

The George A. Butchikas

FOUNDATION FOR AUTISM



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Foundation for Autism

P.O. Box 9008
Panama City Beach, FL 32417

850•258•3588

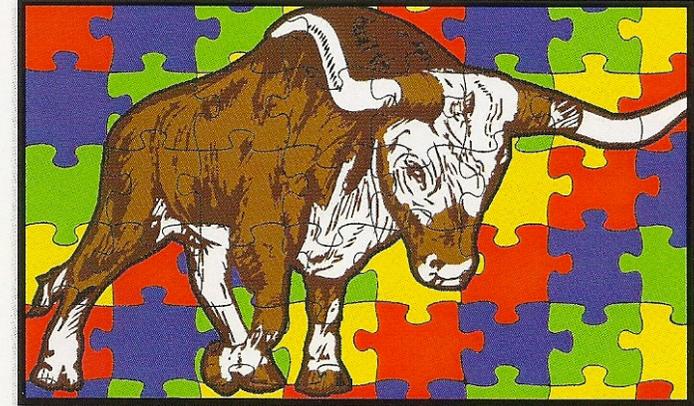
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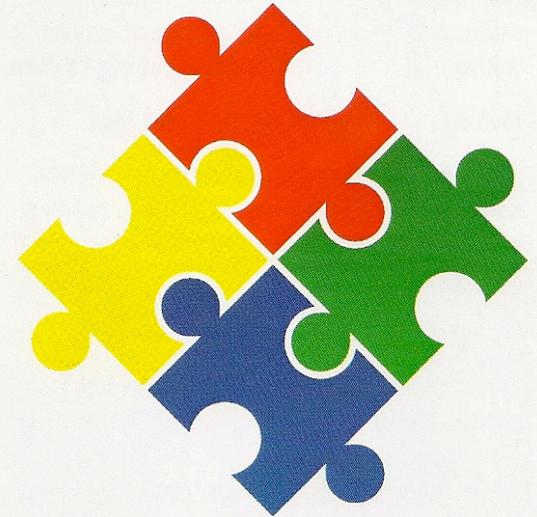
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“BREAKTHROUGHS CAN BE MADE
with early intervention, structured environments,
speech therapy, occupational therapy
and lots of **LOVE.**”



For more information, contact Carolyn Butchikas,
Foundation Director at 850•258•3588

What is Autism?

Thank you for making a difference.

For more information, contact Carolyn Butchikas, Foundation Director at (850) 258-3588

Autism spectrum disorder is a neurological disorder associated with deficits in communication and social interaction as well as engagement in restricted or repetitive behaviors. Autism affects one in eighty-eight children in the United States. It is a life-long disorder that can be devastating for families, because victims of the disorder may appear as if they are in a secluded bubble known as "their own little world." However, there is HOPE – breakthroughs can be made with early intervention, structured environments, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and lots of LOVE.

Symptoms of Autism and related disorders can include:

- Slow development or lack of physical, social, and learning skills
- Delays or lack of language or social communication
- Immature rhythms of speech, limited understanding of ideas, and use of words without attaching the usual meaning to them
- Deficits in social interaction and play
- Abnormal responses to sensations, sights, sounds, touch, pain, balance, taste, the way a child holds his body – any one of a combination of these may be affected
- Abnormal reactions to people, objects, and events



Autism has serious and wide ranging effects on these children and their family's daily lives. Many are unaware of what is happening to them, and without knowing why, they may needlessly attempt to deal with these effects alone.



The George A. Butchikas Foundation

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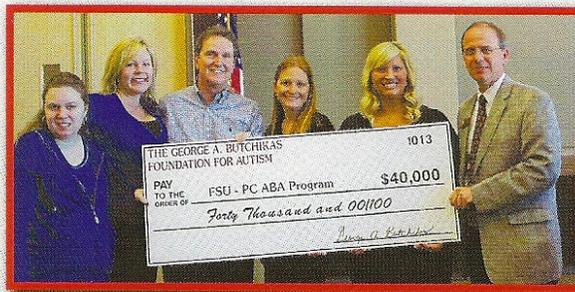
George A. Butchikas knows the benefits of identifying autism early in childhood. His daughter, Camille, was diagnosed with autism in 1991.

In an effort to help children like Camille, he established the George A. Butchikas Foundation for Autism in 1997. This foundation provides funding for families that are unable to pay for intensive behavioral services (i.e., ABA speech therapy) that are necessary for their children with autism in Bay County.

Through early intervention and treatment, Camille has excelled in mainstream school programs and shines with accomplishments, including graduating from Arnold High School as an honor student.

Without the educational awareness and financial support that the Foundation provides, many families of children with autism in Bay County would be otherwise unable to get the assistance that their children so greatly need.

Since 1997 the Foundation has provided compensation to many community resources in Bay County who assist children with autism, including school classrooms and autism outreach programs. Since 2001, the Foundation has continually provided scholarships for children receiving services from the FSU Early Childhood Autism Program (FSU ECAP) housed at Florida State University- Panama City. These funds go directly to provide low-income families in Bay County access to ABA services provided by ECAP.



2 Ways You Can Help

Whether you are a caring individual who recognizes how debilitating Autism can be for children and their families, or a business owner who can lend your support, there are some great ways you can help.

1. A tax deductible cash gift can go a long way towards making a remarkable difference in the lives of local families affected by this disorder.
2. Each year in October, the George A. Butchikas Foundation for Autism holds a SILENT AUCTION/BBQ BASH Fundraiser at Angelo's Steak Pit. The funds raised from the Auction support families right here in Bay County. A tax deductible donation of cash, merchandise, or services is greatly needed in order to make this event a huge success. All donations will be immensely appreciated by children whose lives will be touched in an unimaginable way.

Yes, I want to help. Here's my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

**Please make checks payable to:
The GAB Foundation for Autism, P.O. Box 9008
Panama City Beach, FL 32417**

**Yes, I can make a donation of merchandise
or services. List a description of your
donation below.**

Thank you for making a difference,
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