

Magellan hosted the 2nd Annual Autism Community Walk on April 26 in Allentown

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania (Magellan) hosted the 2nd Annual Autism Community Walk in Allentown at Lone Lane Park on April 26 to celebrate National Autism Acceptance Month, in collaboration with Lehigh County HealthChoices, Northampton County HealthChoices, Autism Society Lehigh Valley, NAMI Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem Health Bureau, and PA Courts. This free event had **150+ people in attendance and was focused on sharing important community resources** from [19 local and statewide organizations](#) for transition-age individuals and adults with Autism. WFMZ-TV was present at the event and shared this [news story](#) locally on Channel 69.

This event also shows how important it is to support autistic individuals as they grow into adulthood. That means helping with things like jobs, housing, and mental healthcare. Magellan works with partners across Pennsylvania to offer programs that meet these needs in ways that respect each person's strengths and differences.

The 2nd Annual Autism Community Walk included:

- A keynote presentation by S. Benay Berger, Bethlehem Health Bureau Director of Nursing & Community Connections
- Welcome remarks from Autism Society Lehigh Valley, NAMI Lehigh Valley, and Magellan
- Autism resources and promotional materials from 19 local and statewide organizations for all attendees to include navigation guides, important contact information, and helpful tips for families
- A .75-mile community walk within Lone Lane Park
- Family entertainment activities
 - Bethlehem Health Bureau spin wheel offered individuals of all ages the opportunity to challenge police officers in a variety of fun fitness activities
 - Rock painting activity to create a themed rock to take home from the event
 - Cornhole games

“This free event offered a family-friendly environment and provided a convenient opportunity to connect with a unified team of community stakeholders,” said Tom Walker, senior account executive for Lehigh County and Northampton County, Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania. “Autistic individuals and their families may face many challenges, but you need to know there are strong advocates right here in our community.”

To explore local autism resources for PA HealthChoices members and their supports, go to www.magellanofpa.com/autism.