



REACHING OUT -REACHING IN

The Holidays and Beyond

CALENDAR

Holiday Market Card Sale

Thanksgiving Weekend
November 27-29
Notecards, Original
Jewelry, T-shirts, more!

Friday Night Social

2nd Friday of each
Month
Reality Kitchen
5:30-7:30
Free!

Frank Sinatra 100 Years

Mac's at the Vets Club
Weds Dec 9, 2015
6-9 PM
A Benefit for KindTree -
Autism Rocks
Flyer on page 6

Autism Support Group Eugene

2nd Monday of every
month 4:30-6 pm
Nov 9, Dec 14, Jan 11
St. Mary's Episcopal
Church
541-689-2228
More groups page 3

STiLE

Winter Term starts Jan
2016
Jewelry Expressions
Make it Tasty cooking
Personal Empowerment for
Home and Community
Register online soon!
kindtree.org

Greetings! The season is wrapping up beautifully, as the golden light of fall smiles upon a summer well-played. KindTree has been having a successful and inspiring year so far, this summer being no exception. Our annual Friends and Family camp, with 248 guests and volunteers, was our most well attended yet. Thanks to generous donations to the Riley Campbell Memorial Scholarship Fund, 45 people who otherwise could not afford it, were able to join us. We enjoyed delicious food, prepared by the amazing Donald and our fabulous kitchen crew. We were entertained by Steel Wool, The Raventones, Frankie Sharp and Deano, Caleb the Trickmaster, a stellar Dr. Who play, and many others in the talent show. There were dozens of activities, music, big trees, wildlife, and friends all around. It was so great to be a part of it again. We couldn't do it without the dozens of volunteers who make it happen – thank you from all of us. Read more, from a camper's perspective on page 7.

The next few months have some fun activities brewing. Once again, during Thanksgiving weekend, we will be selling merchandise at Eugene's Holiday Market. Volunteer, buy, or stop by to say hello! We also have a benefit in the works for December 9, at Mac's at the Vets Club, in Eugene. This event is in celebration of Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday

and features swingin' local talent, including our very own Frankie Sharp and Deano! See the flyer on page 6. We are excited to begin hosting a monthly Friends and Family Swim, at Tamarack pool; more information to come on kindtree.org. Sadly, we will not be hosting a mask-making party this year. Next year? Stay tuned.

Speaking of next year...keep an eye on our website: kindtree.org, for more information about our Winter STiLE term, starting the first week of January. With offerings like: Make it Tasty Cooking and Jewelry Expressions, you won't want to miss it. Mark your calendar, PROM 2016 will be held May 21 at the Vet's Club Ballroom!

The KindTree - Autism Rocks Artist Guild looks forward to another dazzling year of art from you! Submissions will be accepted, starting in January, for our annual Autism Artism exhibit. Look for more details on our website.

What's it like to be autistic in 2015? The Autism Unveiled Project (90 blogs from autistic people) give us a glimpse. Included in the project were KindTree artists Chris Garza, Candy Waters, Kevin Hosseini, Jane Strauss, Kimberly Gerry-Tucker, Maranda Russell, and Neri Avraham. To read the insightful blogs, visit: www.the-art-of-autism.com/autism-unveiled-project/

With whimsy and love, Melissa Farley



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I Am Autism

Personal stories about autism. If you would like to see your musing on this page, please email Melissa at: lelulaserlight@yahoo.com

By Erik Wahl

We who are on the so-called autism spectrum. We are colorful folk indeed!

I am a color that nobody has ever seen before. Why?

Because half the time I seem to myself and others as normal and neuro-typical.

So looking back on my life:

My birth was problematic. My mother, missing one of the vital nerves that controls the opening of the uterus, was unable to birth me normally and I had to be removed by C-section.

For the first four months or so, I appeared to be a normal man-child; then, without warning, I began manifesting antisocial traits. There was no contented cooing, hugging, or smiling. But there was a lot of squirming, shrieking, and very little sleeping.

My mother could not nurse me or even hold me because I would billygoat-butt her chest with my head. This led to an embarrassing scene with my relatives at an exclusive restaurant. Mom had accumulated so much undrunk milk in her mammary glands that she began spontaneously dribbling it all over her dinner plate triggering a sardonic comment from my Great Aunt Wyvonne about Mom being a 'Guernsey Cow'.

I read street-signs at 3.5 (or so I have been told) but never uttered a human sentence until I was 4.

And yet, even at these early years, I was never consistent in my autism. Although I have no coherent memories of any events before the age of 3.5, apparently I was a busy little beaver with remarkable social prowess and engineering skills. Stories abound--none of which I remember:

1. I hit on an attractive redhead at a Sears store: 'Join me!' I invited charmingly.

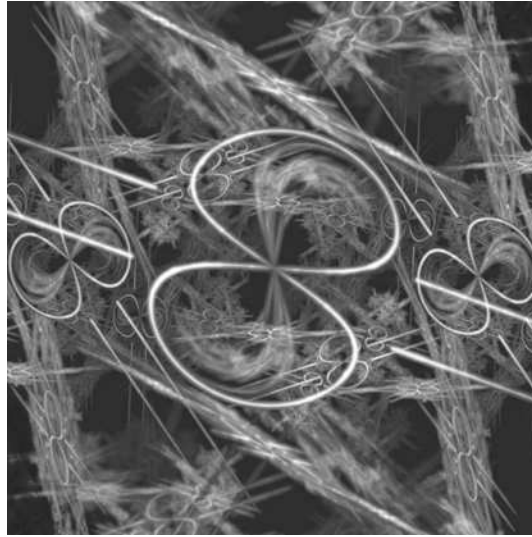
2. An obnoxious drunk was bothering my mother and the other women at our local laundromat. I walked up to him without uttering a sound, looked him squarely in the eye, and gave him a sharp kick in his shins.

3. We had a red Westinghouse canister vacuum-cleaner sitting out in the living-room. My mother paused in her cleaning to run another errand next-door. When she returned half-an-hour later, the vacuum was in pieces; I'd successfully removed all four recessed screws from the top of the machine!

The real disaster began when I was enrolled in a Roman Catholic day-school at the age of 3.5. During my 2-year tenure there, I engaged in random acts of inappropriateness. I was hyperactive, uncontrollable, and constantly providing entertainment for my neuro-typical

classmates, what with my constant arm-flapping and arm-biting and talking to myself. Two of the teachers there were actually fired because they were unable to control my volatile behavior.

It was after the 'Guernsey Cow' incident that my aforementioned Great Aunt Wyvonne along with my Great Aunt Minette both of whom were nurses at the Portland Public Hospital, suggested strongly that, since I was obviously mentally and emotionally retarded, the only sane course of action was to ... (continued on pg. 5)



On and on and on and... by Erik Wahl

Color version available for sale at:

<http://www.kindtree.org/marketplace/artists/eric-wah>

Keepin' It Current

We don't want you to miss a thing...please let us know if you have any NEW changes:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email Address: _____

Other: _____

Email to: admin@kindtree.org -or- Mail to: PO Box 40847, Eugene, OR 97404

REACHING OUT -- REACHING IN

CAN A T-SHIRT MAKE YOU THIS HAPPY?



We also have a lot of other products with our "Autism Rocks" logo - long sleeve shirts, sweat-shirts, mugs, mouse pads, hats, boxer shorts, WOW. Please check them out at www.kindtree.org

NEW colors and styles \$18
kids' sizes \$15

DO YOU HAVE YOURS?

Find us on the web:

Website: kindtree.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KindtreeAutismRocks>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/kindtree1>

Blog with us: <http://www.kindtree-autismrocks.blogspot.com/>

Community Calendar

Ongoing Events

Fridays - Mindful Meditation with Alisa 12:15 to 1 PM at the OKS dojo 1072 W. 7th (cross street Van Buren). \$20 a month or \$6 a session. Call 541-683-5089

Every 2nd Tuesday - All Access Dance 4:30 - 6:30 Cozmic, 8th and Charnelton. \$2-4 sliding scale.

Every 2nd Friday - Friday Night Social 5:30-7:30 PM Reality Kitchen, 645 River Rd., Suite 2., Eugene. LTD bus #51, Join others for a free night of pizza, comedy, games, and music.

Mon and Wednesdays - Build a Better Plan B (for those who previously attended the Collaborative Problem Solving group) noon - 1 PM contact Miranda: 541 747 7734 ext. 222

Upcoming Events

October 22 - OFSN presents: Yukio Tomooka and Betsy Ruth For more information contact Diana 541-342-2876

October 24 - Country Counseling Harvest Festival 1-4 PM, contact Jessica: 541-556-3835

October 25 - KindTree - Autism Rocks Friends and Family Swim 3-4 PM Tamarack Pool. \$5 suggested donation

November 27-29 - Autism Rocks Holiday Market Card Sale 10 AM - 5 PM at the Lane County Fairgrounds

December 9 - Frank Sinatra 100 years 6-9 PM at Mac's at the Vets Club. \$5 suggested donation. See flyer pg 6

KindTree - Autism Rocks Support Groups

Peer Support Group - Cottage Grove: 1st Monday of the month 4 - 5:30 PM, Healing Matrix at 632 E Main Street. Adults with autism discuss life issues.

Peer Support Group - Eugene: Second Monday of the Month 4:30 - 6 PM, St Mary's Episcopal Church, 13th and Pearl, Eugene. Adults with autism discuss life issues. *No meeting in August.*

Social Skills Group - 3rd Monday of odd-numbered months 6:30 - 8 PM, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 13th and Pearl, Eugene. Conversation skills will be taught, role-modeled and practiced.

Peer Advocacy Group (A.V.O.I.C.E.) - 3rd Friday of the month 4:30 - 6 PM, LILA Peer Support Club, 990 Oak St, Eugene. The autistic side of autism issues.

Other Community Support Groups

Asperger's Family Support Group - Wednesdays 6-7:30 PM, 105 W. Q Street, Springfield. Call Rebecca for more information: 541-221-0900. Support Group for people who have loved ones with Asperger's Syndrome.

Q Club - 3rd Thursday of the month 5-6 PM, OSLP Lincoln Gallery, 309 W 4th, Eugene. A social gathering for members of the LGBTQ community.

ASO Sibling Support Group (Portland) - 1st Saturday of the month 1-3 PM, Moreland Presbyterian Church. For children 8-12, contact ASO: 503 636 1676



Friday Night Social

Second Friday of the Month 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Reality Kitchen, 645 River Road, Suite #2.

(Take LTD bus #51)

This FREE activity is open to teens and adults with autism and others that want to hang out together to listen or play music, sing, perform, or visit. You will meet people involved with the KindTree-Autism Rocks peer support group and STiLE trainings, and staff and employees from Reality Kitchen. Come make new friends, connect with others, and have fun! FREE pizza, too!! Food other than pizza and drinks will be available for purchase.

For more information call 541 521 7208

www.kindtree.org



www.realitykitchen.org

Reaching out - Reaching in

Donate to
A-Team Justice
Leagues bottle
drive!



A Team JUSTICE LEAGUE



Is collecting cans & bottles in a major way!

Not only will you see us at events, soon you'll see us collecting at specific locations!

Know an office or business willing to collect for us? We'll pick up as often as needed!

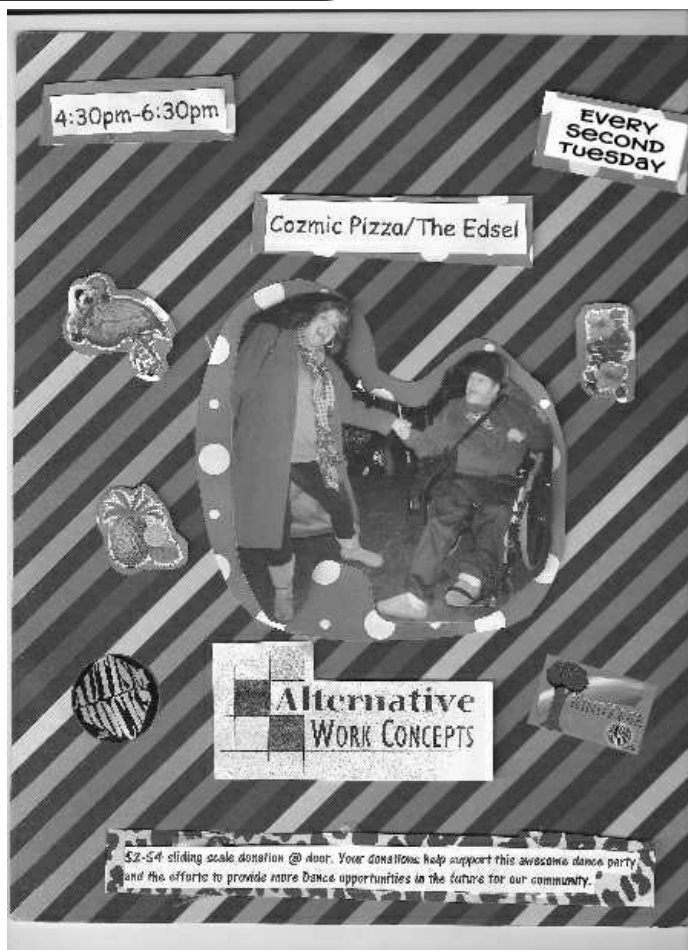
To arrange picking up contact:

Amy Rayfield at 541-870-5487 or Jenny LeCompte at 458-205-0888 or

Contact us at ateamjustice@gmail.com or our website at www.ateamjustice.org

eScrip
www.escrip.com

**Please help our organization
by signing up today!**
eScrip Group ID – 153141696



News Tidbits and Kernels of Wisdom



“When you see an object, it seems that you see it as an entire thing first, and only afterwards do its details follow on. But for people with autism, the details jump straight out at us first of all, and then only gradually, detail by detail, does the whole image float up into focus.”

— Naoki Higashida, *The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism*

“Autists are the ultimate square pegs, and the problem with pounding a square peg into a round hole is not that the hammering is hard work. It's that you're destroying the peg.”

— Paul Collins

Senate Committee Unanimously Approves ABLE Act: Grants empower people with disabilities to build savings

Office of State Senator Sara Gelser

April 2, 2015

“Oregon parents will be able to start savings accounts for children and adults with disabilities will be able to save to pay for essentials under SB 777, sponsored by Senator Sara Gelser (D-covallis/Albany)”

“Under the ABLE Act, people with disabilities can save up to \$100,000 before impacting their benefits. The accounts will be administered by the Oregon 529 Savings Network, and interest can be earned tax free.”

Read more at:

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/gelser/Documents/ABLE%20SB%20777%20Press%20Release.pdf>

ASAN Statement on GOP Primary Debate Comments on Autism and Vaccination

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

September 16, 2015

“The Autistic Self Advocacy Network is disappointed that long after the science has spoken, politicians and pundits continue to focus on causation, distracting from the real and pressing issues facing the autistic community...employment, housing, healthcare and rights protection”

Read more at: <http://autisticadvocacy.org/2015/09/asan-statement-on-gop-primary-debate-comments-on-autism-and-vaccination/>

Proposal Aims To Curb Disability Bias Among Doctors, Insurers

By Michelle Diamant

September 8, 2015

“Specifically, the proposal published Tuesday in the Federal Register mandates that health care providers ‘make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures when necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability.’”

“What’s more, under the proposal, facilities and technology should be accessible and those with disabilities must be provided ‘effective communication’ via alternative formats or sign language interpreters, for example. The plan also stipulates that insurance providers offer equal coverage to people with disabilities.”

The rule will be up for public comment through Nov. 9, before it can be finalized.

Read more at: <http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2015/09/08/proposal-curb-disability-bias/20780/>

Reaching out - Reaching in

***I Am Autism* by Erik Wahl** (continued from page 2)

... place me in a mental institution in order to spare my parents heartbreak and hardship.

My father, having been a foil and victim of military psychologists during his stint in the Navy, had no confidence in them and had no intention of leaving his first-born son at their mercy. He took it upon himself to train me out of whatever social-emotional funk I was in. He constantly forced me to make eye- and physical-contact with him. If I got too repetitive with a favorite activity, he would intervene and force me to do something else.

As astonishing as it may be, I never knew how to crawl and never bothered to learn. I just belly-wiggled around until one day I pulled myself up and started walking. (I have been walking everywhere since then.) He actually taught me how to crawl when I was 12 and then, when I was 14, how to walk naturally. He taught me the principles of singing, acting, and humor. He taught me to appreciate poetry, art, and beautiful women. He and other gifted teachers fanned my interest in algebra and geometry. All of these gifts are with me to this very day

He did such a good job that I was able to graduate from high

school, complete 4 years of college, and independently support myself for almost 30 years after I left home.

So what happened? As society shifted into a less nurturing form and close friendships and relationships melted away, my Autism returned with a vengeance. I had at least 2 TPEs (Temporal Psychotic episodes) and in 2009 was 'awarded' SSDI. In 2010 I became involved with other physically- and mentally-challenged individuals at the Lane Independent Living Alliance's Peer Support Club. I also met Mary-Minn and learned about Kind-Tree and since then I have chosen to self-diagnose as an Autist.

I have in fact, a fully functioning left brain controlling amazing insight, humor, compassion, and indescribable charm.

I have in fact, a fully functioning right brain containing amazing networks of patterned data available at my neuron tips (except

for certain names).

Getting these two pieces of the human computer to play well together--or at all, is what has earned me a diagnosed place on the Autism Spectrum.

Glad to be here! (as if I have a choice!)

From the KT website: *I am multi-talented. I have been writing poetry since 1999...[and] creating digital art...since 2002. I find doing so to be extremely therapeutic and I hope to begin discovering new ways to create breath-taking images in the future.* See more of Erik's visual art at: <http://www.kindtree.org/marketplace/artists/eric-wahl>

KindTree News

The Annual KindTree-Autism Rocks PROM is coming on Saturday, May 21, 2016 to the Vet's Ballroom. Please mark your calendars for a fun evening of music, dancing, entertainment, contests, and our famous silent auction. Proceeds of the event will be used to offset the costs of offering our Autism Rocks' Family and Friends Camp. If you are interested in helping with publicity, the silent auction, or any aspect of the PROM, please contact Molly Elliott at mollyelliott@mac.com

The KindTree-Autism Rocks' October Friends and Family Swim at Tamarack Aquatics Center will occur on Sunday, October 25, 2015 from 3-4 pm. A suggested donation of \$5 will be accepted to help offset the cost of renting the pool. Come play with us and meet other families, make friends, and enjoy the warm water with the KindTree-Autism Rocks' family. For more information contact Jane at 541-935-0700.

The Annual Holiday Family Craft Day and Sensory Safe Santa event is currently being planned for December at Hilyard Community Center. (Date to be announced) Over 5 organizations will be providing games and crafts for the whole family. Activities will include making ornaments, wreaths, cards and other holiday items to keep or give away, pictures with Santa, games, and other activities. Look for more information next month on our website www.kindtree.org

The first KindTree-Autism Rocks' Holiday Ugly Sweater Contest is coming to Mac's at the Vets Club on Wednesday, December 9th from 6-9 pm. This contest will be held in conjunction with a fundraiser concert entitled the "Frank Sinatra 100th Birthday Bash" which will benefit KindTree-Autism Rocks and the Musicians Emergency Medical Association (MEMA). Prizes will be awarded to the ugliest sweaters. Plan on joining the fun with or without your sweater and help raise some money for a good cause.

KindTree-Autism Rocks would like to welcome Keren Levine to the STiLE family of skill trainers. For the past two years Keren has been the head faculty person for (SABE) the Supported Adult Basic Education Program at Lane Community College. She has masters' degrees in both Special Education and Adult Education and over six years of teaching adult learners. Keren is excited about working with KindTree-Autism Rocks and is currently co-teaching the Job Readiness-Vocational Training with Adam Vozzola. Keren also has a BFA in Fiber Arts and Painting from the UO and a degree in Multimedia Design and Production from Lane Community College. Her teaching philosophy is to nurture a love of learning in people of any age, ability level, and circumstance by creating a respectful, inclusive learning community that fosters success through constructivist, differentiated instruction.

-Molly Elliott

STiLE News by Molly Elliott

The KindTree-Autism Rocks' Skill Training for an Independent Living Program (STiLE) has begun its 3rd year of providing skill trainings to individuals living with autism and others experiencing intellectual developmental disabilities. The program has recruited some amazing instructors including Keren Levine, Adam Vozzola, Denice Ward, Kate White Horse, Molly Elliott and Mary Jane Schrum. Trainings are held 4 days a week at different sites throughout the Eugene-Springfield area. To learn more about STiLE please visit our website at www.kindtree.org/stile

KindTree-Autism Rocks' is a small non-profit dedicated to serving and celebrating individuals with autism, their families and friends. Our services areas include: Advocacy, Art, Education, Out-reach, Recreation, and Volunteers. Our Board of Directors consists of ten dedicated volunteers that work year-round to offer programs and services our customers consider important. We currently work with a variety of other agencies including the brokerages, DD Services of Lane County, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Arc of Lane County. Our Skills Training for an Independent Living Program is grateful to the following partners that provide space for our trainings. These include: Adaptive Recreation, Reality Kitchen, Goodwill Industries, Catholic Community Services, Tamarack Aquatics Center, and Lane Independent Living Alliance. This term over 8 students are participating in the Personal Empowerment, Relationship and Dating training being offered at the LILA offices, (Lane Independent Living Alliance) We want to thank Sheila Thomas, Executive Director, and her Board of Directors for allowing use of their facility. The Lane Independent Living Alliance (LILA) is a consumer-controlled organization-serving people with physical, mental, cognitive, and sensory disabilities in Lane County, Oregon. Their goal is to help people with disabilities achieve as much choice, access, inclusion and independence as possible. We invite you to learn more about the many programs LILA offers by visiting their website at www.lilaoregon.org or stopping by their offices at 20 E. 13th Ave., Eugene, OR. ***By working together, we can break down societal barriers so that all people with disabilities are free to fulfill their potential.***

The KindTree-Autism Rocks STiLE program and Goodwill Industries of Lane and Coast counties are offering a Job Training-Vocational training for individuals with autism and others with intellectual developmental disabilities that are experiencing barriers to employment. Offered this fall at the Goodwill Job Connections building on Seneca Road the training is being taught by Adam Vozzola of Goodwill and Keren Levine from the KindTree-Autism Rock's STiLE program.. The outcomes of this training will help reduce barriers to employment, increase levels of competency, motivation, and ultimately result in increasing a person's ability to obtain and maintain employment and a higher standard of living.

FRANK SINATRA 100 YEARS



**A Special
Birthday
Evening
JAZZ PARTY**
featuring

**Paul Biondi
Gus Russell
Deano & Maurice
and surprise guests...
with
Frankie Sharp
as Frank Sinatra**

**Wednesday, December 9, 2015
6:00 - 9:00 PM**

Mac's at the Vets Club
\$5.00 suggested donation to benefit
**KindTree - Autism Rocks and the
Musicians Emergency Medical Association**

Facebook Event Page:
www.facebook.com/events/841790942556083/



**Prizes
Awarded for
the Ugliest
Sweaters!!!**



Reaching out - Reaching in

Camp Report 2015: Looking For In Love In All The Weird Places

When you get to Camp Baker, the first thing you may notice is the calm forest of Sitka Spruce trees surrounding it. Then perhaps the people (Tifani) coming to greet you. Or something different, because this moment, your first or seventh time there, is yours and mine.

This was my fourth year at KindTree/Autism Rocks Camp and I got to see all the familiar faces. Thinking back on my first time I only knew a few people who came, but over the days and, eventually, the years I made new friendships to last the lengthy leisure-time.



Camp always begins with Opening Circle: An introduction of Camp and yourself to everyone present. Being set at a Boy Scout camp a few miles south of Florence, Oregon, there's plenty to keep one occupied in a multitude of ways. For a stay as a guest; activities can range from sports to music, arts & performances, hiking, movies and pure lolly-gaggin' fun. As a volunteer; a day's work never seems done: with helping guests set up camp and MASSIVE efforts to keep everyone fed, safe, etc. Or something as simple as setting out solar lights to show the path to your tent come nightfall.

However, if all you want to do is curl up and have a spot to yourself somewhere, we have place for that, too. knowing we host sensitive people the Sensory Room can be a welcome escape from the buzz of activity at Camp.

People of all kinds, from all over, come to camp for their own reasons. Family-fun, to "beat-the-heat", "because they said so", you name it. But what you may end up finding, even if you weren't looking for, is what you may have needed all along: love.

Now that may sound a bit corny, but in one form or another it ends up being true. People make new friends, some folks find each other, one person said that Camp was her second family. Whatever it is, this event, this moment in time allows people, autistic or no, to feel accepted, not judged for what they are or what they do. They feel, in a sense, loved.



At Closing Circle we're asked what our favorite thing about Camp was. Everyone's answer is different, just as everyone's mind is different, but the feeling, I suspect, is the same for all who were there. Because this moment is yours...and mine.

So maybe we're just looking for love in all the weird places.

-Written by Logan Johnson

Kind Tree Production, Inc
P O Box 40847
Eugene, OR 97404



www.kindtree.org

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KindTree - Autism Rocks NOTE CARD SALE

Join us at the terrific annual note card and art sale in the

Eugene Holiday Market

Thanksgiving weekend, November 27-29 Lane County Fairgrounds



**Jewelry Expression
Creations, too!!
ON SALE**



**ALL CARDS only \$1
Framed art discounted
T-shirts and Aprons
ON SALE**

