



Team Shawnie  
ADVOCACY GROUP

# May is Mom's Month!

[www.teamshawniegrou.org](http://www.teamshawniegrou.org)



## Proud Autism Mom

Introducing our "Proud Autism Mom" t-shirt, designed to celebrate the strength, love, and pride of mothers with children on the Autism spectrum. This shirt is more than just apparel; it's a powerful statement of resilience and unwavering support. Crafted with comfort and style in mind, it's the perfect way for Autism moms to showcase their pride and solidarity. Wear it proudly and let the world know that you're a proud advocate for your incredible child.

*Revenue generated from sales like these is crucial for our non-profit organization to sustain our advocacy efforts and provide vital support to special families in need. With your help, we can make a real difference in the lives of those affected by Autism, offering guidance, resources, and compassion every step of the way. Together, let's spread love, acceptance, and understanding.*







# SEEKONK'S SUPER KICKS KARATE

**PARTNERS WITH TEAM SHAWNIE ADVOCACY GROUP TO  
LAUNCH OUTREACH SERVICE FOR CHILDREN WITH  
SPECIAL NEEDS**

## **BECAUSE EVERYONE DESERVES A CHANCE**

The newly launched outreach service will provide a range of programs, including adaptive martial arts classes, and personalized instruction, all designed to accommodate the diverse needs of children with special needs. Through this collaborative effort, Super Kicks Karate and Team Shawnie Advocacy Group aim to create a more inclusive and supportive community where every child can thrive.

*For more information about the new outreach service for children with special needs, please contact Team Shawnie Advocacy Group Inc. at [info@teamshawniegroup.com](mailto:info@teamshawniegroup.com) / 508-538-4554.*



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[www.teamshawniegroup.org](http://www.teamshawniegroup.org)



**Seekonk, MA**  
**508-399-8363**





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# Our Founder's Corner

[www.teamshawniegroup.org](http://www.teamshawniegroup.org)

Shane, Shawnie, and Cheryl Halajko



## Sporty Shawnie

Shawnie, the autistic teenager who serves as the inspiration behind our advocacy group, recently treated himself to a stunning, vibrant jacket using money he diligently saved from his job. His determination, independence, and self-reliance shine through as he proudly wears his new purchase, showcasing his unique style and personality.

This moment exemplifies Shawnie's resilience and serves as a testament to the importance of fostering independence and self-expression within the Autism community.

*Good Job*  
**SHAWNIE**



## GO FUND ME

A big thank you to our dedicated volunteer, Michael Novia, for spearheading the setup a GoFundMe campaign for the Team Shawnie Advocacy Group. His tireless efforts and commitment to our cause are truly appreciated.

Copy and paste this link to donate:  
<https://gofund.me/a7809009>





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# How our team works

[www.teamshawniegroupp.org](http://www.teamshawniegroupp.org)

Shane, Shawnie, and Cheryl Halajko



## THE PROCESS

Supporting a special needs family in crisis is a multi-faceted process that involves numerous steps. It typically begins with an initial meeting with our experienced advocates, where we carefully listen to the family's concerns, needs, and goals. This conversation helps us tailor a personalized plan of action. We guide families through the often complex paperwork and documentation required, which might involve IEPs (Individualized Education Programs), therapy schedules, or medical records, among others. Once the paperwork is organized, our advocates represent the family in meetings with school districts and other agencies, ensuring that their unique requirements are heard and addressed. Throughout the process, we provide unwavering support, offering resources, expertise, and emotional assistance to help the family navigate challenges and achieve the best possible outcomes.

We collaborate closely with families, empowering them to advocate effectively for their special needs child, creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all. Our advocacy approach at the Team Shawnie Group is encapsulated by the acronym D.A.I.R. - Discussion, Action, Implementation, and Results. We are a proactive agency dedicated to achieving successful outcomes, ensuring families receive top-tier equity representation in their interactions with school districts and other agencies.

## THANK YOU TO OUR WALL OF CARING

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone who has been contributing in one way or another to the Team Shawnie Advocacy Group. Your continuing support is essential in helping us to continue our mission of promoting not only acceptance but also support, and inclusion for individuals on the Autism spectrum. These contributions allow us to enlist the expertise of professionals and specialists who can offer tailored guidance, therapies, and resources.

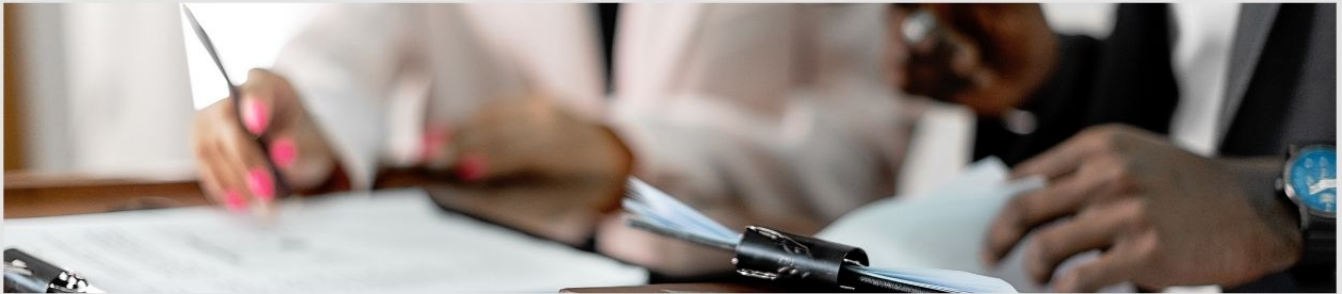
Care to join our Wall Of Caring? Go to <https://teamshawniegroupp.com/wall-of-caring/>



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# Autism Advocacy Resources

[www.teamshawniegroupp.org](http://www.teamshawniegroupp.org)



## Good To Know Resources

Autism advocacy resources play a crucial role in providing support, guidance, and vital information to individuals, families, and communities affected by Autism. These resources serve as invaluable tools for raising awareness, promoting understanding, and facilitating access to essential services and support networks. For a complete list of resources please visit us at: <https://teamshawniegroupp.com/resources-2/>

**File A Complaint With The Massachusetts Department Of Elementary And Secondary Education (DESE)**  
[https://massgov.service-now.com/pqa?id=eoe\\_item\\_form&sys\\_id=7a7dcfe6dbad7b00d272f12cbf96199d](https://massgov.service-now.com/pqa?id=eoe_item_form&sys_id=7a7dcfe6dbad7b00d272f12cbf96199d)

**How To Request For Mediation**  
<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/request-for-mediation>

**Massachusetts Residential Schools**  
A listing of all special education schools in Massachusetts. Join the MAAP Action network.  
<https://maaps.org/school-directory/>

**Massachusetts Special Education Schools**  
A listing of all special education schools in Massachusetts. Join the MAAP Action network.  
<https://maaps.org/school-directory/?page=1>

**Rhode Island Special Education Schools**  
A listing of all special education schools in Rhode Island.  
<https://ri.medicalhomeportal.org/services/category/285>

**Wrights Law - Special Education Law & Advocacy**  
Wrightslaw is the perfect place for accurate, up-to-date information about special education law and advocacy for children with disabilities.  
<https://wrightslaw.com>



# Our Social Media Channels

## Team Shawnie's Media Hub

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ-SLNVnHO3qEpejHoMnB5g>

### Join the movement: **Subscribe Now**

Explore the Influence of Advocacy on our Social Media platforms. Are you dedicated to creating positive change and advocating for meaningful causes? Check out the Team Shawnie social media channels, where we delve into insightful discussions, inspirational narratives, and informative content designed to assist families facing crises due to special needs. Become a part of our growing community of advocates, where we address urgent issues, share success stories, and raise awareness. Subscribing to the Team Shawnie Advocacy Group's YouTube channel keeps you updated with our latest videos and connects you with a movement that strives for constructive transformations. Click that subscribe button and become a part of something impactful today!



#### **YouTube**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ-SLNVnHO3qEpejHoMnB5g>



#### **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/TeamShawnie>



#### **Instagram**

<https://www.instagram.com/teamshawniegroup>