Easing the autism journey for Kentuckiana families through a community network created for families by families by providing ongoing support, education, programs and resources.

Parent support is at the core of FEAT’s foundation and propels everything we do. We offer programs that respond to the number of families in our area who are looking for support, and invest our time and energy into making these programs available to all. FEAT makes critical programs available to our families and is dedicated to improving and ensuring the stability of each one. These programs include: The Endeavor Program at Carriage House, a preschool for young children with autism; Dreams in Motion, a summer camp for 7-to-18 year-olds; and “Get Your FEAT Wet”, a swim program for children ages 3 and up offered in collaboration with Home of the Innocents and All About Kids. We are proud of our successful fundraisers and the many grants we have secured, which help support these programs and many others. In the coming months, you will hear of many exciting ventures in Kentucky and the southern region with autism providers whose goal is to make Louisville a truly “Autism Friendly City.”

I offer you my most gracious thanks for sharing in this journey with us. We continue to work with them over the past eight years in a variety of capacities. FEAT was formed in 1999, for families by families, with the mission of easing the autism journey through community support, education, appropriate interventions must never stop…so, in 2016, we hope that you will find your place among our greatest supporters.

I am grateful to have spent this year as the Executive Director of Families for Effective Autism Treatment (FEAT) of Louisville. We have worked with them over the past eight years in a variety of capacities. FEAT was formed in 1999, for families by families, with the mission of easing the autism journey through community support, education, appropriate interventions must never stop…so, in 2016, we hope that you will find your place among our greatest supporters.

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Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors. Children with ASD often struggle throughout their lives with the use of language to articulate concepts and explain their emotions.

In 2015, 1 in 68 children in the US are identified with ASD.

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Autism has no known cause or cure

ASD is 5 times more common among boys than girls.

$60 THOUSAND
annual cost of autism therapies and treatments per child.

$3.2 MILLION
lifetime cost to support an individual with autism.

$126 BILLION
annual cost of autism to our nation.

The cost of Hsing care can be reduced by 2/3 w/ early diagnosis & intervention.

Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the US. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than: childhood cancer, AIDS, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, Down syndrome, and diabetes combined.

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FEAT Partner Programs

The Endeavor Program
The Endeavor Program began as a collaboration between Carriage House and FEAT of Louisville in 2003 to extend the traditional preschool program to provide a specialized, therapeutic preschool program for children ages 2-6 who have been identified as having autism or a related disorder. The Endeavor Program features a unique blend of Early Childhood Education and Early Intervention curriculums and strategies presented in a natural learning environment with a 2:1 student/teacher ratio.

Dreams in Motion
For 8 years, FEAT of Louisville has collaborated with Dreams with Wings to offer our community, Dreams in Motion, a summer camp for children ages 7-21 with autism. It is the only 8 week educational, therapeutic and recreational summer camp for children and teens with autism in the Louisville Metro area, surrounding counties, and Southern Indiana.

Get Your FEAT Wet
An innovative approach to learning to swim for children with autism ages 3 and up, FEAT’s Get Your FEAT Wet swim program has shared this life saving skill with hundreds of children in our community over the last 8 years. Collaborating with Home of the Innocents and All About Kids, FEAT has developed & financed a very specialized swim program, which includes a behavior therapist to make the classes easier.

Tennis Summer Camp
Partnering with the University of Louisville Bass Rudd Tennis Center, FEAT has offered a 6-week tennis camp for 2 years. The class size is small to facilitate more one-on-one training with a lead tennis pro and volunteers. Based on a very relaxed routine, children with autism learn the basics of tennis including holding a racket, hitting a ball, and learning the layout of the court, not to mention lots of exercise!

Best Buddies
Through a very detailed application process, in collaboration with Best Buddies of Kentucky, Best Buddies will match typical peers from a partnered, local high school with teenagers from FEAT of Louisville who have ASD. Through these relationships, one-on-one friendships between high school students and students with ASD are formed. The high school years are a time of heightened social and emotional development and can be difficult even for those without ASD. Best Buddies help break through social barriers at an important time in a young person’s life.

Hwang’s Warriors
The Warriors is an adaptive martial arts program provided by Hwang’s Martial Arts and sponsored by FEAT of Louisville. The program is highly structured and skill-oriented to help children develop social skills. Children build their self-esteem and confidence, foster interpersonal skills, increase attention, and are better able to focus and concentrate. During each session, children receive the specific support they need to grow and learn Taekwondo.

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