

We Strive to Increase

AWARENESS...

Fostering a better understanding of the daily struggles and successes of children with ASD and their families.

SUPPORT...

Serving as a resource for parents, guardians, and providers who are seeking information while offering emotional support and financial assistance to families.

ACCEPTANCE...

Providing social opportunities for families and advocating for understanding and acceptance of our children in the broader community, including educational and treatment settings.

HOPE...

Facilitating a realistic vision for families and children of people with ASD across the lifespan.

Always *Unique, Totally*
Intelligent, Sometimes
Mysterious

ASWS
P.O. Box 39
Spring Lake, MI 49456

Information Line: 616-395-3222
Email: asws_contact@yahoo.com
Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/38637918874/>



Autism Support of West Shore

A Place Where Everyone Fits

Providing support to West
Shore families of children
with Autism Spectrum
Disorder

Our Mission

The purpose of the Autism Support of West Shore is to advocate and support meaningful participation in all aspects of life for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families

ASWS Services:

- Project Lifesaver for individuals with a history of wandering for care providers
- Scholarships to assist with education and treatment.
- The *Hope* newsletter, which is a bi-monthly newsletter featuring family interviews, summaries of relevant ASWS events and calendar of activities.
- Monthly informal social groups for parents, families, and those who care about individuals with autism to meet, drink coffee, eat, and talk.
- Regular meetings featuring guest speakers and workshops
- Family activities for parents, siblings, and children with ASD.



According to the CDC (2014) incidence rates of children being born with Autism Spectrum Disorder is 1 in 68. Autism Spectrum Disorder crosses all ethnicities and socio-economic groups.

Each individual with autism brings a unique collection of strengths and challenges to daily living. Because autism manifests differently in each person, families have to make complicated personal decisions for education, treatment, and interventions to assist their child. The Autism Support of West Shore (ASWS) seeks to celebrate and support all of these individuals and families.

“Don’t underestimate persons with autism, try to understand”

What is Autism?

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the brain in social interaction, communication skills, and behavior.

Autism affects each individual differently and at varying degrees. Both children and adults with autism typically show difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication and social interactions. Among other things, the person with autism may insist on a set routine, may not respond to verbal cues, or may exhibit difficulties integrating sensory information.