



36 Violet Avenue Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 452-5772 Phone (845) 452-9338 Fax
Marc W. Kelley, Founder

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
March 25, 2015

Contact: Michelle Hathaway,
(845) 452-5772 ext. 119
(845) 417-6888 cell

Greystone Programs & Mid-Hudson Bridge Will “Light it Up Blue” Agency and Bridge Authority Join World Landmarks to “Shine a Light on Autism”

POUGHKEEPSIE – Greystone Programs, Inc. and the Mid-Hudson Bridge will join iconic buildings and landmarks across the globe by participating in the worldwide “Light it Up Blue” campaign to “shine a light on autism.” Organized by Autism Speaks, the world’s leading autism science and advocacy organization, “Light it Up Blue” begins **THURSDAY, April 2** -- **World Autism Awareness Day** -- to increase awareness about this pervasive disorder that affects tens of millions of people worldwide, including [1 in 68 children in the United States](#).

As part of Greystone’s participation, we invite you to wear blue and join us for an after-hours business social from 5-7:30 p.m., April 2, at Shadows, 176 Rinaldi Boulevard Poughkeepsie. We will release blue sky lanterns to float away and take a group photo with the blue bridge behind us. There will be “blue” drinks specials, too. As well, 17 Greystone locations – in Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties – will be illuminated with blue lights, **just like Niagara Falls, the Empire State Building, the Great Pyramids in Egypt, the Great Buddha Statue in Japan, the Sydney Opera House in Australia, and sporting complexes and bridges across the globe.**

Autism is a term used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders – Autism Spectrum Disorders – that are characterized in varying degrees by social, communication, and behavioral challenges, as well as repetitive behaviors. According to Autism Speaks, there has been a 10-fold increase in the number of Autism diagnoses in the past four decades. **Autism now affects 1 in 42 boys.**

“We could not be more delighted that one of our premier local architectural icons, the Mid-Hudson Bridge, will partner with us on the ‘Light it Up Blue’ endeavor and help raise critical awareness about Autism,” said Greystone Director of Development Michelle Hathaway.

Based in Poughkeepsie, NY, Greystone Programs is a nonprofit human services agency that provides exceptional services and life-enriching opportunities for more than 500 Hudson Valley children, adults, and families with Autism and other developmental disabilities. Blue lights will shine at each of Greystone’s 14 residences/group homes in three counties, as well as at our community-based sites in Wappingers Falls, and Sugar Loaf, and our administrative offices in Poughkeepsie. The properties will remain illuminated throughout the entire month of April, Autism Awareness Month. This is the fifth year Greystone has participated in “Light it Up Blue.” For more information on “Light it Up Blue” visit: <http://liub.autismspeaks.org/welcome> and watch this inspiring video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaZi04TMn5Q>.

Founded in 1979 by Marc W. Kelley, Greystone offered the first privately-run group home in New York State for people living with Autism. We continue today to offer exceptional services and life-enriching opportunities for more than 500 children, adults, and families living with Autism and other developmental disabilities.

www.greystoneprograms.org

