

A Community-Partnership Initiative:

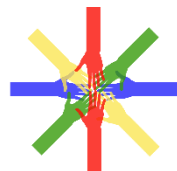


PACT: Police Autism Community Training

Abbey Love, Suzannah Williams, &
Autism Society of the Bluegrass

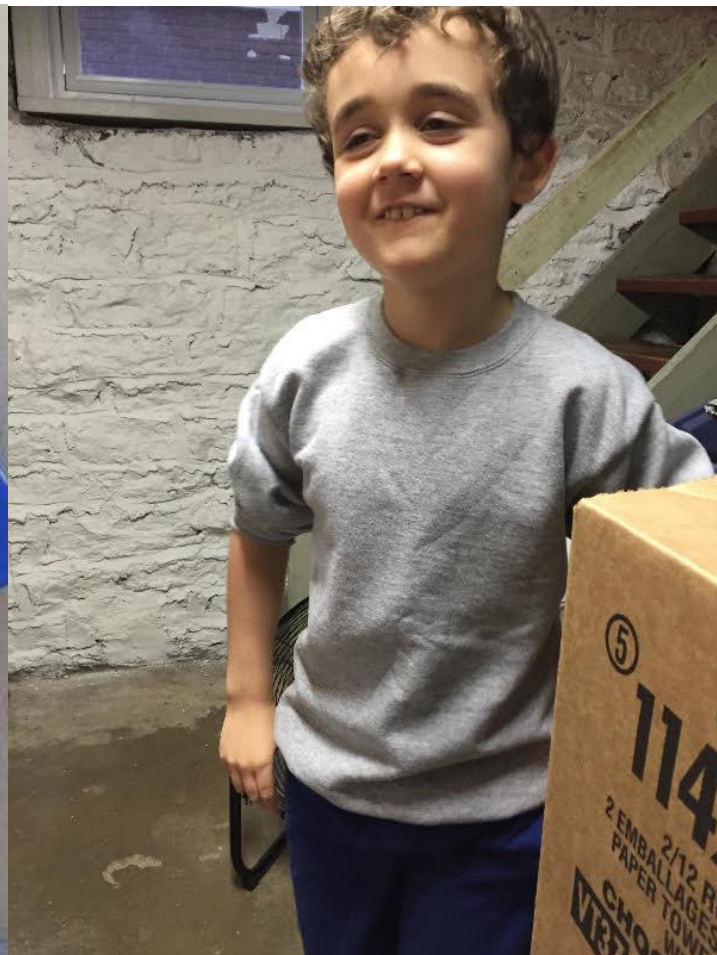


Autism Society of the Bluegrass
Supporting families in Central Kentucky



PACT
Police Autism Community Training

Our Roots



Autism Society of the Bluegrass
Supporting families in Central Kentucky



Why is this important?

Does not always understand social rules

Feels stressed by unpredictable situations

Has limited and restricted interests



Needs a longer processing time

Is graduating high school and will be relying on community supports

Why is this important?



“Autistic boy held on ground by officers” – 2017; Arizona

(nbc.com)

“Florida police officer charged in shooting of autistic man’s caregiver”; 2016; Florida (time.com)

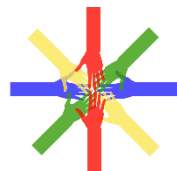
“Teen with autism struck, killed by car” – 2017; Cold Spring, Kentucky

(WLWT5)

“Arrest of Autistic Man Prompts Call for Police Training”; 2015; South Carolina (wyff4.com)

“Shalom Larson, an 8-year-old Louisville boy who loved hugging people he just met, wandered from a relative’s home last summer and drowned.” 2017; Louisville, KY

(Lex18.com)



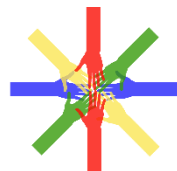
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Police-Autism Community Training

Why is this important?

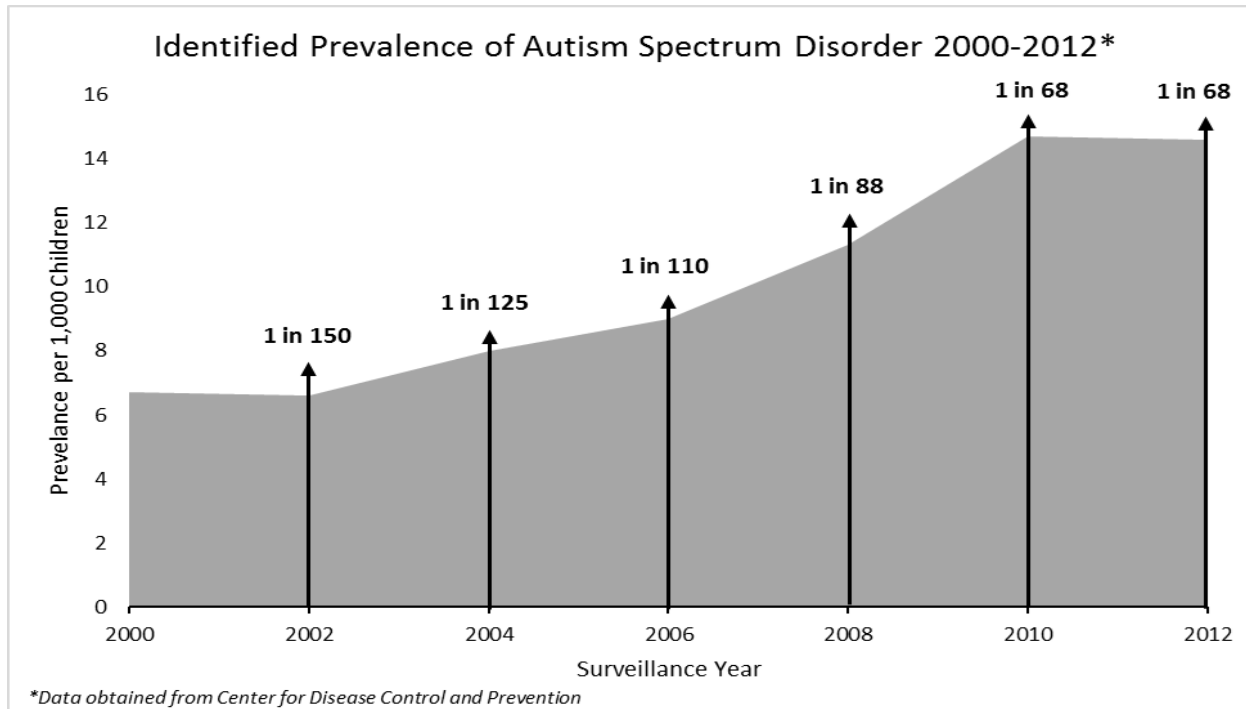
Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Causes differences in the way the brain processes
- Affects understanding and use of language to interact and communicate with people
- Thought to be a “hidden” disability for some – has no physical characteristics
- Not a mental illness - a *developmental* disorder
- Knows no bias - affects all races, ethnicities, socioeconomic groups

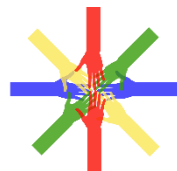


Why is this important?

Prevalence & History of Autism Diagnosis



49% of individuals with ASD wander or elope



A conversation

In October 2016, a parent and I started a conversation with Lexington's Police Chief.



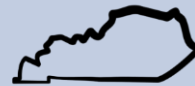
A training

Our first training was a 15-minute presentation to Lexington Police Officers



A state-wide initiative

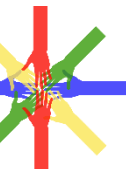
Within one year, we had trained approximately 870 first responders and held 11 community meet and greets.



Partnership and continued service

We have established partnerships and supported others completing similar trainings in:

- Louisville
- Ohio
- Kansas
- Florida
- Australia
- United Kingdom



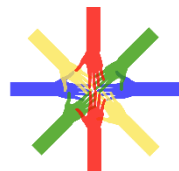
ACT

A true PARTNERSHIP

Trainings for
first
responders



Meet &
Greets for
our
community



PACT

Police-Asstn Community Training

Next steps: Lexington as an “Autism friendly community”



Supported by FEAT of Louisville
and the Autism Friendly Community

www.autismfriendlybusiness.com



AUTISM FRIENDLY
COMMUNITY
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY



Thank You and Questions



For more information or questions, please contact:

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