



Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter | April 2022



April 2022 World Autism Awareness Month

Each year on this particular month I struggle with what more we as a community can share to appropriately represent the autistic community. The truth is we can never truly speak for any specific population because to be clear NO group of people are monolithic. The BEST we can do is SHARE stories and open each other to new perspectives.

So to our peers on the spectrum and the families and friends who support YOUR truth - keep speaking!

Who Says Autistic People Aren't Creative - The NASCAR driver

My husband and I know we are making a difference when our friends share unique articles highlighting the diversity of the autistic population. I am eternally grateful for them. This particular story resonated with me because I remember our daughter's constant interest in movement. Swings, pogo sticks, skateboards, bicycles, swimming - MOVEMENT. Armani Williams, the first autistic NASCAR driver, is cut from the same cloth.

The beauty is his parents invested in his center of excellence and supported

his strengths. So often we tell our children to settle. This young man not only DID NOT settle - he SOARED!



22-Year-Old Armani Williams Is NASCAR's First Driver With Autism

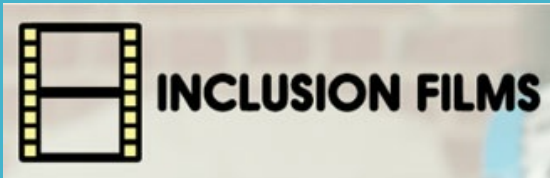
[Click to Read Article](#)

Joey Travolta- Special Needs Teacher and Innovator

Who knew the Film Industry has a special place to train those with varying disabilities who to succeed in a such a challenging industry. I was reading an article on Criminal Minds actor Joe Mantegna and his journey with his daughter on the spectrum. He highlighted Joey Travolta's film industry school and how impactful it is for diverse learnings who want to break into the industry.

No matter who you are, the film Industry is a rough business. For persons on the spectrum the vast sensory challenges could be a deterrent for success. To Joey Travolta's credit- he is leveling the playing field.

The point is if you search long enough you a place for EVERYONE to thrive.

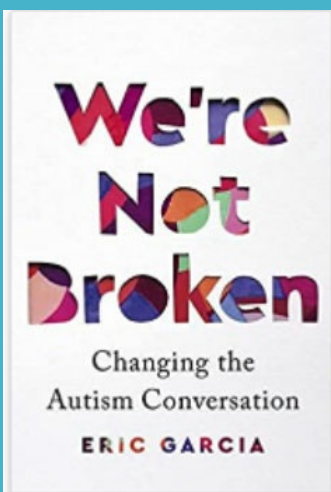


"WE TEACH FILMMAKING TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES"

[Watch Video](#)

It's Not Better or Worse Just Different - Political Journalist and Author

This particular journalist speaks my language- POLITICS. It never dawned on me until reading it that autistic persons may be the BEST individuals to interview our congressional leaders. Their distinct view of the world fetters out unclear statements. Eric Garcia understands this and more importantly is able to explain his "super-powers" to others. His book, We're Not Broken says enough.



Eric Garcia - The 'We're Not Broken' author becomes a self-advocate to change people's concept about Autism.

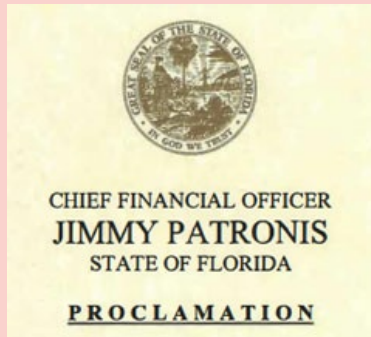
[Watch Video](#)

[Get Book](#)

Wrapping Up The Month

As we wrap up this month I want to personally extend the sincerest thanks to Florida Resources -Chief Financial Officer-Jimmy Patronis for acknowledging World Autism Day. Sometimes you just want to **BE SEEN**.

Most importantly the CFO provided resources and transparency for millions of Floridians. Often families do not know how to access coverage or who will pay for it. The new consumer link provides clarity. **It is a start!**



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Insurance - Research!

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This is my 7th year enlightening our family, peers and community on what our journey means and the why the VILLAGE matters. As we speak to young parents we are constantly reminded of what “people- professionals” who should have helped -said about our daughters trajectory. To be fair they were a small percentage of our journey but those negative voices can hurt.

To the young parents we mentor -and you know who you are- NEVER forget- it is all temporary. You are raising a HUMAN being to leave an indelible footprint on this earth.

I am very grateful to share this life with so many other strong women. We are NEVER alone. Please share her- OUR-story.



LaChan Hannon shares her experiences with raising a "Young, Gifted & Black With Autism" son.

[Watch LaChan Hannon's Video](#)

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