

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

OUCARES, Homes for Autism partner in fun run benefit

Oakland University's Center for Autism Research, Education and Support (OUCARES) has teamed with local non-profit Homes for Autism to host a 5k run, 5k walk and 10k run on the campus of Oakland University on May 17, 2009.

The event, which raises funds for both OUCARES and Homes for Autism, is designed to raise awareness of autism spectrum disorders and help improve the quality of life for individuals affected by them.

Autism is a neurological disorder that impairs the communication and social skills of those diagnosed with it. According to the Autism Society of America, the disorder impacts as many as 1.5 million American adults and children.

OUCARES integrates academic course work, knowledge and research with hands-on work in the community to prepare professionals to be leaders in the autism community. Through these academic and service programs, Oakland University also provides supportive individual and family programs.

The center, housed in the School of Education and Human Services, encourages the exchange of ideas relating to the education and support of individuals with autism spectrum disorder, as well as provides services and support needed to improve daily living.

At OUCARES, individuals are empowered to communicate with others and about themselves through unique, fun and interactive classes, as well as social clubs and recreational and learning programs.

Homes for Autism focuses its mission on the question, "What happens to children with an autism spectrum disorder when they grow up?" The organization's name instantly conveys its commitment and mission to provide housing for adults with autism.

For more information on sponsoring, participating in or volunteering for the Run for Autism, visit www.oakland.edu/oucares. Participants who register early will receive a T-shirt to commemorate their support and participation.



Children enjoy activities during a recent OUCARES summer camp.



SUMMARY

The event is designed to raise awareness of autism spectrum disorders and help improve the quality of life for individuals affected by them.

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