

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **UNYFEAT to Host Third Annual Autism Awareness Fundraiser**

Rochester, NY: Upstate New York Families for Effective Autism Treatment (UNYFEAT) is hosting a Third Annual Autism Awareness Fundraising Event in conjunction with National Autism Awareness Month. *Exploration Autism '09 ~ A Taste of Italy, Art and Wine* will be held on Friday, April 3rd, 2009 from 6:30 to 10:00 PM at ARTISANworks, 565 Blossom Road, Rochester, NY. All are welcome to escape to the eclectic surrounding of ARTISANworks and discover the diversity of Rochester's inspired art community. The evening will include gallery tours, entertainment, wine tasting, station dinner, dessert, auctions, raffles, unique artwork created by individuals with ASD, acknowledgements, and opportunities to learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the unique programs and services provided by UNYFEAT.

Statistics now point to one in 150 children, or one child every 20 minutes, being diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, making it more prevalent than pediatric cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined. The exact numbers of those diagnosed are uncalculated. However, UNYFEAT is determined to reach each and every local individual who is living with Autism, to ensure that those affected by ASD are receiving the support and education they need to thrive.

Last year's event was attended by over 500 guests and funds raised allowed UNYFEAT to expand, implement and sponsor many programs, including: *Social Skill Education at Camp Arrowhead*, *Recreation Skill Development programs*; "Buddy Adventures" *Life Skill Education*; "Lose-The-Training-Wheels" bicycle riding program; *the UNYFEAT Speaker Series*; *Guest Lecture by Dr. Temple Grandin*; "SCERTS Model Training for Educators and Parents" by Dr. Barry Prizant; and "Autism and Safety Risk Management Training for First Responders" by Dennis Debbaudt. UNYFEAT hopes to double fundraising efforts in 2009 in order to double efforts to reach a greater number of individuals with ASD and those that support them in the Upstate area.

Tickets are \$60 in advance, \$75 at the door, and include gallery entrance station dinner, dessert and wine tasting. Advance ticket purchases can be made on-line at [www.unyfeat.org](http://www.unyfeat.org) or by calling (585) 234-1220, by April 2, 2009.

### **About UNYFEAT**

UNYFEAT supports individuals with ASD, and their families, by expanding and enhancing opportunities to improve quality of life. UNYFEAT is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization founded by parents of children with autism, and relies solely on donations and fundraising to continue its mission. For more information, to become a member, or to make a donation, visit [www.unyfeat.org](http://www.unyfeat.org).