



SEEK Magazine: A good cause worth supporting

By Becky Horace, Photos by Carrie Cushing

Former BAMBI News Editor, Becky Horace, shares with us her son's journey and how it led to the creation of SEEK.

There are always good causes to give to. There are always good causes providing good services to people in need. I am normally one to donate to whatever cause is presented to me but one never stuck with me before. I would just give because I was asked, no real rhyme or reason pulled on my heart strings until now.

Killian's journey

For the BAMBI members who have been around a couple of years now, you might have seen my previous series of articles on my son Killian. I shared our story of a diagnosis on the autism spectrum and our first term of therapy but for those of you who do not know our story I will give you a brief summary. Upon arriving to Bangkok, my son, then 18 months old, went through a terrible regression with his development. He was speaking, he was social, he was a normal happy kid but then all of a

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sudden something happened. He just stopped. Stopped talking, looking at me, acknowledging me. We thought he may be just adjusting to the new culture and environment but after six months of “waiting it out” or saying “he will be fine. It’s a phase,” life only got more difficult and a lot worse for my son.

Around the age of two my son was diagnosed on the autism spectrum with PDD-NOS, Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified. This

is a diagnosis of “there is something wrong here developmentally but we are not going to label him full blown autistic.” This was very hard on our family but we are strong, and we rely on our faith in God’s plan to get us through so we were determined to do what we needed to in order to make life better for our son.

What is SEEK and how did it come to be?

During this journey, I found Google to be my biggest enemy but it was the one place I kept coming back to for information. As Killi’s doctor, Ali, says: “Google is a sea of information about one inch deep” and boy isn’t that the truth. I would Google “why does my son do X, Y, or Z” and I would find “forums” of moms answering other moms questions. I am a mom. I am no fool. I know without a doubt just because I have a child it does not mean I have any clue about

his brain or why he does things that he does. Nor do I think I have the ability to comment on someone else's child's development. There are professionals, who go to school for a long time to figure that out.

I was overwhelmed and I would go to his doctor and say things like "Well, I read on Google.... What does that mean?" Thank the Lord, Ali is a very patient man. I am sure my "Google says" got on his nerves. He was always kind and would give me a very well thought out and easy to understand answer as to why my son was doing whatever it was he was doing for the day.

After many months of therapy, one of my expat friends put the thought into my head that I should start a magazine about development. I thought about it and it seemed like a good idea since the "forums of moms" were not helping me find the answers I needed. But I knew that I would need backup. I went to my son's doctor and asked him if he thought professionals would be receptive to this new concept - an online magazine full of articles about everything that has to do with children, from professionals for parents, written in layman's terms. He thought it was a great idea and that is how SEEK Magazine began.

A good cause worth supporting

The idea of a good cause had not occurred to me until we hit a slight snag during my son's therapy. We went to submit our invoices to insurance and all of a sudden the policies had changed and the battle with the insurance to cover our costs of therapy started. I realized there were a lot of parents out there, who were in desperate need of help for their child but did not have the financial means to make that happen. Originally, I just wanted to share good information for parents to read at no



cost, I just wanted to create something to help others but then I realized I could do so much more with this project to help families around the world who are in need.

At SEEK, our goal is to create the leading online community and resource center providing published works from

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professionals and personal experiences from parents, while creating an interactive open discussion about the different aspects of human development, with an additional focus on developmental delays. SEEK is now a recognized non-profit organization in the state of South Carolina (where my family is from and where we will return when our expat

assignment is complete) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has just approved SEEK Magazine as a Public Charity and granted us 501c3 status allowing us to be a tax exempt organization and for donations to be tax deductible for US citizens and businesses. The reason for becoming a non-profit organization and the tax paperwork is so when we start looking for sponsors and donations from business and individuals from around the world, we can provide those who are eligible with a tax deduction when they financially contribute. With the funds given, we will create a scholarship fund for children in need of early intervention therapy for developmental delays.

Why early intervention?

Early intervention therapy is crucial in making a difference in the life of the child who has developmental delays. I will forever be an advocate of early intervention because of the differences we have seen in my son. When we started therapy, he would not communicate in any way except screaming or crying. He would not even look at us but now after a year and a half of therapy he is a social butterfly and is talking up a storm! Because of these changes and seeing where he was in the beginning of 2013 compared to where he is now, I know that I want to do everything in my power to help other families' experience the same success and give them the hope of knowing it will eventually get better. Sometimes we just need someone to tell us that there is light at the end of the tunnel even if it does seem far off. I want SEEK Magazine to be that beacon of hope, information, and knowledge for all who come to our site.

We are adding new articles from professionals and parents around the world daily and we would greatly appreciate your support by following us on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram) and sharing the stories and articles you find here with your friends and family. This non-profit will only get off the ground with your support!

If you would like to contribute in anyway, please let me know by emailing editor@seekmagazine.org. We are looking for all types of articles and volunteers!

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