



In Memoriam of John Brower

Contributed by The Brower Family

Our friend, mentor, special education advocate, and attorney, John Brower, Sr., passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. He was surrounded by his family. John was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend to all who knew him. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Barbara; his son, John (Lianne) of Brighton, MI; his son Scott, of Denver Colorado; and his grandchildren, Jake, Alexis, and Luke.

John proudly served in the United States Navy on the U.S.S. Forrestal in the Tonkin Gulf. He also worked for and led several businesses in the automotive community prior to becoming an attorney in 1995. John was the managing partner of the Education Law Center, PLLC, an organization that provides training and consultation services on school law issues.

His law practice focused on representing students and parents in matters involving education

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law. As an elected member of the Brighton Area Schools Board of Education, he created school policies and was involved in school discipline matters. John received a B.S. degree, magna cum laude, from Eastern Michigan University. He received his J.D. degree, magna cum laude, from The Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing, where he also taught future attorneys and post-graduate administrators education law as an adjunct professor. John served as an attorney consultant for the Autism Alliance of Michigan, Bridges 4 Kids, and participated in other local and national organizations devoted to student rights. His many contributions to the education and special needs communities went far beyond his stated achievements.

For those that knew John, he was first and foremost a husband and father. He loved attending his children and grandchildren's sporting activities. He was a true University of Michigan and Brighton High School sports fan. While he enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren's sports games, he was most proud of their educational accomplishments. He enjoyed traveling with his family and made special memories during trips to the Florida Keys and Alaska.

In addition to traveling, he had an affinity and love for all types of animals, but especially for his four dogs, Thor, Sasha, Misty, and Wrangler. John was a special person to many of us. He was a great man and a trusted and loyal friend. He vigorously represented his clients with compassion and dignity and was highly respected by his colleagues. He spent much of his life helping others and giving back. He will be fondly remembered and dearly missed.

A celebration of John's life is being planned for October in Brighton, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make an expression of sympathy are asked to consider a donation in memory of John Brower, Sr. to the Autism Alliance of Michigan [here](#). Donations may also be made online to Gracie's Dog Haven [here](#).





Join the Michigan Parent, Advocate & Attorney Coalition (MiPAAC)

Join the Michigan Parent, Advocate & Attorney Coalition (MiPAAC) where we tackle the burning issues for families of students with disabilities. MiPAAC is a student centered advocacy organization that formed in 2020 to include members from across the state. We meet regularly to collectively identify priorities.

Our work is centered around educating families on current special education issues and topics, as well as advocating for state policies and legislation that support their needs. We are unique in that we are an independent group of stakeholders without political interference that is solely focused on advocating for the education needs of children.

One of our earliest actions was to put forth our position on Contingency Learning Plans. We have also held a virtual event called Zoom Chat last April on how to advocate for recovery services, ESY and compensatory education. Most recently, we have written a letter of support to the Michigan Senate Committee on Education and Career Readiness for the Dyslexia package of bills that is currently in committee, provided input to the U.S. House Subcommittee for Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education regarding the impact of COVID-19 on students with disabilities, and wrote to Governor Whitmer requesting representation on future educational planning groups, such as the recently convened Student Recovery Advisory Council.

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The letter to Governor Whitmer resulted in a meeting with her office. All activities can be viewed on our website at www.mipaac.org.

As you can see joining MiPAAC has many benefits, which include not only a voice in the direction of education in our state, and access to up-to-date information that impacts your student(s), but also camaraderie with others engaged in similar activities across the state through regular meetings, our private Facebook group, and access to the our membership directory.

Complete this [MiPAAC Member](#) interest form to receive more information for upcoming meetings and activities, and be a part of making education in our state more accessible and inclusive for all! Membership is open to parents of a child with a disability, and advocates and attorneys that work on behalf of students with disabilities and their families.

Follow MiPAAC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



MiPAAC
MICHIGAN PARENT, ADVOCATE
& ATTORNEY COALITION

Michigan Parent, Advocate & Attorney Coalition (MiPAAC) is a newly formed statewide group focused on student-centered advocacy. MiPAAC aims to educate families of children with special education needs on topics relevant to their advocacy efforts.

To join – complete the [MiPAAC membership form!](#)

<https://mipaac.org/>





Upcoming Community Events



| Date | Event |
|-----------------|---|
| September 1 | “Virtual” Music Therapy Event – Together Let’s Sing, Dance and Jam!! |
| September 2 | Parent Training, Education, and Support |
| September 4 | 2021 Family Days presented by Autism Alliance of Michigan |
| September 9 | MI-UCP Assistive Technology Talks |
| September 10 | On My Own Virtual Open House RSVP |
| September 11 | 2021 Michigan Shines for Autism Virtual Gala |
| September 12-14 | ADOS-2 Online Training |
| September 13 | Social Skills Group |
| September 13 | The Arc Livingston- Parent Support Group |
| September 12-14 | ADOS-2 Online Training |
| September 14-16 | Navigating Healthcare training for parents with a child with epilepsy (seizures) |
| September 15 | Disclosure & Accommodations: A Panel Discussion |
| September 16 | FAPE in the LRE Statewide Training |
| September 16 | Supporting Paraprofessionals to Implement Functional Communication Training to Address Challenging Behavior |
| September 21 | PBS Parent Training Series |





one giant leap



MICHIGAN SHINES FOR AUTISM GALA



Important Update: 2021 Michigan Shines for Autism Gala

Over the past few weeks, we have watched the Delta Variant with a close, cautious eye. We have engaged in numerous conversations and surveys with key stakeholders including staff, board members, families and sponsors to discuss levels of comfort and contingency plans.

After much thoughtful consideration, we have decided to host a **modified virtual event on September 11th** in celebration of the Autism Alliance of Michigan and the community we serve. While we are disappointed that we cannot engage with each of you in person, we deeply appreciate your commitment to AAoM. This modified hour-long virtual event will feature compelling and unique **stories, presentations, and messages** from the safety of your home. In addition, we will have an **online silent auction** with exciting packages to bid on. Your support is critical this year as we launch the journey towards our Moonshot. We have a goal of raising \$1M and we won't let COVID detract us from it!

In addition to the virtual event on September 11th, we are excited to announce the **2022 Michigan Shines for Autism Gala will return to April** - National Autism Acceptance Month. We are committed to honoring sponsor benefits and existing ticket sales for our April 2022 gala. Thank you for your understanding.

Register for the Michigan Shines for Autism Virtual Gala at aaomgala.org

