



Rich Center Students, Families, Staff, Board Members, and Supporters,

Today, April 1st marks the beginning of Autism Awareness Month, with World Autism Awareness Day celebrated tomorrow, April 2nd. Awareness refers to knowledge or one's perception about a particular situation or fact. As a center, we believe awareness is the first step in promoting outcomes such as acceptance, inclusion, integration, and more. Our mission and vision, centered around the treatment, education, and research of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) serve as catalysts for achieving such outcomes. April is a month to celebrate the individuality and uniqueness of our Rich Center students and educate others on what ASD is, how we grow collectively as a community, and why we do what we do! Please be sure to check out our [News](#) and [Events](#) pages on our website along with our social media throughout the month of April for our daily posts, announcements, and messages promoting the awareness and acceptance of ASD.

We are fortunate to have strong partnerships with so many individuals, including our board members, local organizations and businesses, and like groups who will be joining us this April in promoting awareness and acceptance of ASD. In a special way, we'd like to thank Youngstown State University for helping us grow stronger each and every day in fulfilling our mission to improve education experiences and outcomes for individuals with autism and their families through teaching, research and community engagement. Our doors at The Rich Center for Autism are always open, with an invitation to stop by and see the implementation of a new social skills curricula, research on coding and best practices, increased technology, renovated spaces, and more!

A note of sincere gratitude to our students, families, and staff of The Rich Center for Autism. It is truly a blessing to be a part of a 26-year program that was founded out of love with a strong sense of purpose and intention aimed at providing optimal educational experiences for individuals with ASD and their families. The bond between our teachers and families is a special one that is often absent in other education environments. Again, this center was founded out of love and its mission is continued each and every day with that same purpose, intention, and most importantly, love. Thank you for embracing what it means to be an educator and for choosing The Rich Center for Autism.

We know each and every individual reading this short letter understands that the fulfillment of our mission and vision goes beyond a singular month, but please join us in recognizing Autism Awareness Month this April through celebration, inclusion, advocacy, and acceptance. Be a voice, a leader, contributor, and ally for not only the students and families of The Rich Center for Autism at Youngstown State University, but all individuals with ASD across our community and the globe!

Thank you for your continued partnership,

Dr. Gregory Boerio
Executive Director

Rachael Dobson
Associate Director of Behavior

Michael Latessa
Associate Director of Development