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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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April is Autism Awareness Month ***The Arc's Family Support Services Increases Autism Awareness***

President Obama officially proclaimed April 2 to be World Autism Awareness Day in recognition of the special challenges faced by those with ASD (autism spectrum disorder). Autism is defined as a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others.

In order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, The Autism Society of America has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s. The United States recognizes April as a special opportunity for everyone to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.

"Autism Now" is a national initiative of The Arc funded by a grant from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities and is charged with becoming the nation's source for resources and information on community-based solutions for individuals with autism, other developmental disabilities and their families. For more information visit: www.autismnow.org

The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region maintains their involvement in Autism awareness by being involved in advocacy efforts at the local, state and national levels to support legislation benefiting those with autism and their loved ones. For more information on Autism, contact Dianne Ross, Director Family Support Services at 410-879-6785, extension 402.

The Arc offers a wide variety of services to individuals with developmental disabilities in Harford, Cecil, and Kent counties, both children and adults, to make informed choices with their lifestyles, vocations, education and recreational pursuits, and to assure stable and nurturing lives among their families and friends.