



News Release

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Autism Speaks; Madonna Graduate Students Listen

LIVONIA, Mich. - Madonna University students have joined the list of teams participating in the second annual Autism Speaks, Walk Now event scheduled for Sunday, October 12, at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Graduate students in the University's Master's in Teaching Autism Spectrum Disorders program will participate in the walk for the second year in a row. The team raised \$1,500 during last year's walk at the Detroit Zoo. "Our goal is to raise \$2,000 this year," said Cassandra Wheeler, team leader.

Some walk to represent an autistic friend or family member. Madonna student Cheryl Evans walked last year with her daughter Jamie, who is autistic. "It is a wonderful experience to be a part of something like that," commented Evans. "Plus, I can bring my daughter and there are no stares, just total acceptance."

"Anyone is welcome to join Madonna's team and walk along with us to support a great cause," said Wheeler. "Last year's walk was full of fun and laughter."

Walk registration, kid's activities and a Resource Fair begin at 10 a.m. The walk starts at noon. For more information, to join or form a team, or to make a donation, visit www.autismspeaks.org. Autism Speaks is a non-profit organization dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments and cure for autism, while raising public awareness.

Madonna University's (www.madonna.edu) master's in teaching autism spectrum disorders (ASD) prepares certified teachers, through coursework and field experiences, to effectively facilitate learning for students with ASD. The interdisciplinary curriculum integrates developmental, behavioral, educational and medical research and theory. The program places emphasis on the child and the symptoms of the disorder. Students may choose to pursue the ASD endorsement alone, or incorporate it into a master's degree. Madonna University's main campus is conveniently located at I-96 and Levan Road in Livonia.

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