

**I'm Interested In Learning More About
The Autism Initiative!**

I am

- Interested in volunteering
- An interested Educator. I teach:

- An interested Crafter. I teach:

- An interested seminarian at:

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Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Facebook: _____

- Preferred form of contact:
- Phone
 - Email
 - Facebook

or

Please mail form to:

Attn: The Autism Initiative
Oakland United Methodist Church
1431 State Route 428
Oil City, Pa. 16301

**Contact Us for More Information on
Short Term Missionary Opportunities**



**Forward All Inquiries To:
Rev. Dr. Edward P. Saxman, Director of the
Autism Initiative**



Mail: Attn: The Autism Initiative
Oakland United Methodist Church
1431 State Route 428
Oil City, PA 16301

Phone: 814-676-0959
Email: theautisminitiative@oaklandum.com

**Help Kids,
Learn about Autism,
Engage in Ministry**

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Learn about Autism,
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*Enjoy the chance to work one on one with
children, teens, and adults with autism,
through rewarding, short term missionary
experiences.*

Rev. Dr. Edward P. Saxman
The Autism Initiative, Director
theautisminitiative@oaklandum.com

Help Kids,

Learn About Autism,

Engage in Ministry

If you are a committed Christian, passionate about ministering to children, teens, or adults and are interested in learning more about Autism, this is the experience for you!

SHORT TERM MISSIONARY

The Autism Initiative will provide you with an invaluable experience by empowering you to make a difference in a person’s life through an unforgettable Christian camping experience.

The Autism Initiative provides reflection and spiritual growth opportunities that will aid missionaries in integrating this experience into the life of their local congregation. Please contact us for more information!

WHAT IS A SHORT TERM MISSIONARY

A short term missionary with The Autism Initiative enjoys the opportunity to share God’s love through faithful, one-on-one experiences with a child, teen, or adult struggling with Autism over the course of a week long summer camp experience and/or a weekend Family Retreat.

SHORT TERM MISSIONARY SERVICE

Short term missionaries support The Autism Initiative through donations of time, talents, and finances. Support this initiative by assisting during one week of summer creative arts camp, and/or one weekend with the Autism Family Retreat.

The cost of the short term missionary experience varies according to the location and duration of the event. Please contact us for details, dates, & costs.

AUTISM INTENSIVE EXPERIENCE

The Autism Intensive Experience will “buddy” a short term missionary with a child, teen, or adult struggling with Autism. A “buddy” will spend most of the day helping the child, teen, or adult celebrate a Christian camping experience in numerous classroom, recreation, mealtime, and nighttime settings via participation in crafts, swimming, worship, and other program options while parents enjoy some coveted free time to refresh, relax, rejuvenate and re-educate themselves on the care of their families.

Time and training will be provided to allow missionaries the opportunity to learn strategies for integrating children, teens, and/or adults with Autism into typically functioning situations while effectively meeting the needs and goals of the person struggling with Autism.

Short term missionaries will develop well-rounded understanding and appreciation for the challenges and successes these children, teens, and adults must address in their daily lives. They will then be encouraged to sensitize their local congregations to the struggles of Autism and how to begin shaping a community of faith capable of ministering to people with disabilities.



*Make a Difference, Transform a Life,
Build the Kingdom of God*

MINISTRY ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- ◇ Individual/Family Counseling
- ◇ Understanding Non-Typically Developing Individuals
- ◇ Creating a “Congregational Culture of Caring” to include those with Disabilities
- ◇ Leadership Training
- ◇ Developing a Biblical Theology as the basis for a Disability Ministry

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MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- ◇ Partner with a child, teen, or adult with Autism
- ◇ Lead a Parenting Strategies and/or Reflection Class
- ◇ Lead an Artisan Craft for children, teens and/or parents
- ◇ Provide engaging activities for siblings of children with Autism
- ◇ Develop and organize helpful resources
- ◇ Be an overnight camp counselor for a weeklong summer camp and/or a weekend retreat
- ◇ Provide Art Therapy, Speech Therapy, Music Therapy, or Developmentally appropriate Bible Study workshops