

I Used to be Bullied for Having Autism: Here's When it Stopped



By, Kerry Magro

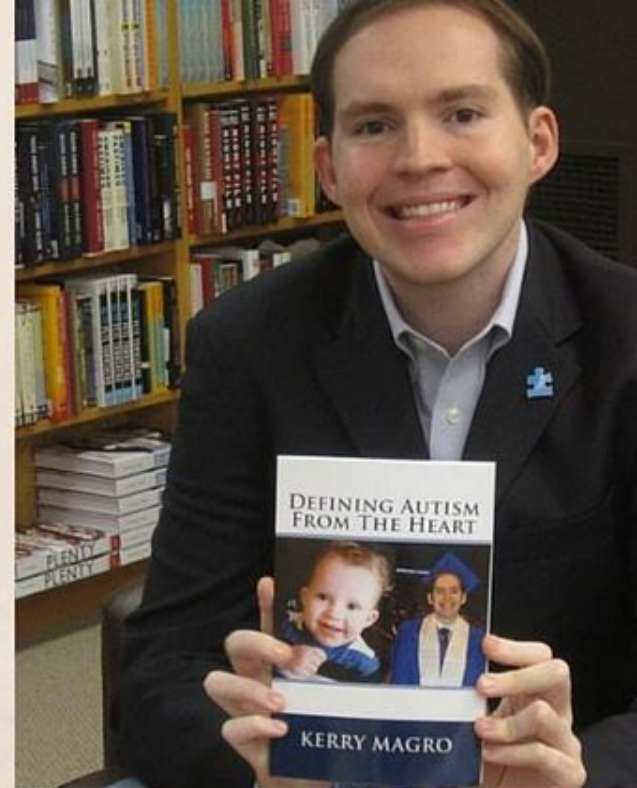
Appleton North High School

May 10, 2016

- **Today I have 6 jobs...**
- **Producer of Social Media and Digital Content at Autism Speaks**
- **National Speaker**
- **Best-Selling Author**
- **Movie Consultant**
- **Non-Profit Founder**
- **Host of my own Cable TV Show**



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Autism

- Social interaction and Communication Disability
- Affects 1 in 68 Individuals Today
- 1 in 42 boys (4 times higher in boys)
 - 1 in 189 girls
- 3.5 Million Individuals Affected by Autism in The U.S
 - 1% of the current population
- Average cost of supports each year for autism is \$60,000



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What Causes Autism?

- No one cause of autism
- Experts say it could be a combination of a few things...
 - Rare Gene Changes
 - Immune System Issues
 - Environmental Factors to the brain
 - Risk factors during/before birth of a child
- Reason for increase in diagnosis?
 - Not 100% but a portion is because we are becoming more aware about autism as a society.



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Because of the
prevalence, you will
know someone with
autism in your lifetime.
Be aware and accepting!



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Bullying

- A child is bullied in school every 7 minutes.
- Last school year 3.2 million students were victims of bullying.
- Most bullying is unreported because it's done while the teachers/adults are not watching.
- 1 in 10 students drop out of school because of repeated bullying.
- Bullying on average leads to a decrease in grades/loss of interest in academic achievement.



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Bullying

- Bullying is the most common form of violence in schools.
- 1 in 7 students from Grades K-12 are either bullies or victims of bullying
- Students with autism and other special needs are twice as likely to be bullied compared to their non-disabled peers



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The majority of the time
bullying stops
completely when a peer
intervenes and says,
“What you are doing is
not ok.”



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I used to be bullied for having autism

- No one understand why I wanted to be by myself.
- No one understand why I had a speech delay.
- Ignorance led to bullying.
- I was told by a peer in high school that I would die along because I was different.
- I was told by other peers I'd never have a job or go to college.



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Today

- I got accepted into all 15 colleges I applied too.
- Am pursuing my doctoral degree
- Have had a girlfriend
- Have spoken at over 635 events in the past 6 years, wrote 2 best-selling books, consulted on films that have starred Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton and Eliza Dushku.
- Have been featured on NBA.com and Upworthy and interviewed sports players such as John Starks, Karl Malone, Scottie Pippen and Deron Williams.



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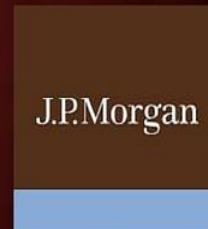
An open letter to those who bully
people with special needs.

Featured in Upworthy.com



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Questions?



Keep the conversation going!

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