



Team Shawnie
ADVOCACY GROUP

Summer 2025 Newsletter

www.teamshawniegroup.org



Team Shawnie
ADVOCACY GROUP

WE FIGHT

YOUR FIGHT!

We Are Never Giving Up!

Our 2025 Fundraising Campaign is in full swing, and we're on a mission to create meaningful change for families of children with special needs! With your support, we can continue to provide the advocacy and educational resources these children need in a safe and caring environment.

What's our goal? To welcome 100 new donors who are ready to stand with us and help bring lasting support to those who need it most. Even a small monthly gift can spark real change and give these families the voice and guidance they deserve.

Let's make this Summer unforgettable! Whether you give \$5 a month, \$10 a month, or make a one-time donation, your generosity brings us closer to a brighter, more inclusive future for these incredible kids. We're so grateful to have you with us on this journey.

Curious about how your donation helps? Visit us at www.teamshawniegroup.org to learn more!



To make a contribution please click here:
<https://givebutter.com/Rx4h6T>



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A special thank you to Lenny Silva & Paul Buckley from the Seekonk Lions Club for their generous donation to the Team Shawnie 2025 "Help Us Help Them" Campaign

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

To learn more about the "Help Us Help Them" campaign please visit us at teamshawniegroup.org

To make a contribution to the "Help Us Help Them" campaign please scan the code to the right.



Most Recent Donors

We would like to give a special thank you to Lenny Silva and Paul Buckley from the Seekonk Lions Club for their generous donation to our "Help Us Help Them" campaign. We would also like to thank Cynthia De Medeiros, Anastasia Stande, David Urbanowicz, Jessica Garvey, Karen Frazao of Frazao Insurance, Celeste Fournier of Blu Sky Real Estate. Without their recurrent donations our mission would be a lot harder to accomplish.



Team Shawnie
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Legal News & Updates

www.teamshawniegroupp.org



Steven Howitt

Massachusetts State Representative

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

Thank you Mr. Howitt.

Bill H. 248

An Act ensuring the appropriate and timely payment and residential service placement for children deemed to be a safety risk by representative Howitt of Seekonk, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 248) of Steven S. Howitt relative to at-risk children and their proper placement and establishing a special commission (including members of the General Court) to make an investigation of such placements. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H248>

What happens next?

Once the bill has been introduced and filed by Mr. Howitt, the bill is assigned to a relevant committee, where it's reviewed, debated, and may be amended. If approved by the committee, the bill moves to the House or Senate floor for a vote. If it passes in one chamber, it then goes to the other chamber to go through the same process. If both the Massachusetts House and Senate pass the bill, it is sent to the Governor, who can either sign it into law or veto it. If vetoed, the legislature can override the veto with a two-thirds majority vote.

Stay tuned for updates on this and all other bills pertaining to special needs families: info@teamshawniegroupp.org

teamshawniegroupp.org



Team Shawnie
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Our Family Corner

www.teamshawniegroup.org



Shane, Shawnie, and Cheryl Halajko

Shane Jr. gets his Law Degree

Shawnie's brother Shane has graduated Suffolk Law School with his Juris Doctor and will be returning home to serve as an Assistant District Attorney in Bristol County. *"Thank you to all my family, friends, and mentors for making this dream a reality with your unrelenting support!"*

Shane Halajko Jr.



Congratulations Shane Jr!

Shawnie Halajko enjoying one of his favorite drinks



Shawnie enjoying some facetime with the family



Making mom, dad, and sister proud!



Shawnie enjoying family time

One of Shawnie's favorite ways to connect is spending quality time with his family over FaceTime—And of course, no hangout is complete without his favorite fun drink in hand, adding that extra spark of happiness to every moment. Shawnie reminds us all how powerful simple joys and strong connections can be.



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Our Staff Updates

www.teamshawniegroup.org



Advocacy is at the heart of everything we do—it's the voice, the shield, and the guiding light for families navigating the challenges of special needs. We are deeply grateful for our dedicated advocates who work tirelessly to ensure every child gets the support and justice they deserve. Each time we welcome a new advocate into our Team Shawnie family, it's a moment of celebration and renewed hope. Together, we're building a stronger, more inclusive future—one voice, one family at a time.

The Team Shawnie Advocacy Group would love to give a warm welcome to Olivia Novia, a great addition to our team.



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Team Shawnie Advocacy Group would love to welcome

OLIVIA NOVIA
to our community

She is an Advocate / ABA / Behavioral Therapist and is also majoring in Cognitive Behavioral Neuroscience at University of California San Diego

Welcome to the Team Shawnie family!

Music artists donate proceeds to Team Shawnie

We're incredibly honored to share that music artists Tony T and Hurricane Shane are generously donating all proceeds from their new albums to the Team Shawnie Advocacy Group! Their powerful commitment to making a difference through music helps fuel our mission to support special needs families with the advocacy and resources they deserve. Their voices aren't just heard on stage—they're making an impact in the lives of so many. Thank you, Tony T and Hurricane Shane, for using your platform to uplift our cause!

Support a great cause through great music—buy Tony T and Hurricane Shane's new albums today and help us fight for special needs families!



Tony T.

Tony T is an electrifying R&B and rap artist known for his smooth yet powerful vocals and an intense, soul stirring vibe in his music. Blending heartfelt melodies with hard-hitting rhythms, Tony T crafts a unique sound that resonates with both the streets and the soul.

To hear his music copy and paste the following link to your browser:

<https://distrokid.com/hyperfollow/hurricanes Shane/destination-of-love>

Hurricane Shane

Hurricane Shane Entertainment proudly presents the release of the highly anticipated new album, Retro Return, by Hurricane Shane.

Thirty-five years after first stepping behind the mic, Hurricane Shane is back with explosive energy—reviving classic tracks with a fresh twist and dropping brand-new jams that hit hard.

To hear his music copy and paste the following link to your browser:

<https://distrokid.com/hyperfollow/hurricanes Shane/hurricane-shane-retro-return>





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Shane, Shawnie, and Cheryl Halajko



Why We Do What We Do

www.teamshawniegroup.org



We're truly thankful for the chance to stand beside special needs families and make a meaningful impact when they need it most. Offering support, guidance, and advocacy during difficult moments is more than just our mission—it's a privilege we hold close to heart. The kind words we receive from the families we serve inspire us every day and strengthen our commitment to keep moving forward. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your journey!

Testimonial 1 - Amanda B. - Massachusetts

"We are so grateful that our State Representative referred us to the Team Shawnie Advocacy Group. After countless failed attempts to secure a 1:1 support for our child to prevent self-harm, Team Shawnie stepped in and made it happen—fast. They were able to have this critical service immediately added to our child's IEP. With Team Shawnie, you don't just get one advocate—you get a powerful team that fights for what your child truly needs. Thank you, Team Shawnie, for making such an immediate and positive difference in our child's life."

Testimonial 2 - 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."

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



Team Shawnie
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Team Shawnie Online Store

www.teamshawniegroup.com/store



[Clothing](#)

[Hats](#)

[Accessories](#)

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FUN FOR THE FAMILY

We offer a wide variety of sizes and vibrant colors designed to fit the whole family—kids, teens, and adults alike. Whether you're shopping for comfort, style, or to support a great cause, our inclusive selection ensures everyone can wear their advocacy with pride. Shop now and find the perfect fit for every member of your crew!



SPREAD AWARENESS

Wearing our shirts is more than just a fashion statement—it's a powerful way to spread awareness and stand up for the autism community. Each design carries a message of advocacy, inclusion, and strength, helping to spark conversations and inspire change wherever you go. By proudly wearing our gear, you're showing your support for families with special needs and helping us fight for a more understanding and compassionate world.

Summer Wear Is here!

NOW AVAILABLE!

Use the code **SUMMER10** at checkout

For a 10% discount



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>