



## Homes for Autism

The Brightest Hope for People with Autism

# Quarterly News

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John F. Burns

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Harvey Hohauser

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Dr. Harry Chugani  
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Bob Wangbichler

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### Dear Friends,

The commitment of creative people who volunteer their time to HFA is remarkable. That support and tireless effort was clearly apparent at our recent Annual Board Meeting held on March 6<sup>th</sup>. I am pleased to announce two new board members: Lon Makanoff and Shane LaRocca, whose profiles appear on page two. In addition, two current board members were elected to serve in new roles as officers: Elaine Shenkosky, Vice President of Finance and Michael Jennings, Vice President of Development and Public Relations. We sincerely thank both John Mullins and Sheila Diaz, former vice presidents of finance and development/public relations, respectively, for their years of dedication and hard work. Fortunately for us, Sheila has chosen to remain on the board. However, John's personal commitments have increased and he is no longer available to serve. We are grateful to John for his time and talent.

Homes for Autism has begun an exciting year of events beginning with our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Irish Pub Night held on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. We have two new events this year: Jazz on the Lake scheduled for Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and our Inaugural Run/Walk to be held on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Our black-tie gala – the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ring of Hope Dinner - will be held on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Details regarding pending events will be forthcoming in this and future newsletters and you can always consult our website at [www.homesforautism.org](http://www.homesforautism.org). Please make time to join us at a future event.

Other great news, we have entered into a partnership with Joel Pearlman, President of *Toner for Autism*. This program allows Homes for Autism to generate continuous contributions through your ongoing purchases (details below).

As you can see, we have a lot to accomplish for the remainder of the year, but we are up for the challenge. Many thanks for all you do to help us care for the people we serve and their families.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

*Harvey Hohauser, President*

### How You Can Help

Homes for Autism has entered into a partnership with Joel Pearlman, President of Toner for Autism, whose 7-year-old daughter, Dani, has Autism. If you are already buying toner and inkjet supplies for your home or business printers, consider giving 5% of those purchases to Homes for Autism. Please visit [TonerforAutism.com](http://TonerforAutism.com) and select Homes for Autism. This program allows HFA to generate continuous contributions through your ongoing purchases. Thanks for your support and please spread the word to your family and friends!

## Fund-Raisers

**“Everyone was Irish”** at our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Irish Pub Night held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate all our friends who joined us for an evening of food and drink in a fun and casual atmosphere. Thank you to our host and owner of Four Green Fields, Rick Griswald, and his staff for their time and services. As always, Pat McDunn and the Irish Gaels thoroughly entertained us and the beautiful voice of guest singer, Jerry Connelly, brought “a tear” to a few eyes while singing some Irish folk songs. In addition to our volunteers, special thanks to the Wangbichler family for their annual donation of the raffle prizes as well as those of you who donated silent auction items. Next year, please plan on bringing the whole family for this special evening that is not to be missed. Erin Go Braugh!



**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Irish Pub Night**  
(see more at [www.homesforautism.org](http://www.homesforautism.org))

**Please join us** for a lazy afternoon of Jazz on the Lake, featuring George Sinnott and his Jazz Ensemble, on Sunday, June 22, 3-6P. Location is at the residence of our hosts, Judy and Bill Schramm. \$75 per person includes music, hors d'oeuvres and libations. Please call 248-588-2111 for further information.

### Upcoming 2008 Events:

**Inaugural Run Walk**  
Sunday, September 14  
Details to be announced

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ring of Hope Dinner**  
November 1, 2008, 6:30 P.M.  
The Reserve, Birmingham

## Election of New Board Members

At Homes for Autism's Annual Meeting on March 6, 2008, Shane LaRocca and Lon Makanoff were elected to the Board of Directors. HFA is honored to have Shane and Lon join the Board and know that they will bring their wealth of experience and passion for HFA's mission to the organization.

**Mr. LaRocca** has a BSME (Mechanical Engineering) from Lawrence Tech and has been in the automotive field for 12 years. He currently works for Black and Decker as a Project Manager, which places him on the road in Europe and Mexico often. Shane helped Homes for Autism arrange a benefit at his Pub in Rochester Hills in summer 2007 and donates his time coaching basketball. Though he has since sold his Pub, he plans to be back in the restaurant business later in life. Shane is married to Lynn and they have three children, ages 8, 6 and 5. Their 6-year-old son, Joshua, is Autistic. Joshua has introduced the family to a complicated, fun, world that they strive to learn more about and they actively participate in his education and schooling.

After holding many high executive positions over the years, **Mr. Makanoff** is currently EVP – Strategic Planning for Sherwood Food Distribution. He has been a Certified Public Accountant for 36 years, starting his career with Deloitte & Touche and retiring as a Partner in 1980. Lon holds a Bachelor's Degree from Philadelphia University and did graduate work at New York University, Central Michigan University and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in real estate development, taxation and financing, and Hospital Administration. Lon served on the audit committee of the Allied Jewish Appeal, was a member of Ort (helping to raise money for training centers in Israel for immigrants) and also served on a number of committees with the United Way campaign. He was a member of the Board of Directors and later Chairman of the Board and President of Kern Hospital. Lon has four children and two grandsons, ages 6 and 2.

### Advisory Board Member Receives Grant

Wayne State University announced that Dr. Diane Chugani, professor of pediatrics and radiology at its School of Medicine, has been awarded a \$5.79 million grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The grant from the agency, part of the National Institutes of Health, will fund a study that may open doors to finding a treatment for improving those afflicted with autism.

Congratulations to Dr. Diane Chugani, a long time member of HFA's Advisory Board and former recipient of our Golden Ring of Hope Award.