

## **Paxton Campus Celebrates Autism Awareness Month**

**LEESBURG, VA 20176 – April 1, 2014** – Today marks the beginning of Autism Awareness Month. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced last week that the rates of autism in children have increased by 30% since their last projections. That is 1 in 68 children; with autism being nearly five times more common in boys than girls. These are staggering statistics and help elicit more awareness and research.

To help spread awareness and to kickoff this month, Paxton Campus is hosting a weekend of activities. Friday is a night of music from 6pm-8pm, at Blossom & Bloom Thrift Shop during Leesburg's First Friday. Saturday from 10am-2pm, is our inclusive preschool and kindergarten's Open House. Sunday from 1pm-4pm, is our Spring Festival, a community event for the whole family, with thousands of eggs, sports activities, music, and more! We hope you will join us in one of these activities!

In 1922, Rachel Paxton had a vision to turn her home and property into a safe and welcoming environment for underprivileged families. In 1967, a group of parents whose children had special needs formed The Arc of Loudoun, a non-profit to start a school for their children when no one else would. In 2010, those two visions combined when The Arc of Loudoun moved to the Paxton Campus. Since then, the Campus has grown into a full-service organization to provide an integrated and innovative learning environment for all ages and abilities. Programs include The Aurora School, Open Door Learning Center preschool, STEP Up vocational training program for adults, and ALLY ("A Life Like Yours") Advocacy Center, all devoted to serving people with disabilities and their families, as well as helping children of all abilities thrive in our community.

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