June 19, 2023

Dear Friends,

One in 36 children. One in 4 boys. According to the CDC, that is the number of children diagnosed with an **autism spectrum disorder** (ASD), a group of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. There is no known cause and no single treatment method for autism, but there is hope.

The mission of the Autism Society of Berks County is to provide information and support for individuals within the autism spectrum, their families, and professionals through community awareness, education and resources related to autism. With the generous support of local businesses and our members, we have been able to raise substantial funds to support our mission. These funds have enabled us to provide music therapy groups, social skills groups, and yoga therapy groups to hundreds of children free of charge each year.

Our **20th annual “Walk for Autism Awareness and Acceptance” will be held on Sunday September 17, 2023** at the Reading Fightin Phils FirstEnergy Stadium. We ask that you support the walk, our **major fundraiser** of the year. **All funds raised remain in our community helping local families impacted by autism.** Some of the ways businesses and individuals can support the Walk include:

- Becoming a business sponsor by making a monetary, tax deductible donation
- Donating gift certificates or products for raffle prizes
- Donating small items such as pens, key chains, or discount coupons to be included in the participant goody bags.

Enclosed you will find a sponsorship form detailing the different levels of giving. Any level of support is greatly appreciated. Fundraising has been challenging the past few years. Our larger office has been an amazing addition to host both in person therapy sessions and family events. Your support for our **20th Annual Walk** is important for our continued ability to offer services to Berks County autism families.

Thank you for your consideration as we **“Walk for Autism Awareness and Acceptance”**. If you have any questions, please contact us by email (**walk@autismsocietyofberkscounty.org**) or leave a message on our phone line at 610-736-3739.

With best regards,

Maureen Klahr
President Board of Directors