



Autism Society of North Carolina
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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AUTISM SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA – MECKLENBURG COUNTY CHAPTER ANNOUNCES 9TH ANNUAL AUTISM AWARE FARE

CHARLOTTE, NC, MARCH 30, 2011: **April is Autism Awareness Month** and the Autism Society of North Carolina – Mecklenburg County Chapter (ASNC-MCC) is excited to announce our 9th Annual Autism Aware Fare will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011. Over 25 participating restaurants from across Mecklenburg County have graciously agreed to donate a portion of their proceeds from sales on April 26th to the Autism Society of North Carolina – Mecklenburg County Chapter. With 49 locations for people to choose from, eating out to support ASNC-MCC is easy. Money raised supports children and adults with autism living in Mecklenburg County through parent support groups, recreational activities, grants to teachers who teach children with autism, and many other wonderful supports for families.

Carla Gentile, an Exceptional Children's teacher in an autism classroom at Lebanon Road Elementary school, had this to say when asked how support from ASNC – MCC has helped her, *"The Autism Society of Mecklenburg County is so beneficial to the teachers and students of our community. They have provided me with several grants for great classroom items to enhance the educational experience of my students in so many ways! In addition, they just funded a scholarship for me to the Autism Society Conference of North Carolina where I learned amazing information that can continue to help my students. My students and I are so thankful for the Autism Society and the resources they provide!"*

Autism Aware Fare not only raises money, in addition every participating restaurant will have informational table tents on display educating the community on Autism Spectrum

Disorder (ASD), which effects 1 in out of every 110 children. Nearly every 20 minutes a family is learning their child has autism.

Autism is a neurological disorder that affects a person's ability to understand what they see, hear, and otherwise sense. It is a brain disorder that impacts communication, social interaction, and behavior. Individuals with ASD typically have difficulty understanding verbal and nonverbal communication and learning appropriate ways of relating to other people, objects, and events. No two people with ASD are the same. As its name implies, ASD is a spectrum disorder that affects individuals differently and with varying degrees of severity.

A list of the 9th Annual Autism Aware Fare sponsors and participating restaurants can be found by visiting www.autismawarefare.org.

For more information and to schedule a representative of the Autism Society of North Carolina – Mecklenburg County Chapter for an interview on Autism Awareness or the Autism Aware Fare event on April 26th, please contact Jennifer Frey at 704.582.3726 or potterygirl73@yahoo.com.

The Autism Society of North Carolina – Mecklenburg County chapter is a non-profit local affiliate of the Autism Society of North Carolina, which provides support and promotes opportunities that enhance the lives of individuals within the autism spectrum and their families.