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From Nonspeaking to Netflix: Dr. Kerry Magro to Share His Autism Journey in Youngstown

Award-winning autistic speaker, author and advocate set to visit Mahoning Valley for special student and community presentations

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO — The Autism Society of the Mahoning Valley, in partnership with the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, is pleased to welcome award-winning autistic professional speaker, best-selling author and Autism advocate Dr. Kerry Magro Ed.D. to Youngstown on Thursday, October 8, 2026, for two special presentations focused on Autism, inclusion, advocacy and the importance of elevating autistic voices.

Magro will visit the Main Library, located on Wick Avenue in Youngstown, for a special day of programming designed to connect students, families, professionals and community members with an autistic self-advocate who brings both lived experience and professional expertise to conversations surrounding Autism.

The morning session, “Autism Has No Look: Spotlight the Spectrum,” will take place at 10 a.m. and will be presented for area middle and high school students by invitation. The 45-minute presentation will encourage students to look beyond stereotypes and better understand the diversity of the Autism spectrum.



The evening community presentation, “From Nonspeaking to Netflix: One Man’s Autism Journey to Professional Speaker and Love on the Spectrum U.S.,” will be held at 6 p.m. and will be open to the public. The 60-minute presentation will share Magro’s personal journey from being a nonspeaking child with Autism to becoming a professional speaker, best-selling author and advocate whose work has reached audiences across the country.

Registration is required for the evening presentation, and seating will be limited. Individuals interested in attending should visit the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County’s website to register. Magro will also have copies of his books available for purchase at the evening event.

“Kerry’s visit comes at a particularly meaningful time as October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month,” said Jodi Glass, Executive Director of the Autism Society of the Mahoning Valley. “Kerry’s journey from being nonspeaking to becoming a successful professional speaker, author and advocate is a powerful example of what is possible when people with disabilities are given opportunities, support and the chance to have their voices heard. We must continue to elevate autistic voices, challenge assumptions about Autism and create greater opportunities for autistic individuals to live, work and participate fully in their communities.”

The Autism Society of the Mahoning Valley and the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County have developed a growing partnership focused on increasing access to books, resources and programming that represent the Autism experience through authentic autistic voices. The organizations have worked together to develop recommended reading resources featuring autistic authors and have hosted Autism-focused book club programming at the Main Library.

“We are proud to partner with the Autism Society of the Mahoning Valley to bring Dr. Kerry Magro to our community,” said Erin Phemester, Chief Experience Officer for the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County. “Libraries are places where everyone should be able to see themselves represented, learn from different perspectives and have access to resources that reflect their experiences.”

About Dr. Kerry Magro

Dr. Kerry Magro Ed.D. (Mah-grow) is an award-winning autistic professional speaker, best-selling author and Autism consultant. Magro was nonspeaking until age 2½, was diagnosed with Autism at age 4 and did not speak in complete sentences until age 7. Today, he has spoken at more than 1,400 events, including two TEDx Talks and a Talks at Google presentation.

Magro is an Autism consultant for Netflix’s Emmy Award-winning series *Love on the Spectrum U.S.* and HBO’s *Mrs. Fletcher*. His work also includes serving as a writer for PBS Kids’ *Carl the Collector*, featuring the network’s first autistic main character.

Kerry is CEO and President of KFM Making A Difference, a nonprofit organization that hosts inclusion events and has provided more than 150 scholarships for autistic students to attend college since 2011. The organization has also provided 27 small business grants to businesses that hire people with disabilities. For the past decade, Magro has also played Santa Claus for autistic children and children with disabilities, providing sensory-friendly opportunities for families to experience a visit with Santa.

Through his Facebook page, Kerry’s Autism Journey, Magro conducts on-camera interviews highlighting people impacted by an Autism diagnosis and works to break down barriers and increase understanding in the community. The page has more than 400,000 followers, and his videos have been viewed more than 35 million times.

Magro is the author of several books, including *Defining Autism From The Heart*, *Autism and Falling in Love*, *I Will Light It Up Blue*, *Autistics on Autism*, *Supporting Your Autism Journey: Award-Winning Autistic Adult Answers Your Burning Questions* and *Santa Goes The Extra Mile for Children with Disabilities*. His books have reached Amazon Best-Seller Lists for Special Needs Parenting.

Magro’s advocacy and expertise have been featured by NBC’s *Today Show*, CBS News, FOX5 and Upworthy, among other media outlets. He also frequently speaks to companies about neurodiversity and inclusion in the workplace, including JP Morgan Chase, TD Bank and S&P Global.

For additional information about the October 8 presentations, contact the Autism Society of the Mahoning Valley at (330) 333-9609.

To schedule interviews or request additional information, please contact:

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About the Autism Society of Mahoning Valley

The Autism Society of Mahoning Valley was established in 1989 and is dedicated to creating connections, empowering everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully, and promoting a community where Autistic individuals can reach their full potential. Serving Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana counties, the Autism Society of Mahoning Valley provides more than 50 events and multiple services each year, including information and referrals, family support, social and recreational opportunities, educational workshops, advocacy, community events, teacher support initiatives, and Camp F.R.I.E.N.D. Through collaboration, education, advocacy, and acceptance, ASMV works to improve the lives of Autistic individuals and their families throughout the Mahoning Valley.

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