

Autism Radio: Spreading Hope on the Airwaves

By Paul CIMINS

LEARN ABOUT AUTISM RADIO, WHICH OFFERS SUPPORT, GUIDANCE, AND HOPE TO AUTISM FAMILIES.

Autism Radio has made a difference in the autism community for 15 years, and counting.

As the creator of Autism Radio, I saw the need for this vehicle as I dealt daily with an autistic, nonverbal son. Driven by the love for my son, I realized that thousands of families were desperate to discover a connection with other parents of autistic children.

I began my mission, to reach out to parents in need, by creating the *Hope Saves The Day* podcast in 2007, a time when podcasting was fairly new to the world. My wife and I attended numerous support groups to build our understanding.

In addition to the knowledge we gained through meeting other parents, we quickly learned that finding a babysitter for a special needs child was no easy task. *Hope Saves The Day* grew into a 30-minute podcast, and fellow parents developed a kinship with each other, no longer feeling alone.

My instincts were correct and the show grew in popularity, eventually becoming syndicated and broadcast on 54 stations nationwide. Parents with autistic children now had a vehicle where they could hear guests such as Dr. Temple Grandin, Dr. Stephen Shore, and Gene Saunders from Project Lifesaver. Actors Henry Winkler and Sean Kanan discussed subjects ranging from dealing with delays in the system, to overcoming bullying; a common issue faced by many children on the spectrum.



Becoming a non-profit

By 2010 I realized we could do more for the autism community by applying for non-profit status. As a 100% volunteer organization, Autism Radio could provide support to children and adults in need.

Team Hope, Autism Radio's swimming team provides lessons and opportunities to compete in the Special Olympics. The Giving Hope Martial Arts Program provides an ego-boost for students learning self-defense, and confidence in dealing with

bullies. The Sheriff's Dept. works with Project Life-saver to fill the needs of families at no cost.

Autism Radio continues to expand, partnering with major corporations to provide the autism community with much needed information and assistance.

Stories of hope

One story, out of thousands, involves a single mother and her nonverbal son residing in Texas. Autism Radio was able to provide the family with an iPad along with unique Speech and Learning software. In addition, we arranged for a speech specialist to visit the home weekly and work with mother and son.

A particularly touching moment for me was when, after nine months of training, the boy used the iPad to say: "Mommy, I love you." This was an emotional victory for the Autism Radio team, one of thousands over the years.

To learn more about Autism Radio please go to <https://www.autismradio.org/>. You can subscribe to the Hope Saves The Day podcast on Spotify, Itunes, Pandora or Iheart. I am also available at paul@autismradio.org.



Paul Cimins, President and Founder of Autism Radio and Hope Saves the Day, graduated from the elite Culinary Institute of America and was formerly a gourmet chef at the prestigious Sheraton Tara Hotel as well as Marco Island Marriott Resort in Florida. He owned Culinary Delicacies and is also the Executive Chef specializing in food and catering for some of New Jersey's premier corporations. He is also a father of an autistic child, and the Founder of AutismRadio.org (501c3) and the first syndicated talk radio show. Paul's creation; HopeSaves-TheDay is number #1 in the world helping listeners learn more about Autism while providing hope for families. Paul is known as the "Hopeman" and in 2012 was awarded the title; first Autism Superhero. Paul has connected with the UFC as an Announcer at the UFC Fan expo where he announced the bout to 20,000 fans at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. Paul is a true renaissance man bringing his numerous talents to benefit the autism community.

 <http://autismradio.org/>

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