



2009 Walk-To-Talk

Is made possible THANKS to

Lutheran Hospital



Proceeds from Walk-To-Talk are used principally for Summer Programming

*Applications for Summer Programming must be postmarked by
April 24, 2009*

ACT's role is to engage and support individuals, families, medical professionals, therapists and educators in effective methods to improve the lives of individuals with Autism and their families in Northeast Indiana. By focusing on the front-line service providers and high-tech solutions, we will be able to build communities of providers and extend best practices for enhancing the lives of people with Autism. ACT's key programming consists of:

- Parent Mentor Network
- Community website
- Summer Programming for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Training Sponsorships for area Professionals



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www.ACTpositive.org

www.ACTpositive.org/WalkToTalk/



2009 Walk-To-Talk

**Saturday, May 16th
Lawton Park**

**Food and Festivities Noon
Rain or Shine**

ALL the money raised stays in Northeast Indiana to benefit those impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorders today by funding therapy services, summer programming, summer camp and local training seminars while supporting and strengthening families.

Come for the Walk.

Stay for the fun!

Autism is . . .

America's fastest growing disability!

Autism is a neurological, developmental disorder that manifests itself in varying degrees of severity. Although no two individuals with Autism are alike, it is most often characterized by impairments in social interactions, communication and language, and the presence of repetitive and/or restricted behaviors.

Consider the facts:

- 1 in 150 are diagnosed with Autism in the United States
- In Indiana, 1 in 128 are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- According to Department of Defense data, 1 in 88 military families have a child diagnosed with Autism.
- According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the incidence of Autism has increased 10-fold in the last decade.
- Autism has increased 24% per year in Indiana for the last 8 years.
- Autism receives less than 5% of the research funding for childhood diseases despite the fact that it is the fastest growing developmental disability in the U.S.

With appropriate intervention, individuals with Autism can reach their fullest potential but ...

ACT's Initiatives

AWARENESS

Early and accurate diagnosis is critical to long-term outcomes.

GROWTH

Northeast Indiana is projected to have 100 children diagnosed with Autism in 2009. Accordingly our community needs to train 120 professionals to meet their education requirements.

QUALITY

Teaching children with Autism mandates specialized training which is not readily available in our community.

AFFORDABILITY

Due to reductions in government funding to schools and Medicaid Waivers, many families cannot afford to obtain adequate intervention for their children.

LOCAL SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Children with Autism require year-round intensive intervention, yet often do not qualify for extended school year services during the summer. Many children go from full or part-time support and multiple therapies during the school year to little or no support during the summer. It is critical for the individuals to have opportunities in the summer from therapeutic services to summer camps to recreational activities for further development of their academic, behavioral and social needs.

THIS IS WHY WE ARE RAISING MONEY!



Registration Form

(minimum \$15 donation to walk)

More forms available online at www.ACTpositive.org

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Team Name (optional) _____

Participant-walk 1-mile course on May 16th (\$15 minimum donation)

Sleep-Walk-To-Talker sleep-in and miss the Walk, but get a T-shirt anyway (\$25 minimum donation)

T-shirt size:

S
M
L
XL
XXL
XXXL

Adult



Children

(6-8)
(10-12)
(14-16)



T-shirts are included with advance registrations (on or before April 10th) ONLY. Additional T-shirts will be available for sale for \$15 on the day of the Walk.

Autism Community Together, Inc.
A Not-for-profit Corporation, 501(c)3
Donations are tax deductible



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Walk-To-Talk Activities

The **Walk** is a 1 mile walk from Lawton Park around the "Fort" and back. The path is a flat course and completely wheelchair accessible.

Pre-Walk Activities include:

- **FREE FOOD FOR WALK PARTICIPANTS**
- Music and giveaways from Star 88.3
- Moon Walk, Giant Slide, Trackless Train
- Dance Dance Revolution and Mario Kart
- Sensory Tent including baby pool of rice, another baby pool of sand, tent filled with foam, face painting, etc.
- Information booth with tons of local resource information and staffed with leaders from area agencies to answer your questions
- Music Therapy demonstration
- Awareness items for sale
- Food and beverages
- Balloon release
- Boy Scout Troop #400 demonstration

Post-Walk Activities include:

- Awarding of Prizes to Top Fundraising Teams
- Captivating juggling and unicycle performance by Lance Weirick.

we must ACT now!