

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Achievement Centers for Children Hosts its 2nd Annual Autism-Friendly Family Fun Day!

(Westlake, OH) April 1, 2010 – In celebration of Autism Awareness Month, the Achievement Centers for Children is hosting its 2nd Annual Fabulous Fantastic Family Fun Day at its Westlake facility located at 24211 Center Ridge Road on Saturday, April 24, 2010 from 11am – 3pm.

Last year’s event was an overwhelming success, with almost 250 individuals in attendance. Family Fun Day was born out of the knowledge that many families with children with autism often find themselves without family-friendly activities that are inclusive and appropriate for their child with autism. According to Darla Motil, Manager of Community Relations at the Achievement Centers, “Even as awareness of autism continues to rise, many parents still feel uneasy about taking their child with autism to public events out of fear that the environment may not be conducive to the needs of their child. The Achievement Centers understands these needs and the importance of having an experience that families, especially those caring for individuals with autism, can enjoy.”

Family Fun Day provides a host of activities that appeal to and are appropriate for everyone, including children with autism. The day’s activities have been designed with the child with autism in mind: music therapy demonstrations, arts & crafts, sensory rooms and even a workshop for siblings of children with autism.

To make sure the whole family can get in on the fun, parents and their children can also choose from activities such as family swims, Euclid Beach Rocket Rides, Scooby Doo Bounce Houses; miniature horse & carriage rides and a cookout.

In addition to providing a good time for the entire family, the Achievement Centers is hoping to engage residents of Westlake and surrounding communities that are still unaware of the services and programs offered at the Westlake site. “We’ve been here for over two years, and people are still surprised when they hear we’re their neighbor”, says Motil.

Celebrating their 70th anniversary in 2010, the Achievement Centers relocated from Lakewood to Westlake in 2007. The 40,000 square foot building features amenities such as a gymnasium, fully-accessible indoor pool and playground. Autism classrooms, customized therapy services and adapted aquatics are just a few of the services offered by the Achievement Centers in Westlake. The Achievement Centers serves more than 3,900 children with disabilities every year.

Admission to the Fabulous Fantastic Family Fun Day is only \$15 for families of up to five, if registered by April 9th and \$25 for larger families or those paying at the door. Free parking is available on-site and refreshments will be provided. For more information about Family Fun Day or to reserve your space, please contact Helen Mack at 216.292.9700 ext. 248.

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The Achievement Centers for Children is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to work with children with disabilities and their families to strengthen abilities and create opportunities for lifelong achievement in society. Providing comprehensive high-quality, cost-effective services and programs in the areas of rehabilitation, family support, recreation and education, the Achievement Centers for Children is uniquely positioned to care for the child and family at our facilities in Highland Hills, Westlake and Strongsville, Ohio. For more information, visit www.achievementcenters.org.

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