



Volunteer of the Month

April



Kathy Willes
Walk for Autism
Drive for Autism
Finance Committee

May



Irene Rodriguez
Walk for Autism
Drive for Autism

Sussex Co. Volunteers Needed for:

**Bike to the Beach (July);
Beach Picnic (August);
Junior Golf (Sep.— Oct.).**

Please contact
Gail Hecky at
(302) 644-3410 or
gail.hecky@delautism.org

The Busiest Time of the Year

What are the busiest months of the year for Autism Delaware? Without a doubt—April and May. April is National Autism Awareness Month, and this April we accomplished something we've always wanted to do—have an event every day in April! Statewide, we had, among other things, information tables, restaurant fundraisers, sensory friendly day at the zoo, bowling nights, pin-making parties, art classes, DeLAWAREness dance showcase, Autism Delaware's Amazing Race, Smart Cookie Day, and Walk for Autism. How do we do it all? A lot of planning, a committed staff, and **our wonderful, dedicated volunteers!** Volunteers enthusiastically stepped up to work at information tables, advocate for legislation in Dover, help at bowling night and game night, make awareness pins, and take on all the various tasks needed to make the Walk for Autism so successful.



Home Depot volunteers at this year's
Wilmington Walk for Autism

From April, we went right into our biggest fundraiser — the **Drive for Autism** on May 12th. The weather cooperated beautifully as golfers, celebrities, staff, sponsors and volunteers came together for a fabulous day that raised more than \$475,000! These funds enable Autism Delaware to continue providing services, resources, and support for the autism community. In addition, this year for the first time, the **NASCAR AAA 400 Drive for Autism** in Dover benefited Autism Delaware. Once again, volunteers were a big part of making an event not only successful, but a lot of fun.

Outstanding Volunteers

Over the last two months, we've had hundreds of volunteers give their time and energy to Autism Delaware, so it's not easy selecting just a few to recognize. The following organizations provided volunteers for various events during April and May:

**Air Force Presidential Airlift Group
Boy Scouts Troop 660
Cub Scouts Pack 959
CSAA Insurance Group
Dawn Career Institute
Home Depot
NKS Distributors
Sharp Energy
Palmer Chiropractic Life Center
JP Morgan Chase
UD's Theta Chi Fraternity
UD's Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority**

Volunteers of the Month

Kathy Willes not only volunteers her photography skills at the Walk for Autism and the Drive for Autism, but she also serves on our finance committee and served on both the Drive for Autism Committee and AAA 400 Drive for Autism Planning Committee. As the VP of Finance for NKS Distributors, she helps to facilitate beverage donations for our major fundraising events, which keeps our costs down and our revenue up. Kathy is also an avid race fan, so if she's not volunteering, you can probably find her at a race track or writing about racing. Kathy is both editor and reporter for the *Outside the Oval* race magazine.

Irene Rodriguez is mom to three children, two of whom are on the autism spectrum. Irene served on this year's Walk for Autism committee and, as a volunteer, worked at registration at the Drive for Autism. She was also instrumental in establishing our association with Home Depot, which sends volunteers and children's activity kits to our Walk for Autism every year.

AutismDelaware.org