

# AUTISM JOURNEY WORKSHOP

## AUTISM ADVOCATE HIGHLIGHT: AMY SEQUENZIA

AMY SEQUENZIA IS A NON-SPEAKING AUTISTIC ACTIVIST AND WRITER. AMY WRITES ON HER BLOG ABOUT DISABILITY RIGHTS AND RESPECT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE. SHE'S ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AUTISTIC SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK (ASAN), THE FLORIDA ALLIANCE FOR ASSISTIVE SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY (FAAST), AND AUTISM WOMEN'S NETWORK.

## AUTISM ADVOCATE HIGHLIGHT: BENJAMIN K.M. KELLOGG

BENJAMIN K.M. KELLOGG IS A FREELANCE WRITER, AUTHOR, AND AUTISTIC SELF-ADVOCATE. HE WROTE A CHILDREN'S BOOK SERIES, NOAH AND LOGAN, TO HELP TEACH AUTISTIC CHILDREN VARIOUS SOCIAL AND LIFE SKILLS THAT THEY MAY STRUGGLE WITH. HE'S PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN AN ONLINE COLUMN ABOUT HIS LIFE AS AN AUTISTIC ADULT.

## AUTISM ADVOCATE HIGHLIGHT: DR. JOHN HALL

DR. JOHN HALL IS AN AUTISTIC AUTHOR, PUBLIC SPEAKER, AND COFOUNDER OF THE EDUCATION TECH COMPANY GREENWOOD & HALL. DIAGNOSED AS "SEVERELY AUTISTIC" AND "SLIGHTLY MENTALLY RETARDED" AS A TODDLER BY SEVERAL DOCTORS, HIS PARENTS WERE TOLD IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE AND THAT HE WOULD END UP IN A GROUP HOME. HIS MOTHER ADVOCATED FIERCELY FOR HIM, AND HE WENT ON TO HAVE A MAINSTREAM EDUCATION, RUN A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS, AND WRITE HIS BOOK, "AM I STILL AUTISTIC?"

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## AUTISM ADVOCATE HIGHLIGHT: CARLY FLEISCHMANN

CARLY FLEISCHMANN IS A NON-SPEAKING AUTISTIC SELF-ADVOCATE, AUTHOR, AND TALK SHOW HOST. CARLY USES A IPAD TO TYPE AND COMMUNICATE WITH THOSE AROUND HER, AND THE GIRL IS ABSOLUTELY HILARIOUS. SHE'S HAD GUESTS ON HER TALK SHOW, SPEECHLESS, SUCH AS CHANNING TATUM AND JAMES VAN DER BEEK. SHE ALSO WROTE AND RECORDED A SONG, GLAMOUR GIRL, WITH KAITLIN KOZELL AND LIL JAXE.

## AUTISM ADVOCATE HIGHLIGHT: DARIUS BROWN

DARIUS BROWN IS A 5TH GRADE AUTISTIC SELF-ADVOCATE AND PUBLISHED AUTHOR. AFTER BEING DIAGNOSED AUTISTIC AT 22 MONTHS OLD, HE RECEIVED SPEECH AND MOTOR THERAPIES, AND HAS BEEN IN MAINSTREAM CLASSES AT HIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SINCE KINDERGARTEN. HE WROTE A BOOK, DARIUS HATES VEGETABLES, TO HELP ENCOURAGE KIDS TO TRY VEGETABLES AT LEAST ONCE, EVEN IF THEY SMELL BAD!

## AUTISM ADVOCATE HIGHLIGHT: JOHN ELDER ROBISON

JOHN ELDER ROBISON IS AN AUTISTIC SELF-ADVOCATE AND AUTHOR OF FOUR BOOKS: LOOK ME IN THE EYE, BE DIFFERENT, RAISING CUBBY, AND SWITCHED ON. GROWING UP IN THE 60'S, ASPERGER'S WAS NOT YET A HIGHLY RECOGNIZED DIAGNOSIS, SO JOHN LEARNED ABOUT HIS ASPERGER'S AS AN ADULT. SINCE THEN, HE HAS BECOME A FIERCE ADVOCATE AND IS CURRENTLY A PART OF THE INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COMMITTEE. THIS AGENCY DEVELOPS A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AUTISM RESEARCH THAT GUIDES NIH, CDC, AND MANY PRIVATE RESEARCHERS.

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## FUTURE AUTISTIC ADVOCATE: YOUR CHILD



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