

SUPPORT – EDUCATE – ADVOCATE
AUTISM WALK OF NORTHWEST OHIO

Please help support the thousands of individuals living with autism in our community. You can help support the mission of the *Autism Society of Northwest Ohio* by sponsoring or forming a corporate team (or both!) to the **7th ANNUAL AUTISM WALK on Sunday, August 30, 2020** at the Franklin Park Mall in Toledo. The *Autism Society of Northwest Ohio* was created **to improve the lives of all affected by autism** in the 12 counties in Northwest Ohio through support, education, advocacy, and services.



Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurobiological disorder of the brain that usually appears in the first three years of a child's life. The core features of autism include impaired communication, problems socializing, restricted and repetitive patterns of behaviors, and over or under reactivity to sensory input. A recent study by the Centers for Disease Control (April 2020) indicates that **1 in 54 eight-year olds have an autism spectrum disorder**. This figure is an increase from the 2016 report which had a statistic of 1 in 68 children. Autism can

present physical, emotional, and financial challenges for families throughout the individual's lifetime. Without adequate support, these challenges can be overwhelming.

Your contribution and support will allow us to continue to provide our constituents with a magnitude of services. We are a locally-operated Chapter and **100% of all funds** raised through the Autism Walk will remain in Northwest Ohio to help our families with the following support services:

- I & R services - *Information* about autism and *Referral* to autism-specific and autism-friendly resources
- One-on-one support for families and caregivers
- Educational programs for parents, professionals, and community groups
- Social groups for young adults on the spectrum and outreach events
- Support groups for families, including *Sibshops* for brothers and sisters
- Training for law enforcement; school personnel, staff and students

Please review the attached sponsorship packet and consider making a difference in the lives of those in your community living with autism.

Sincerely,

Kate Schwartz
Executive Director