



Team Shawnie
ADVOCACY GROUP

Winter 2025 Newsletter

www.teamshawniegrou.org



Team Shawnie
ADVOCACY GROUP


WE FIGHT YOUR FIGHT!

Help Us Fight Their Fight 2025

This year 2025, we're kicking off an exciting fundraiser to support special needs families with the advocacy services they need and deserve. Together, we can keep ensuring children with special needs get the proper education they deserve in a safe and supportive environment—and have some fun doing it!

Our year goal? Rally 100 new donors to join our mission and create a real impact in these families' lives. Even the smallest daily contribution can spark big changes, providing the support and representation these families rely on. Let's make this season one to remember!

Whether it's \$5 a month, \$10 a month, or a one-time gift, every donation makes a difference. Thank you for being part of our journey to advocate for children with special needs and change lives for the better this year!

 To make a contribution please go to:
<https://givebutter.com/Rx4h6T>



Most Recent Donors

We would like to say thank you to our recent donors Karen Frazao of Frazao Insurance, Mark Mariano of Oakhill Engineering, Michael Lima of The Law Office of Michael C. Lima, Rocco Elgar of Homefront Building Inspections, David & Marisa Masiello, Cynthia De Medeiros, Dr. Nicole Navega PHD, and Maryellen Lane. Their continuous support is making a significant difference in the lives of special needs families.



Our Mission Updates

www.teamshawniegroup.org



What have we done?



Team Shawnie
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In the short time since the Team Shawnie Advocacy Group began operating, we have delivered over 1,000 services to ensure children receive a proper education in a safe environment.



Advocated for over 50 families



Advocated for over 100 children



Attended over 300 meetings



Success win rate is 98%

To learn more about our services please visit us at
www.teamshawniegroup.org



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Shane, Shawnie, and Cheryl Halajko

Our Founder's Corner

www.teamshawniegroup.org



Shawnie Halajko Turns 24!

Happy 24th Birthday to the inspiration behind the Team Shawnie Advocacy Group who turned 24 on January 11th! Your journey continues to inspire all of us to fight for what matters most, and your story is a beacon of hope for families everywhere. We are so proud of you!

Shawnie Halajko, 24



Shawnie and mom, Cheryl Halajko

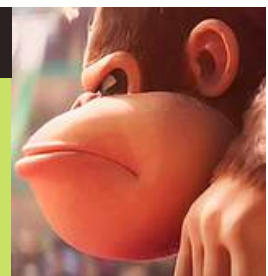


Shawnie and dad, Shane Halajko Sr



Shawnie's Fun Facts

Did you know that in the original Mario Kart, Donkey Kong was originally going to throw out barrels but instead they went with bananas?





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Legal News & Updates

www.teamshawniegroupp.org



Steven Howitt

Massachusetts State Representative

State Representative Mr. Steven Howitt has resubmitted the following Bills on behalf of the Team Shawnie Advocacy Group

Bill H. 183

An Act ensuring the appropriate and timely payment and residential service placement for children deemed to be a safety risk.

(<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/HD519>)

Bill H. 502

An Act relative to independent child protection.

(<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H502>)

Bill H. 503

An Act relative to special education reimbursement programs.

(<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H503>)

*Stay tuned and follow us on social media as we will report on these bills once they advance and become law.

For more info please visit our official site or contact us at:
info@teamshawniegroupp.org

teamshawniegroupp.org



Team Shawnie
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Why We Do What We Do

www.teamshawniegroup.org



We are immensely grateful to be advocates, as it allows us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of special needs families. Being able to provide support, guidance, and representation during challenging times is both an honor and a privilege. The testimonials from our clients reflect the impact of our work and inspire us to continue our mission with dedication and passion. Thank you for trusting us to be a part of your journey.

Testimonial 1 - Thomas M. - Massachusetts

We were repeatedly informed by our school district that our autistic child did not qualify for out-of-district placement and that his current school placement could adequately meet his needs. Despite this, we observed continued regression in his academic progress and an increase in unsafe behaviors.

Thankfully, we reached out to the Team Shawnie Advocacy Group. They attended our follow-up meeting and immediately pointed out to the school district that our child was not receiving a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and that the district was in violation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). As a result of their advocacy, the school district finally approved out-of-district placement and transportation. Our child is now thriving in his new school, and we are overjoyed with the incredible progress he continues to make.

Testimonial 2 - Massachusetts Family

"Thank you to our State Representative for his help in assisting us on getting an out-of-district placement for our son, Matthew. You connected us with the wonderful agency, Team Shawnie Advocacy Group, that has helped us with the placement. They stepped up when no one else would, and made the impossible possible. We are very grateful to you and Team Shawnie for helping our family."

To read more testimonials and some successful stories please visit us at
<https://teamshawniegroup.com/success-stories/>



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Team Shawnie Online Store

www.teamshawniegroupp.com/store

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Wall Art + Winter Wear

NOW AVAILABLE!

Use the code **WINTER10** at checkout

For a 10% discount



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The Shawnie Story

Podcast Episodes 1-6

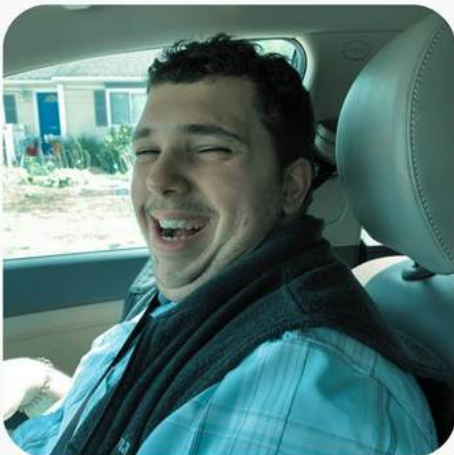
<https://teamshawniegrouppodcast.com/podcast-series/>



The Story of How It All Started

This podcast is a 6 part mini-series based on true events & documented incident reports which expose the neglect and abuse that our son Shawnie went through to get proper treatment and education. Over the span of just a few years, there were more than 400 police and institution reports filled out, some of which demonstrated clear negligence from the staff of numerous institutions.

For this reason, we put together a piece of legislation called "The Shawnie Bill". Once this bill becomes law, this type of inhumane treatment will end for the thousands of other children & adolescents that continue to live through this on a daily basis.





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Autism Advocacy Resources

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=eo_e_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>

SHARE



Please Share & Like

Team Shawnie's Social Media Outlets

When you "Like" you stay informed, when you "Share" you inform others

We kindly ask you to share and like our social media postings to help spread awareness about Autism and the vital advocacy work we do. Each like and share increases our reach, allowing more families in need to discover our services and find the support they deserve. Your engagement helps build a stronger, more informed community, making a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

Please Share & Like and thank you for your continued support!



YouTube

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



Facebook

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



Instagram

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