



## For immediate release:

Date: April 17, 2013

## Wayne ARC leads the way in Autism Services

### contact information

From: Wayne ARC  
Contact: Tracy Crosby  
Tel: 315-331-7741 | Fax: 315-331-4857  
Address: 150 VanBuren Street .  
Newark . NY 14513  
Email: [tracy.crosby@waynearc.org](mailto:tracy.crosby@waynearc.org)  
Web: [www.waynearc.org](http://www.waynearc.org)

### In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, Wayne ARC and Roosevelt Children's Center discuss specialized services available to all ages.

According to the Center for Disease Control 1 out of 88 children in the United States has autism. In our nearly 50 years of service we have witnessed first-hand the staggering rise in diagnosis and have been inspired to develop programs and therapies to address the behaviors and learning styles of individuals of all ages that fall somewhere on the spectrum. Additional efforts have been focused on training and credentialing our staff so that they are fully prepared to lead these efforts equipped with a contemporary, evidence based foundation of knowledge.

At our Roosevelt Children's Center, which serves children ages birth through 5 years old, we have developed and implemented a comprehensive program to serve preschool children who are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. The classroom and therapy staff at RCC have received training in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Training and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children (TEACCH) and The Developmental, Individual Differences, Relationship-Based (DIR) Model. Staff at Roosevelt have received ongoing training on intervention for children with autism spectrum disorders over the past 7 years. Children whose symptoms require more intensive interventions may receive that in the full day TEACCH and/ or ABA classrooms with staff that have been trained in those intervention models. The ABA classroom program at Roosevelt is in its second year and is designed by the University of Rochester Medical Center's Community Consultation Program at the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities and utilizes evidence-based educational and behavior analytic practices with children with autism spectrum and related disorders. ***This program receives ongoing consultation through the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities on a weekly basis and is currently the only classroom program of this type offered in Monroe, Wayne and Ontario Counties.***

Particular emphasis is also being given to serving adults on the spectrum through our Wayne ARC adult programs. Wayne ARC clinic administrator, Sharon Johnson LCSW-R has made autism services her specialty. "The clinic staff are well prepared to work with individuals on the spectrum. The social workers address social skill concerns, the Occupational Therapist works on sensory and ADL concerns, and the Speech and Language Pathologist addresses communication and pragmatic language needs." she said. Sharon serves on the Regional Autism Network and has provided trainings on multiple related to topics to a variety of audiences including police officers, first responders, families and staff members. All of our programs feature staff with varying degrees of expertise as well. Brian Bushart, Applied Behavioral Specialist Program Coordinator, has worked with both adults and children who have an ASD diagnosis for the past 30 years. He has played an integral role in the development of our staff Introductory Training Module on ASD diagnoses. To quote Brian, "Our vision is to enhance this training to further educate individuals interested in becoming 'go-to' people for staff and parents to consult with at different program sites." The convergence of these efforts has served to create a holistic approach which captures and celebrates the uniqueness of each person served. Our quest to continually acquire knowledge, implement strategy and collaborate on best practices leaves us poised to become the forerunner in the field of expertise on ASD diagnoses.

Wayne ARC is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization serving over 1400 people with and without developmental and intellectual disabilities throughout Wayne County. Roosevelt Children's Center, a program of Wayne ARC, provides a variety of educational and clinical services to children ages birth to 5 years, and their families. Wayne ARC is also a premier employer locally with over 550 employees. For more information regarding Wayne ARC or Roosevelt Children's Center please contact us at 315-331-7741, visit us on the web at [www.waynearc.org](http://www.waynearc.org) or connect with us on facebook.