

The Autism Beacon is Lighthouse Autism Center's virtual monthly newsletter. Take a look and learn about new center updates, staff spotlights and valuable resources for the autism community!

Lighthouse Center Happenings

Lighthouse Autism Center Opens New Center in Warsaw, Indiana!

After years of searching for a space to expand, Lighthouse Autism Center is pleased to announce a second location in Warsaw, IN located at 109 E Winona Ave in Warsaw, Indiana. Our Winona Lake center will feature beautifully remodeled spaces to promote natural and play-based learning. This expansion will provide additional services to over 25 families and create over 35 new jobs in the Warsaw area. We cannot wait for you to see it! Follow our Facebook page for progress updates and more information!

[Click here to see more photos of the new location](#)

Lighthouse Celebrates 114 Graduates

Lighthouse Autism Center is starting off the new school year strong! At the end of summer, we will be celebrating a total of 114 learners as they graduate from ABA therapy! For many learners, this means excelling in their personalized program and achieving all their goals! So many learners are transitioning into school settings, and

we couldn't be more proud! Follow us on Facebook to celebrate with us!

Congratulate Our Graduates on Facebook!

Learn More About Autism Evaluations

Immediate Openings for Autism Evaluations

Lighthouse Autism Center is now offering autism evaluations for children 2-6 years old. Appointments are available at every Lighthouse location. Children with autism often show signs in infancy but may not be diagnosed until much later. Early signs of autism in babies or toddlers often go unrecognized, simply because parents or caregivers may not know what to look for. One of the most important things you can do for your child after birth is to learn the early signs of autism.

Staff Spotlight: Alena

Alena is a Clinical Apprentice at our Niles center and has been with Lighthouse Autism Center since August of 2021. Prior to her current role, she was an Assistant/RBT Trainer. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor's in biopsychology, cognition and neuroscience with a focus in pre-med. She has a sweet and energetic golden-doodle named Gretchen that she loves to spend time with. Alena also loves reading, going to K-POP concerts and playing the piano in her free time.

What made you decide to apply to Lighthouse?

I applied to Lighthouse because I was taking a gap year before applying to medical school and I thought learning more about the autism spectrum would help me understand and expand my knowledge so I could better help future patients. I ended up falling in love with ABA and autism during my time as a therapist and decided to change my career path to stay in the field of ABA.

What is your favorite part of working at Lighthouse Autism Center?

My favorite part of working for Lighthouse is the opportunity to be creative and individualize services for each learner. I love that the goal is to enable growth specialized to each learner while finding the fun in every day. I love being able to continuously learn new things while building bonds with co-workers and learners.

How would you describe your experience working for Lighthouse?

I would describe my experience working with Lighthouse as optimistic, enlightening and rewarding. There have been challenging times but they have all been learning opportunities that have helped me grow in both my professional and personal goals.

Do you have a favorite memory from your time here?

One of my favorite memories is graduating the first learner I worked with. Many people were concerned with this client not being ready for school by the date they were graduating but once they started transitioning to school, they did so well that we graduated them a month early! It was bittersweet but so comforting and rewarding to know that they were ready even sooner than we anticipated. It was also a good reminder that it's good to stay optimistic and expect the best from all our learners, no matter the circumstance.

What advice you would like to share for those interested in a career at Lighthouse Autism Center?

If anybody is interested in a career at Lighthouse I would make sure that they know that it can be difficult and challenging but if their heart is in the work and they are wanting to change lives, it is definitely worth it.

[Learn More About Our Lighthouse Team](#)

Preparing for a Trip With Autistic Children

[Read More](#)

Planning any family trip or vacation is always fun but also incredibly stressful. This becomes even more challenging when you need to prepare for a trip with an autistic child. Apart from the normal checklists any trip requires, parents who combine the challenges of autism and traveling have to consider many other factors.

From managing your and your child's autism-related travel anxiety to ensuring their safety and comfort in new environments, here are a few tips on how to reduce risks and increase the fun on your next trip.

Resource of the Month: Hannah and Friends

Hannah and Friends Family Foundations is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and adults with special needs.

Maura and Charlie Weis founded Hannah & Friends in recognition of their daughter Hannah. The mission of Hannah & Friends is to improve the quality of life for children and adults with special needs.

We strive to raise awareness and compassion for all those with different abilities. We offer horse emotional therapy for our special population.

[Learn More Here](#)

Upcoming Community Events & Resources

Understanding Autism

August 15, 2023 at 5:30pm - 6:30pm - Online

Understanding Autism is essential for everyone. Autism is difficulty in Social Communication, Social interaction, and rigid thinking.

[Learn More Here](#)

ASD Virtual Parent and Caregiver Support Group

August 16, 2023 at 7:30pm - 8:30pm - Online

This group is a relaxed safe space for parents to share the joys and challenges of caring for someone with autism with people who get it.

Are you, or a someone you know, caring for a family member with an autism diagnosis? Join us on alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 pm for our free virtual ASD parent and caregiver support group, hosted by Cultivate Behavioral Health and Education!

This parent/caregiver support group is free and open to the community. We have created a relaxed and safe space for parents to share the joys and challenges of caring for someone with autism. It's also a great place to seek resources and meet other awesome parents who get it.

[Learn More Here](#)

Collaborating on Transition

August 18, 2023 at 12:00pm - 1:00pm - Online

As youth with disabilities move through school, we need to think about what comes next. Transition is the individualized action plan that addresses the skills, programs, and opportunities needed for the student to be successful after their school career ends. This online workshop covers the requirements of IEP transition planning. Successful collaboration is key to supporting students with disabilities transition to adulthood.

- Find out the differences between a transition IEP and a pre-transition IEP
- Explore the student's important role in their transition IEP
- Learn how the IEP prepares the student for life after school
- How to craft an IEP that accurately reflects a student's transition strengths, preferences, interests, and needs

[Learn More Here](#)

Supporting Siblings 2023

September 7, 2023 at 5:30pm - Online

Do you have a child with behavioral challenges?

Do you have other children who are impacted?

If so, caregivers and siblings are invited to join us!

Intended for siblings of youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Disabilities, and/or Mental Health Issues

What's it like? Over Zoom, siblings meet other children and teens who know what it's like to have a brother or sister with behavioral challenges. Siblings have a chance to talk, learn coping skills and feel better. The Zoom is facilitated by psychiatrists and trainees at UMass Chan Medical School.

What about parents & caregivers? First-time participants join a Zoom session led by our trained parent mentor. They learn about the sibling experience, the importance of supporting siblings, and strategies to support siblings. Returning participants join a different Zoom session, led by the program social worker, to address ongoing family challenges that impact siblings.

[Learn More Here](#)

Providing Autism Therapy Services to Families in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Iowa.

Find A Center!

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