



Press release
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Participants in Autism Delaware's statewide Walk for Autism in both Lewes and Wilmington enjoy a beautiful, accessible path with a water view, a celebration in the event's fun zone, and yummy lunches purchasable from food trucks. Pictured is Team Kenny from the 2017 event in Wilmington.

Statewide Walk for Autism set for April 14 in Lewes, April 21 in Wilmington

Sponsors and volunteers welcome

January 30, 2018—NEWARK DE Autism Delaware announced today that the statewide Walk for Autism starts in Lewes on Saturday, April 14, at Cape Henlopen State Park. The Wilmington walk takes place April 21 in Fox Point State Park. The event coordinators hope to attract 3,000 walkers and aim to raise \$250,000 for Autism Delaware's programs and services. In addition to striving to meet the needs of individuals with autism across their lifespans, Autism Delaware strives to reach the autism community across the entire state.

"We want to support our community so everyone can live full, productive lives," notes Autism Delaware executive director Teresa Avery. "As the community grows, we need to continue to grow, too. The walk promotes and highlights our services that are available in all three counties. Our programs include expanded family support services, advocacy, awareness, and adult employment and community resources."

A celebration as well as a fundraiser, Autism Delaware's Walk for Autism also runs a fun zone where children can enjoy hands-on crafts. And next door to the fun zone, the newest

and latest in products and services are on display especially for individuals and families affected by autism. The well-maintained picnic areas invite all participants to enjoy their homemade lunches or their purchases from food trucks open for business in the parks.

To make this statewide event run smoothly, Autism Delaware relies on the expertise of volunteers and the generosity of sponsors. Sponsors support the effort with much-needed funding. And to ensure that more of the raised funds go where they're needed, volunteers, such as the Home Depot team as well as Autism Delaware employees, donate their time to help.

For more information, to register, or to sponsor the Walk for Autism, visit AutismDelaware.org. To volunteer, call (302) 224-6020, or send an email of interest to volunteers@delautism.org.

About autism spectrum disorder and Autism Delaware

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that includes impairment in social interaction and social communication. Individuals with ASD also exhibit repetitive patterns of behavior or interest that limit everyday functioning. An intellectual or language impairment is also possible. All these symptoms will first appear in early childhood.

In the Delaware public school system, 152 students received an educational classification of autism in 1991, but for the 2017–18 school year, 2,109 students have the classification. This number omits the adults or children who are not currently being served by the school's special-education system.

Autism Delaware is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit made up of individuals with ASD, their family members, the professionals who serve them, and friends of people with ASD. The agency's mission is to help people and families affected by ASD. With offices in Newark, Dover, and Lewes, Autism Delaware serves the entire state.

Autism Delaware's programs and services are supported by state contracts and generous donations from individuals and corporations across Delaware. Fundraising events, such as the statewide Walk for Autism, help provide the income needed to make critical programs a reality. For more information on how to help, visit AutismDelaware.org.