



## 2015 Program Highlights



### The Autism Program at Boston Medical Center

*assists and empowers* those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder through direct patient support, provider education and community outreach in a culturally competent manner by offering high quality and comprehensive care to all.



### The Autism Program Staff



**Shari King, Program Director**  
**Lauren Bartolotti, Program Coordinator**  
**Elizabeth Ferriero, Autism Resource Specialist**  
**Ivyz Fernandez-Pastrana, Autism Family Navigator**

### PLAN (Parent Leadership in Autism Network)

Our Parent Leadership in Autism Network (PLAN) is an initiative of The BMC Autism Program and TILL Autism Support Center. PLAN strengthens and empowers families through one-to-one matching, group supervision, and capacity building through community connections.

PLAN has more than quadrupled its size since year one, with expanded language capacity including English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Haitian Creole, Arabic, and Cape Verdean.

“I get such a charge after our meetings and I feel supported in a way I haven't felt before”

-PLAN Parent Leader



### TEAM (Teens Engaged as Mentors)

Launched in the fall of 2015, The BMC Autism Program's new initiative, TEAM (Teens Engaged as Mentors), pairs adolescents with and without Autism Spectrum Disorder to work in partner dyads to mentor a younger child with disabilities. TEAM participants engage in supervised monthly hangouts in the form of community service projects, such as trail cleanup with the Mass Audubon Society, and creating holiday gifts for elders in need. Twenty-four enthusiastic and motivated teens and tweens crafted these overarching program goals:

- 1) Make new friends
- 2) Build positive character traits
- 3) Have fun!
- 4) Make positive impact in the community
- 5) Gain and give knowledge
- 6) Keep an open mind and understand challenges



### Patient Care Numbers

the BMC Autism Program has ...

Supported over **4,250** family referrals since its inception in 2007,

over **150** families through community trainings and workshops,

Nearly **1,200** followers on Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest and the reach is growing with an average of 10 new parent and professional followers each week.

*Striving to help and strengthen every family in need.*

## Family Photo Day

A picture is worth a thousand words. The 2015 holiday season afforded families affiliated with the BMC Autism Program the opportunity to have FREE professional photos taken right here at Boston Medical Center. Thanks to the generosity of Briana Moore (brianamoore.com) and a small grant from the Awesome Foundation, participating families enjoyed photos to last a lifetime.



### INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The ASD Program continues to offer ongoing semester long and full year internships and volunteer opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students at local universities and colleges such as Tufts University and Boston University. Interns join us from a variety of disciplines including child development, psychology, social work, and pre-med. In 2015, we were privileged with the contributions of the following staff interns:

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Chrissie Massrey | Christina Besosa |
| Simone Dufresne  | Elana Lerner     |
| Maddy Kenler     | Julia Slater     |
| Samantha Fine    | Lauren Gabriel   |
| Samantha Watts   | Lindsay Rosen    |
| Joyce Kao        | Rachel Wright    |

### Fundraising

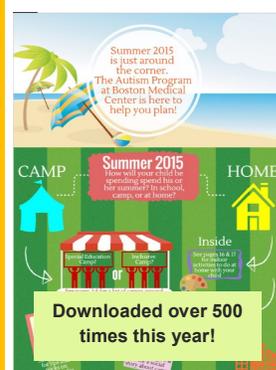
This year, the BMC Autism Program participated in several fundraising events to support the program.

- On July 17th we helped raise over \$300,000 at the Annual BMC Golf Tournament. Patient families joined us in welcoming golfers, managing the putting contest, and even hand-designing prizes for the winners!
- On a beautiful fall day in September, Autism Program staff rode 25-50 miles in this year's Rodman Ride for Kids, a bike ride that supports pediatric programs all across the state! After raising nearly \$10,000 for our program, our team loved crossing the finish line together!
- For the holiday season, the BMC Autism Program raised over \$1,200 through a GoFundMe, used to purchase gifts for patient families.

### Resource Innovation

The BMC Autism Program curates a rich and dynamic online and in-house resource library, which is designed to fill critical gaps with over 300 resources available to families.

Many of these resources have also been translated into Spanish and Chinese.



### Autism Awareness Day

Our annual **Autism Awareness Day Resource and Information Fair** was held in BMC's Shapiro Center lobby on Thursday April 2nd (World Autism Day). This widely attended event saw more than 100 visitors, including many professionals and patients from the BMC community. In addition to the more than a dozen exhibitors, a special visit was paid from the therapy dogs of BMC's Healing Paws Program!



*The needs of low-income children affected by ASD are vast and variable and yet critical support like that which is provided by Autism Specialists is neither billable nor reimbursable through insurance companies. The Autism Program thus relies on philanthropic support to maintain its functioning, continued growth, and success.*

**The BMC Autism Program would like thank the generous funders who make our work possible:**



JE & ZB Butler Foundation  
Kames/Gaffney Family

Anne and Paul Marcus Family  
Foundation  
Horner Family Foundation

Nancy Lurie Marks Family  
Foundation  
The Goodman Family

Bain Capital  
Children's Charity