

Special points of interest:

- *Don't gamble on your child's education! Come "Cruz for Autism" with us in February.*
- *Has your family joined The Chase Academy? Chase the Dream with us by becoming a member!*
- *Would you like to make a contribution to The Chase Academy? Review our Financial Gift and Scholarship programs for how you can make the most impact!*

Letter from the Executive Director

Commitment 2007: Turn Desire into Action

Dear Parents:

I do not know about you, but each New Year, I think about what I would like to do to have a better year than the one before. As I approach 2007, it is no different. I ask myself, "What can I do to challenge myself to do better, to *be* better?" My number one priority on that list is to open The Chase Academy. If there is anything that 2006 taught me, it is in order for the Academy to succeed, I have to **DO!** The Chase Academy will not open just because I *want* it to, or even because I *need* it to; it will only open because I have turned **desire into action**. So for 2007, I would like us to not only **Chase the Dream**, but for each one of us to decide to **turn desire into action**. If we do not do this, success cannot be guaranteed and opportunity may just pass us by.

As we approach the New Year and start actively working at selling our **CRUZ FOR AUTISM** tickets for the fundraiser, it has become clear to me that **parents are the key** to opening the doors at The Chase Academy. This fundraiser has the potential to raise \$20,000 for the Academy, should

all 500 tickets be sold. While this is nowhere near what we need long term, it would allow us to function with the ability to pay for basic services, a website, marketing materials, etc. It would be a tremendous beginning for us.

Our community is listening to the Autism message, and with Autism hitting the news so much these days, we have the power to ride the wave and create new opportunity for our kids. However, the Volusia County community will not do more than its parents, and will not care if it appears that no parents are speaking out. **Parents need to get involved, advocate, volunteer and donate.** You must know this is true.

The Steering Committee members and I have gotten the Academy this far on sheer will power – we have convinced several influential community members to get involved, have gotten the attention of other local disability-based not for profits, including the ARC with whom we have built a developmental partnership. All now realize that Autism is not only an issue, but one that cannot be swept quietly under the rug here in Volusia County. The



MIRIAM "MIMI" LUNDELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chase Academy started with us two founders and my sister, before adding Lili Withelder, Jim King and Lora Brewer to our ranks. For just the six of us, I think we have moved mountains! Think of what the support of the hundreds of parents in Volusia County who represent their autistic children can do. Just think of what would happen if they would decide to turn their **desire into action!**

In order to get where we need to be in 2007, the Academy needs the support of its parents – parents who are ready to fight and make changes, to help us get this school up and running. I need parents to realize that you cannot **WAIT** for change. This time, **you** must **BE** the change. Without you there will be no Chase Academy, no hope for change and no

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Letter from the Executive Director

discernible difference between your child's future last year and in the year to come. Please make the commitment – commit to **turn your desire into action**. I know that for me in this coming year, there is so much more that I can do – and for you, so much

more that you can offer.

I look forward to working with you in 2007 to change the face of Autism Education in this County and beyond.

Mimi Lundell


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PS – Look for my upcoming article in the January Issue of *Women's Lifestyle* Magazine, and for my interview with Linda Trimble of the Daytona Beach News Journal!


The SCERTS® Model: Clarification of the December 2006 Article


The Chase Academy has received some questions from readers about some of the points in our December 2006 article on the SCERTS® model. Please refer to the clarifications below from our Executive Director:

Regarding the section reading, "SCERTS® is currently being implemented this year as only a pilot program, and even when fully implemented will only cover the first two levels of the SCERTS® model, as the third level deals with socialization and pragmatic issues."


 *The use of the term "pilot program" references a system in which a curriculum program is "piloted" in several classrooms throughout the County before being expanded into all classrooms at an agreed-upon pace. It does not indicate that the program is in any way tem-*

porary.

 *SCERTS® utilizes pragmatics at all three levels of its program. The third level has less emphasis on verbal communication simply because the child has mastered 1000 words by this point.*

 *According to professionals, the County decided to only provide initial training in levels I and II to aid in quick implementation, and the County will explore expansion of the model at the end of 2006-2007.*

Regarding the statement reading, "children like my son, who already have reached level III receive few real services under the public school's model of this program."

 *This statement speaks only to services offered within the SCERTS® model and not all program services offered within the IEP. Other services such as OT and Speech Therapy continue without regard to SCERTS®.*

It has also been brought to the Academy's attention that Volusia County Public Schools is the first county within the State of Florida to attempt to implement the SCERTS® program in multiple classrooms.

The Chase Academy joins with others in applauding the County's attempts to address the specific concerns of students with Autism, and the Academy supports the hope that this program will continue to expand and thrive within Volusia County Public Schools as it continues to address the specific needs of its ASD students.

New Chamber Member for 2007

The Chase Academy is proud to announce that, **thanks to our new members**, we have been able to join the Daytona Beach / Halifax Area Chamber of Commerce. As good fortune would have it, we were able to get in right under the wire so that we will be included in the Chamber's 2007 Member-

ship Directory. Another immediate bonus for the Academy is that the Chamber has posted our *Cruz for Autism* fundraiser event on its Community Calendar. We look forward to the access for community involvement

that our membership will provide.



Best Practices in Education for ASD

Dr. Amy Wetherby will be giving a seminar on *Best Practices in Education for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)* at the Easter Seals of Volusia and Flagler Counties on January 11, 2007 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

Dr. Wetherby is an L.L. Schendel Professor of Communication Disorders at FSU and Executive Director of the FSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. As there is limited space, Easter Seals asks that those wishing to

attend should RSVP by contacting Ashlee Harmon at 255-4568 as soon as possible.

The Chase Academy will be attending.

Commitment 2007 A Parents' Guide: What You Can Do To Turn Action Into Desire

GET INVOLVED

- ✍ Become a member of The Chase Academy TODAY! Our Membership Application is on page 5.
- ✍ Attend meetings, read newsletters, respond to emails.

ADVOCATE

- ✍ Share the mission of The Chase Academy with your community organization, church or civic group. Arrange for our Executive Director to speak at your next group meeting. Contact her at mtlundell@aol.com.
- ✍ Recruit parents to join our cause – spread the word!
- ✍ Refer new memberships from your family, friends and co-workers.
- ✍ Send letters of support to state and local representatives:

Florida State Senators whose Districts include part of Volusia County can be contacted at:

404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Sen. Evelyn Lynn
Senate Office Bldg - Room 212
(850) 487-5033
lynn.evelyn.web@flsenate.gov

Sen. Tony Hill, Sr.
Senate Office Bldg - Room 213
(850) 487-5024
hill.anthony.web@flsenate.gov

Sen. Jim King, Jr.
Senate Office Bldg - Room 400
(850) 487-5030
(850) 487-5368 FAX
king.james.web@flsenate.gov

Sen. Carey Baker
Senate Office Bldg - Room 316
(850) 487-5014
baker.carey.web@flsenate.gov

Florida State Representatives whose Districts include part of Volusia County can be contacted at:

204 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
(850) 488-0468

Rep. Joyce Cusack
Rep. Pat Patterson
Rep. Dorothy Hukill
Rep. Sandy Adams
Rep. Alan Hays
Rep. Joe Pickens

VOLUNTEER

- ✍ Join a committee: Fundraising, Facilities, Membership, or Gift Program.
- ✍ Coordinate fundraising ticket sales in your area.
- ✍ Sell *at least* 10 tickets to the *Cruz for Autism* fundraiser.

DONATE

- ✍ Inquire within your workplace as to its corporate charitable gift programs. Send this information to our Director of Funding: tafte@bellsouth.net.
- ✍ Send financial gifts of any amount to The Chase Academy. See our gift program for levels of giving on page 4.

Thank you to all the parents & friends who have mailed letters of support to Sen. Lynn on behalf of the Academy!

Why You Should Donate to The Chase Academy

For The Chase Academy, corporate gifts and private donations will be the *only* means of opening the doors. Our Steering committee consists of two professional grant-writers, who were fully prepared to gather funds through public and private grant resources. However, it became increasingly clear through extensive research that Volusia County is not within most organization's geographical range for gifting capital funds to those categorized under "disabilities," "autism," or "education."

Capital funding is that type of funding which enables start-up groups with good ideas to find the capital to get the organization up and running. All granting institutions have a right to choose their geographical range of interest – those areas such as South Florida, New England, and California receive the bulk of this type of funding.

Luckily, once our school is a reality, we become eligible for all kinds of grants under such categories as IT, Library

Sciences, Community Relations, Physical Education, Program Development, and Research.

Your investment now will ensure that the Academy is around to apply and receive the myriad of grant resources available for the education of Autistic children.

Please support The Chase Academy through our Gift Program **TODAY!**

Cruz for Autism Sponsored by SunCruz Casino

Tickets for our inaugural *Cruz for Autism* have been on sale since December. Now that the New Year is upon us, we are making a big push to sell our 500 tickets because we only have until **February 10th** to complete our sales. The sale of these 500 tickets will earn \$20,000 for The Chase Academy! This

does not even include the potential earnings from our poker and slot machine tournaments. Also, SunCruz has designated a slot machine from which all its proceeds will be donated to the Academy. This event has the potential to bring in a lot of money to give us a huge leap forward in making the dream

a reality. Please buy your tickets today! With all of our community advertising, they will go fast. This is sure to be a great evening of fun for a tremendous cause that you will not want to miss. To buy tickets, or if you would like to help out by selling tickets, contact Eileen at tafte@bellsouth.net.

The Chase Academy Gift Program

Academy FRIENDS: up to \$1,000

- Classroom Supplies
- Office Supplies
- Student Curriculum Books

Academy FELLOWS : \$1,001 - \$5,000

- Classroom Audio/Visual Equipment
- Classroom Computer Station (1 student)
- Administrative or Facility:
 - office equipment
 - furniture
- Therapeutic Equipment
- Professional Development Training

Academy CHAMPIONS : \$5,001 - \$10,000

- One Furnished Classroom
- Parent Resource Center
- Motor Skills Development Center
- One Student's Annual Tuition Scholarship

Academy HEROES : above \$10,000

- Learning Resource Center (LRC) Materials
- LRC Technology Lab
- Playground Facility

The Chase Academy Scholarship Program

The Chase Academy is dependent upon the philanthropic spirit of our community to assure that no autistic child that is eligible to attend our Academy is turned away due to financial hardship.

You can help provide an opportunity for a child whose world seems strangely hostile, and is unable to find comfort and stability, a place where learning is fun and success is a daily experience. The Chase Academy is asking you to sponsor **at least one** of these deserving children by providing an **annual scholarship of just \$5,000**.

You will receive a profile and academic progress report of your scholarship recipient, for whom you make The Chase Academy dream a reality. You will be building a connection between our community and those with ASD.

Please consider giving; talk to your religious organization, your civic organization and your company. An annual gift can change one life, and offer a better future for everyone. With 1 in 166 children diagnosed with Autism, their educational success becomes the success of our whole community. Currently the annual U.S. economic cost of Autism is estimated to be 35 Billion dollars. Let's educate them now, and not wait until they need adult services to ensure their long-term care. If we educate them now, they will be independent enough to care for themselves. They just need the chance. **Won't you be that chance?**

I wish to sponsor a student at The Chase Academy in the following manner:

_____ Student(s) \$ 5,000.00 each

One Student	_____ \$ 5,000	_____ \$ 7,000	_____ \$ 10,000
	_____ \$ 13,000	_____ \$ 15,000	\$ _____ OTHER
One Student	_____ 2 years	_____ 3 years	_____ 4 years
	_____ 5 years	_____ 6 years	_____ OTHER

Other Financial Gift: \$ _____ **Designation:** _____

(Capital Fund, Supplies, Office Equipment, Furniture, Library, I/T, Playground, etc.)

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to: The Chase Academy, Inc.)

Company or Organization Name _____

Contact Person _____

Mailing Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Thank you to the following organizations for donating prizes to our *Cruz for Autism* fundraiser:

-  LPGA International
-  Marine Discovery Center
-  Stephanie Hill - Artist
-  Inlet Harbor Restaurant

For our top ticket sales winner, we are pleased to be able to provide a night out at the Ocean Walk:

-  Large Pizza at Santora's
-  2 - Movie Passes
-  2 - Ice Cream Creations; Cold Stone Creamery
-  \$5 Customer Cash from Maui Nix Surf Shops

Thank you to **Donna Gilkey** for getting air time on 103.3 FM WVYB for our *Cruz for Autism*. Thanks to **Tracy Dillon** at 95.7 FM WHOG for promoting our ticket sales too.

Thank you to **Nancy Maddox** for getting our *Cruz for Autism* flyer posted on the Volusia County Intranet.

WISHES DO COME TRUE!!!

Many, many thanks to **Paul & Donna Savia** who have been able to get the services of their friend in California **DONATED** for the building of The Chase Academy website! Hurray!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS


Individual Members:

-  Caroline Brach
-  Julie Taylor
-  Lili Withelder

Family Member:

-  Jim & Lora Brewer

Non-Profit Members:

-  The Arc of Volusia, Inc.
-  High Velocity Strings, Inc.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Mimi Lundell - 386/690-0893
mtlundell@aol.com

Amy Filson - 386/295-5101
akfilson@aol.com

Eileen Taft - 386/689-5933
tafte@bellsouth.net

Lili Withelder - 386/679-0413
lwithelder@aol.com

Lora Brewer - 386/679-3368
lora_bfocasd@msn.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(For One Year Membership)

I wish to join The Chase Academy in the category of:

_____ **Student** **\$ 15.00**

Benefits: E- newsletter, priority notice for all Academy related functions and events, 10% discount on all Academy merchandise

_____ **Individual** **\$ 30.00**

Benefits: Same as Student plus - 2 presale discounted priced tickets for fundraisers or events

_____ **Family** **\$ 50.00**

Benefits: Same as Individual except for 4 presale discounted priced tickets for fundraisers or events

_____ **Non-Profit Organization** **\$100.00**

Benefits: Same as Family except for 12 presale discounted priced tickets for fundraisers or events plus - 4 complimentary tickets to any single event, 20% discount on all promotional advertising

_____ **Corporate** **\$300.00**

Benefits: Same as Non-Profit Organization

Enclosed is my check for \$_____

Please make checks payable to: The Chase Academy, Inc.

Name(s) _____

(If family, supply names of both spouses)

Company or College Name (If student) _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Home or Office Phone _____

Email Address _____

Join us today as we Chase the Dream!