

Dear Sir/Madam:

As part of the effort to prevent bullying and to increase awareness about autism, the Autism Society, Tidewater chapter is initiating an Autism Awareness campaign. We will be conducting assemblies at local Tidewater schools to educate elementary and middle school students about autism. The assemblies will include a short age-appropriate presentation on autism, followed by the showing of the "Choosing To Be a GFF (Good Friend Forever)" DVD, winner of the Autism Society's 2011 Media Excellence in Video, Print or News Award.

It's been said "If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism." In this independent documentary, the director introduces you to seven middle school kids with autism, ranging from ages 12-15. They show real life stories of what it's like to live with autism, and the peer narrator gives ideas on how students can choose to be a good friend. We also have the film for elementary students entitled "How Can I Be a Good Friend to Someone with Autism?" by the same award-winning director and production company.

Autism affects one in 110 children, and those numbers are increasing. It is the fastest growing developmental disability in the country. At the Autism Society, Tidewater chapter, our mission is to improve the lives of all affected by autism. One way we can accomplish this goal is to teach children how to be a good friend to a special needs child. We believe educating children in elementary and middle school will help foster understanding and empathy, thereby preventing bullying.

We urge you to preview the video to decide if it would be a good fit for your school. Please contact us to make arrangements and/or to ask any questions about our presentation.

We hope your school will consider allowing us to screen this DVD. We hope you will become our partner, helping us to fulfill our mission of improving the lives of all those affected by autism.

Sincerely,

Vania O'Keefe
President, Autism Society, Tidewater Chapter
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