



The Family Buzz

Bancroft's Electronic Newsletter for Family Members

In This Issue

[The Bancroft School at Voorhees Pediatrics](#)

[Free autism workshops](#)

[Reminder: Inclusive Ministry Workshop coming](#)

[Family Council dinner meeting scheduled](#)

[Training for survivors of brain injury & caregivers on April 2](#)

[Fun events planned at Mullica Hill](#)

[Delaware programs could be spared from state cutbacks](#)

[Persons Served by Bancroft, Families and Staff Speak out at NJ Budget Hearings](#)

[One family's story of the value of care](#)

[Bancroft doc is 'top,' says SJ Magazine](#)

[Important Survey on Public Transportation](#)

[Behavioral Autism treatment / ABA conference](#)

[More free training](#)



The Bancroft School at Voorhees Pediatrics Facility holds Iditarod

On Friday March 6th, the classes at The Bancroft School at VPF held their first Iditarod race. Each class competed against one another with homemade sleds pulled by adorable plush or homemade dogs (and two frogs posing as dogs). The students and staff had an awesome time weathering snow storms and running from moose as they activated spinners via switches to move their sled towards the finish line. After the judges concluded that frogs were legitimate competitors, Classroom 1 took first prize as the first sled (pulled by frogs) to reach Nome. Congratulations to all and a special thank you to Lisa Bashore, Teacher, and Classroom 2 for creating this wonderful event!

[More autism events & opportunities](#)

[NJCEC Conference](#)

[Free TBI Conference](#)

Upcoming Bancroft Events

Special Olympics Fund-raising Event:

5th Annual Athlete Fashion Show

March 26, 2009

Dinner: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Fashion Show: 7 p.m.

Bellmawr, NJ

RSVP: (856) 287-1235

Bancroft Fundraiser at Tortilla Press

March 30, 2009

11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Collingswood, N.J.

Please contact restaurant for reservations:

(856) 869-3345

Bancroft Workshop:
Characteristics of Autism
April 8, 2009

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Haddonfield campus

(856) 429-5637, ext. 453

(Thanks to the generosity of the TD Charitable Foundation)

Hoops 4 Heart

April 09, 2009

9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Bancroft School Gym

Haddonfield Campus

(856) 429-5637, ext. 285

BI Workshop: Traumatic Brain Injury in Adolescents and the Development of Self-Concept
April 15

3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Free autism workshops

Bancroft's free workshop series will focus on autism in April, to mark Autism Awareness Month. The autism workshops are scheduled for Wednesdays **April 8** and **22**, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

The first workshop, titled Characteristics of Autism, will review autism, pervasive developmental disorder and Asperger syndrome. Topics will include:

- criteria for medical diagnosis
- prevalence of these conditions
- known etiology (origins)
- areas of impairment
- associated features of each diagnosis

The second workshop will provide an introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), the most effective, scientifically validated training and treatment method for autism.

Both workshops are designed for families and caretakers of individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as education professionals. Continuing education credits (CEUs) are available.

Workshops are held in the Farrington Building on Bancroft's Haddonfield Campus at 425 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, N.J. For more information, directions or to register, please contact Pat Reid at (856) 429-5637, ext. 371 or 257, or preid@bnh.org.

Bancroft's Developmental Disabilities Workshop Series is provided at no charge thanks to the generosity of TD Charitable Foundation.

Reminder: Inclusive Ministry Workshop coming

If you'd like to help people with disabilities become more active in their religious communities, come to Bancroft's Inclusive Ministry Workshop on Sun. April 19.

Speakers will discuss ways to reduce barriers, challenges and misconceptions, which can prevent religious participation.

Several prominent speakers will discuss these topics and more:

- Communities of faith and individuals with autism
- Supporting siblings of persons with special needs
- How to build a special needs ministry
- Including people who are deaf

Colleen Tighe
(856) 429-5637, ext. 371

**Family Council Dinner
April 16, 2009**

5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Bancroft School Gym
Haddonfield Campus
(856) 429-5637, ext. 279

**Bancroft NeuroHealth's
Seventh Inclusive Ministry
Workshop**

April 19, 2009
2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Bancroft School Gym
Haddonfield Campus
(856) 429-5637, ext. 148

**Bancroft Workshop:
Introduction to Applied
Behavior Analysis**

April 22, 2009
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Haddonfield campus
(856) 429-5637, ext. 453
*(Thanks to the generosity of the
TD Charitable Foundation)*

**Scholastic Book Fair
April 23 - April 30, 2009**

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Farrington Hall Conference Room
Haddonfield Campus

Bancroft School

Spring Show
April 24, 2009
9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Bancroft School Gym
Haddonfield Campus
(856) 429-5637, ext. 152

**Bancroft Volunteer
Appreciation Dinner
April 30, 2009**

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Bancroft School Gym
Haddonfield Campus
(856) 429-5637, ext. 273

In addition, an open discussion will focus on how congregations can eliminate barriers.

Spiritual opportunities for those served has been an area identified consistently as a weakness in our Family Satisfaction Survey, so we hope families will make time to attend.

The workshop will be held from 3 to 6:45 p.m. in The Bancroft School gymnasium, on the Haddonfield Campus. Registration is \$10 per person.

Feel free to share this information with your church, synagogue and others who might be interested. To learn more or to register, please contact Sister Krista Mote at (856) 429-5637, ext. 148, or e-mail kmote@bnh.org.

Family Council dinner meeting scheduled

The Bancroft Family Council will host a dinner meeting on Thurs. **April 16** at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium in The Bancroft School on our Haddonfield Campus. All family members of persons served by Bancroft are encouraged to attend, to meet other families and learn more about the organization. Staff members and adults served are also welcome.

Speakers will include:

- Bancroft President Toni Pergolin, who will provide an organizational update, including a report on our Strategic Plan initiatives
- Joan Galon King, vice president of development, who will discuss establishing a culture of philanthropy during difficult economic times
- Dan Keating, vice president of family services and government relations, who will be joined by Family Council members to discuss family-friendly initiatives in the Strategic Plan

We hope you can join us to learn more about current activities, and initiatives to secure the organization's future for your loved one and many others. RSVP to Sue Crouse at (856) 429-5637, ext. 279, or e-mail scrouse@bnh.org.

Training for survivors of brain injury & caregivers on April 2

The Brain Injury Association of New Jersey will train people with brain injuries, their caregivers, staff members and others to become mentors to people with newly acquired brain injuries. The training will be held on Thurs. April 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bancroft's Brick, N.J., facility (1200 Rt. 70 West, Brick, NJ 08724).

Breakfast and lunch will be provided at this free event, which is open to the public. For more information or to register, contact Fay Ross at (732) 745-0200 or fross@bianj.org.

Fun events planned at Mullica Hill

The Mullica Hill Campus's Recreation Committee is back in session, and has scheduled multiple activities through April - starting with a Spring Fling party this Saturday, **March 28**.

Also planned:

- April 10: Easter dinner and egg hunt
- April 15: Ice cream sundae night
- April 24: Happy hour
- April 30: Bible Study Night

For more information, contact Heather Motley at 856-769-1300 or email hmotley@bnh.org.

Another reason to celebrate: We're pleased to report completion of the campus's new water-chlorination system. Hurray!

Delaware programs *could* be spared from state cutbacks

Bancroft and other agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities in Delaware appear to be safe from funding cuts for now, based on the Governor's initial budget plans. But things can change.

[Click here](#) for the state's proposed solution to its budget crisis, including areas that are being cut and attempts to generate revenue.

We ask that families of persons served in Delaware express appreciation and encourage continued support by the Governor and other state representatives, to help ensure the plan doesn't change before the budget is passed.

For more information, visit <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=tnxqzzcab.0.0.7n9pimcab.0&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.delarf.org%2F&id=preview> (Delaware Association of Rehabilitation Facilities) or contact Karen Reiss at (302) 428-8992 or e-mail kreiss@bnh.org.

Persons Served by Bancroft, Families and Staff Speak out at NJ Budget Hearings

We are grateful to the multiple Bancroft supporters who testified before the New Jersey Legislature over the past two weeks, during public hearings on the state's proposed 2010 fiscal-year budget. People we serve were well-represented by Bonnie Davis, a self-advocate who chairs our Advisory Committee for Persons Served.

"It is important that the assembly uphold the governor's pledge and not make any cuts to services for people with developmental disabilities," testified Ms. Davis. Such services "are already under-funded," she said.

To view Ms. Davis' full testimony, [click here](#).

Family members Bill Wills and Donna Icovino also testified, and even made the news - which helps get our message out to the voting public.

To read the *Philadelphia Inquirer* story that includes comments from and pictures of Ms. Icovino and her son Michael, [click here](#). (For more from Ms. Icovino, see the following article.)

To view the *Gloucester County Times* story, which includes statements from Mr. Wills, [click here](#).

Dr. Dan Keating, Bancroft's family advocate, also provided strong testimony in support of funding for community services. If you also testified, please share a copy of your remarks with us (e-mail to Dan Keating at dkeating@bnh.org).

Thanks so much to everyone who is supporting these important efforts!

One family's story of the value of care

Following is a letter from parent Donna Icovino to the Cost of Providing Care Coalition, an advocacy group that works to enhance government funding for community providers that serve people with developmental disabilities. The letter has been edited down for space.

"I am the proud mother of a young man, age twenty-three, whose life is affected by autism and bipolar disorder. My son, Michael, has been effectively and compassionately served by Bancroft NeuroHealth for the past thirteen years. Originally, we chose to have Michael educated at the Bancroft School because of the organization's extensive vocational training program. However, with the unforeseen onset of bipolar disorder (a formal diagnosis was made right before Michael turned fourteen), Bancroft was also able to provide him with comprehensive therapeutic treatment in "The Lindens" (Behavior Stabilization Program), and eventually residential care.

Over the past years, I have made some very important discoveries in respect to Michael's time at Bancroft. I have come to understand how powerfully Bancroft represented opportunity for my son, and all the individuals they serve. As we all know, you can have all the best-laid plans and intentions in the world for your child, but there must be a place to unfold these dreams, and make them a reality.

Everyone deserves an opportunity to test their skills, and to achieve individual goals to the best of their ability. Bancroft has provided a testing ground for our loved ones to learn and build on their academic and vocational experiences. Following graduation from the Pediatric and Adolescent Program, Michael was accepted into Bancroft's Adult Services Program. Presently, Michael works in a doggie bakery business entitled V.I.P., which stands for "very important pooch" He is involved in all aspects of this trade, which includes baking, packaging, selling, and delivering orders. When Michael comes home, he personally delivers the doggie treats throughout our neighborhood, and he receives high praise and sincere appreciation. However, I believe if our neighborhood dogs could speak, they would proclaim Michael as their favorite human being!

Bancroft also provides those they serve a place to be themselves, to socialize, and explore their interests in a safe and caring setting. In addition, Bancroft has enriched the world of countless individuals through participation in a wide variety of community-based activities such as sporting events, day trips, holiday parties, dances, the annual prom (a genuinely "priceless" event), adult classes and clubs, and the Special Olympics Program. This past Saturday, March 14th, Michael won a silver medal in a Special Olympics Bowling Tournament. This wonderful achievement

entitles him to compete in the State Finals at the end of this month. More importantly, Michael loves bowling and all the positive attention he receives. As proud of him as we are, Michael is genuinely proud of himself, and that means the world to us.

If you were to examine the very heart of Bancroft, you would find all the individuals who are committed to providing quality services to our children. Time and time again, I have witnessed some of the most compassionate, therapeutic, and generous acts on the part of staff members, and I am constantly amazed at the high level of commitment demonstrated on behalf of persons served.

Unfortunately, direct care workers in New Jersey are grossly underpaid for the extremely challenging work they do. As a result, Bancroft has experienced a destabilizing turnover, and qualified applicants stay away discouraged by poor salaries, and insufficient benefit plans. Not only does this produce a destabilizing atmosphere among those staff members that remain, it also jeopardizes the stability of the entire program.

The Bancroft Administration, and supervisory teams have invested a great deal of energy and creative thought into building the type of programs that persons served require and truly deserve. The Administrative team continually strives to maintain a good quality of on-going services and supports, and always has an eye cast on future endeavors to enhance the continuum of care. This type of dedicated support and commitment to improving our children's lives is an absolutely priceless comfort to families.

Bancroft has also taught me what it truly means to be family. Through a variety of opportunities Bancroft offers families a chance to get involved. I am grateful to have participated in this process. I have also had the good fortune to meet many incredible family members, and their children. Happily, through my family's association with Bancroft, our family has grown in great number, and all of our lives have been wonderfully enlightened and enriched.

I cannot even begin to imagine where we would be as a family without all that Bancroft NeuroHealth has offered Michael over the years. For those whose lives have not been dramatically affected by disability, it must be difficult to imagine the emotional, physical, and financial burdens placed on those ultimately responsible for the individual's special, and at times extraordinary needs. It is therefore important to understand that it is only through working with service provider agencies that families are able to offer their children the type of education, vocational training, therapeutic and residential services essential for their overall well being.

All I have to do is look at the wonderful man my son has become to know what an immeasurable difference Bancroft has made in his life. As members of the Bancroft family we value what this organization has been able to provide Michael, and countless individuals throughout its one hundred year history. We also recognize that without sufficient state funding non-profit agencies,

like Bancroft, will no longer be able to survive financially."

Bancroft doc is 'top,' says SJ Magazine

A local magazine recently named Bancroft's Dr. Caroline Eggerding to its "Top Docs for Kids" list. SJ Magazine, a monthly publication covering South Jersey, printed the annual list in its March issue. (See the full issue at sjmagazine.net)

Dr. Eggerding, Bancroft's vice president of clinical services and chief medical officer, was named in the "Developmental/Behavioral" category.

To assemble its list, the magazine "polled doctors, asking them one question: If a child in your family was ill, what doctor would you refer him (or her) to?" The poll resulted in almost 2,000 votes, states the magazine.

Good news for Bancroft families and persons served... and congratulations, Dr. Eggerding!

Important Survey on Public Transportation

The following item is from Meeting the Challenge, Inc. Please take the time to complete the group's survey by March 31, to help address transportation barriers to people with disabilities.

In conjunction with a grant received from the Federal Transit Administration, Meeting the Challenge, Inc., is surveying people with disabilities regarding their experiences with public transportation.

Information gathered will help determine what barriers still exist in public transportation for people with disabilities and will be used to create Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) technical-assistance materials directed toward alleviating those barriers.

The survey takes from 5 to 15 minutes to complete, and responses will be collected through March 31. The survey can be accessed online from this link: <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=tnxqzccab.0.0.7n9pimcab.0&p=http%3A%2F%2Fmtcinc.transit.sgizmo.com%2F&id=preview>

For more information, contact Cristi L. Harris, special projects director for Meeting the Challenge, Inc., at (719) 444-0252 ext. 108 (or in CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY, call 800- 949-4232).

Behavioral Autism treatment / ABA conference

Caldwell College will host a conference titled "Innovations in Autism Treatment and Applied Behavior Analysis" on April 17 and 24 at the school's Caldwell, N.J., campus.

The event will feature 12 presentations by nationally and internationally prominent leaders in applied behavior analysis (ABA) and the treatment of autism, as well as exhibitor booths and a bookstore.

More than 40 years of research studies have demonstrated that ABA - a science-based approach to teaching and learning - has helped numerous individuals with autism make major gains in social, communication, self-care, leisure, and academic skills, among others.

For more information about the conference, visit <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=tnxqzzcab.0.0.7n9pimcab.0&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.caldwell.edu%2F&id=preview>.

More free training...

Trinitas Regional Medical Center is offering a series of free training sessions, now through June 25, for families, mental health and developmental disabilities service providers, care coordinators and case managers.

We are especially pleased to note that Donna Icovino, a member of Bancroft's Family Council, will present the June 19 session, titled "Guidelines for Family Response to Crisis." Ms. Icovino will provide information, tips and resources to better equip families to effectively respond to behavioral and mental health crises. Participants will also receive the Handbook for Family Crisis Response, which Ms. Icovino co-authored. Her talk will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at DDD's Central Office in Hamilton, N.J.

For a complete series schedule or to register, [click here](#). Or, call Fatu Bangura at (908) 497-9636, ext. 210, or e-mail fbangura@trinitas.org.

Space is limited, so register soon. The series is presented by Trinitas' Statewide Clinical Consultation and Training Program (SCCAT).

More autism events & opportunities

We are pleased to pass along the following information provided by Autism New Jersey (formerly COSAC).

- **Family Night at Friday's: Save the date**
Families of children with autism can enjoy a stigma-free night out at local T.G.I. Friday's restaurants during "Autism Family Night." Twenty-two locations will participate in the event on **May 19** from 6 to 8 pm. Reservations are not required, but attendees should bring a promotional flier ([available here](#)) so the hostess and servers know you're part of the event.
- **Free parent workshops in Cherry Hill**
Autism New Jersey will hold its Parent Series Workshop on teaching a behavioral approach to parenting, educational rights and IEPs. This-15 hour course is free and will be held in Cherry Hill, N.J., from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on **April 20, 27** and **May 4, 11, 18**. [Click here to register](#).

NJCEC Conference

NJCEC's Spring Professional Development Event will feature Kim Peek, the mega-savant who was the inspiration for the movie "Rain Man." Kim and his father Fran will join us here in New Jersey for an evening event that you won't want to miss! The night will begin with some light refreshments and poster sessions focusing on some of the hottest topics in the field of Special Education, followed by an interactive Keynote session featuring Kim Peek. Learn about Kim's unique journey including his early childhood, unique brain structure, and remarkable memory abilities in 15 subject areas. Participants will have an opportunity to ask Kim and Fran questions. A book signing will follow this keynote presentation.

Thursday, April 23rd
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Sheraton Edison Hotel

[Click here](#) for the flyer for additional information and registration or visit us on the web at <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=tnxqzzcab.0.0.7n9pimcab.0&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.njcec.org%2F&id=preview>.

Free TBI Conference

Critical Medical, Legal, Nursing and Funding Issues for Children and Adults with Cerebral Palsy, Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injuries is a free conference for individuals with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries, families of children with cerebral palsy, medical providers, PTs, OTs, special education teachers, and other professionals within the field. The conference is offered on various dates throughout March and April, and will cover the following topics:

- New Trends in Medical and Rehabilitation Treatment for Cerebral Palsy, Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injuries
- Critical Funding Issues in the Era of Diminishing Resources
- The Importance of Special Needs Trusts - Long Term Planning
- Worker's Compensation, Social Security, Nursing, Home Modifications and Equipment

For additional information, please visit the conference web site at <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=tnxqzccab.0.0.7n9pimcab.0&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sci-tbiconference.com%2F&id=preview>.

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