



DONATED FOR SILENT AUCTION

Hunter Renfroe autographed baseball

from



Donation Xchange

Valued at \$75

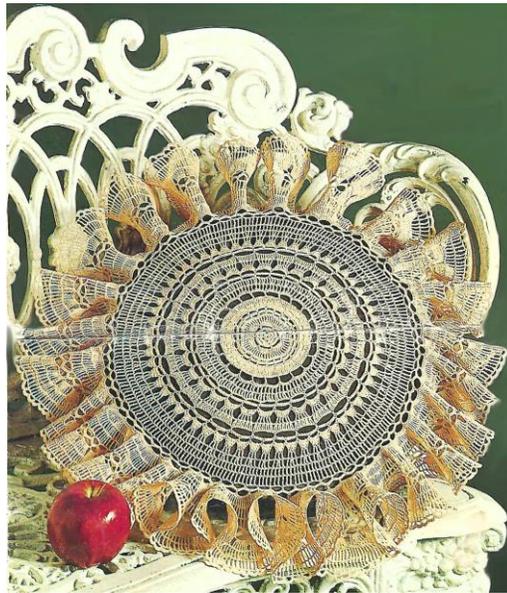




DONATED FOR SILENT AUCTION

**Tall Ship at Nantucket Island
framed 16" X 20" print on canvas
professionally framed on a floater type frame
by the artist, James Wong**

Valued at \$160

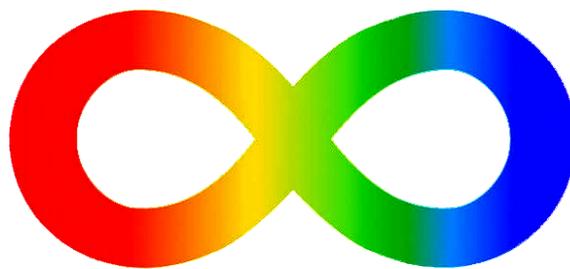


DONATED FOR SILENT AUCTION

By
Eva Rajczyk

24" hand-crocheted round decorative pillow

Valued at \$50



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#AWorksCares



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Ward Hill, MA 01835**

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&**

97.9 WHAV The Only Haverhill-Based News Source **Wavelengths**

THE BRAVEST THINGS TO DO

Trust again after betrayal

Love again after heartbreaks

Try again after failures

Smile again after being hurt

Ask again after rejection

Believe again after frustration

@_OurMindfulLife



Daniel R. Rajczyk

Founder /
President /
Executive Director

Diagnosed with
Learning
Disability when

he was a child, Daniel did not learn that he had Asperger's Syndrome, a neurodevelopmental disorder associated with Autism, 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

Director / 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 U.S. citizen in 1977. Rajczyk has made himself completely accessible to Asperger Works. He has been extremely supportive of Daniel and Lisa as they grew from children to adulthood and is proud of all of Daniel's and Lisa's achievements.



M. Eva Rajczyk

Director /
Secretary

Eva Rajczyk 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 17 years in retirement.

Rajczyk is an active member of several civic and political organizations in Haverhill. But her greatest efforts and passion goes to advocating for her children and Asperger Works.

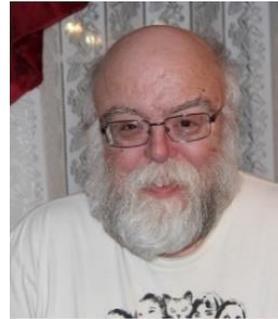


Lisa S. Rajczyk
Director / Volunteer
Coordinator

Lisa Rajczyk, Mr. Rajczyk's sister, is also a founding member of Asperger Works and is our Volunteer Coordinator. She has been painfully aware of her brother's employment-related difficulties since they mirror her own and is completely committed to the success of Asperger Works.

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 several certifications, including the National Paralegal Certification from WOLI. Lisa is

very socially conscious, a fact that is demonstrated by the many volunteer projects she has participated in over the years.



**Thomas "Woody"
Wood**
Director

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 brings us his personal knowledge of the difficulties faced by disabled adults, especially those with Asperger's Syndrome. Although diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome only about 17 years ago, Woody he 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.



Katalin M. Baltimore
Advisor

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 and Psychology from Teacher's College, Columbia University, and M.S. in Library Science from Long Island University. She has recently retired as the Librarian at the Jewish Community Center Library in Woodbridge, CT.

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



Philip Brown
Advisor

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.



Marion Donahue
Advisor

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.

Marion attended Rivier College where she earned an Associate 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, Marian is an accomplished painter.



Christle Roberts
Advisor

Christle Roberts, our newest team member, comes to us from Lowell, MA.

She has been involved in mutual aid work and volunteers with the Pollard Memorial Library literacy program in Lowell. As an educator, Christle has worked both as a teacher and a tutor. While attending UMass Boston, she worked as an insurance agent and as the office manager/treasurer for the Faculty Staff Union on campus. Her BA is in Labor Studies (with a management concentration). She has a master's degree in Adult Education as well as an e-learning concentration from the University of Phoenix.

Roberts has lived experience with autism, with both of her teen children having an autism diagnosis. She helps in advocating for those with autism diagnosis who are looking for meaningful employment.



Richard Rodriguez
Advisor

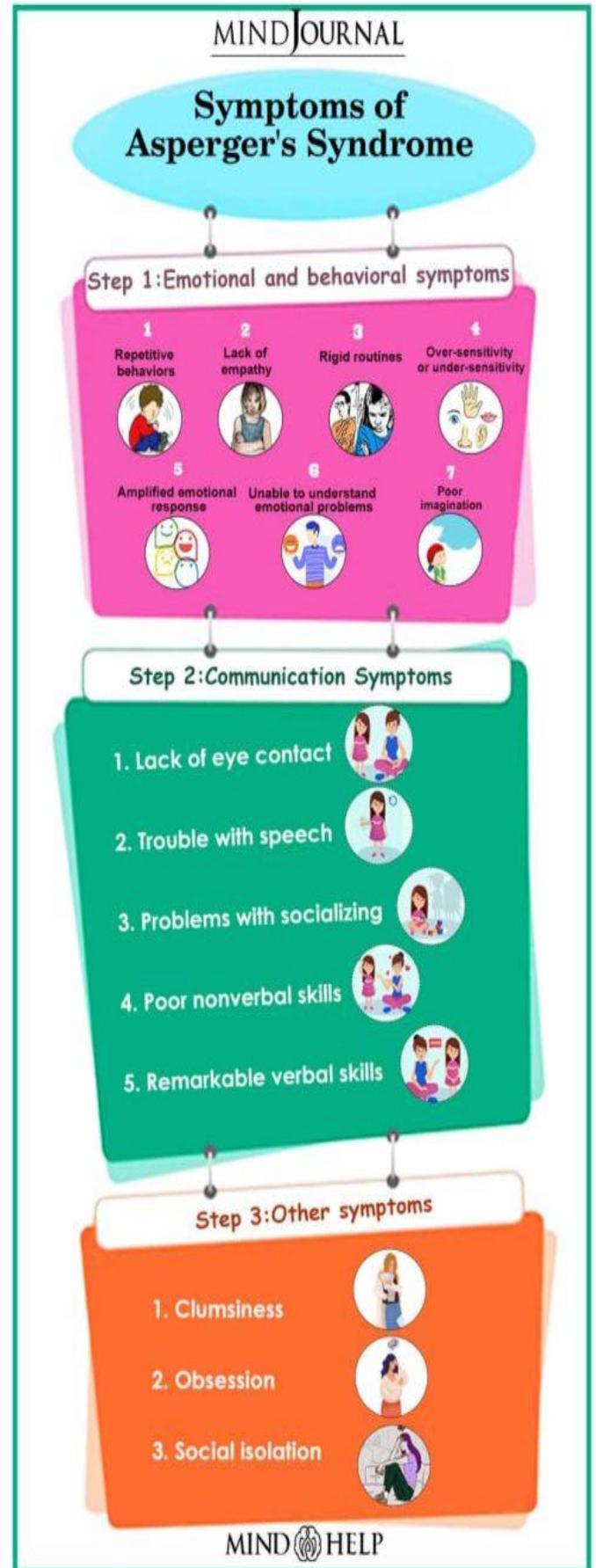
Richard Rodriguez is an advocate for people with all kinds of disabilities, including Asperger's and has been a member of our team since 2015. Richard grew up in a housing project in New York City and has first-hand knowledge of the difficulties faced by children with disabilities, having been a victim 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 member of the Advisory Board to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. In July of 2022, he was appointed as the ADA Compliance Officer in Lawrence by Mayor Brian DePeña.

Rodriguez 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 to motivate and inspire similarly disadvantaged students.





Aspie Strengths

Intelligence, Special Interest, Memory: average to very high intelligence, good verbal skills, ability to absorb and retain large amounts of information, ability to think in visual images, and propensity to think outside the box and generate novel solutions to problems.

Strong Focus: ability (in some cases a preference) for spending time alone, interest in arcane or off-beat fields of knowledge, and ability to concentrate for long periods of time on reading, experimenting, writing.

Detail-oriented: ability to notice small details of an idea, theory, number pattern, book, film, object or visual image, ability to perform repetitive tasks where accuracy, rules, and routine are important, strong work ethic, and commitment to quality and accuracy of work.

Unique humor: play with language and create puns and enjoy sarcasm and satire.

Honesty: ability and tendency to tell the truth—even if it's not tactful or in one's self-interest and the desire and tendency to follow rules.

Desire to Connect: expend effort and energy to learn social skills that do not come naturally, persevere in the face of rejection, confusion, or frustration, believe the best of everyone (sometimes naively), and accept quirkiness or imperfection in others, and become a loyal friend.

Fair and Just: tendency to be unconventional, open-minded, and tolerant, intensely responsive when made aware of injustice, advocate for the underdog, victims of bullying or member of an oppressed group and tendency to relate to and defend animals.

Differences Between Autism & Asperger's

People often ask us what the difference between autism and Asperger's is. 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 interact 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!

The mission of
Asperger Works is

- 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 self-supporting, valuable members of society through appropriate employment.

Happy 50th Anniversary

to

Adam & Eva

#AWorksCares



Asperger Works

Putting autism to work

48 Marshland Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
351-208-9450

<https://aspergerworks.org/>
info@aspergerworks.org

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