



NEW ALTERNATIVES  
FOR CHILDREN, INC.

# NAC NEWS

37 W 26TH ST NEW YORK, NY 100 10 WWW.NACKIDSCAN.ORG

FALL 2018

## THE PETER HAJE CENTER FOR AUTISM

Named after long-time NAC Board Member and Treasurer, the **Peter Haje Center for Autism** was opened last year as part of NAC's Article 31 Mental Health Clinic. With more than 100 NAC children on the autism spectrum, the Center provides vital socialization skills groups, 1:1 Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), and parent training workshops and support.

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Thanks to the long time generosity of Peter and the Haje family, NAC is one of a small pool of clinics that offers vital ABA therapy for low income children on the autism spectrum. This vital and life-changing treatment would not otherwise be available to NAC kids as New York is one of 10 states that does not cover ABA therapy through Medicaid. ABA is the only scientifically proven treatment for behavioral symptoms of autism, and is considered the gold standard of care. And we know Peter would want nothing less than gold for NAC kids. We are proud to continue his legacy in this vital way.



# BACK TO SCHOOL

In August, NAC held its first Back to School Block Party at the Prince George Ballroom, where close to **1,000 backpacks** filled with school supplies were distributed to NAC kids! The backpacks and school supplies were donated by more than 20 companies, totaling a value of **\$47,000**.

NAC kids and families were not only able to choose their favorite backpacks, but also had the opportunity to participate in education games and activities, arts and crafts, and had access to community resources from New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and The Door. NAC's Education Specialists were also available to talk to parents about the upcoming school year. Children on the autism spectrum participated in a special multisensory activity, while Only Make Believe performed an interactive play for NAC's younger kids. Thanks to generous donations from Publisher's Weekly, Global Brands, and Delivering Good, all families in attendance also went home with beautiful new books to read, new school clothing, and bags of food from the NAC Food Pantry.

**Interested in connecting with a NAC kid while promoting access to books and literacy? Become a Book Buddy! Learn more by emailing Jessica Daniels: [jdaniels@nackidscan.org](mailto:jdaniels@nackidscan.org)**



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# COLLEGE BOUND

The arrival of fall and the beginning of the school year is an exciting time for all kids. 17-year-old Traekwan is one of 13 NAC kids who started college earlier this year. He started as a freshman at the College of Staten Island, where he plans on majoring in mathematics and computer science. Having kidney disease has always meant that Traekwan has had to

*17 year old Traekwan is one of 13 NAC kids who started college earlier this month. He started as a freshman at the College of Staten Island, where he is majoring in mathematics and computer science.*

balance his school work with his medical needs, including managing chronic pain, doctor visits, scheduled surgeries, and long hospital stays. In spite of these obstacles, Traekwan has always been an engaged student who is focused on his education. He was one of the first students in his high school class to fully meet graduation requirements, and with NAC's help stayed on track to become college bound. NAC's Education team provided tutoring, assisted with SAT prep, took him on college visits, and provided support to complete



his college applications. When he was accepted to Staten Island, the team continued their support by helping him to enroll in classes with year round academic advising, move in to his college dorm on campus, and purchased a new computer for him using **Louis Lipschitz Education Fund**. We are very proud of Traekwan's accomplishments to say the least, and wish him the best during his first year of college.





# SUMMER AT NAC

It was such a fun summer for our NAC kids! We offered over **20 different groups** and activities to keep NAC kids busy and active over the summer, and helped to send over 100 NAC kids to sleep away and day camps. We kicked the summer off with our 13th annual **NAC Kids Olympics** at **Asphalt Green** in July. NAC kids played in bouncy castles, played kickball and basketball, ran in the sprinklers, and so much more! Thank you to **Capital One**, **Mutual of America**, and the **NAC Junior Board** for sponsoring this great day, and to our volunteer groups from **DHG, KKR, PIMCO, JetBlue, Integral Ad Science, CohnReznick, the Estée Lauder Companies, Viacom, Morgan Stanley, New York Life, Grey, New York Interconnect, and New York Cares!**

NAC Kids also visited the **Central Park Zoo** this summer with volunteers from **Morgan Stanley**, where they saw sea lions, penguins, bears, snow leopards, lemurs, and tropical birds. We also had cooking classes at **My Cooking Party**, where NAC kids learned how to make fresh pasta, meatballs, and pizza from scratch! We also visited a roller skating rink, and got a chance to meet the **New York Mets** at Citi Field through the **Friends of Flores** program. Before our NAC kids headed back to school, we hosted a **Clothing Giveaway** so that everyone had new clothes to wear. NAC kids and families had the chance to pick out new sweaters, socks, pants, and more! We had such a fun summer, and we can't wait to see what the next year will bring!



To learn how your company can volunteer with NAC, contact **Bobbi Nathanson** at [bnathanson@nackidscan.org](mailto:bnathanson@nackidscan.org)

# JUNIOR BOARD

It was a successful first year for NAC's Junior Board. Officially formed last July, the 23-member Board have been busy volunteering, fundraising, and advocating for NAC's medically complex children and families. Every member brings a unique talent, passion and commitment for NAC's mission. In the past year alone, the Junior Board helped to get 150 tickets donated for NAC kids to see NYC sports teams in action, as well as their favorite Disney princesses and Marvel characters. They used their corporate and personal networks to donate over 600 new books, backpacks and school supplies for NAC kids; and raised **\$125,000** for NAC's programs!

The culmination of the year was the Junior Board's annual spring fundraiser, **Night for NAC**, held in May at the historic Jane Hotel. More than 300 guests attended the event, sponsored by Tito's Vodka, Diageo Brand Liquors, and Six Point, Blue Point, and Lagunitas Breweries. The event, which included over 70 incredible



raffle prizes, treats from Insomnia Cookies, and gifts bags donated by Commonwealth Packaging Company and Borghese, raised a record breaking **\$50,000!** All proceeds from the event went to benefit the annual NAC Kids Olympics in July.

**Are you interested in joining the NAC Junior Board? Visit [nackidscan.org/juniorboard](http://nackidscan.org/juniorboard) for more information.**

# ADOPTIONS AT NAC



NAC is rethinking foster care and helping to get children returned home or adopted as quickly as possible. Thus far this year, **18 NAC kids have been adopted** and 30 kids in the past year and half. All were adopted by their foster parents, avoiding traumatic moves to new families. Every adoption at NAC is celebrated with a party. We couldn't be more happy for our new, forever families!

# WOMEN FOR WOMEN LUNCHEON



NAC celebrated its 4th annual **Women for Women Luncheon** in May. The luncheon, which inspires a network of women helping women, was one of our most successful. Two hundred women came out to hear Keynote Speaker and author Amy Bloom read from her latest novel "White Houses" and to support NAC's programs for children in foster care.

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