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DIRECTORS AND ADVISORS



Daniel R. Rajczyk

Founder &
President

Diagnosed with Learning Disability when he was a child, Daniel did not learn that he had Asperger's Syndrome until the early 2000s.

Daniel earned his B.A. in Sociology and Media Studies at The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA and his M.A. in Information Technology at Endicott College, Beverly, MA. It was while studying at Endicott that Daniel first began formulating ideas about a nonprofit organization that was to become Asperger Works. His difficulties in finding and maintaining appropriate employment drove him to make his dream a reality.



Adam Rajczyk

Board of
Directors
Treasurer

Adam Rajczyk is a founding member of Asperger Works and is its treasurer. Mr. Rajczyk is a government disability professional who has been working as

a part-time consultant since his retirement in 2002.

He received his education in Poland (a country he left in 1968) and in the United States. He arrived in the United States in 1973 and became a citizen in 1977. Adam has made himself completely accessible to Asperger Works. He has been extremely supportive of Daniel as he grew from a child to adulthood and is proud of all Daniel's achievements.



M. Eva Rajczyk

Board of Directors
Secretary

Eva is another family member involved with Asperger Works. She arrived in the United States with her family as a child in 1959 after a harrowing escape from her native Hungary and two years in Montreal. She became an American citizen in 1965.

She received her B.A. in Social Studies and History from Salem State College and her M.S. Ed in Instructional Technology from Lesley University. She spent 25 years teaching high school students and still considers herself to be a teacher even after 14 years in retirement.

Eva is an active member of a number of civic organizations in Haverhill, MA. But her greatest effort and passion goes to advocating for Asperger Works to ensure that the organization will be

around as long as adults on the high-end of the Autism Spectrum need its services.



Marion Donahue
Board of Directors

Marion comes to us from Pentucket Bank where she is an Assistant Vice President and Senior Branch Manager at the bank's North Andover branch. She received the bank's Community Service Award in 2013 and is an active participant in various community organizations. Initially, she joined Asperger Works as our Fiscal Advisor.

Ms. Donahue attended Rivier College where she earned an Associate's degree in Art and Fashion Design. She continued her schooling at Hesser College earning a degree in Business Management.

She enjoys volunteering at local nonprofits like Asperger Works; and, in her spare time, she enjoys gardening. Additionally, Marion is a talented painter.



Eric Janowski
Board of Directors

Eric is an Associate Accountant with LitmanGerson Associates, LLP and is in the process of becoming certified as a CPA. He received his education at Merrimack College (Bachelors in Business Administration) and the University of Massachusetts Amherst (Masters in Accounting).

Eric hopes that his experiences in the accounting field will allow him to “enhance the prosperity” of our organization.



Tom Kulesa
Board of Directors

Tom, the youngest member of our organization, joined our Board in October of 2018. He is an investment banker at Alantra in Boston, Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Drexel University, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with a concentration in finance, magna cum laude.

Tom has close familial ties to Asperger's Syndrome and is an

advocate to help those with AS. He brings many years of experience working with non-profit organizations specializing in strategic planning, fundraising and event organization. Tom brings a strong voice to the Board of Directors and helps lead the organization to accomplish its goals of aiding those with Asperger's Syndrome.



Karen Merrill
Board of Directors

Karen Merrill has 17 years' experience dealing with Asperger's Syndrome. Her grandson was diagnosed with AS in early childhood. He spent a great deal of time with her through the years as he struggled with developmental, behavioral, and social interactions in his home and at school. He now resides with her. She is committed to helping him navigate the world as an adult, teaching him the life skills required to be independent.

Karen has over 20 years of experience in various office positions from Receptionist to AP Manager. The last 8 years she has been employed at Concert Pharmaceuticals as an Accountant. She has also worked at an assisted-living facility working with the elderly living with Dementia and Alzheimer's. She has worked as a hospice volunteer, was Chair of Fellowship and a member of the Christian Education Committee

at Trinity Lutheran Church, Chelmsford, and cooks and delivers meals to the elderly.



Katalin M. Baltimore
Advisory Board

Kati, as she is known to family and friends, is Daniel's and Lisa's aunt and Eva's sister who resides in Orange, CT. She received her B.S. in Biology from Tufts University, her M.S. Ed in Counseling Psychology from Teacher's College, Columbia University, and M.S. in Library Science from Long Island University. Presently, she is the Librarian at the Jewish Community Center Library in Woodbridge, CT.

She is involved in many civic organizations in and around Orange, CT. But her greatest passion is Asperger Works and serves as our go-to person for information about Asperger's and autism.



E. Philip Brown
Advisory Board

Phil is a retired history teacher from Haverhill High School. He received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts, an M.S. in Applied Management from Lesley University, and is presently working towards his Ph.D.

He has written a number of trivia books tied to his hometown of Haverhill, MA and is involved in many civic organizations based in Haverhill. He lives in Haverhill with his wife and two sons. A documentary Phil produced, *The Queen of Connemara*, won the Global Film Festival Award for December, 2018. He is Asperger Works' idea man suggesting ways to find funding and different activities he feels would be beneficial to our organization.



Rachel McMeen
Advisory Board

The common thread in Rachel McMeen's career is leadership, relationship building, and strategic planning. Her jobs included sales and marketing management positions in technology companies and in local non-profits. The non-profits she works with support causes she cares deeply about, such as children facing medical challenges or families working towards becoming self-sufficient. She likes the challenge of organizations in start-up or re-start mode, hence her involvement with Asperger Works.

In addition to providing business consulting to non-profit organizations, she works as a real estate broker with Purple Finch Properties, LLC. She lives in Nashua NH with her husband Phil McMeen. Phil is a retired commercial airline pilot who spends

much time on his hobby of rehabbing antique homes. Rachel and Phil enjoy their extended family, especially their four-year-old granddaughter who lights up their lives.



Lisa S. Rajczyk
Advisory Board
Volunteer
Coordinator

Lisa, Daniel's sister, is also a founding member of Asperger Works, Inc. and is not only a member of our Advisory Board but is also our Volunteer Coordinator. She has been painfully aware of her brother's employment-related difficulties and is completely committed to the success of this organization.

Ms. Rajczyk graduated from The Evergreen State College (Olympia and Tacoma, Washington) with a BA in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Education and Law. She has also earned a number of certifications, including the National Paralegal Certification from WOLI. Lisa is very socially conscious, a fact that is demonstrated by the many volunteer projects and activities she has been involved in over the years. She has been tireless in promoting Asperger Works both in person and as our organization's Social Media go-to person. She is a former Director, a position she vacated in order to be able to concentrate on



recruiting volunteers and interns to help out our organization.



Richard Rodriguez
Advisory Board

Richard Rodriguez is an advocate for people with disabilities. Richard grew up in a housing project in New York City and has first-hand knowledge of the difficulties faced by children with disabilities, having been a victim of bullying due to his speech and hearing difficulties.

Today Richard practices law in the Merrimack Valley area and serves as the president of the Lawrence Commission on Disability and as Advisory Board Member to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

He earned his B.A. from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, a Postgraduate Public Policy Certificate from the Coro Foundation, and his J.D. degree from the Massachusetts School of Law.

He brings to Asperger Works his knowledge of disability Law and his belief that everyone deserves a chance to succeed in life according to his/her knowledge without fear of discrimination. Attorney Rodriguez was selected to serve as Alumni Speaker at John Jay College in order to motivate and inspire similarly disadvantaged students.

Linda Thomson
Advisory Board



Linda Thomson is a realtor with Keller Williams serving families in Greater Middlesex County with their real estate needs. Growing up in a military family, Linda lived in various location in the US as well as abroad; but with parents born and raised in Boston, she has always considered Massachusetts her “home base.”

Prior to joining Keller Williams, Linda worked at one of the nation’s largest banks helping clients with their savings and lending needs. Earlier in her career, she held marketing and public relations positions in various industries including technology, banking, and fashion.

Linda currently lives in Wilmington with two of her youngest children, Sam and Elisabeth. Her son was diagnosed with autism as a toddler and, with support of many dedicated professionals, he earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Graphic Design in 2014.



AND WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS?



**Thomas "Woody"
Wood**
Honorary Board
Member

Beside members of the Rajczyk family, Woody has been the longest serving Board member of Asperger Works. He joined the organization in order to be a liaison between us and other nonprofits dealing with issues that people on the Autism Spectrum face.

He brought us his personal knowledge of the difficulties faced by disabled adults, especially those with Asperger's Syndrome. Woody was diagnosed with Asperger's only about 13 years ago but has faced adversity all his life since he also suffers from Cerebral Palsy. He is a powerful advocate for our organization and for the disabled community. He is not afraid to confront influential politicians if he feels that such a challenge would benefit those he advocates for.



Jenn Tullgren
Volunteer
Former Intern

Jenn has been volunteering and working with individuals with different developmental, intellectual, and psychological disabilities since 2004. In her volunteer work, her interest in Autism sparked, leading her to do

extensive research, which then turned into passion.

She joined Asperger Works as an intern from Middlesex Community College, where she is working towards her Associates in Human Services. Her goal is to keep on working with individuals with different abilities. She continues to volunteer with our organization as she believes in our philosophy and supports Daniel Rajczyk in his determination to make a difference for others with Asperger's Syndrome.



Many thanks also go to this winter's volunteers from China: Han Taixing, Zhao Helen, and Xiao Jingjing.

During the month each of them spent with Asperger Works, they labored hard designing our invitations, flyers, and the cover of this program book. They also did a lot of research work that the rest of us did not have time for.

Differences Between Autism & Asperger's

People often ask us what is the difference between autism and Asperger's. After all, they are both on the Autism Spectrum.

Below, please find a very informative description from the Autism Society (<http://www.autism-society.org/what-is/aspergers-syndrome/>):

“What distinguishes Asperger's Disorder [Syndrome] from classic autism are its less severe symptoms and the absence of language delays. Children with Asperger's Disorder may be only mildly affected, and they frequently have good language and cognitive skills. To the untrained observer, a child with Asperger's Disorder may just seem like a neurotypical child behaving differently.

“Children with autism are frequently viewed as aloof and uninterested in others. This is not the case with Asperger's Disorder. Individuals with Asperger's Disorder usually want to fit in and have interaction with others, but often they don't know how to do it. They may be socially awkward, not understand conventional social rules or show a lack of empathy. They may have limited eye contact, seem unengaged in a conversation and not understand the use of gestures or sarcasm.

“Their interests in a particular subject may border on the obsessive. Children with Asperger's Disorder often like to collect categories of things, such as rocks or bottle caps. They may be proficient in knowledge categories of information, such as baseball statistics

or Latin names of flowers. They may have good rote memory skills but struggle with abstract concepts.

“One of the major differences between Asperger's Disorder and autism is that, by definition, there is no speech delay in Asperger's. In fact, children with Asperger's Disorder frequently have good language skills; they simply use language in different ways. Speech patterns may be unusual, lack inflection or have a rhythmic nature, or may be formal, but too loud or high-pitched. Children with Asperger's Disorder may not understand the subtleties of language, such as irony and humor, or they may not understand the give-and-take nature of a conversation.

“Another distinction between Asperger's Disorder and autism concerns cognitive ability. While some individuals with autism have intellectual disabilities, by definition, a person with Asperger's Disorder cannot have a “clinically significant” cognitive delay, and most possess average to above-average intelligence.

“While motor difficulties are not a specific criterion for Asperger's, children with Asperger's Disorder frequently have motor skill delays and may appear clumsy or awkward.”

We would like to take this opportunity once more to thank you for supporting us by coming to this year's Dinner of Hope.

See you next year!



We welcome **KBK Sports**, a sports marketing company that is centered around providing fundraising support and sports memorabilia auctions to charities, corporate outings and community events.

For more information, see <https://www.kbksports.com/>

Asperger Works' Mission

to **educate employers** about the contributions adults with Asperger's Syndrome (AS) can make to their companies through employment; and to **help put adults with AS to work** by providing employment-related services and training in a caring and open environment.

In other words, our goal is to help adults with AS become what they want to be: self-supporting, valuable members of society. The way to achieve this goal is through appropriate employment.

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