



## Jack Gives Back Charity Golf Scramble

To Benefit the Autism Alliance of MetroWest and  
the Fred Gaspari Fund for Families, Programs of Advocates

**Friday, August 19, 2011**  
**Stow Acres Country Club, Stowe MA**

Registration: 12:30-1pm • Tee-off: 1:30 Shotgun • Cost: \$150

This includes entry into all events, 18-holes of golf, riding cart, range balls, dinner and chance to win various prizes!

\* Longest Drive \* Closest to the Pin \* Best Team Score \* \$10,000 Hole in One \*

**RAFFLES AND AUCTION ITEMS**

Register online at [www.autismalliance.org](http://www.autismalliance.org).

Questions? Please contact Heather Harrington at (508) 628-6428 or email [Events@AdvocatesInc.org](mailto:Events@AdvocatesInc.org).

Don't golf? Support our cause by making a monetary donation or donating a raffle item.



# Thanks to you!

A NEWSLETTER FOR ADVOCATES SUPPORTERS

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Summer 2011

## YOUR SUPPORT BRINGS WELCOME CHEER TO CHILDREN IN NEED

According to Advocates clinician Amy Porrecca, for a child visiting a therapist for the first time, "the experience can be an overwhelming and anxious one, especially when nothing seems familiar." Thanks to you and corporate partners, including Telamon Insurance & Financial Network and Parsons Commercial Group, young children visiting Advocates Community Care in Marlborough will feel more at ease upon entering the newly renovated and "kid-friendly" reception area.

With your generous contributions to our recent fundraising efforts, Advocates' clinicians were able to transform the reception area into a familiar and welcoming place for children and parents alike. Dull, muted colors have been replaced by vibrant, primary-colored, child-sized furnishings. Children may entertain themselves with a wide array of books and games, and parents benefit from the new community board that features family-friendly events and resources available in the area. "We're delighted with the new space, and it will help the children we see to have a positive experience each time they visit," says Amy.



## Advocates Supporters Share Vision of Compassionate Communities

Long-time Advocates supporter Rosemary Colson has found in Advocates an ideal match for her philanthropic goals. Relatives of Advocates president and CEO, Bill Taylor, Rosemary and her father Charles Colson took a keen interest in Advocates mission because they saw up close the difference Advocates services make in local communities.

I experienced first-hand what a difference Advocates services could make, and did make, for my students and their families."

*"Some people have a hard time finding support services anywhere, but Advocates is there for them and for their families."*

In Advocates' mission, Rosemary finds a reflection of her own values. Working in area schools for almost forty years, Rosemary knows that their donations are being used effectively to help individuals and families. She explains, "As Advocates grew and added an emergency response program to help schools and young people experiencing psychiatric emergencies and trauma,

Advocates Framingham Jail Diversion Program, a partnership with the Framingham Police Department which diverts individuals with mental illness and addiction

from the criminal justice system to the human services system, is especially meaningful to Rosemary who is herself active with a community based juvenile justice program.

"Advocates provides exceptional services to meet the needs of an unusually wide spectrum of people with special needs. Some people have a hard time finding support services anywhere, but Advocates is there for them and for their families."

## GASPARI FUND FOR FAMILIES

### *Small Grants, Big Impact*

The Advocates Family Alliance, a partnership between Advocates staff and family members of individuals who receive services, recently completed its third cycle of grants to local families who care for loved ones with developmental disabilities at home.

The grant program is one way the Alliance is achieving its vision of families helping families.

### Meet Jack



Jack was born on September 10, 2003. His early years were typical, but around eighteen months, Jack's learning hit a bump. His eye contact and speech began regressing and within a few short months his behavior regressed too. His vocabulary became non-existent. After many visits to Children's Hospital Boston, Jack was placed on the autism spectrum. Shortly thereafter he began to receive Applied Behavior Analysis and speech therapy and enrolled in a school tailored to fit his needs.

Today Jack is seven years old. Although he remains non-verbal, he is never without a smile. Jack is very affectionate and loves to be hugged and tickled. Through the love and dedication of his family and the support of the Autism Alliance of MetroWest, Jack is thriving.

"Small grants can make a big difference for families caring for loved ones with disabilities," says member Rhea Ghallager. "As family members ourselves, we want to reach out to others and let them know that support is available to help with the challenges."

For the Rodrigues family of Framingham, a grant of \$500 made a world of difference for their fourteen-year-old son Ryan who has multiple disabilities.

While Ryan is unable to walk, talk or see, "he has little arms that reach out with enough love for the entire world," says his father George. The family used their grant to convert one of their homes' bedrooms into a designated therapy room with adapted toys and equipment. Ryan spends quality time doing exercises "that help him achieve some independence in his daily life," according to George.

"Ryan is doing much better than he was last year. He's taking steps now," George told Julia Spitz of the MetroWest Daily News in May of this year. As for the impact of the Gaspari grant on his family's life, George says, "it's a blessing."

To learn more about the Gaspari Fund for Families, visit [www.AdvocatesInc.org/Resources-ForFamilies](http://www.AdvocatesInc.org/Resources-ForFamilies).



## FATHER AND SON HOST CHARITY GOLF SCRAMBLE

**Join them on August 19th and help families with autism access vital resources and support!**

To continue to provide support to families like the Rodrigueses we rely on the generosity of you - our supporters. This summer we are thrilled to partner with Eric Brickley, a volunteer, donor and parent, to bring you the **Jack Gives Back Charity Golf Scramble**. All proceeds from the event will benefit the **Autism Alliance of MetroWest** and the **Gaspari Fund for Families**, both programs of Advocates.

Eric and his son Jack (see sidebar) themselves have benefited from the many resources and supportive community provided by the Autism Alliance of MetroWest. To ensure that all in need can access the resources of the Autism Alliance of MetroWest and the Fred Gaspari Fund for Families, Eric started the **Jack Gives Back Charity Golf Scramble**.

Come out with your friends for a day of friendly competition and join Eric and Jack in supporting these great programs!

Register online at [www.autismalliance.org](http://www.autismalliance.org). See reverse for more information.

The **Autism Alliance of MetroWest** provides resources, information and support for hundreds of area families caring for children on the autism spectrum.

The **Fred Gaspari Fund for Families** makes small grants to help families provide care for their loved ones with developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorders who live at home.

## You Pave the Way to Recovery

### The Fraleigh Family

Jill and Russell Fraleigh have learned first-hand that recovery is possible for people who experience significant mental health challenges. In the early eighties, their son David was a patient at Westborough State Hospital. At the time, options in the community for people with serious psychiatric diagnoses were limited, and "patients" and their families were often encouraged to settle for "coping" with symptoms while struggling against the tide of stigma in the community.

Yet David and his parents hoped for much more, and at Advocates the possibility of recovery became a reality. In 1983, David moved into an Advocates group home in Framingham. Over the years, David has worked with Advocates staff to identify and reach many important life goals, including living independently in his own apartment. Today, he does just that with support from Advocates MetroWest Outreach Program.

"We're so glad David can live independently with the benefits of staff to provide support with medications, errands and other needs," says Jill. David particularly enjoys participating in Advocates-sponsored recreation, like trips to the Worcester Art Museum and weekly movie nights.

Early on, Jill and Russell decided to help others access the supports they need to succeed in their recovery. Says Russell, "Advocates has given so much to us, and our support in turn makes a difference for thousands of people. It's very important to us."



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### Fran's Recovery Journey

Supporters like you and Russell and Jill Fraleigh pave the way for people with mental health challenges to embark on their recovery journeys. Each person must do the hard work of making that journey, but your support provides the tools, resources and training that make it possible.

For Fran Albrecht, your support has been transformational. At 41, Fran experienced auditory hallucinations that disrupted his sleep and daily living. At the time, he was living in his own apartment with support from Advocates Mental Health Division outreach staff, but these new symptoms became too much to manage while living on his own. He moved into an Advocates group home in 2008 and set to work on his recovery with support from Advocates staff.

Working with a staff member trained as a facilitator in Person-Centered Planning has been critical for Fran. Advocates staff also introduced him to the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) process. Using these tools, Fran has been able to identify his own life goals and aspirations and determine the supports he needs to achieve them.

*Now I'm easing back into the workforce. That's a good feeling.*

Recently, Fran reached two major milestones: he moved into his own apartment, and he became engaged to his girlfriend Gloria, whom he met while working towards his recovery. "It is a great feeling of independence and brings with it the privileges of freedom," says Fran. "I've learned that I can get through things in my life that are difficult."

For Fran, the future shines bright. He is working part-time for a local non-profit organization and looking forward to marrying Gloria. "Now I'm easing back into the workforce. That's a good feeling."