



## Homes for Autism

The Brightest Hope for People with Autism

# Quarterly News

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### In This Issue:

Letter from the President  
April – National Autism  
Awareness Month  
Upcoming Events  
New Board Member  
Fundraiser

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*Dear Friends,*

The spring rains are with us and the green grass promises that golf cannot be too far behind. This freshness bespeaks the addition of our newest board member, **Rob Vogelei**, of Cambridge Consulting. Ron was introduced to Homes for Autism by another board member, Mike Jennings. We welcome you, Rob, and look forward to your fresh thoughts.

Our spring fund-raiser, **Irish Night**, held at Four Green Fields in Royal Oak on March 28, was a gathering of happy souls, singing along with Dana Hartman of our Ypsi home and Pat McDunn's trio, who do a great rendition of Danny Boy. A good time was had by all!

We look ahead to the **Run for Autism** where we partner with Oakland University's OUCARES, its research arm for autism. On the morning of May 16, 2010, there will be a 5K and 10K run (for those inclined), or a walk (for the rest of us) on beautiful OU's campus in Rochester. Many participants and volunteers are needed. To register or to donate your time and services, please visit: [therunforautism.org](http://therunforautism.org).

We have been fortunate to have escaped most of the downturn of many other non-profits and charitable organizations in our area. All five of our homes are filled with those who can make good use of our facilities. Your continued support and generous contributions allow us to continue our mission.

I say thanks to all of you for your help.

*Bill Schramm, President*

P.S. Spring/summer is near...rejoice!!!

## APRIL — National Autism Awareness Month

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears in the first three years of life. It is the most common condition in the autism spectrum disorder (ASD) group—also referred to as pervasive developmental disorders (PDD)—and affects individuals to varying degrees, from very mildly to severely.

Children with autism have difficulties communicating and interacting with others, and exhibit different ways of learning, reacting and paying attention.

According to the Autism Society of America, approximately one percent of children in the U.S. ages three to 17 have an ASD, and prevalence is estimated at one in 110 births. There is no cure for autism, but the condition is treatable. Early diagnosis and intervention can significantly improve the outcome and reduce the cost of lifelong care.

## Upcoming Event

Homes for Autism is partnering - for the second year - with Oakland University's autism program, OUCARES (Oakland University's Center for Autism Research, Education and Support), to host the ***RUN FOR AUTISM*** on their beautiful Oakland University campus, to raise awareness and support of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and to help improve the quality of life for individuals affected by autism. This year's event is scheduled for **Sunday, May 16, 2010**. We will have a 5K fun run/walk as well as a competitive 10K run. We welcome families, strollers and wagons. The cost is \$25 for adults, \$15 for students, and children (7 and under) are free. For more information on sponsoring, participating or volunteering in the Run for Autism, visit: [www.therunforautism.org](http://www.therunforautism.org).

Last year's Run for Autism was a tremendous success, with more than 700 participants. With all of your help, we are looking forward to the prospect of continued success this year!

Plans are in the beginning stages for our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Ring of Hope Dinner to be held in November 2010. Details to follow in our next issue.

*Your support of one or all of our events is particularly critical during this time of economic hardship. Homes for Autism receives no state or federal funding – our only hope to continue in our efforts to grow at the rate of diagnosed autism depends on your contributions.*

## Fund-Raiser

Fun, friendship and gaiety were the theme at our **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Irish Pub Night**, held on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. The tradition continued at **Four Green Fields**, featuring host and owner, Rick Griswald and his excellent serving staff, as well as the rousing music provided by **Pat McDunn and the Irish Gaels!**

Also, once again, the crowd was treated to the song stylings of one of our Ypsilanti residents -- thanks Dana Hartman! In addition to our volunteers, special thanks to the Schramm and Paternel families for their donation of the raffle prizes, plus those of you who donated silent auction items. Next year, please plan on bringing the whole family to join us for this very special evening.

Erin Go Braugh!



## Election of New Board Member

At the Homes for Autism's Annual Meeting on March 18, 2010, Rob Vogelei was elected to the Board of Directors. HFA is fortunate to have Rob join the Board and appreciates the enthusiasm and commitment he will bring to the organization.

Robert Vogelei is an Employee Benefits Consultant with Cambridge Consulting Group in Troy. He has a Bachelor's degree in Interpersonal Communication from Michigan State University and is nearly completed with his MBA with a finance emphasis from Walsh College.

Rob has been married to his wife, Gretchen, since 2005 and is enjoying being a parent to his one-year-old son, Connell.

Rob's nephew, Brendan, has autism. Rob adds that he and his family are looking forward to being part of such a wonderful charity and to meeting some great people over the coming years.