



Support Autism Society of Nebraska North Platte Support Network on North Platte Giving Day!



Wednesday, May 8, 2019 | 24 Hours: All Day Long: Midnight to Midnight | Open to Everyone

Money stays in Lincoln County and supports the missions of local nonprofits, including Autism Society of Nebraska North Platte Support Network!

- Go to <https://www.northplategivingday.org/>
- Search "Autism Society"
- Make a donation to improve lives right here in North Platte

The Autism Society of Nebraska is a statewide organization supporting individuals on the autism spectrum -- and all Nebraskans affected by autism. We have a special Support Network of volunteers and friends in North Platte, which we call the **Autism Society of Nebraska (ASN) North Platte Support Network**. This local group presents events that benefit individuals on the autism spectrum right here in the North Platte and it led by ASN Board Secretary Becky Rossell, with help from other volunteers, including Ashlee Painter, and Delicia Mata.



The Mata Family of North Platte

Before you make a donation to an organization, you probably want to know what the organization does and the ways that it improves people’s lives. To that end, ASN is pleased to bring you an **EXCLUSIVE** interview with **ASN North Platte Support Network** volunteer, **Delicia Mata**, as we discuss the impact ASN is making in North Platte.

Delicia Mata lives in North Platte, where she joined Autism Society of Nebraska three years ago.

She and her husband David, are the parents of three sons: David Jr. (21), DeAngelo (10), and Desmond (7).

Their youngest son, Desmond, is on the autism spectrum. Desmond received an educational verification when he was three or four when Delicia and David noticed delays in his speech as well as some unusual interests and quirky habits that showed an active and discerning intellect.

The team of educators was excellent in providing a verification and explaining the nature of autism, but it was important to Delicia and her family to connect with people outside of the educational offices to understand what it means to have a family member on the autism spectrum.

Why did you get involved with the Autism Society of Nebraska North Platte Support Network?

I got involved with the local group soon after my son was verified through his school program. I reached out to my co-worker, who I knew was involved with ASN, and she was so supportive. She knew what my family was facing and she invited me to come to an upcoming event.



Kidstock Carnival, North Platte, April 2019

How is Autism Society of Nebraska helping people in North Platte ?

The insight that parents in the group can give you are really helpful because they let you know what might be a phase that passes versus what your family might have to work on over an extended period of time.

The other parents of kids on the spectrum share their stories on how they advocate on their kids' behalf -- with teachers and other caregivers. People on the spectrum learn differently, so it is important to have intentional conversations and develop plans based on the students' needs.

What do you think people need to know about autism that is not widely known?

I think people need to better understand that everyone is different. My son, for instance, is very interested in creativity. His mind always wants to create and draw and build. My husband jokes, "Our house looks like Hobby Lobby."

He is not as interested in other things, but when we need to transition away from creative time, we are learning how to do "prompts" to signal that it is time that this activity should be wrapping up.

On April 7, 2019, ASN North Platte Support Network hosted the [Kidstock Carnival](#) at D & N Event Center in North Platte. How did that go?

It went really well, I think. The event was 4 hours long, but we reserved the hours of 10:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon to be for special needs kids and their families only. It was an atmosphere that was really friendly to kids with special needs and their families.

What is the next ASN North Platte Support Network community event?

Sensory-friendly movie in June. Stay tuned.



Desmond at the 2019 Kidstock Carnival

P.S. ASN North Platte Support Network wishes to send a big THANK YOU to Taco John's of North Platte for their financial support during Autism Awareness Month, April 2019.



NORTH PLATTE SUPPORT NETWORK

GIVE NOW!

You can learn more about **ASN North Platte Support Network** and their events by searching "Autism Society Nebraska - North Platte" on Facebook or visiting autismnebraska.org

Questions? Contact Becky Rossell at 800.580.9279



Desmond with one of his brilliant self-made creations.