



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE AUTISM SOCIETY of TEXAS

Austin, TX **January 20, 2017**; We are pleased to announce that the Autism Society of Central Texas is changing our name and expanding our service area, effective immediately, to the **Autism Society of Texas**. We currently maintain priority program coverage for a twenty-four (24) county service area, including Atascosa, Bandera, Bastrop, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Comal, Fayette, Gillespie, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, Lampasas Lee, Llano, Medina, Milam, Travis Williamson, Wilson counties. Our service coverage for Information and Referral, Support, Advocacy and Education will now be statewide. With this change brings on two chapters joining the Autism Society of Texas: Gulf Coast Chapter in Houston and El Paso Chapter. The Houston Chapter will provide support and coverage for families living in the counties of Beaumont, Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Fort Bend, Harris and Magnolia and El Paso Chapter will support El Paso County. “There is strength in numbers and we look forward to strengthening and empowering our fellow Texas families.” Bonnie Perez, Board President, Autism Society of Texas El Paso Chapter.

We are excited to expand our coverage to serve more areas of Texas and hope to broaden our reach to meet those areas in rural or underserved communities in need of autism resources.

“The Autism Society of Texas will expand our mission to improve the lives of all affected by autism and is eager to coordinate with our Chapters to better meet the needs of Texans living with

autism. All of our work is geared to strengthen and support those with autism and we hope to help more individuals and families navigate life with necessary supports.” Suzanne Potts, Executive Director.

The Autism Society is the nation's largest and oldest grassroots autism organization. Founded in 1965, the Autism Society and its national network of local affiliates is dedicated to improving the lives of those living with autism, supporting families and communities, and ensuring that individuals lead lives that include acceptance, dignity, and independence to the greatest extent possible.

As one of over 100 local affiliates, the Autism Society of Texas has supported families and individuals with autism for over 26 years here in Texas and is dedicated to improving lives in our community through a series of services and supports. The Autism Society of Texas is proud of our programs and initiatives and the contributions we make to our community:

- Information and Referrals
- Support
- Education and Training
- Advocacy
- Community Inclusion

Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability, affecting 1 in 68 individuals in 2014. It is a complex neurodevelopmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person’s ability to communicate and interact with others. Based on the Center for Disease Control’s rate of incidence (1 in 68), the Autism Society estimates there are over 2 million individuals living with autism in the United States. Further, it is estimated that nearly 46,000 new families will begin their journey with autism this year.

For more information about autism and the Autism Society, please visit:

www.texasautismsociety.org