



**About Autism Speaks:**

Autism Speaks is a 501(c)3 dedicated to increasing awareness of the growing autism epidemic and to raising money to fund scientists who are searching for a cure. It was founded in February 2005 by Suzanne and Bob Wright. Bob Wright is Vice Chairman and Executive Officer, General Electric and the former Chairman and CEO of NBC Universal. Autism Speaks and Cure Autism Now (CAN) recently combined operations, bringing together two of the leading organizations dedicated to accelerating and funding biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments and cure for autism spectrum disorders; to increasing awareness of the nation's fastest growing developmental disorder; advocating for the needs of affected families; and providing family services to answer those tough questions families might need to ask, but don't know who to turn to.

**Our Mission:**

We are dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder.

No other organization offers the nationwide, comprehensive mission funding Research, Awareness, Advocacy and Community Services. As such, Autism Speaks serves as the national umbrella for the entire autism community. Autism Speaks unique approach works to advance the science, provide a united voice for the community, and invites the general public in to become part of our crusade.

**We Need Your Help:**

Autism is the fastest growing developmental disorder, affecting 1 in 150 children born today. Despite the high prevalence and growing health care costs associated with caring for a child with autism, autism research receives less than 5% of the research funding of many other, less prevalent, childhood diseases.

**About Walk Now for Autism:**

*Walk Now for Autism* is a 5K family walk and an autism community resource fair heightening public awareness and raising money to fund autism research. Scheduled in over 70 U.S. cities in 2008, *Walk Now for Autism's* national appeal extends beyond the autism community.

Attendees include families and friends united in their support of those affected by autism; business and civic leaders; medical professionals; educators; and local and national celebrities. Attendees come from a wealth of backgrounds and ethnicities sharing a commitment to finding the missing piece of the puzzle. To learn more, visit [www.walknowforautism.org](http://www.walknowforautism.org).