



**Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter**  
**April 2023**



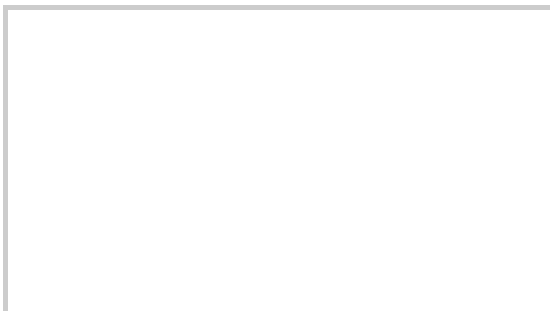
## Next?

So - I cannot stand when people say, "what's next?" It happens all the time naturally, right! You are in this phase of life where people genuinely want to know what your kids are up to, what activities they are in and where they are going NEXT?!?

Here is the raw truth - we do not know! We honestly have NO idea. Our daughter is autonomous and has her own journey and we constantly have to remind ourselves that we are here to simply guide her. It is a tough gig! The older she becomes the harder it is to digest the simple step of what is NEXT.

Believe me, our family has researched so many opportunities. College, internships, jobs, support organizations and just living. When it all comes down to it - we each receive an opportunity to be our unique selves during this life.

No matter how many years my husband and I are given to share this life with her - we will never fully be able to say what is NEXT?!?





Kalim Benett

"I WILL NOT BE SCARED TO BE ME. NOR WILL I EVER IGNORE OR SHUT UP ABOUT SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED. AUTISM IS SOMETHING EVERYONE GOES THROUGH AND FOR IT TO BE IGNORE THE WAY IT IS IS WRONG. IM GLAD GOD KEEPS BLESSING ME TO SPEAK ON THE MATTER"

[Watch the Video](#)

## What Will Happen To Our Daughter Once We Aren't Around Anymore?

"For 20 years, my husband and I have done everything we can to help our daughter grow in her life. She is now 26...."

[Read the article and watch the video](#)

## A Place for Everyone

My husband and I were at a special event in Sarasota this weekend and had the opportunity to meet women who passionately believe in having a place for everyone. The conversation was sporadic. We were just sharing as most people do during these events. But then on the big screen I see unique children and adults of all levels smiling and peaceful. I made a comment about how beautiful that must be and they said it is - it is The Haven.

I wish I had heard about The Haven some time ago. It is a life space from pre-k to adult. The campus allows everyone to live and be their best selves. It is not a group home or compound, rather it is a community where people with unique abilities can thrive.



Each year during Autism Awareness Month I meet people who touch my soul. So many parents who do not know where to start or what to do. If I could wave a magic wand I would franchise this place - A Place for Everyone.

[Learn More](#)

## Reflection

There are so many ways I would love to help families with loved ones on the spectrum. It feels like I meet a

family weekly and am ultimately asked to simply help. I receive questions I have no clear answer to.

- **When did you know your daughter had ASD?**
- **What schools are best?**
- **What therapies work?**
- **Do you believe in labels?**
- **Who do I trust?**
- **Should my child participate in extra credit activities?**
- **How are you paying for this?**
- **Meds? Meds? Meds!**
- **Is it alright to ask for respite?**
- **Again- who do we TRUST?**



After serious REFLECTION - here is what I have to say. YOU will be ok. BREATHE! One Day at a time. There are periods looking back where I honestly do not know how I made it and there are times where it feels like we are cruising. For what it is worth LISTEN to your child. You will learn so much about who you are and why you were selected to care for them.

The resources below helped guide our paths. Know you are NOT alone. Speak out and help others!

## Reflections



**The Urban Cafe Radio interview.** Kim shared details about her journey with raising a daughter on the spectrum.

Watch Broadcast



Attorney **Haley Moss, Esq.** is featured at a [World Autism Awareness Day](#) program. She is the first Florida Bar member to identify as autistic.

Watch Presentation



**Kim Kuruzovich and Keli**



**Kimberly Jackson, Esq. Talks**

**Mondello** are Mom's like me sharing their story and amazingly -CHANGING LIVES!

[Watch Podcast](#)

about Autism and how it impacts our lives.

[Watch Presentation](#)



**ISPS Autism Awareness Breakfast** ISPS and John Hopkins All Children's Hospital (JHACH) hosted a breakfast as autism experts from different areas discussed current trends and perspectives in the field

[Watch Video](#)



**ISPS: Guardianship Series II**

Learn about guardianships for parents, elderly loved ones, or disabled adults who are incapacitated. Serve as a guardian for an incapacitated person, what are the responsibilities and potential liabilities.

[Watch Interview](#)

In case you missed it! [March Newsletter](#)

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kimberlygjackson.com | 200 2nd Ave. South #786, St. Pete, FL 33701

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