



The Groden Network Your Autism Experts

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PRESS RELEASE

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The Groden Network Announces New Therapeutic Job Club for Young Adults with Asperger's Syndrome

PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- The Groden Network, "Your Autism Experts," a leader in providing services to children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder and related developmental disabilities, is pleased to announce that it has been awarded two federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training to develop and implement a therapeutic job club for young adults with Asperger's Syndrome (AS) to assist them in acquiring the critical social and interpersonal skills needed to support employment goals.

The Therapeutic Job Club program will run for one year. Participants will receive training, instruction, job search assistance, and support as they transition to community-based employment. Three days per week, participants will attend classes and engage in training activities that prepare them for the job search and placement process. Once employed, they will continue to receive training and support for the duration of the grant period. Classes will take place at the Groden Network's Coventry location. Asperger's Syndrome is a form of autism spectrum disorder that makes social interaction difficult. Young adults with Asperger's Syndrome often have great difficulty adjusting to social life and independent living during their transition into adulthood.

Thanks in part to efforts by Congressman Patrick Kennedy and Senator Jack Reed, the therapeutic job club will be funded by a \$146,000 federal grant in the first year and \$333,000 in its' second year. Grant funding enables us to provide critical services at no cost to participants.

Applications Are Now Open to All Young Adults with Asperger's Syndrome

At this time, The Groden Network is inviting inquiries and referrals for grant participants. The program census is **limited to ten individuals for the first year**. Referred participants should meet basic grant criteria of being aged 18-25 and carrying a primary diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome. Participants are limited to one year sessions. Please direct all inquiries to Danna Spencer, Associate Director of Admissions and Transition Services at 401/274-6310, ext. 1101. We hope to complete most of the referral and screening process by May 15th. The projected start date for this grant is July 1, 2009.

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