



# Autism

Resource and Wellness Fair

*One love – One Virginia – One Community*

## RESOURCE BOOKLET





**Rivermont schools and Your Life ABA** clinics offer end-to-end support including tailored education, programming, and environments that meet the individual abilities and needs of children and young adults. Our schools serve students ages 5-21 and our clinics serve client ages 2+.

In 15 locations throughout Virginia, Rivermont schools are licensed by the Virginia Department of Education, and all class credits earned are fully transferable. All schools are accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF) and Cognia.

Located in the same building for easy access, Your Life ABA clinic staff work exclusively in the autism and related disability community. Our expert team of licensed behavioral analysts, behavior technicians, and other support staff have the experience needed to build success for our clients. Your Life ABA clinics are accredited by the Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (BHCOE).

For more information, please visit  
[www.newstoryschools.com](http://www.newstoryschools.com) and  
[www.yourlifeaba.com](http://www.yourlifeaba.com)



## Austin's WearABLEs

**Austin's WearABLEs** sells quality handcrafted beaded jewelry designed and created by Austin Wear. Austin is a young adult with autism. Making beaded jewelry is immensely beneficial to him, those who wear it, and the organizations that receive a portion of all jewelry sales.

In 2016 by chance, Austin made a beaded bracelet. Immediately he was drawn to this activity that uses creativity, making patterns, and counting. Making beaded bracelets morphed into a behavior management strategy to help with the challenges of autism and diagnosed OCD.

Beading has not only helped him manage anxiety, which triggers severe behaviors, but it has given him purpose and dignity. In 2019, Austin's mother founded Austin's WearABLE Art and began selling his products online and directly to customers. In 2021, FIDGETS were added to the catalog. Along with fidgets we sell a limited number of "boredom buster" activities and a few products to help gain independent living skills.

For more information, please visit  
[www.austinswearables.com](http://www.austinswearables.com)

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**DentaQuest** is on a mission to improve the oral health of all. We are working with patients and dental providers across the state to make oral health care more affordable and easier to access with a focus on prevention.

We do this through Preventistry® – our all-in approach to better care, expanded access, value-based financing, and innovative solutions.

We manage dental and vision benefits for 30+ million Americans and provide direct patient care through our network of more than 80 oral health centers in 6 states. We provide outcomes-based, cost-effective dental solutions for Medicaid and CHIP, Medicare Advantage, small and large businesses, and individuals nationwide. And, we've invested more than \$230 million in grants and programs to achieve measurably healthier communities across the country. By advancing prevention-focused oral health, we will achieve better overall health for everyone.

For more information, please visit  
[www.dentaquest.com/virginia](http://www.dentaquest.com/virginia)

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## Lawanna Naomi Staves

**Lawanna Naomi Staves** is a wife, mother of three, a children's book author/illustrator, and screenwriter living in Dinwiddie, Virginia. She was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, and moved to Virginia in 1999 to attend Virginia State University. After achieving both a BS and MS degree in Biological Sciences, she decided to make Virginia her permanent place of residency. Lawanna has always possessed a vivid imagination, and a passion for storytelling.

At a very young age, she was never without a new notebook and pencil to help capture her expressiveness. Though it may have been conceived as a hobby during that time of her life, it wasn't until she graduated from college that she truly discovered her desire for writing. While the love of movies peak her screenwriting enthusiasm, it is the pleasure of raising her children that provides the source of inspiration for creating books for them, and others alike.



Lawanna has set a goal to deliver unique adventures through her storytelling for all children to enjoy, that will aim to teach and encourage acts of kindness and love, the value of family and friends, and many things that both children and parents can relate.

For more information, please visit  
[www.lawannanstaves.com](http://www.lawannanstaves.com)



We are **Omni Addiction & Mental Health Services**, a private behavioral health clinic offering outpatient Mental Health and Substance Use Therapy. Omni AMHS is owned and operated by LaTeshia Gilliam, a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner who brings 18 years of experience in the field of Mental Health and Substance Use treatment through therapeutic intervention.

Clients of Omni AMHS can expect to gain knowledge in areas that will reveal issues in denial and/or minimization of substance use and/or mental health problems, should they exist. Clients will gain a better understanding of their diagnosis or dual diagnoses. They can expect to gain an acceptance of the fact that recovery from mental health and/or substance use problems are a journey; and one that they do not have to take alone. I seek to empower, support, and provide accountability to each one of my clients as they face life's daily challenges and embark on the road to recovery.

For more information, please visit  
[www.omniamh.com](http://www.omniamh.com)

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**Organization for Autism Research** is an organization founded and led by parents and grandparents of autistic children, who serve as the Board of Directors providing leadership, life experience, and heart.

If our parent leaders are the heart, our Scientific Council, a group of remarkable and equally dedicated autism professionals, are the brain when it comes to our mission and research direction. They are not simply a list of names on letterhead; they are a “roll up your sleeves” team that we call on throughout the year to share their professional expertise and review the merits of all research grant applications.

While the Board and Scientific Council take care of strategy and the big picture, it is OAR's staff who take OAR's mission to heart, working hard everyday to make a meaningful impact.

The last and most important piece of the OAR paradigm is the community we serve. It is strong. It is diverse. It is vocal. It is unyielding in its quest for answers. On one hand, the community is our reason for being; on the other, it is the source from which we draw strength, support, inspiration, and the capacity to act and do good.

For more information, please visit  
[www.researchautism.org](http://www.researchautism.org)

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**The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)**

is the parent information and training center serving families and professionals of children with disabilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PEATC promotes respectful, collaborative partnerships between parents, schools, professionals, and the community to increase the success of students with disabilities.

We provide services and support for families and professionals, easy-to-understand, research-based information and training, and opportunities for strategic partnerships and advocacy for systemic improvement.

Founded in August of 1978 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, PEATC has become a leader in special education, training, and advocacy to families and professionals throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond.

For more information,  
please visit [www.peatc.org](http://www.peatc.org)

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***Special Olympics***  
***Virginia***

**Special Olympics Virginia's** mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for persons with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

But Special Olympics is about more than just sports. Through sports, we show others the capabilities of people with intellectual disabilities so they can be more included in society. When people interact with our athletes, they learn to start with what's possible, instead of what isn't.

While we're building more inclusive communities, we're also building healthier ones. It is well documented that people with intellectual disabilities are less active than those without; this is not because of their disability, but the lack of access to opportunities that fit their needs. Special Olympics fills that gap.

For more information, please visit  
[www.specialolympicsva.org](http://www.specialolympicsva.org)

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**Take notes here:**

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