

# DID YOU KNOW?

**1 percent of the population of children in the U.S. ages 3-17 have an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).**<sup>1</sup>

Recent studies estimate prevalence at **1 in 110** births.<sup>2</sup>

In Texas and Region 12, the numbers of children identified with ASD have **tripled in less than 10 years**.<sup>3</sup>

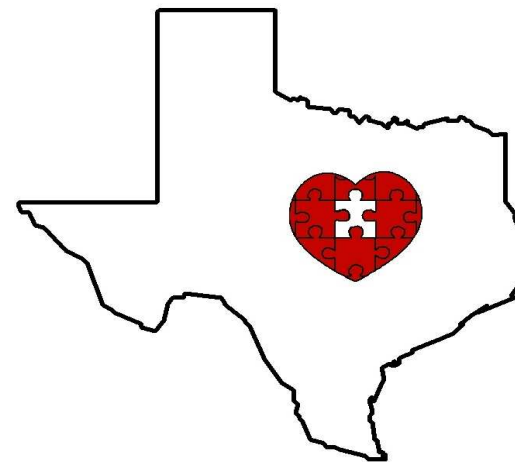
Lifetime cost to care for an individual with an ASD is **\$3.2 million**.<sup>4</sup>

On average, medical expenditures for individuals with an ASD were **4 – 6 times greater** than for those without an ASD.<sup>5</sup>

As children “age out” of the school system and enter society as adults, many will need support in areas such as employment, housing, transportation and other life skills issues.

Recent studies confirm that research-based interventions and therapies significantly improve outcomes for children with ASD.<sup>6</sup>

With appropriate interventions, the lifelong cost of supporting an individual with autism can be **cut by two-thirds**.<sup>7</sup>



**Heart of Texas Autism Network**  
"Connecting the Pieces"  
[www.hotautismnetwork.org](http://www.hotautismnetwork.org)

*We are determined to increase opportunities and resources for people in our community with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).*



<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/addm.html>

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control, <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/data.html>

<sup>3</sup> Texas Education Agency

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/2006-releases/press04252006.html>

<sup>5</sup> [J Autism Dev Disord](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17690969?log$=activity), 2008 Mar;38(3):546-52.; "Medical expenditures for children with an autism spectrum disorder"

<sup>6</sup> <http://dailyuw.com/2009/12/10/uw-study-leads-iq-improvements-autistic-children/>

<sup>7</sup> [http://centralcal.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=CACN\\_ps\\_autism](http://centralcal.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=CACN_ps_autism)



**The Heart of Texas Autism Network** brings people together for networking, support and encouragement.

Monthly meetings are held with guest speakers, open discussions and fellowship.

Other activities and resources include:

**Monthly “Supper Clubs”:**

Several groups of children/youth with ASD meet monthly to socialize and have fun.

**Online newsletter:**

Regular communications to subscribers include notices on future meetings, local activities, autism-related news, etc.

**Website/Social Networking:**

The Heart of Texas Autism Network ([www.hotautismnetwork.org](http://www.hotautismnetwork.org)) has a wide array of links to area, state and national resources. HOTAN also has a group page on FaceBook, and an online discussion group is also available to subscribers.

**Special Events:**

HOTAN supports various fundraising activities benefitting local autism-related programs. Recent examples include:

- *November 21, 2009: “Rock, Roll, and Ride for Autism” concert/motorcycle rally at Camp Hope in McGregor.*
- *September 17, 2009: “The Horse Boy” movie screening/book signing, featuring personal appearances and panel discussions with film director Michel Orion Scott and author Rupert Isaacson.*

## **Annual Waco Walk for Autism**

Every year, the **Waco Walk for Autism** supplies funds and recognition for programs and services that benefit local families.

There’s music, fun, kids activities and a “Resource Fair” with tables staffed by area service providers. Funds raised benefit area families and programs.

Raising awareness and resources enables people with ASD to have the tools they need to function and contribute their unique perspectives and talents in our community.

**COME JOIN US MAY 1<sup>st</sup>!!**

### **Third Annual Waco Walk for Autism**

**Saturday, May 1, 2010**

**Baylor University (Fountain Mall)**

[www.hotautismnetwork.org/events](http://www.hotautismnetwork.org/events)



**Together**



*The Walk is a collaboration between the Arc of McLennan County, the Heart of Texas Autism Network, and Baylor University’s School of Educational Psychology.*