



Dear Guest,



Two years ago from today, The Gem Project (TGP) adopted Autism as one of its founding causes for the main branch. It had once affected 1 in 150 children throughout the nation. Today it affects 1 in 110, and in New Jersey it's 1 in 94.

Every **twenty minutes** a child is diagnosed. Every **twenty minutes** the lives of families throughout the nation are changed forever.

The frustrations that many families go through are often silent ones. Therapies are expensive and many children have been left without coverage because of their pre-existing condition for several years.

The majority of these children will one day become adults with Autism. How can we help those affected lead productive lives? The Gem Project's philosophy is to "Captiveate to Educate." We engage the community and simultaneously educate them about an issue, through innovative programs and enriching activities.

Early intervention is essential so awareness of this neurological disorder is imperative. The Gem Project has developed several programs for educators and the youth to better understand Autism. We have our ongoing c/o founded project, The Autism Quilt, and newly launched the Interactive Literacy Program.

The Gem Project is proud to support Autism Speaks, the nation's leading nonprofit for Autism Spectrum Disorders. View more information about them here: <http://www.autismspeaks.org>. In addition, we support the efforts of the Holly Robinson-Peete's foundation, HollyRod4Kids: <http://www.hollyrod.org/>

**Let's welcome April, it's Autism Awareness Month!**

Please send stories, comments, or suggestions that relate to this issue to [feedback@thegemproject.org](mailto:feedback@thegemproject.org). We're very interested in hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Amanda Ebokosia*, Founder

RU NCAS Alum '08  
The Gem Project, Inc.  
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866-582-5521 (Fax)  
[project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org)  
<http://thegemproject.org>

**Note:** You've received this message based on your relationship with Amanda Ebokosia, or The Gem Project, Inc. You're free to unsubscribe at any time. For questions regarding delivery of this message, please contact [project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org).



**M.E.N.U**

**UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS**

**RSVP for all events by:**

>973-506-9275

>[project@thegemproject.org](mailto:project@thegemproject.org)

><http://thegemproject.org>

**SEE: Events Section**

- **4/16/2010: The Autism Quilt**

**Selected Venues:**

**1) Science, Industry & Business  
NYPL 188 Madison Avenue @ 34th  
Street**

**New York, NY 10016-4314**

**2)Ripley Grier Studios  
NEW YORK,NY**

**(Room Location–RSVP 1st)**

**Time: 4:00-8:00PM**

*\*depending on the capacity, location is subject to change. Those who RSVP will get a final confirmation several days before the event. This will apply for all events.*

- **4/17/2010: Info**



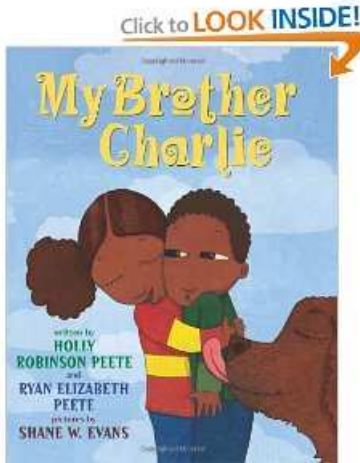
# INTERACTIVE LITERACY PROGRAM:

When: Every 3rd Wednesday  
Time: Between 3-6 PM EST.  
Volunteer: Call: 973-506-9275  
RSVP: ([ONLINE](#))

\* All volunteers must attend our meeting on 4/17/2010. SEE: Menu column of newsletter.

Date: April 21, 2010

Selected Day Care Centers: Bloomfield, NJ- Newark,NJ- & NYC,NY



Elizabeth Peete.

### Activity:

Children will participate in the Autism Quilt activity. SEE: program below.

### Program Info:

College students/  
TGP volunteers read  
to students from  
grades K-3 monthly:  
Themes vary from  
month to month.

April's theme:  
Autism Awareness

Book:  
My Brother Charlie

By: Holly Robinson  
Peete & Ryan

## Seminar & Meeting

Where:116 West 23rd Street  
New York, NY

Time: 2:00 -2:30 PM  
(Prospective Member)

Meeting: 2:30-3:00 PM  
(All Members)

**Note: Assigned rooms are only given to those who RSVP**

- 4/21/2010:

### <<< Interactive Literacy Program:

Volunteers please call: #973-506-9275; Only serving Bloomfield-NJ, Newark-NJ, & NYC-NY

- 4/25/2010:

**Contest Deadline** For all applications for the High School social entrepreneurial contest.

( [View: Website for Details](#))

## Our Mission:

To educate the youth of our nation, of various issues which affect them and their communities, through innovative programs and enriching activities.

By providing the youth with the necessary tools to participate in our programs, we encourage personal growth and awareness about substantial issues that affect them.

The experiences that many youths attain from our programs, will help them become very healthy enlightened leaders, and community organizers for the future.

**Shop for our cause?**

## THE AUTISM QUILT :

**We can continue to build it, if you lend a hand!**

The Gem Project co-founded The Autism Quilt project with the Guardian Fellowship organization in March 2008.

Goal: To bring awareness of Autism through art, supplemented by a discussion about it.

### Steps:

- Distribute blank puzzle pieces to various schools along with informational packets about Autism
- Teachers or students mail back the puzzles, which they have decorated themselves, to our address.



- The Puzzle Team assembles the puzzles into a large portrait like quilt.
- The portrait is given to participating schools as a gift to display for their students

Photo Info: This is the photo of the original Autism puzzle piece portrait that stretched from 6x5 feet long. We're currently trying to reformat the entire piece.

**Next meeting discussion :** 4/16/2010 (See MENU column of this Newsletter for more information)

## THE GEM PROJECT'S NEXT AMAZING NONPROFIT

March 13, 2010- April 25, 2010

[\(Click to View Information\)](#)

[\(Click to Apply\)](#)

**Prizes Include:** Start up Books:

- (Book) Effective fund-raising for nonprofits
- (Book) Starting & Building a nonprofit - Real-World Strategies
- A TGP Star Trophy
- A special surprise & much more

## The Gem Project - Goals



*Photo Info: TGP EVENT at Rutgers- Newark's Paul Robeson Art Gallery*  
As you may know, The Gem Project management has changed. Our main goal starting 2010 has been to strengthen our infrastructure. There are many elemental factors that can lead us to this goal.

- Expand our membership and welcome a new team: TGP conducts 30-45 minute informational seminars for prospective



The Gem Project has opened its online store. We have TGP T-shirts that can be purchased during the time we announce and have our "College Campus Walks"

Every product is given an initial base price to supply the merchandise. It works by way of a sell-by demand policy. 10 % has been added to all products to contribute to The Gem Project. It will help with operational fees and our programs.

[\[ Launch Shop Online\]](#)

## –Start Your Own Chapter Today–

The Gem Project is welcoming students to apply to start their own collegiate & high school chapters.

You may apply today:

[\[Get Involved Section:  
http://thegemproject.org\]](#)

Be a part of a close network. TGP main headquarters guides new chapters on the best ways to execute our programs. All members join us annually at a gala to celebrate our wins of the year. All chapters are given their own chapter website!

They're now able to update the public on their upcoming news and events.

**"The Place Where Community Organizers Are Born!"**

members every 3rd Saturday in NY & NJ. Our next 5 are based in our meeting locations & offices in NYC.

- Spread our practices: We have since welcomed the applications to start collegiate and high school chapters for our organization. (SEE WEBSITE: <http://thegemproject.org> -- SEE: "Get INVOLVED" section.

## The Gem Project's Achievement Ceremony

When: 5.19.10

Time: 5:30 PM-8:00PM

Where:

Newark Public Library  
Auditorium, Fourth Floor  
5 Washington Street  
Newark, NJ 07101

**\*Refreshments Provided\***

### Information:

Attend TGP's Achievement ceremony to learn more about our organization, witness what we've accomplished, see our new members, and congratulate the winner of TGP's Next Amazing Nonprofit!

RSVP: ([Online](#))

( See : TGP Events Section-- Fill out form and in comments type: ceremony)

"Bringing Forth Positive  
Change Within Your  
Community"



Forward this to a friend!



### News From Our Partners!

This is an update column from our partner organizations:  
Organizations & companies that provide mutual support.

#### ***"Yo Get 'Em Kids"***

By: Cassandra Giacci:

\*Currently looking for youth between 13-18 years of age, to participate in a multitude of art projects in her art studio located in NY. The service for the youth is entirely free.

**Please Contact:**

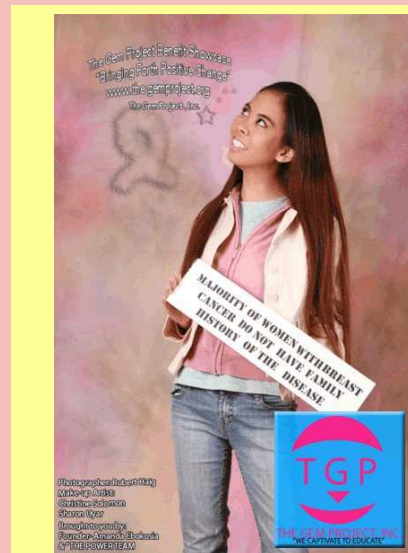
**[cassandragiacci@yahoo.com](mailto:cassandragiacci@yahoo.com)**

**Other Supporting  
Organizations/Companies:**

The Butter House

The Guardian Fellowship

**\* All partners send in updates \***



**IMAGE INFO:** Featuring: NJIT student from a TGP College Campus Benefit Photo Shoot ('07)

## New Breast Cancer Awareness Display Tour

October 2010

"An organization is only as strong as the members who support it" - Ebokosia

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