

PRESENTED BY: DENA GASSNER, MSW

Bringing you new ideas and practical solutions that work!!!

# VULNERABILITY in INDIVIDUALS with ASPERGER'S SYNDROME or other SOCIAL-COGNITIVE DIFFERENCES

SOCIAL/CULTURAL VULNERABILITY CHALLENGES

IMPROVING SOCIAL UNDERSTANDING

GENDER DIFFERENCE CHALLENGES

VULNERABILITY AND ITS IMPACT ON SEXUALITY

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH FORMAL ASSESSMENT

APPROPRIATE STRENGTH-BASED INTERVENTIONS

A consummate professional who is also the mother of a son with Autism, Ms. Gassner will provide both a professional and insider's perspective on Autism and Asperger's Syndrome, increase your understanding of vulnerability issues, and provide you with new ideas and practical solutions that work for your students, clients, and their families!!!



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CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS PROVIDED

SAVE UP TO \$20 REGISTER EARLY! †

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## CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

To receive verification of successful completion of the following credit hours, participants are expected to sign-in, attend the entire program, and complete an evaluation. For continuing education inquiries, please go to this program's page at [www.health-ed.com](http://www.health-ed.com) or contact [ssell@health-ed.com](mailto:ssell@health-ed.com).

**NURSES/NURSE PRACTITIONERS/NURSE SPECIALISTS:** 6.0 Contact (60 minute) Hours; 7.2 Contact (50 minute) Hours.

HEALTH ED is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Wisconsin Nurses Association Continuing Education Approval Program Committee, an accredited approver by the **American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation**.

*Alabama* - 7.2 Contact Hours. HEALTH ED is an approved provider of continuing education in nursing by the **Alabama Board of Nursing**, (provider #ABNP1181). Please bring your TriComm Data card. Full attendance is required. No partial credit will be offered for partial attendance.

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTITIONERS/OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS:** 6.0 Hours.

*AOTA* - .6 CEUs (6.0 Contact Hours). HEALTH ED is an Approved Provider of Continuing Education for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants by the **American Occupational Therapy Association**. The assignment of AOTA CEUs does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products, or clinical procedures by AOTA.

**PHYSICAL THERAPISTS/PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS:**

This program has been designed to meet the criteria for 6.0 hours of acceptable continuing education. Licensees are to determine the acceptability of the program based upon the rules of their licensing board.

*Alabama* - 7.2 Hours. The **Alabama Board of Physical Therapy** has approved this program.

*Georgia* - .6 CEUs. This program has been approved by the **Physical Therapy Association of Georgia** for .6 CEUs.

**PSYCHOLOGISTS:** 6.0 Hours.

HEALTH ED is approved by the **American Psychological Association** to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. HEALTH ED maintains responsibility for this program and its content. HEALTH ED is offering this activity for 6 hours of continuing education credit. Full attendance is required. No partial credit will be offered for partial attendance.

**SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS, AND COUNSELORS:** 6.0 Hours.

*Alabama* - HEALTH ED is an approved provider with the **Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners**.

*Georgia* - The **Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists** accepts courses approved by professional associations.

*NASW* - This program is approved by the **National Association of Social Workers** (provider #886341246) for 6.0 continuing education hours.

*ASWB* - HEALTH ED, (provider #1033), is approved as a provider for social work continuing education by the **Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)**, (1-800-225-6880) through the Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program and maintains responsibility for the program.

*NBCC* - HEALTH ED, (provider #5655), is recognized by the **National Board for Certified Counselors** to offer continuing education for National Certified Counselors. We adhere to NBCC Continuing Education Guidelines.

**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS:** 6.0 Hours.

*ASHA* - .6 CEUs (Intermediate Level/Professional Area). HEALTH ED is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)** to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. This program is offered for .6 CEUs (Intermediate Level/Professional Area). ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

*Alabama* - This program has been submitted to the **Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology**.

*Georgia* - This course dated 7/31/09 in Atlanta/Roswell, has been approved by the **Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology**.

**TEACHERS/SCHOOL-BASED PERSONNEL:** 6.0 Hours.

This program has been designed to offer six professional development hours. It is recommended that you check with your Professional Development Committee/Coordinator or the school district contact for recognition of this program.

√**Others:** If your profession is not listed, please contact your board to determine how to receive credit. This program is designed to offer six contact hours. Many boards accept reciprocal approval via the organizations listed above.



# REGISTRATION

## CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS PROVIDED

VULNERABILITY IN INDIVIDUALS WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME OR OTHER SOCIAL - COGNITIVE DIFFERENCES  
JULY 30, 2009 - BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA • JULY 31, 2009 - ATLANTA/ROSWELL, GEORGIA

ALGADGVALP9



### 1. Yes I will Attend: (please check date/location)

- JULY 30, 2009 - BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
- JULY 31, 2009 - ROSWELL, GEORGIA

### 2. Complete for each registrant: Copy as needed. All information will be kept confidential.

- SW  MFT  LPC  OT
- OTA  PT  Special Education Staff  SLP
- Nurse  Educator  Psychologist  PTA
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name

Daytime Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency or  Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Registrations must be pre-paid. Payment or all purchase order hard copy must be included to process registrations.

- †\$169.00 per person for group of 2 or more pre-registering at the same time
- †\$179.00 per person pre-registering
- †\$189.00 per person when registering after the pre-registration deadline or at the door (space permitting)

Federal Tax ID: 39-177920

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** To ensure your place in this course, please register as early as possible. Pre-Registration rates apply to individuals and groups registering with payment in full before 12:00 noon CT the day before the program. **Groups must register at the same time.**

**Detach and mail with payment to: HEALTH ED, P.O. Box 1075, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1075**

### 4. Ways to Register/Method of Payment (select one):

- ON-LINE:** [www.health-ed.com](http://www.health-ed.com) (credit card via secure web site)
- Fax:** 715-839-8680 (credit card or *entire purchase order hard copy*)
- Mail:** Check or money order payable to HEALTH ED, credit card information or *entire purchase order paperwork:* HEALTH ED, Box 1075, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1075

Ck. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Pd. \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** 800-839-4584 or 715-839-8055 (credit card) - 800 a.m. - 500 p.m. CT

MasterCard  Visa  Discover  Amex

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE:  F  P  PO \_\_\_\_\_ SC \_\_\_\_\_

Please pass this brochure along to your colleagues who would also benefit from this program.

**HEALTH ED**  
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Eau Claire, WI 54702-1075  
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*The Gifts of Asperger* by John M. Ortiz, PhD

*The Gifts of Asperger* focuses on the strengths, assets, resourceful nature, talents, special qualities, abilities, aptitudes, potential, and promise of persons with AS and HFA. Through personal accounts and real-life stories shared by persons with AS or HFA, their families or caretakers, close friends or relatives, teachers, therapists or employers, the book illustrates the many ways in which persons with AS and HFA are, have always been, and always will be, invaluable citizens in our world of neurodiversity.

To place your order, please go to our products page at [www.health-ed.com](http://www.health-ed.com) or call 715-552-9524.



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**HEALTH ED SATISFACTION GUARANTEE**  
If you are not satisfied with the program, call us or write to us and we will make it right!  
Lois Postlewaite • Penny Graham • Sue Rogge

**JULY 30, 2009**

**BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**  
THE WYNFREY HOTEL AT RIVERCHASE GALLERIA  
1000 Riverchase Galleria | Birmingham, AL 35244  
205-987-1600

**JULY 31, 2009**

**ATLANTA/ROSWELL, GEORGIA**  
DOUBLETREE HOTEL  
ATLANTA/ROSWELL-ALPHARETTA AREA  
1075 Holcomb Bridge Road | Roswell, GA 30076  
770-992-9600

**CONFERENCE HOTEL INFORMATION:** For additional hotel information, including driving directions and parking, please contact hotel directly or go to this program's page at [www.health-ed.com](http://www.health-ed.com) for link to hotel website.

**ADA:** Contact us a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the program for accommodations.

**REGISTRATION POLICY:** A completed registration form, payment, or purchase order hard copy is required at time of registration for **each** attendee. Use only one registration form per person. Please copy this form for multiple registrations. **Pre-Registration** rates apply only to individuals and groups registering with payment in full before 12:00 noon CT the day before the program. **Groups must register at the same time.**

**TUITION:** Fee includes program manual and refreshments at sign-in.

- †\$169.00 per person for group of 2 or more pre-registering at the same time
- †\$179.00 per person pre-registering
- \$189.00 per person when registering after the pre-registration deadline or at the door (space permitting)

**RECEIPT/CONFIRMATION:** Register on-line at [www.health-ed.com](http://www.health-ed.com) or email your request to [smartin@health-ed.com](mailto:smartin@health-ed.com).

**CANCELLATIONS/TRANSFERS:** To make registration changes, please email [smartin@health-ed.com](mailto:smartin@health-ed.com) prior to the program for transfers or credit coupons which can be applied toward a future program. A refund, minus a \$30 administrative fee, is possible for cancellations received no later than seven (7) business days prior to the start of the program. No refunds will be granted after that date. In the unlikely event HEALTH ED has to cancel a program for any reason you will be notified immediately to arrange a transfer, coupon, or full refund.

# COURSE SUMMARY

## VULNERABILITY IN INDIVIDUALS WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME OR OTHER SOCIAL – COGNITIVE DIFFERENCES

**7:30** **REGISTRATION, SIGN-IN, & COURSE MATERIALS**

**8:00** **COURSE BEGINS**

(MORNING AND AFTERNOON BREAKS DETERMINED BY MS. GASSNER.)

### HOW DOES ASPERGER'S SYNDROME, HIGH-FUNCTIONING AUTISM, PDD-NOS, NLD, & ADHD IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS?

The Old Paradigm

The 'Rain Man' Myth

Sensory Issues & Integration Difficulties

DSM-IV vs. Reality

The Impersonators

Co-Existing Diagnoses

Pharmaceutical Incarceration

### CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES

Professional/Personal Barriers	Cultural Assaults	Sensory Overload
Abusive Behaviors	Deficit Models	Unspoken Language
Ineffective Therapies - What Never To Do	Common Communication Pitfalls	

### BUILDING A NEW FOUNDATION: THE NEW PARADIGM

Social/Cultural/Sexual Implications of Disability

Implications for Individuals with Asperger's Syndrome & Other Social-Cognitive Deficits

Embracing New Intentions: From Shame to Acceptance & Self-Awareness

Literalism, Metaphors, & Concrete Language

**11:30** **LUNCH (on your own)**

**12:30** **SHIFTING THE PARADIGM: FOCUSING ON STRENGTH-BASED STRATEGIES**

Tools of Assessment "Special Interests"

Selecting Appropriate Interventions

Designing Individualized Strategies for Safety

### NEW VIEW LENS OF SOCIAL-COGNITIVE DIFFERENCES

Strategies to Overcome Social/Cultural/Sexual Vulnerability: Concrete Skill Building; Achieving Positive Outcomes; Reworking Personal & Family History

### SPECIFIC CASE EXPLORATION/DISCUSSION

**3:30** **EVALUATIONS, ADJOURNMENT, & CERTIFICATES**

All clinical material will be kept confidential to protect the individual. Sexuality (PG-17 or higher) is an agenda component. The information provided will be presented in a factual manner. There will be no emphasis on religious or moral implications regarding the sensitivity of this subject. Clinical dilemmas and general questions will be welcome during the discussion period.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

**Counselors • Marriage & Family Therapists • Nurses • Occupational Therapists  
Physical Therapists • Social Workers • Psychologists • Special Education Staff  
School-Based Personnel • Speech-Language Pathologists**

This program is designed for anyone caring for, treating, or teaching families, children, and adults living with autism differences in educational, medical, clinical, and social service agency settings. While designed for professionals, family members (parents, grandparents, and spouses), first responders and attorneys will also find the information extremely useful.

This program is appropriate for all levels of participant knowledge regarding high-functioning autism and Asperger's Syndrome and other social-cognitive deficits.

# PRESENTER

**DENA L. GASSNER, MSW**, developed her interest in family systems with diagnostic family training at the University Affiliated Program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital while simultaneously becoming a certified early intervention specialist. Upon completing her Master's Degree at the University of Kentucky, Ms. Gassner transitioned to individual/family coaching support in the field of Asperger's Syndrome and similar processing/developmental learning challenges. Today, she continues her work as an advocate, writer, and national presenter to schools, families, and agencies throughout the country.

Ms. Gassner is on the board of directors of GRASP and is collaborating with them on a special women's research initiative. She is a member of the Panel of Spectrum Advisors for the Autism Society of America, board member for the Autism Society of Middle Tennessee, 2008 Graduate of Partners in Policymaking and member of the Vanderbilt University Post-Secondary Task Force. She was published in the 2008 Third Edition of the Autism Advocate Magazine for the Autism Society of America and was referenced in another article, same edition. She is working on her first book, *Making Evaluations Count*, to be published by Autism Asperger's Publishing Company.

## PURPOSE

**The goal of this program is to discuss the societal, cultural, gender, and diagnostic differences and attitudes which continue to fracture the foundations of wellness for many individuals with social-cognitive differences.** We will discuss the possible negative consequences resulting when these issues are inadequately addressed. Participants will learn how to provide a stable foundation for a life of authenticity and personal wholeness which leads to emotional and physical stability for strength, protection, and safety.

## OBJECTIVES

**At the conclusion of the program, you will have the knowledge required to:**

1. Discuss the social/cultural/sexual implications of Asperger's Syndrome, disability as a whole, and other social-cognitive differences.
2. Describe how misdiagnosis can impact vulnerability and exposure to abuse.
3. List strategies to assist individuals and families in achieving positive outcomes.
4. Design safety-based strategies using newly developed skills and understanding.

*"AWESOME speaker—loved that this wasn't just clinical, but experiential too.  
I LEARNED SO MUCH!"*

**Beth Schwartz, RN, MSN**

*"Dena is an engaging and knowledgeable presenter with practical strategies.  
EXCELLENT! Well worth the day!"*

**Mary J. Carpenter, MSEd, LP**

## PROGRAM PLANNING TEAM

Louise J. Armstrong, OTR • Dena Gassner, MSW • Kay Gautsch, PT  
Judith Kay Nelson, PhD, LCSW • Sandra Sunquist Stanton, MS, NCC, LPC  
Linda R. Schreiber, MS, CCC-SLP (Board Recognized Specialist in Child Language)  
David Steinweg, PhD • Lois B. Taft, RN, DNSc