

Health SOURCE

Good Health

May 2015 | FREE

BODY WORKS

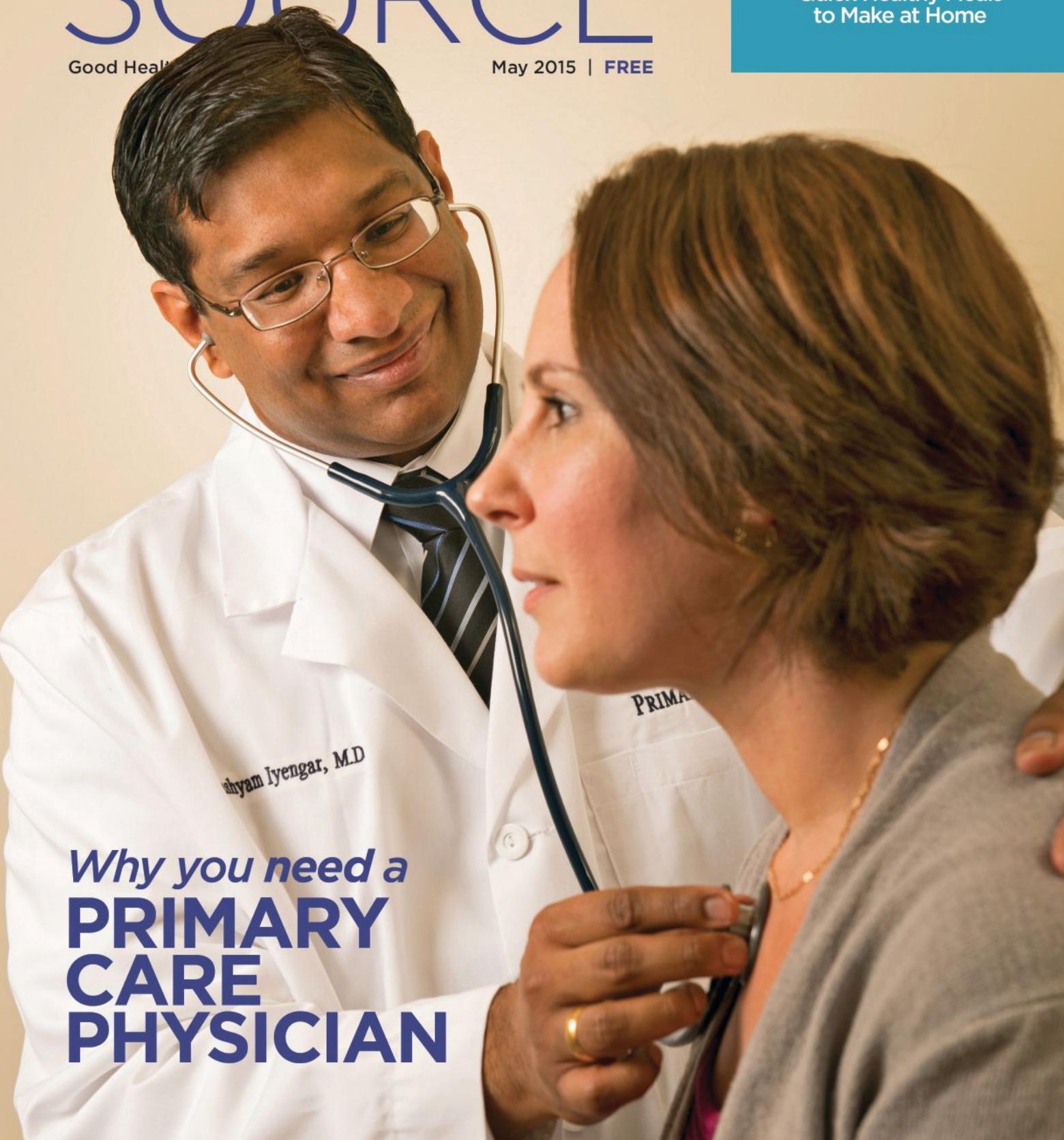
Swim to Win

SOUND MIND

Coping with Lyme Disease

FRESH EATS

Quick Healthy Meals
to Make at Home



Why you need a
**PRIMARY
CARE
PHYSICIAN**

Health Source

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letter from the publisher •••

Around this time every year, I take extreme joy in gathering all my winter apparel and shoving it as far into the back corner of my closet as possible, with high hopes to not have to see them for a long time.

The summer months are upon us, and I for one am welcoming this time with open arms! There's always an energizing feeling that comes over my family and I when we finally catch a break from the bitter cold and get to bask in the sun by the pool, beach or front yard.

It's important to keep in mind practical ways to stay healthy when you are constantly on the go, go, go this season. Consistency is key when you are looking at the "big picture" of health. I'm by no means a health expert, but I do know that it's significant to keep this mantra about yourself. Make changes one at a time, and don't make too many at once. Taking on too many challenges risks you becoming burnt out or may even cause you to relapse into old habits. No matter what you are discussing in life – fitness, eating, working or fun – moderation should always be practiced.

Heeding my own advice this month, I'm going to be more conscious about how much sleep I receive each night. Running a full-service marketing agency, along with a publishing company that puts



out two monthly publications, can sometimes keep me up into the wee hours of the morning thinking about all the tasks I need to finish the next workday. It's all about looking at yourself and coming up with new ways to improve upon what you're already doing.

Our May *HealthSource* publication is full of practical ways to staying healthy this time of year. Enjoy!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beson".

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Autism Certification MEETING A GROWING DEMAND

Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center first to get all employees certified by May, which is Speech and Hearing Month

*Written and
Photographed by
Maggie FitzRoy*

Speech/language pathologist Dot Bourgeois was driving through Jacksonville one evening when she saw a young girl wandering barefoot in the street. Looking closer, Bourgeois realized it was one of her clients, a third grader who doesn't speak and has been diagnosed with autism, a disorder characterized by an impaired ability to socialize, and repetitive unusual behaviors that many people find startling or frightening.

Bourgeois realized the girl must have wandered from her house somewhere nearby, so she called police, and they were able to get her home safely.

Bourgeois feels fortunate that she found her

first because most police officers "wouldn't know what to do" when they encounter someone with autism, she says. That is why she approves of an autism certification and training certification program that the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center, where she works, has embraced.

The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES), now based in Jacksonville, provides training and credentials for professionals working in fields that may involve contact with people with autism. That includes teachers, speech pathologists and audiologists as well as bus drivers, school and clinic receptionists and police officers.

The Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center



Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center CEO and President Michael Howland, center, and his staff members, who are all getting autism certification.

Your **strength** is our **success**.

on North Laura Street, a nonprofit organization founded in 1949, is the first organization in Jacksonville to provide the certification and training to every employee, even the front office staff.

"It is something we jumped on," Speech & Hearing Center president and CEO Michael Howland says. "Because of the growing incidence of autism, and the real need that is out there."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of children being diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder is growing, with a current rate of 1 in 68 children. Five times more common in boys, it is reported in all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

Myron Pincomb, founding principle of the Jacksonville-based Pincomb Group, recently acquired IBCCES, which had been based in Kansas City, and moved it to Jacksonville.

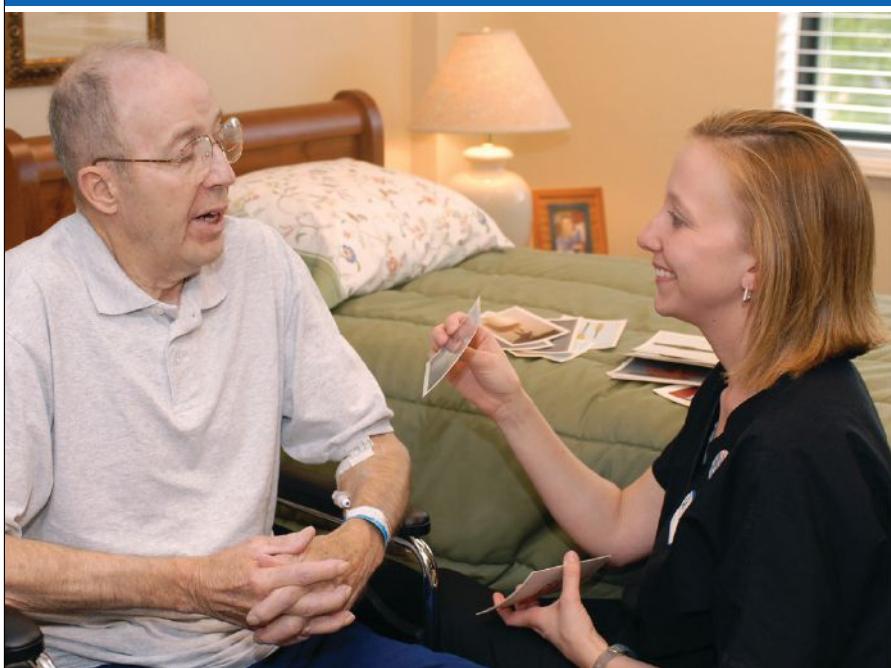
He says his company's goal is to provide training and certification to a wide variety of professionals around the country. IBCCES offers two types of certification. Certified Autism Specialist is available for those with Master's Degrees or 10 or more years of experience in the field, including speech language pathologists, principals, teachers and school counselors. Others, who work in a setting where they are likely to have contact with people with autism, are eligible for an Autism Certificate.

Many police departments have their officers complete training, because it's important for first responders to recognize the signs and behaviors of autism, Pincomb says.

School districts are having employees trained and certified, so they can demonstrate they are providing the best services possible for children with special needs.

Speech Language Pathologist Dorothy Train-Marsh, who works with children with autism at the Speech & Hearing Center, passed the Autism Competency Exam and is now certified, as are all employees at the center.

"It is important that the entire staff be certified," she says. In addition to demonstrating knowledge of methods and treatments for patients and their families, she says it demonstrates a sensitivity and support of the family. HS



The dedication to success and service has driven Life Care Centers to blossom and grow with the latest in programs, equipment and training. At our Jacksonville and Wells Crossing locations, we have therapists that are certified in the LSVT™ BIG and LOUD Program, which treats patients suffering from Parkinson's disease.



Parkinson's Support Group Fundraiser

**Tuesday, May 19th
4:00-7:00 p.m.**

+ Whitey's Fish Camp: 2032 County Rd 220 Fleming Island, FL 32003.

Enjoy live music, food and networking opportunities for a \$15 admission fee. All proceeds go to Clay County Parkinson's Support Group! RSVP to Charlene Ennis at 904.264.1950.

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To read more of Donnie's story, visit BrooksRehab.org/Stroke