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## **Autism Delaware expands to Southern Delaware**

**Milford, Del. (Jan. 7, 2009)** – Autism Delaware announced today the opening of its new office in Milford, Del., answering a growing need for services in southern Delaware.

The new office extends the services of Autism Delaware to those affected by autism in Kent and Sussex Counties. Autism Delaware will provide mentoring and training programs for parents, coordinate social events and support groups for families, organize groups for teenagers with Asperger’s Syndrome and lead social skills classes for children.

Dafne Carnright, Downstate Coordinator of the Milford office, will be responsible for overseeing the office, representing Autism Delaware at public events, recruiting volunteers and raising public awareness about autism.

“The Milford office will really help families in Kent and Sussex Counties who formerly had to utilize our New Castle County office for assistance and services,” said Autism Delaware Executive Director Theda Ellis.

The new office will give Autism Delaware an increased presence in the two southern counties, where the number of children born with autism is rising with each year. In 1999, there were 85 autistic children in southern Delaware’s public schools, whereas in 2007, the number increased to 216 children. Autism Delaware will offer support to about 200 families in Kent and Sussex Counties, providing services for them in their own communities.

For additional information about Autism Delaware, contact Theda Ellis or visit [www.delautism.org](http://www.delautism.org).

### About Autism Delaware

Autism Delaware is a non-profit advocacy organization made up of family members, professionals and friends of people with autism. The organization aims to improve the lives of people and families affected by autism. Autism is a complex, developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. Autism Delaware serves the entire state of Delaware, with its offices in Newark and Milford.

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