

THE INDIANA AUTISM ALLIANCE

BY ANGIE ARLINGTON



The Indiana Autism Alliance (IAA) was founded in 2008 by Scott Garner. "Our mission is to connect special needs families in the tri-state area to as many of the outside resources as possible. We want to help these families to find anything to improve the quality of life for individuals on the spectrum. We strive to share the most current information that the IAA and our partners can give on current and future treatment of autism worldwide." Scott explains.

Part of IAA's mission is to educate the entire community. "We want to educate people outside of the bubble about the different ways an individual on the autism spectrum processes tasks that they deem simple. We push to show how daily life skills are a major foundation of being able to mainstream a family member."

IAA also helps special needs families steer through the mass of paperwork involved with the administration of Article 7 used in school systems. "We try to explain the real advantages and disadvantages of the Article 7 document as a whole. We sit down with the family and administrators to help fine-tune the learning package for each child. This allows for a more centralized learning experience."

IAA holds fundraisers and has local companies help sponsor special needs families' outings. "Our events help families relax and enjoy time together." As a nonprofit, these businesses help support all of the initiatives IAA to support families.

IAA's website is a treasure chest of resources for families. "Once a child is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, it is important to



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Scott Garner

begin to identify needed services and resources. Each child with an autism spectrum disorder is different, and each family will have different needs. Examples of services that individuals and families will require include financial assistance programs, advocacy, parent support groups, sibling support and information, respite care, medical care, and training. Accessing services will differ from community to community,” Scott explains.

ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP:

The Indiana Autism Alliance will be starting an Autism Support Group for families and caregivers of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder. The meetings will take place over zoom and will be held on the third Thursday of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. To be put on the zoom list, send an email to indianaautismalliance@gmail.com.

Scott sums up IAA’s 14 years of existence: “The best way to describe what we are about is as simple as this — The Indiana Autism Alliance is about FAMILY. It is about helping make things just a little easier in life. We Hope.”



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