



Dear Business Owners and Managers,

Did you know that the rate for autism spectrum disorders has increased since last year from 1 in 150 to 1 in 110 children? This number is staggering, however even more troubling is the ever increasing cost of providing the necessary treatment for these children. Therapies for children with autism can range from \$35,000 - \$75,000 per year depending on the child's needs, the majority of the recommended therapies not included under standard insurance coverage. Even a simple summer camp is over \$1,800. As you can imagine, most families cannot afford to pay these costs, and their children get left behind.

The Parker Autism Foundation, a 501(c)(3) local organization, is very excited to be celebrating its 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a major milestone for non-profit charities. The Reaching for a Star fundraiser is our main fundraising event for the year, the proceeds of which are used to fund camp scholarships and therapies for local children with autism and to fulfill life long dreams. Last year, we rose over \$18,000 through the auction, and we hope to exceed that figure this year. The 2011 event will be held April 29, 2011 at 7 p.m. at 2211-A Executive Street, Charlotte, NC 28208. We hope that you will consider donating an item, gift basket or certificate. As a donor, you will receive publicity prior to and during the event through event brochure and on our website. We will be sending over 400 invitations and expect to have 175-200 attendees.

**May we count on your help? If you are interested in either making a donation for this event or making a monetary donations for scholarships, please send your donated item(s) to Shelley Reilley, Executive Director, the Parker Autism Foundation, 5290 Cambridge Bay Drive, Charlotte, NC 28269, or contact the volunteer listed below to coordinate pick-up of your item(s). To learn more about sponsoring opportunities, please contact the foundation by April 15, 2011. Please have all auction items into us no later than April 22, 2011, so that we may insure that your information will be in our program.**

If you have any questions or wish to learn more about our organization, please feel free to contact the foundation at the number below or visit our website: [ParkerAutismFoundation.org](http://ParkerAutismFoundation.org). Thank you for your support of The Parker Autism Foundation. We look forward to speaking with you. Together, we can help children with autism succeed.

Warmest Regards, and Thanks,

The Parker Autism Foundation  
704-819-4952

**Foundation Tax ID #: 59-3783357**