

Reaching Out Reaching In

Celebrating 21 Years Volume 24 Issue 4 June 2018

Calendar

July 18 Wednesday: Oakshire Inspires for KindTree fundraiser. *See back page for details*.

July 29th Sunday: KindTree-Autism Rocks will have a non-profit booth at the City of Eugene's Sunday Streets event. We will be selling jewelry, and art cards, to promote our services and activities to the public. It is a wonderful fun day of events. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and being booth representatives for two-hour shifts. For more information, please check out our website.

August 10th Friday: Springfield's Second Friday Art Walk Jewelry Show and Sale: Students from the STiLE Jewelry Expressions training will be having a sidewalk sale on August 10th. For more information check our website or call Molly Elliott at 541-747-6938 or KindTree at 541-780-6950.

Performance Art and Video Production Movie Premiere: Students in our STiLE trainings have recently completed two new movies. These have been written, directed, filmed and directed by the students, with editing and production assistance from William Davenport. A premiere showing TBA. Please check our website for more details.

KindTree-Autism Rocks' 21th Anniversary Dance Benefit and Raffle



Lilah and David shred the floor with Mood Area 52. Photo by Roger Rix

By Molly Elliot

KindTree-Autism Rocks' Dance Benefit and Raffle was held on Saturday, May 19 at the Veteran Affairs Ballroom in Eugene. The event featured live music by **Mood Area 52** followed by Cinnamon's Late Night Dance Party hosted by Lisa Kline.

A big thanks to those that

attended, including KindTree-Autism Rocks' supporters, people with and without autism, and the general public. We enjoyed a great night of fun and celebration while raising money for KindTree-Autism Rocks and the Riley Campbell Memorial Scholarship Fund.

We want to acknowledge members of our work team and raffle donors. Here's a shout-out to Lisa Kline, Molly Elliott, Phyllis Haddox, Brian Rands and Tim Mueller for all their work in recruiting sponsors and publicizing the event. Additionally, we had a great team of pre-event volunteers including Linda Frazier, Logan Johnson, Sue LaMarche, Jen Wassermiller, Sheila Thomas, Mary-Minn Sirag, and Laura Dahill.

On the night of the event we had a wonderful group of volunteers who helped with set-up and cleanup; worked as cashiers, raffle tickets sellers, greeters; and worked the t-shirt, concession and jewelry tables. A special thank-you to our photographer, Roger Rix, and the infamous 2017 Slug Queen, Santa Frida Elisa Refugio Babosita (aka Mija Andrade), Chrissy Peirsol, Eileen Brixey, the Turner family, and many others.

Thanks to Our Raffle Donors

Bi-Mart, Brian and Beth Rands, Steve Gunn, Heidi Guzek, Marilyn Kalstad, Camus Country Mill and Bakery, McMenamins, Olive Garden, Fiddlers Green, Ninkasi Brewing, Bob Welch, Oregon Contemporary Theatre.

KindTree Recruiting New Board Members

KindTree-Autism Rocks is in a continual state of transformation, where incoming members join current board members in advising and shaping the future of the organization. The KindTree-Autism Rocks' board of directors provides oversight and guidance in the day-to-day operation of the organization. We are looking for individuals with a variety of backgrounds and skills, but especially management, event planning, media relations, and leadership. We welcome all passionate people willing to contribute their strengths and experience in helping guide and direct our organization. For more information please contact us at autism@kindtree.org visit our website at www.kindtree.org or call Molly Elliott @ 541-747-6938.

Contributors Wanted!

Reaching In, Reaching Out invites authors on the spectrum to submit original articles up to 1,000 words about living with autism for "I Am Autism". Please email submissions to sirag@mindspring.com.

Diane Albino has donated 10 Diversity Passes for the Oregon Country Fair. Contact Mary-Minn Sirag

sirag@mindspring.com 541 780 6950

Reaching In, Reaching Out is produced by KindTree-Autism Rocks. Published 3 times a year. Editor: Mary-Minn Sirag Production: Alisa McLaughlin Contributors: Mary-Minn Sirag, Molly Elliott. Contact KindTree 541 780 6950 www.kindtree.org admin@kindtree.org

KindTree-Autism Rocks is a grassroots non-profit located in Eugene since 1997 that enhances and celebrates lives in the autism community. KindTree-Autism Rocks: celebrating autism, changing perceptions and creating community.

Letter From the Editor

Greetings, friends! It's summer time and the livin' is busy.

I don't know about you, but we at KindTree "Autism Rocks" are already ramping up for Autism Rocks' Friends and Family Camp: rounding up volunteers, arranging transportation of supplies, priming furniture for guests to paint decoratively (new craft project alert!!), planning activities. This is my way of slipping into something more comfortable: the magical and transformative weekend where, for the first time, 18 years ago, I met other autistics and discovered a community where I belong. The Retreat (which we called it back then) inaugurated a new chapter in my life full of creativity and meaning.

Join us in the woods at Baker Boy Scout Camp for a weekend of fun and replenishment before school starts up again. Sing, paint, perform, swim, dance to the Raventones, or just chill. Commune with old and new friends. Be your autistic self.

Time flies like a banana, so mark your calendars for August 24-26. Register on our website, www.kindtree.org, or call 541-780-6950.

Meantime, please join us for our fundraiser at Oakshire Public House on Wednesday, July 18th. A dollar from every draft pint purchased will go to KindTree "Autism Rocks" to keep our programs flowing. There will be live music and a raffle. Many of you showed up last year to add to the fun. Thank you, thank you, Oakshire Brewery, and to all of you out there.

Shop 'til you drop for one-of-a-kind jewelry by STiLE students and Autism Artism greeting cards at the City of Eugene's Sunday Streets on July 29th and at Springfield's Second Friday Art Walk on August 10th. Keep your eyes peeled on our website for time and location of STiLE's Performance Art Movie and Video Production class' premiere.

Our monthly groups will take a breather in August but will be resuming full steam ahead in September. STiLE trainings will be going through the summer.

Meanwhile, my fingernails are grubby and I'm working hard on my suntan during this season of perky determination. By August, my tomatoes will be exploding on the vine. Seedlings will have busted out into beans, herbs, lettuces, and bowers of flowers. I am crossing my fingers and digging in the fertilizer.

And now, get out there and frolic in the sunshine!

With deep hugs and affection, Mary-Minn Sirag, Editor

"If you are willing to look at another person's behavior toward you as a reflection of the state of their relationship with themselves rather than a statement about your value as a person, then you will, over a period of time, cease to react at all." -Harbhajan Singh Khalsa aka Yogi

I Am Autism- Unraveling the Mystery of Autistic Social Skills: Conversation

By Mary-Minn Sirag

The autistic way has its own customs that are obvious to us but a world of mystery to the non-autistic mainstream.

Neuro-normal reactions to our eccentricities run the gamut from being refreshed by our frankness and honesty to being infuriated by our lack of refinement and crass obliviousness.

Next to an ominous puzzle piece on the Autism Speaks' website is #2 of the DSM V: Difficulties following rules for conversation and storytelling, such as taking turns in conversation, rephrasing when misunderstood, and knowing how to use verbal and nonverbal signals to regulate interaction.

I do not shine at "polite conversation". I slog through the interminable symbolic chatter and careen between dizzying shifts in topic. I interrupt and blurt out with the urgency of nature's calling, lest the conversation take a perilous turn away from my brilliant point that the world needs to hear.

I monologue on a topic that fascinates me but not necessarily my audience; for instance, scathing critiques of movies that received undeserving Oscars, or how in the world do 19th century Russian authors create such vivid physical atmosphere with so little description. When I'm feeling particularly boring or shy, I interview my interlocutor, either to keep the conversation going or to keep me from being verbose and over-sharing. Am I being nosy? How much do people want to know, anyway? What details are essential? Am I rambling? I don't want to

reveal my ignorance or wax emotional about something seemingly trivial.

As a sociable person, I do enjoy bursts of small talk. In the predictable setting of the checkout counter, I can be witty and ebullient for short periods of time, all the while amassing a reserve of rapport, just in case I freak out at some later time, having abandoned my wallet in the shopping cart or dropped something messy or clattery. An almost unconscious part of me hopes that these encounters will give these lovely people a better idea how to provide support in a calm and helpful way without calling in the authorities.

I am reasonably competent at parties, especially when I know almost everybody (even more so when I'm hosting and am creating the ambiance). My husband told me recently that it's okay to observe from the sidelines until someone introduces themselves or a particularly interesting conversation crops up for me to listen in on or even join in, throwing caution to the wind. (For days afterward, I find myself slapping my wrist for my foolish remarks.) I feel freer if I know that future encounters are optional and that I can step out of the conversation at any time, to answer nature's call or get another drink to shore up my confidence. Needless to say, it gets scarier when I'm meeting a gatekeeper to my wellbeing-say, my friend's new lover or a prospective boss.

By the time I arrive at a party, I've already invested so many wrenching transitions: grinding my day's flow to a halt at a proscribed time, getting dressed, corralling party essentials and personal effects into one central location, loading them into the car, finding the location, arriving at a reasonable time. Just as I've settled in, it's time to extricate myself from the now comfortable flow. I am learning to make my goodbyes as brief and discreet as possible, lest I trigger a stampede for the door.

Small dinner parties where I don't know the other guests are the trickiest. The host has put so much effort into spiffing up her house and cooking up something fancy. For all her effort, she wants to make good and sure that I fit in, often to her palpable anxiety and disappointment. The initial small talk is grueling and claustrophobic, and seemingly interminable. The concentration involved in intentional eve contact competes with verbal content, so I gave up on that, way back when. It still makes me nervous, though, to sit in an assigned spot across from people. I am uncomfortable sitting ladylike in stiff dining room chairs designed for miniature dolls. I am most comfortable draped across a soft surface, my legs twisted in a half lotus or sprawled in an unseemly fashion.

I find it difficult to share conversation with more than two people. More than three of us requires too much exhausting listening and turn taking.

Being concise and enthusiastic without being too intense is a tightrope walk. Each person is expected to occupy an identical conversational footprint. More than the allotted time is dominating and risks being seen as self-important. Less than that comes off as indifferent.

Continued on pg. 5



Skills Training for Independent Living

STiLE is a KindTree "Autism Rocks" educational program that provides small group skill training to adults 18 years and older on the autism spectrum and others with developmental disabilities. The program offers individualized support and education in a group setting to encourage community engagement, healthy habits, communication, socialization, independence, and work readiness. Individuals must be eligible for DD services with the State of Oregon and have a Individual Service Plan and agency Personal Agent or Service Coordinator to receive funding for these trainings, or enroll using private funds. Some scholarship money is available. For more information please contact KindTree-Autism Rocks/STiLE at 541-780-6950.

How to Register

Payment must be included unless the training is free or being paid by a brokerage, Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation, or DD Services of Lane County. Register online: www.kindtree.org/stileregister using Visa, MasterCard or PayPal. Phone-in: Call Stephanie Dahl at

541-780-6950. Mail-in: Complete a registration form and mail to Kind Tree Productions, PO Box 40847, Eugene, OR 97404. For more information contact autism@kindtree.org or visit our Facebook Page at STILE, presented

by KindTree "Autism Rocks".

Summer Trainings

Jewelry Expressions_Mon,

10:15am–12:15pm, July 23–Aug. 20, 2018, at Ebbert Memorial Methodist Church, Fireside Room, 532 C St., Springfield., OR 97477. Make beaded jewelry to keep or sell. Individualized instruction provided to learn new techniques, and patterns. All supplies are provided. Cost: \$85. Based on 5 weeks with 10 hours of instruction or the agency hourly contract rate.

Performance Art and Video Production

June 26–Sept 12, 2018 at CSpace, 530 C St., Springfield: <u>Tues</u>, (Ongoing) 6–8:00 pm. **Introduction class** <u>Wed</u>, 6–8pm at CSpace. (No training 7/4/18) These trainings are designed for individuals interested in filmmaking, theatre performance, writing, or directing videos.

Make it Tasty Cooking

Thurs, 10:15am–12:30pm June 28–Sept 13 at Catholic Community Services of Lane County, 1025 "G" Street, Springfield. Learn how to cook, store leftovers, cleanliness, and portion size. **Cost: \$230** per session based on attendance for 12 trainings with 27 hours of instruction or the agency hourly contract rate.

Dating on the Spectrum

Thur, 6–8 pm June 28–Sept. 13. CSpace, 530 C St., Springfield. This training focuses on the skills related to dating and sustaining relationships. Other topics will include empowering the individual through positive thinking and developing a further understanding of what is means to be on the autism spectrum. Cost: \$205

per session-based 12 trainings or 24 hours of instruction or the agency hourly contract rate.

Community Outings and

Adventures

Tues, 2:30-7:30pm; Sat 10am-6:30pm June 26-August 18. This training is for older teens and young adults interested in discovering more about their community. By using community group outings as a venue, this training will allow students to learn and practice life skills such as personal problem solving, communication, manners, selfmanagement strategies and selfreliance. Cost is based on attendance and the service agency hourly contract rate. Cost: Please contact KindTree-Autism Rocks at 541-780-6950 if space is available.

Youth Theatre & IMPROV

Wednesdays, 6–7:30pm_July 11–Aug 29, CSpace, 530 C St., Springfield. This on-going training is designed for youth diagnosed on the autism spectrum and others ages 11–18. Students will have fun, build assets, and develop friendships while learning drama and participating in IMPROV activities. Cost: \$100 per session-based on 8 trainings, or 12 hours of instruction or the agency hourly contract rate.

KindTree-Autism Rocks Necklaces For Sale

The artists in the Jewelry Expressions training have created one-of-a kind necklaces using a new KindTree-Autism Rocks logo charm. They are for sale on our website. Please check them out and help support our artists.

STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM KindTree-Autism Rocks 2018 Summer Trainings

Registrant's Information:

Your Name	to the total and a second to		Phone	Number		
Your Address			City _		State	ZIP
Birth Date	Email		Cell Pi	none Number		
Height	Weight	Hair Co	olor	Eye Color	Eyegl	asses? Y N
Emergency Contact: _				Emer. Contact P	h#	
Relationship to you: _		Email:	Ad	ldress:		
What is your primary	disability diagno	osis:				
What is your ethnic g	roup: Caucasian	: Asian: Af	ricanAmerican:	_Native American	n: Hispanic:	Mixed: Other:
Who is funding your	registration: Self	f: Family:	Brokerag	e: Agend	cy: Other:	
Payment Enclosed \$		Paid Online \$_		ate Pd Online _	Balan	ce Due \$
Brokerage Name: (If	applicable)				ining. Balance due l Name:	, ,,
"I commit to atte	nding all of th	ne scheduled se	ssions, except	in emergencie	s." SIGNATUR	RE REQUIRED
Sign here, please					Date	
Print and Mai	il form and (non	ı-agency) paymer	t to: Kind Tree -	Autism Rocks, F	O Box 40847, Euge	ne, OR 97404
Pay	y online with P	Paypal using a Vi	sa or MasterCa	ırd on www.kiı	ndtree.org/stile	
	Questions:	admin@kindtree	org 541-	780-6950 v	www.kindtree.org	
Registration after to		Ç		ip information: ndtree.org		Participant Information Form

Unraveling continued from pg. 3

There exists an inverse relationship between the number of people involved in a conversation and its depth. I feel torn between breaking off into a smaller conversation and struggling to track the conversation, for the crosstalk. Being asked to explain something with many components but that seems obvious to me requires complicated rework. It requires me to start back at square one and curbs my enthusiasm. I just want to get on with my original story! I volunteer half-heartedly to help with cleanup but this requires figuring out someone else's logic and blending in with her possibly rigid routine, which

requires her supervision and appreciation of my efforts, when it's probably easier for her to do it alone. The grinding down of prolonged farewells is a painful re-enactment of the small talk at the start of the evening. Guests and host need time after the social exertion to digest and unwind.

A friend of mine admonished me to "listen more and talk less", to cut to the chase and temper my intensity. I explained to her innumerable times how constricting this is for me but it kept coming up. Unequal to the number and immensity of her expectations, I finally ended our friendship. The cultural divide between us had become too deep.

New Community Partner

CSpace is a new KindTree-Autism Rocks community partner. STiLE currently uses their large classroom for the IMPROV Youth Theatre trainings on Wednesdays. Located at 530 C St. in Springfield, it is a place where people come together to make films or other forms of media art. Owner William Davenport offers consulting services, parent groups, teacher trainings, and classes for youth and adults on the autism spectrum. Check out his website at https://cspace.rocks or call 541-731-7923. Thank you William!

CALENDAR OF GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

No Second Friday Social July through August.

No support groups or social skills activities in August

July 2 (Monday): Cottage Grove Support Group 4:00–5:30

pm. The Healing Matrix. (see below for details)

July 9 (Monday): Eugene Support Group 4:30 to 6 pm

at St. Mary's Episcopal Church (see below for details).

July 16 (Monday): Social Skills Class for adults from

6:30-8pm at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

July 20 (Friday): Eugene A.V.O.I.C.E Advocacy Group

4:30 to 6 pm (see below for details).

pm at Reality Kitchen,.

No Cottage Grove Support Group in September.

Sept 10 (Monday): Eugene Support Group from 4:30 to 6 pm at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Sept 14 (Friday): Second Friday Social from 5:30 to 7:30

Sept 17 (Monday): Social Skills Class for adults from

6:30-8pm at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. **Sept 21 (Friday):** Eugene A.V.O.I.C.E Advocacy Group

from 4:30 to 6 pm at LILA Peer Support Club.

Oct 1 (Monday): Cottage Grove Support Group from 4:00–5:30pm at the Healing Matrix.

October 8 (Monday): Eugene Support Group from 4:30 to 6 pm at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Oct 12 (Friday): Second Friday Social from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Reality Kitchen.

Oct 19 (Friday): Eugene A.V.O.I.C.E Advocacy Group from 4:30 to 6 pm at LILA Peer Support Club.



The Friday Night Social is very popular. Photo by Mary-Minn Sirag

Thanks to Our Donors and Supporters!

Tim Mueller, Phyllis Haddox, Mary-Minn Sirag, Brian Rands, Molly Elliott, Maggie Pecora, Donald Burton, John Keskinen, Oregon Industrial Lumber.

SUMMARY OF GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Asperger's Family Support Group:

Weds. 6 to 7:30 pm at 105 W. Q St. in Springfield. Call Rebecca for more information 541 221 0900. Support for people who have loved ones with Asperger's Syndrome.

Q Club: 3rd Thursday of the month 5 to 6pm at OSLP Lincoln Gallery, 309 W. 4th in Eugene. A social gathering for members of the LGBTQ community.

ASO Sibling Support Group:

Portland 1st Saturday of the month 1 to 3pm at Moreland Presbyterian Church. For children 8-12 contact ASO 503 636 1676. Eugene Social Skills Class: 3rd

Monday of **odd numbered** months 6:30 to 8 pm St. Mary's Church, 13th and Pearl. Taught by Doris Germain. The group selects activity for the subsequent **even numbered** month. Sponsored by the Autism Society of Oregon.

2nd Friday Night Social in Eugene

for adults and transition-aged youth from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Reality Kitchen, 645 River Road, Eugene 97404. Hosted by Logan Johnson and Mary-Minn Sirag. Eugene Support Group: 2nd Monday of the month 4:30 to 6pm at St.

Mary's Episcopal Church, SW corner of 13th and Pearl. Facilitated by

Michael Omogrosso.

Cottage Grove Support Group: 1st Monday of the month 4 to 5:30 pm at the Healing Matrix, E. Main St. & 7th in Cottage Grove. Facilitated by Linney Frank and Loren Goodman.

Eugene A.V.O.I.C.E Advocacy Group:

3rd Friday of the month 4:30 to 6pm at LILA Peer Support Club, 990 Oak St. Facilitated by David Olson.

The Riley Campbell Scholarship Fund

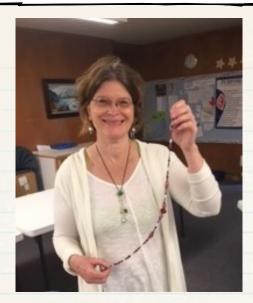
The Percilick family in memory of Talon Percilick, who passed away August 26, 2016, have donated one scholarship to Autism Rocks friends and family camp.

The Riley Campbell Scholarship Fund assists individuals with autism to attend the Autism Rocks' Friends and Family Camp on August 24-26, 2018 at Baker Boy Scout Camp. A limited number of full or partial camp scholarships are available for individuals interested in attending this uniquely structured inclusive camping adventure for individuals and families experiencing autism. The applications and camp registration forms are located on-line at https:// kindtree.org/calendar/camp/camper-info. Donations to the scholarship fund can be made to Kind Tree Productions, Inc. on our website at www.kindtree.org using PayPal, calling the office at 541-780-6950, or mailing a check to Kind Tree Productions, Inc., Attn: Riley Campbell Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 40847, Eugene, OR 97404. We hope you will consider making a donation to help others attend camp.

Camp Transportation

Autism Rocks Friends and Family Camp
Transportation is available for campers needing a ride
to and/or from camp. The cost is \$20 for a round trip
and \$10 for one-way only. You must first be registered
for camp with KindTree-Autism Rocks to be eligible
for this trip. The van leaves Hilyard Community Center,
2580 Hilyard St., Eugene, OR on Friday, August 24, at
1 pm, and returns on Sunday, August 26, at 3pm. To
register please call Hilyard Center, 541-682-5311 or
register on-line at https://recenroll.eugene-or.gov.
Course #129982

Sue Scott

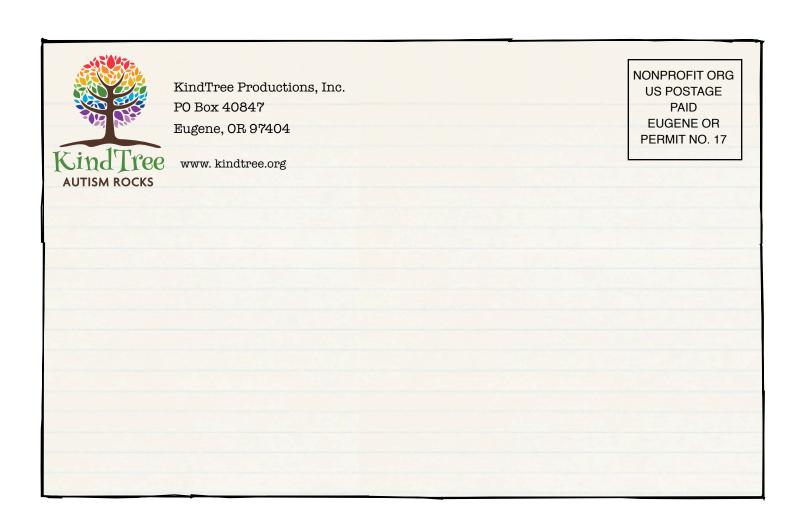


Parent and KindTree-Autism Rock's volunteer featured in May 17 issue of the Eugene Weekly

"Volunteering brings wonderful things into your life that you may not expect," says Sue Scott, who first volunteered at age 14 in Dayton, Ohio, giving up her recess to watch a classroom for a teacher who needed a lunch break. "In high school, I tutored junior high kids in math and English. I have volunteered in every city we lived," she says.

The family moved to Oregon in 1984 and settled in Springfield, where their second daughter, Anna Scott-Hinkle, was born, with autism. "I knew it when she was two days old," says Scott, who is still a full-time mom, and also Anna's paid personal support worker. Sue Scott and Anna Scott-Hinkle have been participating in the STiLE Jewelry Expressions trainings for many years and she also assists with our local Jewelry Show and Sales events. You can view Anna's handmade jewelry at Ramona Bear Designs on Facebook and Etsy.

We don't want you to miss a t	hingplease let us know if you h	ave any NEW change
Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email Address:		<u> </u>
Other:		





It's time to get registered for 2018 Autism Rocks Camp!!

When: August 24-26

(early arrival on the 23rd for a limited number of campers).

Where: Camp Baker, Florence Oregon

Registration is ONLINE and open!!

Go to www.kindtree.org. Questions? Please contact the main number 541-780-6950 or camp@kindtree.org

COME ONE, COME ALL!!

Summer Fundraiser



Oakshire Inspires for KindTree Wednesday, July 18, 2018 11:00 am to 10:00 pm 207 Madison Street in Eugene

Live Music!!

9:00 pm raffle to benefit Autism Rocks Camp Under 21 years of age are welcome until 8 pm Adults can choose from 12 faucets of beer Every Pint sold benefits Autism Rocks Camp

Oakshire Inspires is a Public House led initiative to support local non-profit 501c3 organizations through on-site fundraising.