

## AUTISM WALK

## Monthly Shout Out: *Jan Graham*

### Don't miss the 2012 Autism Walk Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

Autism Speaks is dedicated to increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders, funding research into the causes, prevention, and treatments for autism, and to advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

Registration 8:00 am  
Welcome, Warm-up, Walk 9:30 am  
**Tempe Beach Park**  
80 W Rio Salado Parkway  
Tempe, AZ 85281

There will be a 5K route as well as a 1 mile family fun route. For more information or to register, call 602-685-1161 or [www.walknowforautismspeaks.org](http://www.walknowforautismspeaks.org).



Contact Sonia at  
[sdykuizen@arioncaresolutions.com](mailto:sdykuizen@arioncaresolutions.com) to  
nominate your favorite  
provider. Recipient will  
receive a \$50 gift card.

**Jan Graham** is most deserving of this Performance Award. Jan has been my son's provider since 2007. Jan is a very special person, and has an incredible capacity for kindness and patience. She brings out the very best in my son, helping him to become the best person he can become. Jan helps Andrew by being extremely consistent and dedicated with working with Andrew's goals. She is reliable, punctual, and trustworthy which makes her a great role model for Andrew. Jan is an incredible support person, encouraging Andrew by always building from his strengths. Jan exemplifies the role of care-giver.

## Welcome To Holland by Emily Kingsley

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with disability - to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this..... When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip - to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting. After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland." "Holland?!?" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy." But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay. The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of

pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place. So you must go out and buy new guide books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met. It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around.... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills....and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts. But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy... and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned." And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away...because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss. But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things ..... about Holland.