

## Autism Awareness Month

Written by The Office of the Commissioners  
Wednesday, 13 April 2011 13:21

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April is National Autism Awareness Month. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a lifelong developmental disability, resulting in a range of significant impairments to an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal communication.

Dave Dunmire, a member of the Ford City Ambulance Service, attended the meeting and described his personal experiences as a parent of an autistic child. He discussed the recent events that the Ford City Ambulance Service sponsored to raise funds and awareness to Autism. Mr. Dunmire credited local services as being very helpful and noted that the local schools do have classes designed to meet the specific needs of autistic children.

Jim Kuemmerle, administrator of the Armstrong – Indiana behavioral and developmental health Program concurred that outreach and awareness are imperative to promoting community inclusion, support and appropriate education of all persons with Autism. He stated that this is a condition that once diagnosis is life long, it is not outgrown or limited to age.

Commissioner Scahill, Dave Dunmire, Jim Kuemmerle, Commissioner Kirkpatrick

The Board of Commissioners commended Mr. Dunmire for being an active leader and spokesperson. They cited the importance of being a voice for someone unable to speak for themselves.

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For Immediate Release

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