



REPORTS FROM THE ROAD



As we bring our attention to autism during this month of April, join us in supporting the need for access to affordable treatment and diagnostic services for people with autism and their families in many rural communities. Our Mobile Autism Clinic (MAC), launched in June 2018, allows for just that....weekly

outreach by clinicians to locations in further southwest Virginia. Based out of the parking lots of Mount Rogers Community Services Board offices in Marion and Galax, you can see the 30 foot used and renovated RV stationed there on Fridays, weather permitting. For more information, visit the [MAC webpage](#) or follow our [Virginia Tech Center for Autism Research Facebook page](#).



TAKE ACTION

Are you looking for ways to give back or be involved?

- * Share what we do with those you know
- * Visit our [MAC webpage](#) to see our schedule, media reports, renovation photos and more
- * Follow us on Facebook ([Virginia Tech Center for Autism Research](#))
- * Make an online donation to support the Mobile Autism Clinic by visiting our [Donor Information webpage](#) :
 - 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
- * [Register](#) for our annual VT Autism Conference on April 26 in Blacksburg, Va.
- * Call or email for more information: 540.231.2053 or autism@vt.edu

LEARN MORE

“Rural communities face significant challenges regarding the adequate availability of diagnostic, treatment, and support services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Specifically, a variety of factors, including geographic distance between families and service providers, low reliance on health care professionals, and cultural characteristics, contribute to the diminished availability and utilization of services. Together, these factors lead to risks for delayed ASD screening and diagnosis, yielding lower educational and functional outcomes.”

~ from [Rural Trends in Diagnosis and Services for Autism Spectrum Disorder](#) by Antezana, L., Scarpa, A., et al. 2017.

SPREADING AWARENESS THIS MONTH

- ◆ View Parts 1 and 2 of Katey Roshetko’s piece entitled [Raising awareness for individuals with autism in southwest Virginia](#) on WDBJ7 and see the MAC Clinicians in action.
- ◆ Visit [WFJR’s Living Local broadcast](#) on Autism Awareness Day (April 2) to see Dr. Angela Scarpa and Jen Pollard Scott talk about services provided through the Virginia Tech Autism Clinic and Mobile Autism Clinic.
- ◆ Later this month, Robbie Harris, NRV Bureau Chief from [WVTF public radio](#), will highlight our work on her local broadcast.