

LUNCHTIME #9 – October 12, 2022

PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS AND AUTISTIC YOUTH – Success Stories with Police Training & Relationship Building

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqcOuurT8vGNfBYfGbFvVeH0JOm5OS2e5h>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



We have a lot of children that don't have great social skills, and with the numbers growing with autism, we want to make sure that the community is totally educated -- the churches, department stores, legislators. And there's so much that has gone on with police officers with our special needs community. For instance, Jason had a medication meltdown where he was very, very violent. And I had to call the ambulance. The fire department called the police. And they came in with guns drawn. I'm telling them all the time, "There's no weapons. My son has autism." They weren't hearing anything. So, we want to make sure that the first responders are trained, and I'm proud to say that just about every village within the Proviso Township (in Illinois) has been trained on the signs and symptoms of autism. Advocacy is a gift. I'm good at it, and it makes me feel so good. That's my high now.

CNN Hero Debra Vines