



2010 Bake Sale for Autism Opportunities for Religion

The first annual bake sale for autism is a fundraiser with the proceeds going to launch our "Opportunities for Religion" programming initiative. Today 1 out of every 110 children born will have some sort of autism (CDC). This is a significant rise over just two decades ago when the prevalence rate was 1 out of 10,000.

Autism is a neuro-biological disorder that affects communication and leads to unwanted behaviors. It is a lifelong disability that taxes families and those afflicted by this disorder. Today we do not know a cause and therefore there is no cure. There are therapies and supports that make significant impact on the education and functioning of those inflicted with this disorder.

Behaviors caused by autism prevent many families from enjoying public functions and engage in religious practice. Here at the Autism Society we know with the proper support and accommodations that children with autism can attend and be enriched by religion. Our programming initiative "Opportunities for Religion" is structured to give religious leaders, teachers, and the congregation information about autism to allow a better understanding for families with members with autism and those afflicted with this disorder.

“Opportunities for Religion” is set up to train religious leaders, teachers and religious aides what autism is and is not an expose them to what can be expected out of their autistic students and how to support them to allow them to attend religious education classes. The initiative is to open up opportunities for families with autistic members to feel welcome by religious organizations becoming educated about autism and support them as consultants and offer religious aide training.

The bake sale is a way that religious organizations can help support our efforts by raising money to allow us to forward our mission in the Opportunities for Religion programming initiative. We have attached some bake sale ledgers to help you track your event. Some Churches have opted to do one large bake sale and turn in the money right away and some are going to use it as a part of a social event after the last service each Sunday. The event runs from September 22 through December 22, 2010. This allows you to structure the bake sale how you see fit. We are asking for religious organizations to try to raise from \$100 - \$500 and more if they can to help us kick off our 2011 “Opportunities for Religion” programming initiative.

Thank You for your support in our efforts

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Doyle', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Kelly Doyle

Autism Society of Greater Cleveland

(216) 556-4937