
Dear School Administrator,

My name is Abby Edwards. I am a Senior at Westhampton Beach High School and I will be attending college this fall, where I plan to pursue a degree in Childhood/Special Education. I have two older brothers, Josh and Riley. Josh graduated college and is currently working on his career goals. Riley has Autism, he attends and resides at Anderson Center for Autism where he is continuing his lifelong learning journey.

Since 2017 I have been coordinating an Annual Pajama Day Fundraiser with the amazing participation from many school districts across the state, friends, family and community members. Together raising over \$38,000 in honor of my brother Riley, supporting his school Anderson Center For Autism, and promoting Autism Awareness.

The CDC now reports that 1 in 44 individuals are identified with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) compared to last year's statistic of 1 in 54. The continuous increase of this number calls for the creation of an inclusive and accepting environment for all individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

My siblings and I are very close, and having Riley living away from home was and still is difficult, but my family and I know that Riley and his peers are cared for so much at Anderson, which has made it easier for us. Anderson Center For Autism's mission is to optimize the quality of life for children and adults on the spectrum. This is why I need to do my part, continue to support my Brother and all that attend Anderson Center for Autism. I want to ensure they have that opportunity, to live their best life.

Pajama Day has been a great success due to all of you and your tremendous support and generosity. Together we need to continue to promote awareness, acceptance and raise funds so that Anderson Center for Autism can continue to provide services and programs such as being members of the Blue knights, participating in the special olympics, the art program, cooking, gardening and so many more social and academic experiences.

Please join us this year , **Friday April 29th 2022** for the 6th annual Pajama Day Fundraiser for Autism Awareness Month. I'm encouraging all students and staff to wear your pajamas, help raise awareness and donate \$3.00 or more. All donations support Anderson Center for Autism.

You can share your Pajama Day Fun for us to see!! Post on Instagram, Twitter, Tik Tok, make sure to use the hashtag **#AutismAwarenessPJDay22** and tag **@AndersonCenterForAutism** and our pajama day account, **@AutismAwarenessPJDay**.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Abby Edwards

Please contact me with questions at: aedwards456@icloud.com

Visit my website to learn more! : <https://www.autismawarenesspjd.com>

Visit Anderson Center For Autism: <https://www.andersoncenterforautism.org/>