



Nantucket Autism Speaks Resource Center

Babysitters and Companions

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

Kelsey Fredericks

kfrederi@conncoll.edu; (508) 325-3318

Kelsey, a Nantucket native and skilled athlete, graduated from Connecticut College with a degree in Behavioral Neuroscience. While she considers her numerous options for the fall, Kelsey plans to spend this summer gaining hands-on experience with children on the Autism Spectrum and other special needs. She interned with the Resource Center and assists in Dr. Tim Lepore's medical office.

Katy Horgan

kahorgan@yahoo.com; (978) 835-2271

Katy is a teacher in Pathways, an integrated preschool at NES. She has 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.

Katherine Horyn

katherinehoryn@yahoo.com; (508) 332-2406

Katherine is 20 years old and will be a junior at Wheelock College in Boston, where she is pursuing a degree in education and psychology. She is a seasoned babysitter and VP of Wheelock's Best Buddies chapter, an international mentoring club for individuals with special needs. Her older sister has developmental delays, and Katherine is unflappable with individuals with all special needs and compassionate and sensitive to the siblings.

Julie Hwayoung

enjoycho@yahoo.com; (215) 360-1014

Julie, who has her masters in education and psychology, 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.

Maiki Gray

maikilynne@gmail.com; (508) 680-4641 (C); (508) 257-0128 (H)

Maiki and her family relocated from Maine to Nantucket in 2007. She is a certified Special Education Teacher, K-8 in Maine, and she has worked with our special need population in our school system as a teaching assistant at the elementary and high school levels. She also works part-time with the Fairgrounds House, is a facility for individuals with mental health issues.

Tara Purtill

Tep1288@yahoo.com; (716) 480-0433

Tara, who is pursuing a major in Special Education, is a summer resident working with Autism Speaks to coordinate our *Walk Now for Autism*, scheduled in August. She has served as a supervisor at the Boys & Girls Club in Orchard Park, NY, where she gained immense experience with children with varying needs.

Laverne Jackson Richardson

setlavernefree@yahoo.com; (508) 292-0383

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 older

children, has previously worked with young adults with disabilities before moving to Nantucket. She also serves as a Sunday School teacher, here on island.

Dan Ross

danaalpadraig@yahoo.com; (508) 332-9564

Dan has a background helping individuals with Lou Gehrig's Disease and describes himself as very patient. He works at Small Friends Child Care Center, but he enjoys serving as a companion as well. He is also a yoga enthusiast

Theran Singleton

singletont@nps.k12.ma.us; (508) 685-0071

Theran has two sons, 15 and 24 (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.

Olga Vlasco

Lisichka13@yahoo.com; (646) 240-3178

Olga, born and raised in Russia, relocated to the states seven years ago. She worked on Long Island managing a day hab program for individuals with all disabilities before relocating to Nantucket to join her fiancée (now husband). Olga, the sibling of an older brother with a developmental disability who has since passed away, volunteers for the Resource Center activities and is adept and passionate about our population of individuals with all special needs.

Sarah Waite

Sarahbagarrah@yahoo.com; (772) 224-0959

Sarah is a mature professional with a great deal of experience as a special education teacher, K-12, in New England and Florida. She has experience in ABA, Smartboard, positive behavior supports and is passionate about individuals on the Autism Spectrum. Sarah and her husband are on-island through the end of September.

Bonnie Woodley

b.woodley@comcast.net or (508) 228-5024.

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 7 years. Bonnie and her husband Michael have three children, 16, 14 and 10.

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.



Kim Horyn, Director

Nantucket Autism Speaks Resource Center · 10 Surfside Road, Nantucket, MA 02554
646.341.3043 khoryn@autismspeaks.org