

708 W 10th Ave.

Eugene, Oregon 97402

Phone 541.345.0805

Bridgeway House offers treatments, developmental therapies, enrichment courses and support to children and families of all income levels with autism and related disabilities

February 2009

www.BridgewayHouse.org

Bridgeway House

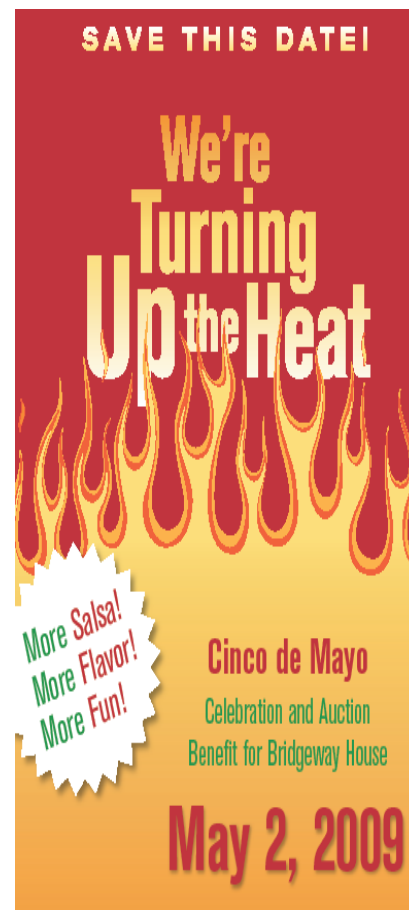
Preparing for an Autism Emergency: Autism Risk Management with Dennis Debbaudt

Dennis Debbaudt, a nationally-renowned specialist in the field of Autism Risk Management and the father of an autistic son, will present an open-discussion for parents, teachers, professionals, and “first responders” regarding the critical issue of preparing for an autism emergency.

Debbaudt, author of *Autism, Advocates, and Law Enforcement Professionals: Recognizing and Reducing Risk Situations for People with Autism Spectrum Disorders* and *Avoiding Unfortunate Situations* is an expert at forming partnerships to assist autistic individuals in avoiding emergencies. Debbaudt develops partnerships with those effected by autism and “first responders” such as

law enforcement likely to be initial contact persons in emergency situations. In order to develop the cooperative understanding necessary to form such partnerships, Debbaudt addresses autism emergency preparedness using separate strategies for each group: autistic adults able to navigate the community without assistance; families with autistic children (including those who wander or run); and “first responders.” Families and autistic adults receive information appropriate to their specific needs. Law enforcement and other professionals receive training to recognize the behaviors and

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Bridgeway House Calendar and Closures

Please note that Bridgeway House follows the 4J school district calendar. 4J closures and holidays are posted on the 4J home page at www.4j.lane.edu/. (Click on “calendars” under the header for more information).

“Soaring in the Soreng” Play Production

Hopes and dreams take flight as children and young adults affected by autism perform in this original showcase of many talents. Crafted by the performers, this show offers a limitless horizon of perspectives about having wings and taking flight. In this show, each uniquely talented per-

former showcases their ability to rise above the personal and societal obstacles with which they are presented each day. Bridgeway House offers each performer support in finding their own way of soaring as they demonstrate that the sky is the limit! Take off with us at

Soaring in the Soreng April 25th at 1 p.m. (The Soreng Theater is located inside the Hult Center). Tickets go on sale March 1st at the Hult Center. Please mark your calendar for this not-to-be-missed event!

We're Turning Up the Heat! Bridgeway House Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser

The Bridgeway House 2009 Cinco de Mayo celebration and auction promises to have more salsa, more flavor, and more fun!

This silent and live auction fundraising gala offers guests a chance to mingle while enjoying fabulous food and live entertainment. The silent auction commences with elegantly displayed offerings ranging from gift baskets to artwork, then the night sizzles as a live auctioneer solicits bids for exceptional packages such as weekend getaways, designer shopping trips, and

once-in-a-lifetime rafting and helicopter adventures. Proceeds from the annual event allows Bridgeway House to serve more than 150+ families and individuals, providing programs, therapies, social groups, support groups, Camp Tawasi, and other treatments and enrichment courses for those effected by autism.

Please mark your calendars for the annual Bridgeway House Cinco de Mayo fundraiser on May 2, 2009. Details to be announced in future newsletters.

**We
Need
Donations!**

We welcome your donations for our Cinco de Mayo fiesta fundraiser! Please contact us at bridgewayhouse@comcast.net to make arrangements for drop-off. All items are appreciated!

Autism Risk Management (continued)

characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Together, groups partner in their understandings to minimize trauma and avoid sad endings when responding to, and interacting with, someone on the spectrum experiencing an emergency.

According to Debbaudt, people with ASD are approximately seven times more likely to come in contact with law enforcement professionals than others, and their responses, when stress or confronted with novel situations, may not always be socially appropriate. Autism emergency pre-

paredness can assist all concerned in maximizing safety and reducing conflict. Please join us at this Bridgeway House-sponsored presentation to benefit our community. Suggested donation of \$10.

For more information, please contact bridgewayhouse@comcast.net. Thank you.



Boys' social group enjoying an outing to Zany Zoo.

Autism Risk Management
with Dennis Debbaudt

February 12th at 7:00 p.m.,
First Church of the Nazarene,
722 W. Broadway, Eugene.

Suggested donation \$10

Dietary Support Group

Autistic individuals can experience significant improvements by making dietary changes. Defeat Autism Now! (DAN!) doctors—a group of physicians receiving specialized training in a biologically-based protocol designed to assist autistic children—suggest that removing gluten and casein from the diet may lead to behavioral



and other types of improvements. However, dietary changes can be overwhelming for parents. To lend support, Bridgeway House will be offering another gluten-free, casein-free (GF/CF) support group in March 2009. For more information, please contact bridgewayhouse@comcast.net.

Bridgeway House School a Success!

Bridgeway House serves as a school for three students with behavioral needs who benefit from totally individualized, 1:1 instruction. This service is arranged through the school district. If you feel your child is a candidate for this program, please contact bridgewayhouse@comcast.net for more information.

Services at Bridgeway House

Open Play!

Bridgeway House families can enjoy open play time at Rainbow Park and Playground Company.

Donation requested. Dates to be announced.

90496 Hwy. 99N, Ste. 2 (1.7 miles north of Beltline)

Home Therapy Program

The in-home therapy sliding-scale payment program is now accepting applications for 1:1 intensive therapy or school support. ABA, Floor Time, and DI available. For more information, please contact bridgewayhouse@comcast.net.

Parent Support Group with Debby Laiman, PhD

This support group is for parents with **children to seven years old** and meets every other Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Debby is an Early Childhood School Psychologist who has a special interest in working with children with autism and their families. Childcare available, so please call ahead if needed. We encourage both parents to participate! For more information, please contact us at bridgewayhouse@comcast.net.

Salsa Dancing for Teens

Thursdays at 7:00 pm with Erin & Sergio. Ages 14+. To register, call 345-0805.

Kids' Night In!

Parents get a night out! On the third Friday night of every month, Bridgeway House offers Kids Night In, where kids come to Bridgeway House and parents have respite. The cost is \$10 per child. Please bring a healthy snack for all to share.

Kids Night In, 6:30-9:00 p.m., third Friday of each month. Call 345-0805 to reserve a spot or just drop by.

Individualized Music Therapy

Emily, our board certified Music Therapist, has openings for individual music sessions. Sessions are designed to address your child's unique needs, whether communication, concentration, academic or social skills development. The rate is \$50 per session. For more information, please contact Bridgeway House at bridgewayhouse@comcast.net

Parent Support Group with Jennifer Wassermiller, MSW

This support group is for parents with **children seven years or older** and meets every other Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 pm. All are welcome!

This group will focus on the unique challenges and delights of having an older child with a disability. Childcare available, so please call ahead if needed. We encourage both parents to participate! For more information, please contact us at bridgewayhouse@comcast.net.

Tutoring!

Tutoring in academics, reading, math as well as handwriting and behavior management planning, if needed. Fine motor skills and language using direct instruction and precision teaching. Call Bridgeway House for more info: 345-0805.

Family Swim Day!

Bridgeway House families and all families with special needs are invited to swim at the aquatic salt water pool at Tamarack Wellness Center on the 3rd Saturday of every month

from 2:30-4:30 p.m.! The pool is warm and comfortable. They provide lifeguards and tables. Please bring your own snacks and towels. Donations of any amount are requested.



Sponsored by
Hydro Fit

Low Cost Counseling

Lola Broomberg will be providing counseling services through Bridgeway House for families with special needs for \$25.00 per session! Fee waivers available upon request. In the near future, we hope to accept insurance. For more information regarding an appointment, please contact bridgewayhouse@comcast.net. Thank you.

Bridgeway House Class Policy

Bridgeway House has developed policies to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the community and respecting the time of our instructors. We require a registration and materials fee of \$10 per series. Scholarships available for all class fees. Please call for the scholarship application process.

There will be a maximum number of applicants per series. The deadline for registration will be one week prior to the start of each class. If a minimum number of students fail to pre-register, class may be cancelled at the instructor's discretion. Please call Bridgeway House to sign up for any of our classes at (541) 345-0805. Thank you for your cooperation.

Services at Bridgeway House

Social Groups

All Bridgeway House social groups are currently full. Enrollment for each group is limited to four children. If you are interested in enrolling your child in a social group, **please call Bridgeway House at 345-0805** for more information and to be added to our waiting list. Once we have a group of four children in the same age range, we will form another group. There is a \$10 registration fee. Thank you.

Social Groups

Preschool (4-5 years old)

Boys' Social Group (6-10 years old)

Boys' Social Group (8-12 years old)

Teen Boys Social Group

Girls' Social Group (7-10 years old)

Girls' Social Group (12-16 years old)

Teen Girls Social Group

Groups are facilitated in a small and supportive setting. Arts, crafts, games, and topic-specific conversations allow children to work on social skills and build lasting friendships with peers.

Teen Social Night

Ages 13 yrs and up

Catered event/music/dance/game room

TBA location and time

Monthly activities and parent support groups operate on a drop-in and donation basis. Social groups and classes require pre-registration. For more information, please contact Bridgeway House at bridgewayhouse@comcast.net.

Fitness Therapy

Fitness class for children and young adults of all ages and abilities. Sessions cater specifically to each individual's needs, interests, and level of ability.

Activities include bike riding and safety skills, running and hiking, yoga, light weights, balance activities, and exercise/obstacle courses.

Weekend sessions available upon request.

To register, please contact Bridgeway House at bridgewayhouse@comcast.net.

Camp Tawasi

Camp Tawasi is a day camp established for children on the autism spectrum. Camp Tawasi offers activities ranging from ropes courses to horseback riding utilizing Bridgeway House therapists for support.

Camp Tawasi offers autistic children the unique experience of attending camp with them in mind. Supervision ratios are appropriated according to campers' skill level. Aides are available.

Camp Tawasi is operated in conjunction with Camp Wilani located in Veneta.

A registration meeting familiarizes parents with specifics, providing a forum for questions and answers and accommodation of specific needs. Carpooling by arrangement. Last year's camp was tremendous success!

Camp Tawasi will operate from July 6-10, 2009. For more information, or to register, please contact Bridgeway House at bridgewayhouse@comcast.net.

Scholarships available upon request.

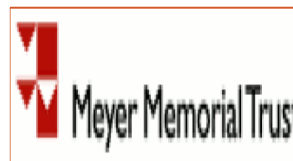
Thank You!

Bridgeway House would like to give a big Thank You to the following individuals and businesses who gave so freely of their time and resources. Without their help BWH would not be able to help the families and children of this community. We appreciate your efforts and continued support.

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