



# Virginia Tech Mobile Autism Clinic Newsletter

## REPORTS FROM THE ROAD

As many of you know, the mission of the VT Autism Clinic and Center for Autism Research is to merge science with service and uphold the Virginia Tech motto of *Ut Prosim*, "That I May Serve." Our newest initiative, the Virginia Tech Mobile Autism Clinic (MAC), has allowed us to take our services on the road and reach families in our neighboring rural communities. The MAC launched in June of 2018, and our first 7 months has been productive!

This summer, the MAC Team visited the Mount Rogers Community Services Board (MRCSB) Fernwood Counseling Center in Galax, Virginia each Wednesday. During the fall, the team continued at the Fernwood Center and added the MRCSB Riverchase Center in Marion, Virginia. Our four clinicians have done a great job serving eight families, resulting in 36 encounters so far!

Location	Number of MAC visits	Family groups served	Encounters
Galax Fernwood	16	5	22
Marion Riverchase	7	3	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>36</b>



*Delegate Chris Hurst tours the MAC as he attends our "Improving Access to Rural Mental Health Services Specific to Autism" Stakeholders meeting.*

We look forward to continuing our MAC outreach and would appreciate your support in helping make it happen. Our mobile rural services exist because of donations from individuals and businesses, foundations and grants.

### Ways to help:

- \* Share what we do with those you know
- \* Follow us on Facebook (Virginia Tech Center for Autism Research)
- \* Make an online donation to support the Mobile Autism Clinic:
  - Help families afford the cost of assessments and treatment
  - Assist with the MAC costs for gas and maintenance
  - Ensure our team has supplies for session materials and outreach

To make a donation, click [here](#) and visit our Donor Information webpage.

### Renovations, Roadtrips and Resolve

After completing renovations and wrapping of the used 2004 RV, we gave our first MAC tour at our annual Virginia Tech autism conference in March. In July, we hosted a policy meeting in Wytheville with rural stakeholders that aimed to establish ways of improving access to autism services for rural families and will result in a soon to be published Policy Brief. We were honored to have Delegate Chris Hurst attend the meeting and tour the MAC. In September, the MAC Team drove to Falls Church, Va. to attend the VTCAR NOVA symposium. Despite the cold, rainy weather, many attendees braved the elements to take a tour. In October, it was exciting to drive the MAC to Richmond to attend the first annual Faison Center Conference. It's always a joy to share the MAC story with new faces and learn why they agree that a mobile clinic of this kind is needed in so many communities!



We want to extend our sincere appreciation to our friends and colleagues at the Mount Rogers Community Services Board, the Malone Foundation, Jerry Hulick, Virginia Tech Fleet Services, Chances Creek RV Center, and Delegate Chris Hurst and his staff for their generous support of time, expertise and/or space.

### The MAC in the News

- \* October 2018 American Psychological Association's **Monitor on Psychology** article: [Traveling Treatments](#)
- \* September 2018 **WDBJ7** coverage from Galax: [Virginia Tech brings autism services to rural communities](#)
- \* July 2018 **Roanoke Times** article from Galax: [Driving for an Autism Solution](#)
- \* February 2018 **Virginia Tech News** article: [With traveling clinic, Virginia Tech to take autism services to rural Virginia](#)