

# APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

join us in  
CELEBRATION



awareness

action

acceptance

inclusion

appreciation

**Please celebrate with the Autism Society of America on April 1st as we kick-off National Autism Awareness Month!** The Autism Society is excited to join with over 100 state and local affiliates and communities across the country in celebrating all of the wonderful contributions from people living with autism spectrum disorder.

Nearly a quarter century ago, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all, and to assure that each person with ASD is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life. This year we want to go beyond simply promoting autism awareness to encouraging everyone to become partners in the movement of creating a world where all people, regardless of diagnosis, are treated with respect and dignity and are appreciated for who they are. Awareness is only one step in our journey. We see clear progression from **awareness** to **action** to **inclusion** and **acceptance** resulting in **appreciation** of the value of our differences and the unique gifts we all have to offer--so this year we celebrate April by celebrating *Uniquely You*.

That's why this month, we're launching #AutismUniquelyYou - a month-long social media campaign celebrating self-identity and acceptance and appreciation for how each of us does our part to make the world a better place for autism. #AutismUniquelyYou invites people to share their individuality and reflect on differences in us all. The campaign invites *people of all ages\** to get creative, paint their hands, make a video or take a picture of the final product, tag it and share it on social media and encourage others to do the same! Visit the Facebook page of the Autism Society of America or your favorite local affiliate and "like us" and consider a donation to support this great campaign. It's fun and it's simple - all you need is a camera, paint and your favorite surface to get started. It's a self-affirming message that people of all ages can get behind. We want everyone to take action and embrace **appreciation** during National Autism Awareness Month!

How will you celebrate National Autism Awareness Month? Join in the fun and get involved in the following ways:

- Be Unique. Be You. Create your #AutismUniquelyYou hand-print image, tag it and share it with your social media followers. Invite at least 5 others to join the fun and show their unique style
- Post the [#NAAM15 badge](#) to all of your social media and encourage your family, friends and coworkers to do the same
- Purchase a totally awesome limited-edition autism awareness shirt from our online [store](#) and show your autism pride (there are several styles available but quantities are limited so don't delay)
- Attend an autism awareness event in your community - remember to support your local [Autism Society affiliate](#)
- Create a project utilizing the ribbon image, theme or other autism imagery for your audiences and tag us/share with us!
- [Recognize someone who is affected by autism](#) and post your nomination on social media and tag #AutismUniquelyYou so we can share your story.
- Follow #NAAM15 and #AutismUniquelyYou to join the conversation throughout the month of April

*\*NOTE: 10 out of 10 children surveyed say that playing with paint is "the best". 9 out of 10 adults surveyed wish they had more reasons to act like a kid. Hand painting for a cause might just be that reason. Go ahead, be Uniquely You!*

Be sure to visit [www.autism-society.org/naam](http://www.autism-society.org/naam) for the latest National Autism Awareness Month news and information and other ways to get involved.

Let's celebrate the uniqueness in us all and make this National Autism Awareness Month one to remember!