



## General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

Elfriede Parker, President

### President's Project **AUTISM** Guide 2016-2018

Ann Marie Bielenin, Chairman  
15 Eastover Road, Walpole MA 02081  
abielenin@aol.com  
508.668.3404



### **1 in 68 American children are on the autism spectrum.**

#### ***What is Autism? What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?***

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors.

#### ***Did you know:***

- Each individual with autism is unique.
- The symptoms of autism tend to emerge in children between 2 and 3 years of age.

#### ***What clubs can do to help raise money for autism facilities and research:***

- Host an event: Contact an autism facility in your area. Both fundraising and cultivation events provide these facilities with opportunities to promote their mission.
- Volunteer at an event sponsored by autism organizations.
- Educate your members by inviting an autism speaker to one of your meetings.
- You can donate to the President's Project directly through GFWC of MA. Look for the line on the GFWC of MA Contribution Form.
- Please report all donations and activities under Home Life.



#### ***Resources:***

**Autism Speaks:** Autism Speaks is the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization. Their goal is to change the future for all who struggle with an autism spectrum disorder. <https://www.autismspeaks.org/>

**The Boston Higashi School, Randolph:** Their mission is to help children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder learn to reach their full potential through the methodology of Daily Life Therapy®. This unique educational philosophy incorporates a broad and balanced curriculum, including academics, art, music, physical education, technology, and social education. Students take on challenges, learn to overcome obstacles, and gain confidence from their own success. This approach allows their students to develop a love for learning so they may fully enjoy their family, community, and all that life has to offer, allowing them to benefit from, and most importantly, contribute to society as adults.

**Advocate:** Autism advocates in Washington, DC and across the country have made big strides on federal legislation. Make your voice on autism-related policy heard by educating your members and supporting bills that are pending in the legislative body.