
Dear friends, family, and community members,

My name is Abby Edwards. This year I'm a senior at Westhampton Beach High school. I will be graduating and planning to attend college. I have two older brothers, Josh and Riley. Josh just graduated college and has started working towards his career. My brother Riley is autistic, 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 Riley and all that attend Anderson Center for Autism. I want to ensure they have that opportunity to live their best life.

In the past five years, Pajama Day has been very successful. This success is 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.

The 6th annual Pajama Day fundraiser will be held on **Friday, April 29, 2022**. Please join in! Consider donating and don't forget to wear your Pajamas!

Checks may be written to: Anderson foundation for Autism, Memo- Pajama Day
Mailed to: Abby Edwards, 19 East Moriches Blvd, East Moriches NY 11940

If you'd like to donate online, Please visit this link or **scan the QR code:**
<https://shop.acenterforautism.org/custom-donation> (at check out type in comment- pajama day)

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

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>

