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The Autism Society of Ohio Announces Annual License Plate Campaign

Columbus, OH, October 2, 2023 – As the incidence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) has increased to **1 in 36** children, the need for increased resources, such as local programs and services for individuals and families across Ohio communities, grows with it. In response and to help raise the level of acceptance and awareness in our state, the Autism Society of Ohio today announced the launch of its annual campaign with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles to offer an Ohio Autism Awareness license plate.

To purchase, ask at any BMV office or purchase online at <https://services.dps.ohio.gov/BMVOnlineServices/VR/Oplates>.

The specialty license plate costs \$35 annually - of that, \$25 goes directly to ASO to fund family support programs, such as:

- **Information & Referral Services:** It can be daunting to search dozens of websites and agencies hoping to find one that meets families' needs. Our I&R Coordinator is available to help. The coordinator helps identify resources and provides options so families can make informed choices. She also can connect callers to resources statewide through the seven Autism Society affiliates.
- **Coffee, Tea and Autism:** Sometimes the best support and information comes from others on the same journey. These free, informal monthly gatherings are a forum for discussion and information sharing among anyone impacted by autism. Facilitators are volunteers or professionals who have first-hand knowledge of living the autism journey and have completed their training in active listening skills, group dynamics and accessing resources.
- **Advocacy:** The Autism Society of Ohio provides the infrastructure for the Autism Society affiliates in Ohio to better understand the issues, increase autism awareness, influence policy, and mobilize advocacy efforts in Ohio. We collaborate with policymakers, elected officials, and their staff, as well as national, state, and local disability rights organizations, to advance the well-being of all living with autism.

Autism Society of Ohio is 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and an affiliate of the Autism Society of America, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization. ASO is dedicated to creating connections and empowering everyone in the Ohio Autism community with the resources needed to live fully. In addition, we initiate and build collaborations to improve services by advocating changes in public policy throughout the state. ASO is a coalition of local Autism Society affiliates focusing on statewide advocacy and providing services in areas not covered by a local affiliate. For more information on this important campaign, please contact info@autismohio.org