



Homes for Autism

The Brightest Hope for People with Autism

Quarterly News

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In This Issue:

Letter from the President
Turn the White House Blue
Upcoming Events
Ring of Hope Dinner

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Dear Friends,

Spring is just around the corner -- only two more weeks of Michigan winter! During these past months of cold and record snowfalls, we at HFA have been busy planning all of our events for 2011. We begin the celebration of spring on Sunday, March 27th with our **16th Annual Irish Pub Night**. The tradition continues with food, drink, raffle prizes, silent auction and live entertainment, provided by Pat McDunn and the Irish Gaels.

I am especially pleased to announce Homes for Autism's 2011 Annual "**Walk for Autism**" on Saturday, October 8th at the Detroit Zoo. Check-In begins at 7:00 a.m., followed by the start of the Walk at 8:30 a.m. Our walkers are welcome to stay at the zoo for the remainder of the day, until the park closes at 5:00 p.m. Please visit our Web site (www.homesforautism.org) in the upcoming months for important details and updates.

Also, please mark your calendars for our **15th Annual Ring of Hope Dinner** scheduled for Saturday, November 12th, 6:30 p.m., at The Village Club in Bloomfield Hills. Plans are now being finalized to ensure another wonderful evening, while providing support for our mission.

At our annual board meeting, scheduled for Thursday, March 31st, we will welcome new board members. If you have an interest, we are continually searching for strong leaders to represent our organization and to serve on our committees. We have a tremendous group of people involved at all levels and I am very proud and privileged to be a part of our organization. My heartfelt thanks go to our current board members for their vital individual contributions.

Due to our economic climate, we continue to face significant challenges. We ask that you, as our friend and supporter, help by making a donation or by attending one of our upcoming events. Amazing things are possible when we all work together towards a common goal.

With best regards,

Bill Schramm, President

Turn the White House **BLUE**

Last year, the autism community and Autism Speaks lit more than 200 buildings and landmarks blue to mark the UN World Autism Awareness Day – April 2nd. This year, hundreds of buildings and landmarks – including the Empire State Building, Niagara Falls, 30 Rockefeller Center, Christ the Redeemer Statue in Brazil, the Sydney Opera House in Australia – and many more iconic buildings will go blue for autism. To urge President Obama to support autism awareness and light the White House blue, visit autismspeaks.org and use the tools provided to show your support!

Upcoming Events

16th Annual Irish Night **Sunday, March 27, 2011, 6:00 p.m.** **Four Green Fields, Royal Oak**

Join us for an evening of fun, featuring Pat McDunn and the Irish Gaels. You will have a blarney good time and support Homes for Autism's efforts to be *the brightest hope for people with autism*. \$75 per person includes hearty hors d'oeuvres, 2 drink tickets, raffle prizes, silent auction and live entertainment.

The Walk for Autism **Saturday, October 8, 2011** **The Detroit Zoo**

To raise awareness and support of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and to help improve the quality of life for individuals affected by autism, come enjoy a day at the Detroit Zoo through pledges collected from friends and family. Check-In starts at 7:00 a.m. and admission to the Zoo is free. Participants are welcome to stay at the Zoo until closing at 5:00 p.m. A web site is currently being created to provide more information on sponsoring, participating or volunteering in Homes for Autism's "Walk for Autism." In the meantime, visit our website: www.homesforautism.org for updates and an eventual link to the official web site. Last year's event was a tremendous success with more than 700 participants. With all of your help, we are looking forward to the prospect of continued success this year!

15th Annual Ring of Hope Dinner **Saturday, November 12, 2011, 6:30 p.m.** **The Village Club, Bloomfield Hills**

Plans are now being finalized for our guests to enjoy a wonderful evening to include a cocktail reception, silent auction, and a gourmet dinner followed by a live auction, entertainment and dancing. For information detailing the opportunities and benefits for you or your company to participate -- Sponsorship, Program Book and Live/Silent Auction Donations -- or to answer any questions, call 248-588-2111.

Your support of one or all of our events is particularly critical during this time of economic hardship. Homes for Autism receives no state or federal funding -- our only hope to continue in our efforts to grow at the rate of diagnosed autism depends on your contributions.

Ring of Hope Dinner - 2010

On November 20, 2010, all of our guests enjoyed a unique and festive evening at **Meadow Brook Hall**--aglow with holiday decorations--for our **14th Annual Ring of Hope Dinner**. The theme was "Help Us Put the Pieces Together" to fulfill our mission to provide and maintain houses for adults with autism and developmental disabilities.

Features included gourmet food stations, tours of the truly enchanting and historic mansion, silent and live auctions and entertainment provided by the band, Chateau, plus a special performance by artist, Noah Kaplan.

Our sincerest respect and congratulations went to the recipient of our 2010 Golden Ring of Hope Award, Gregory J. Schwartz, Chairman of the Board of Gregory J. Schwartz & Company. We are grateful to Greg, his family and friends for their participation and willingness to join us in our commitment to provide housing and fulfill dreams for adults with autism.

We would like to recognize and thank our board, sponsors and committee members for their enthusiastic participation and valuable time spent to make our 14th annual dinner one of the most successful.

