



Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter
November 2023



And Off She Goes to Change the World

So, Our daughter, EMERSEN JACKSON, made a choice to Change the World in her own way. Her father and I are proud to announce that she was accepted into SCAD - The Savannah College of Arts and Design. The college process is grueling. In fact, we took it for granted because our oldest daughter, Chloë, had such an easy time with the process. What I have learned about Emersen is to never count her out. She shared with us that she was determined to do everything her sister has done. Although you always know your children are watching everything and everyone, we had no idea she was observing Chloë's every move.

This summer, Emersen insisted that we visit the colleges of her choice. SCAD was **NUMBER 1** on her list. She expressed that she wants to enter into performance arts with an emphasis on voice over acting, and SCAD is one of the few schools that offers this program. When we toured the college, we witnessed a new person. She immediately found perspective students with similar interests, and it was clear she felt comfortable to be her authentic self. SCAD felt like home.

Both of our daughters thrived in the ARTS right here in St. Petersburg. The

many artistic outlets are a tribute to the rich beauty of our community. Our family is so grateful that there is a place for Emersen to demonstrate her talent and enhance her skill set.



Learn All About SCAD
Atlanta

And Off She Goes to Change the World!

Join Us

I am a Board member of Gulfcoast Jewish Family and Community Services. It is an incredible organization that provides genuine service for our broader community. With all the services Gulf Coast JFCS provides I was pleasantly surprised when I learned the organization partnered with PARC, Providing Advocacy and Recognizing Capabilities and St. Petersburg College, Collaborative Labs to host an informative session on challenges and solutions for the neurodiverse population for adolescents and adults. It is an important gathering session to discuss breaking the silos of information and more importantly to provide ACTION ITEMS for our Community to Address. I say this often- MAKING STRONGER VILLAGES MATTER-because I believe this firmly. We can either be a society of people where everyone contributes and elevates who we are, or we can be a society who pays to put people away and ignores what is plainly in front of us.

Having the conversation is half the battle, making decisions that enhance our community is the long-term goal. Businesses, parents, educators, therapists, physicians, administrators, supportive services and community organizations are welcome to JOIN US and expand our vision of what SUCCESS looks like.



Gulf Coast JFCS

"Many people confront life challenges they can't solve alone. Gulf Coast JFCS helps our most vulnerable community members find safety, comfort and a path toward a fulfilling life. From babies to seniors, Gulf Coast JFCS serves all people in need."

Visit JFCS Website

Parc Center for Disabilities

"Parc Center for Disabilities is a progressive leader for children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Pinellas County."



Visit Parc Website

For What it is Worth

I am always on the hunt for resources and recently I was going through paperwork and discovered the "pamphlet" that we received after the last Individual Education Plan, (IEP). This pamphlet, while full of information, does not give GUIDANCE to families on where to start, what to do, and how to navigate challenging services.

In all seriousness, the reason why I started sharing my experiences in this Newsletter is because I was unable to continue providing pro-bono resources with families like mine who did not have the time, did not have the education or life experience and who did not have fiscal resources or community networks to ACCESS and DIGEST resources that are crucial to the sustainability of their family. Now that I have had 15- years of experience, I feel more passionate about the necessity of navigators to help families understand what is available to make their lives better. My Advice- For WHAT IT IS WORTH

- Ask Every Question You Can!
- Ask the Question in Every Manner You Can Think Of!
- Do Not Be Afraid to Double and Triple Check What is Being Said To You!
- Ask for Bi-lingual Support If Necessary!
- Remember You Are In Charge As a Parent!
- Be Cognizant of Your Allies and Work With Them!
- Educate Yourself and Ask for People to Educate You If You Need Help!
- No Question is Off Limits!
- Sharing is Caring- If You Learn About Resources - Pass It On!

Pamphlet" of More Resources

FAAST-Florida Alliance for Assistive Services & Technology
faast.org

Agency for Persons with Disabilities
apd.myflorida.com

CareerSource Pinellas
careersourcepinellas.com

Vocational Rehabilitation
rehabworks.org

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
www.psta.net

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources, (FDLRS) Gulfcoast
pcsb.org

Family Network on Disabilities
fndusa.org

Disability Achievement Center
www.mydacil.org

Service Source

Goodwill Industries-Suncoast, Inc.
goodwill-suncoast.org

All Children's Hospital-Johns Hopkins Medicine Autism Center
allkids.org

Boley Center
boleycenters.org

Placement Works
www.placementworks.com

PARC- Providing Advocacy and Recognizing Capabilities
www.parc-fl.org

VSA Florida
www.vsafll.org

Creative Clay Cultural Arts Center
creativeclay.org

The ARC of Tampa Bay
thearctb.org

LiFT Academy

servicesource.org/florida

Center for Autism and Related
Disabilities

card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu

Project 10 Transition Education
Network

project10.info

liffll.org

Children's Home Society's Help Me
Grow Program

chsfl.org/services/for-parents/help-me-grow

On a Lighter Note This is What Autism Looks Like

Family, friends and colleagues often ask me about shows that reflect "real-life" autistic persons. While I subscribe to the view by Dr. Stephen Shore on autism- "If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism."

Take a Some Quality Work by Autistic thespians



Keep the Change Film

Film about neurodiverse Actors

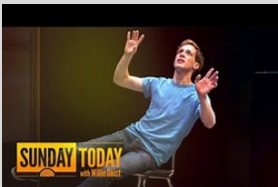
[View Film](#)



As We See It

Three College Roommates Navigating Life in College on the Spectrum, with Actors who are actually neurodiverse and are representing neurodiverse characters.

[View Interview](#)



Autistic Actor Finds His Place On Center Stage

Mickey Rowe is an actor with autism who, before discovering the stage, felt frightened in the neurotypical world. After immersing himself as the lead in "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime," Rowe found his home on the stage.

[Watch Report](#)

Mickey Rowe

Fearlessly Different

Read All About It



In case you missed it! October Newsletter

Check Our Resources Page

Visit Our Blog



Visit Our Podcast!



Visit Our Website

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

[Unsubscribe kimberly.jackson@kimberlygjackson.com](mailto:kimberly.jackson@kimberlygjackson.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by no-reply@kimberlygjackson.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!