school to high school (and beyond)?

**A:** Move-up meetings are typically scheduled in the spring and are attended by your child's key staff members from the current school, as well as at least one key person from the incoming building. Having this blend of current and future is quite helpful so that the middle school or high school staff have a better sense of your child before they arrive. This is an opportunity to discuss potential concerns, needs and expectations before your child even begins in the new building.

I highly recommend finding multiple opportunities to visit the incoming school as often as is possible: plays, sports, formal tours, etc so that the student better knows what to expect of the physical building. If they can also meet some of the new staff that's helpful, too.

Michigan students who will be transitioning out of high school might benefit from a referral to Michigan Rehabilitation Services. They can help students with diagnoses gain employment. Students transitioning to university or community college will likely need guidance as to how to advocate for themselves at the 504 departments on campus. Tours of campus before courses start is important. Since most of our students with learning challenges have executive functioning issues, your student will likely need help scheduling time for not only their classes, but time for studying, meals, sleep, laundry, etc, etc.

In addition, consider the following articles: [The Process of Adulthood, Post-High School & Parenting Your Adolescent into Adulthood](#)

## A Good Read

BY [FRANKI BAGDADE](#)

### I Love My Kids, But I Don't Always Like Them

*Expert Advice for Parents of  
Challenging Children*



# Introducing our new Youth Program

Growing Our Next Generation of Social Entrepreneurs & Addressing Interconnection Needs

We are proud to announce that the Autism Society of Greater Detroit is partnering with the newest All in for Autism organization on a new baking program for autistic teens and young adults. This new, exciting endeavor is a for youth BY youth program.

**The Better Detroit Youth Movement** is a non-profit, volunteer-driven coalition of incredible individuals and great groups working together to improve the quality of life and learning for (and with) our young generation.

**The Better Detroit Brownie Company, LLC**, is where great brownies, great children and great causes get together for our Greater Detroit.

Together, we will make (and bake) a Greater Detroit our children deserve.



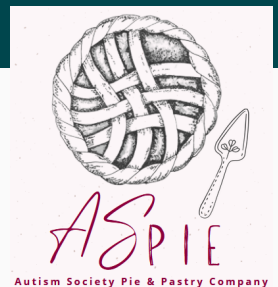
## Youth Advisory Team

Led by youth chef Alia, the youth advisory team has been hard at work developing the a menu of Vegan and Sugar Free/Gluten Free Bakery Offerings for this Collaborative Program.

Chef Alia said “I know that lots of ASD individuals feel alone and isolated in their homes. And I wanted to share my love of baking with them in a social club kind of setting. Everyone can enjoy baking and getting together with friends to socialize!”

When the Better Detroit Baking Company met with the Advitory team and the ASGD board, we saw a method to make not only chef Alias dream become a reality but a wonderful Employment & Social Skill support for the ASD community.

Learn more about the [AS.PIE](#) program on our Website  
Interested? Get added to the 1st Participant Group list  
by emailing [AS.GreaterDetroit@gmail.com](mailto:AS.GreaterDetroit@gmail.com)





## Autism goes to college

Many recent calls to the ASGD Information & Referral Line have included newly diagnosed adults. Especially those who are about to enter college.

It is estimated that 2% of US college students have autism. With a combined 20 million public and private college students nationwide, it is estimated that over 400,000 students attending college in the US have autism. That number is steadily rising.

As more and more students with autism arrive at college, this website will be a good resource for parents and support professionals to help them navigate their new environment and expectations.

[Autism Goes to College](#) is a first of its kind film, packed with honest insights for students, parents and educators offering an eye-opening look at what a growing number of neurodiverse students are bringing to campus.

The website also has a great [blog](#), including recent posts such as [How to come out of your shell and make friends in college](#) & [Diagnosis disclosure: courage and consequences](#). Additionally they have a fantastic podcast.



## How Autism Affects My Other Conditions

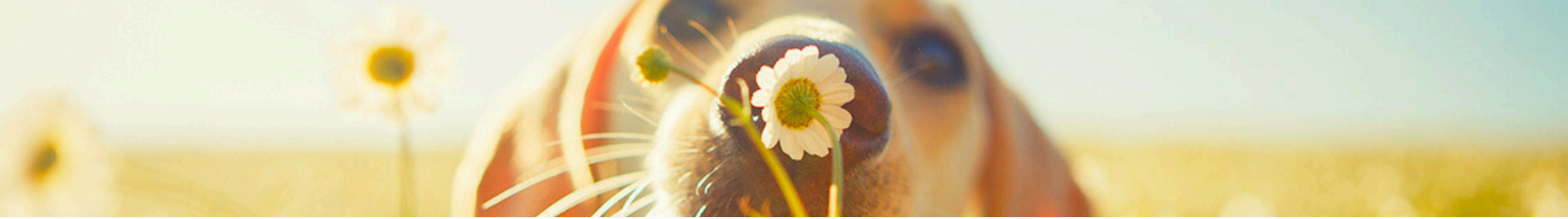
Autism can heighten feelings of oversensitivity and rejection that these disorders bring on, as well as have unique effects on specific conditions. Autistic Emmalyn brings awareness as to how these comorbidities work & what can be done to alleviate the complications.

**Generalized anxiety disorder.** Autism tends to make me worry more, since I'm already oversensitive to certain stimuli and situations and I often tend to doubt my abilities to make it through events. I find that writing things down beforehand to remind myself of what is most likely to happen as well as arriving early and finding safe places are immensely helpful.

**Social anxiety disorder.** I'm constantly worried I'm going to mess up in a conversation or give off a bad vibe or ruin my own reputation somehow. I have to keep in mind that I often do better in social situations than I expect and that the harsh criticism I got as a kid was a result of others' bias, not my own actions.

**Depression.** Because I'm autistic, there are certain things I struggle immensely with doing or cannot do at all. I lose a lot of agency because of this and it often makes me feel useless. I try to keep in mind that just because there are things I struggle with, there's a lot that I'm good at, and that even if I can't do something, there are ways to circumvent that.

Autistic Emmalyn



## RESOURCE SPOT LIGHT

### Michigan Great Lakes Loan Closets

This listing has organizations that lend medical equipment for minimal or no cost to MI Residents.

Go To: <https://loanclosets.org/michigan>

### Free Leadership and Advocacy Conference

Through Center for

Employment Opportunities

JUNE in Both Kalamazoo & Detroit

### Detroit Hispanic Development

Adult Ed: GED Preparation Parenting:

Parenting Skills, Health Literacy, Diaper

Distribution, Learn through play educational

activities, Self-Esteem and Empowerment

Building The Rapid Action Plan (RAP):

Case management for deportation

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Go To: <https://www.dhdc1.org/>

**ARE YOU A LEADER IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**

**IMPACTED BY THE (IN)JUSTICE SYSTEM?**

**REGISTER TODAY FOR A FREE 2-DAY EMERGING LEADERS™ TRAINING!**

**EMERGING LEADERS 2024**

**JUSTLEADERSHIPUSA EMERGING LEADERS™ TRAINING MICHIGAN**

Brothers

MICHIGAN WEST	MICHIGAN EAST
<b>JUNE 7 &amp; 8, 2024 • 9 AM - 4:30 PM</b> Douglass Community Association 1000 W. Paterson St Kalamazoo, MI 49007	<b>JUNE 21 &amp; 22, 2024 • 9 AM - 4:30 PM</b> Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation 1211 Trumbull Detroit, MI 48216
<b>REGISTER BY MAY 20, 2024:</b> <b>JLUSA.ORG/ELMI2024-WEST</b>	<b>REGISTER BY JUNE 3, 2024:</b> <b>JLUSA.ORG/ELMI2024-EAST</b>

Breakfast will be served starting at 8 AM. Training will begin at 9 AM. All-day attendance both days is required to earn a completion certificate. Registrants do not have to attend both events.

## Brothers

From my brother I've learned...  
 Treat him well, treat him right  
 Even if he keeps me up throughout the night  
 Keep him safe, as I should  
 He'd do the same, if he could

From my brother I've learned...  
 Run around, have some fun  
 Running and jumping in the sun  
 But stop him from doing a stupid thing  
 Like getting a tattoo, a piercing or bling

From my brother I've learned...  
 Step up for him, like a pro  
 Stop them from hurting my little bro  
 Give him courage, give him hope  
 Even to climb the highest slope

From my brother I've learned...  
 Don't fight, or push, or shove  
 Just show him how much he deserves my love