

December 2011



### Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all your support during 2011, it has been such an exciting year for BeyondAutism and I hope this newsletter gives you a flavour of what we have been up to.

We have big plans for 2012 to grow and expand the services we offer so that many more children and young people with autism can benefit from our expertise. We also need to complete the redevelopment of our site in Wandsworth. We have planning permission for a Gymnasium, an Art Studio and a Therapy suite, once these are completed we will be able to offer much needed social and life learning sessions to the wider autistic community.

To help us to raise the funds for all of this we have some great events planned for 2012 and I very much hope that you will be able to join us at one or all of them ....

Once again our sincere thanks for your support and I wish you and your families a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Karen Sorab*

Karen Sorab  
CEO/Trustee

### Charity re-brand

The most significant and exciting development for the charity this year has been the change of name and re-brand to BeyondAutism, which took place in May.

We were extremely fortunate to have been guided through this process by Corinne D'Angelo (ex-Futurebrand) and Andrew Mulholland (Executive Client Director, The Guild). Corinne and Andrew gave us their time and expertise, for which we are extremely grateful, and we are proud that our new identity reflects the future direction of our charity.

When parents first approach us they are often overwhelmed, confused by the complexity of autism but also by the system and all the jargon used around the disorder. BeyondAutism helps parents find the best education for their child and in doing so we help to simplify their lives so that they can focus on more positive outcomes.

This is why we use VB. Though mainstream in the US & Scandinavia since the 70s it is still a struggle to get it accepted by the UK education authorities. It's an approach that is child centred, individually tailored to address each child's individual needs, holistic and fun. We see such positive results both in the short and long term and it is wonderful to see our pupils learn to communicate, gain academic and life skills and to see challenging behaviours reduce.

Our new name, BeyondAutism reflects our intention to grow and develop the type and range of services we provide, so that we can not only help and support more children with autism, but teenagers and adults too.

Rainbow School remains at the heart of BeyondAutism, as does our expertise in VB.

As part of the re-branding exercise we have redeveloped our website – please do take a look at [beyondautism.org.uk](http://beyondautism.org.uk) and let us know what you think.

## Patrons

We are delighted to announce that Prunella Scales and Timothy West have agreed to become patrons of BeyondAutism. We are very grateful for the endless support they continue to show for BeyondAutism and Rainbow School.

We are also extremely thankful to Mark Owen for his continuing efforts in promoting the charity and in helping us with our fundraising. Mark has been very generous with his time, and in March, organised for the whole school to visit Legoland. He also donated tickets for the Take That 2011 Progress Live tour, which were auctioned and raised a fantastic £5300 for the charity.



## BeyondAutism hits Twitter and Facebook - join us!

You can now find us on Facebook and Twitter, please join us and help us to raise the charity's profile by recommending us to your friends.



[Facebook.com/BeyondAutism](https://www.facebook.com/BeyondAutism)



[Twitter.com/BeyondAutismUK](https://twitter.com/BeyondAutismUK)

## Other highlights from the year

In June BeyondAutism appeared at The Autism Show 2011 in partnership with three other ABA schools, as 'ABA Schools UK'. This was the first ever national show focused entirely on autism and the ABA Schools UK stand was very well received.



BeyondAutism representatives were also invited to participate in the wider programme of events across the exhibition - Sally Palmer (Head of Rainbow School) presented in The Autism Matters Theatre on the subject 'Demystifying ABA', and Karen Sorab sat on a panel discussion on 'Transitions to adolescence'. We will be attending the 2012 show on the 15th and 16th June.

See us at **the autism show** 15-16 June 2012 | ExCeL, London

In partnership with **Hesley Group**

In association with **The National Autism Society**

The Board of Trustees welcomed Suzanne Craig in August. Suzanne has a marketing background spanning almost 20 years in both private and charitable sectors, and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her role as BeyondAutism's Marketing Trustee.

Karen Sorab, Founding Trustee and CEO of BeyondAutism, was nominated for Women of the Year 2011 and attended the annual Women of the Year lunch with each guest hand-picked in recognition of their outstanding personal contribution to society – congratulations Karen!

During the year BeyondAutism has been running pilot Outreach and Training programmes with great success. Outreach has been provided to pre-school and school age children and our training programme, Put Your Theory into Practice, designed for students of VB/ABA, has been successfully received. With funding we hope to be able to roll out more of these programmes in 2012.

## Rainbow School news

Rainbow School continues to go from strength to strength. In 2011 a further 10 pupils joined the school bringing us to a total of 30 pupils as we enter the New Year.

The secondary school, located in Wandsworth, has celebrated its 1st year of operation, and we now look forward to raising the funds to complete the remainder of this site – a need which becomes evermore pressing with the increasing number of pupils, the growth of Outreach and Training Programmes and the huge need for space for out of school social activities for teenagers with autism.



Rainbow School students continue to make fantastic progress with their VB programmes – and we are seeing real tangible results. Our wonderful team of school staff continue to do an excellent job and are a credit to both the school and the charity. A special mention goes to Rebecca Roberts who qualified as a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA) in November. This is one of the highest qualifications a Behaviour Analyst can obtain and involved a tremendous amount of hard work – a fantastic achievement!

## Fundraisers and supporters

We have had fabulous support this year and BeyondAutism is very grateful to all those listed below and to all those individuals who have supported the charity either directly through donations or indirectly by taking part in fundraising activities. We are particularly grateful to:

- Nick Moore, Malcolm Twist, Edward Pivcevic and Heather Binney who all undertook gruelling physical challenges this year and raised in excess of £12,000 for BeyondAutism.
- Think Publishing who nominated BeyondAutism as their charity of the year, held multiple fundraising events and raised in excess of £7,500.
- Various local schools and organisations whose fundraising efforts have raised in excess of £4,000.
- The Putney Rotary Club for taking the whole school annually on a field trip. This year students went to the Thames Valley Adventure Playground.
- The Grand Duo Charitable Trust who donated £2,000.
- The Take That Trust who generously donated £20,000.
- Fairfield Safer Neighbourhood Team who organised a superb Pub Quiz fundraising event in aid of BeyondAutism, which raised over £1,200.
- And last but by no means least the 9 members of staff who were joined by BeyondAutism Chair of Trustees, Charlie Horrell, and ran 5 or 10k in this year's DoItForCharity Santa Run, raising over £5,400 – a tremendous result!



### Thanks go to...

We also wish to thank the following individuals, companies and organisations who have donated time, expertise or services to support our work:

- Corinne D'Angelo and Andrew Mulholland who donated their time and expertise in helping the charity to rebrand.
- Nick Moore who kindly agreed to act as the charity's 'Official' photographer and who has taken many of the photos you'll see on our website.
- Robin Farquhar Thomson who gave up a day to photograph our students at work; his photos are also on our website.
- The Accounts team at Thomas's London Day Schools for their advice and guidance and especially for providing monthly payroll services to BeyondAutism.
- Timothy Reid and colleagues at Ashurst LLP who provide legal advice.

### Ways that you can get involved...

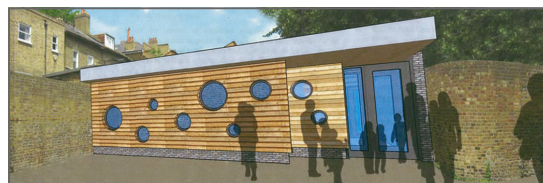
- Organise a fundraising event.
- Keep an eye out for events that we are holding and support them.
- Nominate us for your company's charity of the year or hold a fundraising event at work and see if your employer will match your fundraising.

Spread the word to your friends and family and go the extra mile for BeyondAutism.

Please feel free to contact us at [fundraising@beyondautism.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@beyondautism.org.uk) or on **020 3031 9705** to talk to us about any form of giving, or if you would like to organise a fundraising event.

### Looking towards 2012...

The charity is embarking on a major fundraising campaign to raise funds for the completion of building works at North Side Wandsworth Common. These new buildings will enable the charity to provide additional services and to broaden the range of activities offered.



Caroline Cox has joined the fundraising team as Fundraising Manager, to head up this campaign. Caroline has 15 years experience in fundraising predominantly with smaller community charities and is looking forward to meeting the challenges in the next exciting phase of development.

### Upcoming events

#### 1st March 2012... Not Just Any Old Quiz...

Test your knowledge and show your moves on the dance floor with our fabulous night out at Wandsworth Civic Suite. Pop it in the diary!

There will be much more throughout the year to become involved with so keep a close eye out!



### BeyondAutism

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