



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2-18-08

Northeast Ohio's autism advocacy leader, the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland, is proud to announce **the third annual Greater Cleveland Chili Cook-Off for Autism will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2008 from 6-9pm at the Terrace Club** of the newly named Progressive Field. Admission is only \$20 per person. Tickets can be purchased on-line at [www.asgc.org](http://www.asgc.org), by mailing a check to ASGC, P.O. Box 41066 Brecksville, Ohio 44141, or with cash at the event. This will be the first major event at the facility after the Indians take the field under its new name.

Judges and cooks for the 25-plus chef event have included The PD's Joe Crea, Scene Magazine's Elaine Cicora, Robin Swoboda, Fred Griffith, culinary author Michael Ruhlman and Top Chef's Miguel Morales.

Silent Auction and raffle items will include autographed items from the Cavaliers, Browns and Indians along with gift packages and certificates from many of the area's finest restaurants, hotels and spas.

Last year's event was attended by nearly 600 people and we expect as least as many this year. We will have a cash bar and live music will be provided by TV8's Todd Meany and his rock/blues band, Ace Molar.

As always, all proceeds from the event will be used exclusively to serve those families and individuals in Northeast Ohio that live with autism.

Autism is a neurological disorder that can significantly affect one's ability to communicate, reason, and interact with others. It is a spectrum disorder that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees of severity. It is estimated that as many as 1 in 150 children born today will have some form of autism, a statistic that represents a profound increase over recent years.

The mission of the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland (ASGC) is to provide information, coordinate services and remove obstacles to opportunities for the benefit of those who live with autism. Our vision is to make the Greater Cleveland area the best place to live for those with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

We are the Cleveland area's branch of the largest and oldest autism support organization in the country, the Autism Society of America and remain the area's most prominent neutral source of autism support.

The ASGC accomplishes this by providing programming to assist parents of newly diagnosed children or those moving to our area informing them about autism and the services here in the Greater Cleveland area. We offer training through our speaker's bureau, education for area professionals and autism awareness campaigns for the community. We have a support line at 216.556.4937, hold monthly support meetings and publish a monthly newsletter.

ASGC programs in the past year have also included autism training of student aides and teachers of religion to allow easier access for those with autism, offering more resources for parents with a new diagnosis and specialized autism education for police and other first responders that has proven to save lives in the past.

We plan to continue our growth to give families that deal with autism every day more choices to keep their family members with autism as safe, happy and productive as possible.

We do this with the help of our generous community. As an all-volunteer, 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, we are blessed to have such willing volunteers and gracious members and benefactors. This is our major annual event. Your support in helping us raise awareness of the Greater Cleveland Chili Cook-Off for Autism is greatly appreciated.

More information on this event and what we do at the ASGC can be found at [www.asgc.org](http://www.asgc.org) or by contacting the chapter at 216.556.4937 or at [support@asgc.org](mailto:support@asgc.org).

Sincerely,

Gus Gallucci  
V.P., Autism Society of Greater Cleveland