



Vitruvian Health

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INFORMATION

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Children's Institute holding Abilities Without Limits conference, expo

DALTON, Ga. (September 10, 2026) – Anna Shaw Children's Institute (ASCI) will host its Abilities Without Limits Conference & Expo (formerly known as the North Georgia Autism Conference) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30 at the Dalton Convention Center, 2211 Tony Ingle Parkway in Dalton. The event has been held annually for 11 years.

The Abilities Without Limits Conference & Expo is a collaborative event designed to empower, educate and connect individuals who support people with differing abilities across the lifespan. This conference brings together parents and caregivers, educators, healthcare professionals, therapists, young adults, self-advocates and community members for a day of learning, networking and resource sharing.

The event will feature Tanner Smith, autism advocate and Netflix's "Love on the Spectrum" cast member, and his mother, Nicci. Together, their goal is to use their family's autism story to connect with and inspire others.

Tanner is a 27-year-old South Carolina native thriving on the autism spectrum, whose self-proclaimed mission in life is to spread joy all around the world. After appearing on "Love on the Spectrum," he has amassed a large social media following and uses his platforms to spread joy, advocate for those on the autism spectrum, and educate the world about special needs employment. Tanner's greatest hope is to be an example of what is possible regardless of diagnosis, and to bring joy and kindness to everyone.

Attendees will gain practical knowledge, evidence-based strategies and valuable resources to better support individuals with a wide variety of differing abilities in home, school, healthcare, workplace and community settings. Through engaging presentations, interactive discussions, and an extensive exhibitor expo, participants will explore topics related to education, healthcare, independent living, employment, advocacy, community inclusion and family support.

“Whether you are seeking guidance, professional development, connections with local resources, or opportunities to learn from individuals with lived experience, the Abilities Without Limits Conference & Expo offers something for everyone,” said Lindsey Coker, educational resource coordinator. “Together, we celebrate strengths, promote inclusion and build pathways to success for people of all abilities.”

Early-bird rates are available through Oct. 10. For more information or to register, please visit VitruvianHealth.com/abilities or contact Coker at NGAC@hhcs.org or 706-226-8928.

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Photos:

Lindsey Coker

Event logo

Tanner and Nicci Smith

About Anna Shaw Children’s Institute

Anna Shaw Children’s Institute (ASCI) is a regional leader of and advocate for the care of children experiencing the challenges that come with a differing ability. The Institute cares for children with a wide range of disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, cerebral palsy or other developmental delays.

With design elements inspired by the style of a tree house, the Institute provides a unique environment with the overall goal to blend calming color and fun play for children of all abilities.

About Vitruvian Health

Vitruvian Health, formerly Hamilton Health Care System, is a not-for-profit, fully integrated health system serving the Northwest Georgia and Southeast Tennessee regions. Vitruvian includes Hamilton Medical Center in Dalton, Ga., and Bradley Medical Center in Cleveland, Tenn., affiliated physician practices, walk-in care centers, retirement and skilled nursing centers, a diagnostic center, a cancer institute, an institute for children with developmental delays, and more. Known for its advanced care and personalized service, Vitruvian Health offers innovative treatment options in state-of-the-art facilities while maintaining a compassionate, friendly and tranquil healing environment.

The Vitruvian name draws from the organization’s recognizable da Vinci-inspired Vitruvian Man icon, which has been a prominent part of Hamilton’s logo since 1976. Da Vinci’s Vitruvian Man represents harmony, balance, and the interconnectedness of all aspects of health, perfectly aligning with Hamilton’s integrated system of care.