



Nantucket Autism Speaks Resource Center

Babysitters and Companions

The following individuals have expressed interest in babysitting or serving as a companion for families of children with autism. All of the individuals have undergone Cory Background checks and are experienced in autism, other special needs and behavioral challenges.

Katy Horgan

Katy is a teacher in Pathways, an integrated preschool at NES. She has worked in the Nantucket Public Schools for three years, and prior to having her own classroom, Katy served as a teaching assistant with Pathways Teacher Kim Albertson, who trained and worked at the May Institute and the New England Center for Autism. Katy teaches in our summer school and is actively involved with the Nantucket S.T.A.R. program, which provides recreational and therapeutic arts for children with special needs. 978-835-2271, **summer email:** kahorgan@yahoo.com

Julie Hwayoung

Julie, who has her masters in education and psychology, recently relocated to Nantucket from Boston, where she was a high school special education teacher in Jamaica Plain. Julie moved to Nantucket to join her husband, Cory Shepherd, Program Director, Nantucket Boys & Girls Club. Julie can be reached at 215-360-1014, enjoycho@yahoo.com.

Laverne Jackson Richardson

Laverne, who has a background in social work, is currently working in our school system as a 1:1 teaching assistant with a teenaged student who has autism. Laverne, the parent of two children, 19 and 21, has previously worked with young adults with disabilities before moving to Nantucket. She also serves as a Sunday School teacher, here on island. 508-292-0383, setlavernefree@yahoo.com.

Sarah Santos

Sarah, born and raised on Nantucket, is a recent (May '09) graduate of Ithaca College, with a degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. She has decided to spend a year on-island, gaining hands-on experience working with students before returning to school to earn her Master's degree. Sarah, a wonderful island resource, is also serving as an intern for the Resource Center and upcoming *Walk for Autism Speaks*. (508) 560-1136, santos.sarah1124@gmail.com

Theran Singleton:

Theran has two sons, 13 and 22 (her eldest is currently serving in Iraq). She began at NES in 1993 as a TA and upon completing her undergrad degree at Lesley, she was hired as a NES special education teacher. She is currently working towards a Master's in Special Education at Bridgewater State College, and she is an Associate Member of the Orton Gillingham Academy (reading). Theran has worked with many of our most significant students in our elementary school, including those with autism. 508-685-0071, singletont@nps.k12.ma.us.

Bill and Tina Steadman

Bill and Tina, parents of three daughters, aged 9 – 13, both worked at a residential school for individuals with significant special needs. Tina, who currently facilitates a parent support group for families of children with special needs, has also worked in a group home and has coached

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Nantucket's Special Olympics team. She and Bill volunteer with their church's youth members. 508-228-8013, tbsteadman@comcast.net.

Bonnie Woodley

Bonnie Woodley, a physical therapist by training, has taught at Small Friends Preschool for 8 years and in the Pathways Preschool Program for children with special needs in the past 6 years. Next year, she will be working in the high school's Life Skills classroom. Bonnie and her husband Michael have three children, 15, 13 and 9. She can be reached at b.woodley@comcast.net or 508 228 5024.

Autism Speaks does not provide medical or legal advice or services. Rather, Autism Speaks provides general information about autism as a service to the community. The information provided above is not a recommendation, referral or endorsement and does not replace the advice of medical, legal or educational professionals. You are urged to use independent judgment and request references when considering any resource associated with the provision of services related to autism.