

# Letter From The Publisher

## Welcome to the premiere issue of *The Autism Perspective - TAP Magazine!*

I'm so pleased and excited to offer a fresh forum to all who are touched by autism.

Many of you are probably aware that, according to the Centers for Disease Control, 1 of every 166 children born is diagnosed with autism, and it is estimated that there are 1.5 million documented cases of autism in the US. Although the experience of autism is similar for all involved, each person who has autism is an individual and should be treated as such. We all need to be aware of different perspectives.

Everyone, it seems, is going through the autism experience. I have talked to so many people from very different backgrounds; different faces, different races, male or female—it doesn't matter. Everyone is telling a similar story; You don't know what to do, you don't know where to go, you don't know who to turn to.

Some families are just entering the autism labyrinth, while others have become warriors paving the way gathering invaluable time-saving, life-altering information. All families are seeking help, searching for answers and demanding to be heard.

I wanted to create something meaningful, a publication by which families, people living with autism spectrum disorders, providers and caregivers could come together to share their point of view about their autism experience.

The Autism Perspective — TAP Magazine is a place where you state your point of view without giving your opinion about another person. When you take the opportunity to listen to other people's perspectives and experiences, you have more information. When you have more information, you can make a more informed decision. TAP will not promote, judge or recommend other people's opinions. It is a forum for discussion in which all are welcome, and I am delighted to present such diverse offerings in this premiere edition.

Like so many others, I, too, have a personal connection to autism. My sweet nephew Danny is autistic. I was there when he was born. That little boy is in my heart. I just adore him. I love him so much that I affectionately call him "Danny Boy!"

Publication of this first issue of The Autism Perspective would not have been possible without the generosity and kind cooperation of so many wonderful people. . . I'd like to thank the amazing all volunteer Advisory Board members, Janine Wolf, Carolyn Krugman and Bernhard Morse, Mary Urquhart, Nadine Geher, Gary, Mary & Teddi Cole, Claire LaZebnik, Stanley Greenspan, Nancy Wiseman, Valerie Vanaman, Senator Jackie Speier, BJ Freeman, Sandra Arntzen and Debra Green, Russell Friedman and John James, Pamela Clark, Ryan Walters, Michael Hricko, Joannie Busillo-Aguayo, Max LaZebnik, Cindy Cottier, Lisa Ackerman, Harold and Joanne Davies, Alex and Melissa Kimmell, Heidi Fernandez, Melanie Steensland at KCAL-CBS, Charlie Cook at Westwood One Radio Networks, Tonya Campos at KZLA, Doug Merrill - Susan Heller Melanie Lerch at Loeb & Loeb LLC, Paul Larrierivieree, Luke Pawliszyn of Lukasz Design, Bill Stillman, Rhory Kadish-Lambo, Aaron Stokes at Global Interactive Design, Dorie Klissas at NBC Universal, Joey Travolta, Alisa Wolf, Robin Orr, Ross Avedissian - Jean Dure at ColorFX, Inc. and Tricia Rissmann.

...and finally, this magazine is dedicated to my sweet Danny Boy.

*Nicki Fischer*



Danny "Boy" Gott