

Walk for Autism Raises \$80,000

More than 1,000 walkers came out on a beautiful April Saturday to raise \$80,000 at the recent Walk for Autism at Bellevue State Park. The board and staff of Autism Delaware want to thank all of you who came out with your family and friends. Walkers came from around Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and even as far away as Washington State. We loved seeing all the new teams and the colorful team t-shirts. Best of all was your enthusiasm and your good natures! We particularly appreciated the latter when the water main at the park broke and they had to close the bathrooms! Rest assured we'll have more bathrooms available next year.

The walk is more than a fundraiser. It's a place for the whole family to get together and have fun. It also raises awareness of autism and shows our community how many folks in the general public care about this cause as well. In a year when we all are struggling, we particularly appreciate the generosity of our business sponsors, our exhibitors, and the team captains who put together teams of walkers. You have all been fabulous. Please know that you make a great difference.

So, how do we spend the money? Autism Delaware works to create services and opportunities for people of all ages and across the autism spectrum. As you know, people with autism require lifelong learning environments and opportunities to learn and practice new skills, and thrive with family involvement at every stage of life. Walk proceeds will help support a number of Autism Delaware services and initiatives for individuals with autism and their families, such as:

- Productive Opportunities for Work & Recreation (POW&R), our direct service program for adults with autism
- Support to our new Milford office
- Information to families and the community through our newsletter, listserves, speaker series, and conferences
- Member services such as support groups, stipends to conferences, workshops, and other informational events
- Social activities for children and families
- Teen Night Out
- Parent mentoring and outreach to new families
- Contributions to national research efforts addressing the causes and treatments of autism and
- Advocacy to promote autism awareness and services

Again, thank you all for your great support to this cause and this organization. All of us at Autism Delaware deeply appreciate your support.