

Your Autograph Will Make a Difference in the Life of a Child with Autism

1 in 150 Children Will be Diagnosed with Autism



It is a startling statistic from the Centers for Disease Control. And it has staggering implications for the children, parents, siblings and our communities. I know, because **my son Gerik is one of the diagnosed children in that statistic.** Gerik is ten years old, non-verbal, with profound (severe) classic autism. I watch him daily struggling to be understood and accepted.

Because children with autism show no physical signs to indicate their diagnosis, most people and even their own relatives cannot see their autism. Their actions and reactions appear to be signs of discipline or behavior problems.

Sue Litchfield, Cle Elum, WA

*I had never seen the puzzle pieced autism pin until I walked into Jerrol's Book and Supply four years ago. Rolf Williams was wearing one as he waited on his customers and I asked him what it was. That conversation emphasizing the importance of early intervention was the catalyst that led to my two-year-old grandson being diagnosed with autism and enrolled in a developmental preschool program. **Early intervention has made a profound difference in Dylan's life. His education team targeted speech and behavioral skills. After months of gibberish, Dylan can now speak in full sentences. His teacher sends home social stories that teach skills like looking at people when they talk to you. Although Dylan is not yet ready to enter general education class, because of early intervention, his education team believe that he will eventually be able to do so.***

You have probably seen children at the grocery store checkout line flapping their hands, uttering unusual sounds or talking at inappropriate times and wondered what was wrong. Perhaps you even thought the child needed to be disciplined. What people fail to understand is that a child with autism has little control over those behaviors. It is not uncommon for families to be asked to leave stores due to their children's apparent "behavior" issues.

Shopping with an autistic child is an experience that hinges on the understanding of those around you. When people are accepting and understanding it can be a wonderful learning experience for a child with autism to be out in the community. When there is intolerance or a lack of understanding it becomes a battle filled with guilt and dread which must be undertaken weekly.

A Simple Gesture From You Will Make a Huge Impact

I need your help to capture Media attention to bring Autism Awareness to our communities. We have all seen the celebrity or "Hollywood" Autism story. I intend to show the real world, day-to-day understanding of what Autism is like for these children. I am asking for your autographed memorabilia items, which will create media and community interest. The auction will be held at The Inn at Suncadia in Roslyn, Washington on September 15th and online.

All you need to do to help us raise awareness of Autism in our

Your donation of Autographed items of any size or manner can help kids with Autism throughout the country, including my 10 year old son Gerik

community is fill out the enclosed card and send us your donation by September 1st. This will allow us the time needed to create the type of publicity that can be used to increase awareness that Autism is in every city and town, no matter how small.

Awareness in the Community is the "Cure."

In contrast, just this morning I was grocery shopping with Gerik and my daughter Jordan. While we were passing the meat aisle a girl next to us turned to the woman with her and said, "Look, it's Gerik!!" The tone of her voice made me smile. She was a classmate and that exchange brings tears to my eyes as I write this. The girl was accepting of my son and wanted to share with others her relationship with Gerik.

My family's 3rd & 4th generation independent bookstore, Jerrol's Book and Supply Co., is celebrating its 60th anniversary by sponsoring the **"Autism in our Community" Awareness Auction**.

Jerrol's Book and Supply Co. is paying all expenses for the auction so 100% of the proceeds will go to the nonprofit organization, Autism Speaks Inc. But the main purpose of the auction is to capture the media's attention in order to inform people of the real story of real people in our communities working through the complexities of Autism. Additional information on Autism Speaks Inc. and the **"Autism in our Community" Awareness Auction** can be found at www.jerrols.com/auction.

There is a donation card enclosed with this letter as well as an Autism Awareness lapel pin for you to keep. **If you know of someone else who would like to help, please forward this letter to him or her.**

Thank you for your time and donation,

Rolf Taylor Williams, President
Jerrol's Book & Supply Co.
rolf@jerrols.com

p.s. **Please keep the Autism Awareness Pin as a thank you from my family**

p.p.s. Any donation will be greatly appreciated just fill out the enclosed card and ship the items by September 1st

p.p.p.s. More information on the auction can be found at <http://www.jerrols.com/auction>

Again, thank you,

Rolf



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