

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Children with Autism and the Student Chapter National Art Education Association at Towson University collaborate for an Autism Art Workshop!**

Towson, MD, April 20- On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Abilities Network Autism Services, and the Student Chapter National Art Education Association from Towson University are teaming up to create the first Autism Art Workshop in recognition of April being Autism Awareness Month. The two groups will team up for a day of art and fun to celebrate autism awareness. The ultimate goal of this event is to pull together each participant's creation to construct an autism quilt, illustrating the various experiences of life with autism.

The children along with the art students from Towson University, and their Behavioral Support Counselors, will navigate art workstations tailored to meet the needs of individuals with varying degrees of ability.

Colin Smith, an Art Educator says, "All children, regardless of their ability, have the right to experience creating art. Art is just as relevant to students with disabilities as it is to students without disabilities. Art is primarily about self expression and the pleasure that comes from creating. It is pleasing to others but it is primarily about creating something that is pleasing to the self...Art crosses all ability groups. Art is art."

Tiffany Noël Hiob, LCPC, Director of Autism Services at Abilities Network states, "I am so pleased that these volunteering Towson University art students are using their abilities to showcase the artistic abilities of children with autism. I am looking forward to this being an on-going project that will bring together the community, the children, and their families to share their artistic interpretation of life with autism."

The children with autism and their families receive services from the Autism Services program at Abilities Network headquartered in Towson, MD. The Autism Services program works directly with the child and their family to support the development of skills to live, play, and socialize with increased independence at home and in their communities.

For additional information on the *Autism Art Workshop* event, contact Lauren Dunn at 410-828-7700 ext. 1229, or [ldunn@abilitiesnetwork.org](mailto:ldunn@abilitiesnetwork.org).

Abilities Network is a non-profit organization that provides individualized services to children and adults, as well as their families of differing abilities that focus on one-on-one supports to foster broadened, more inclusive communities through education, training, and advocacy. For more information about Abilities Network, please visit our website at [www.abilitiesnetwork.org](http://www.abilitiesnetwork.org).

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