

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Upcoming Art Auction Supports Individuals with Autism

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Tickets are now on sale for the Third Annual *Artists-4-Autism Auction* hosted by the University of New Mexico School of Medicine's Center for Development and Disability (CDD).

The auction is set for Saturday, September 11, 2010, 4 p.m. – 11 p.m., at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque. General admission tickets are on sale for \$75 and VIP tickets, which include a pre-reception with New Mexico artists, are \$125. Those who want to support the cause can also participate as a corporate sponsor or donate a live or silent auction item.

Proceeds will benefit a new Autism Center the CDD is campaigning to build to further enhance the services it provides to New Mexico's children and families living with autism.

Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the nation affecting approximately one in 110 births. Just 10 years ago the ratio was 1 in 10,000. In New Mexico, roughly 300 children were born in 2009 with autism.

The CDD is one of the few places in New Mexico that is able to diagnose autism. The center also conducts the majority of trainings throughout the state for early childhood providers, teachers, pediatricians and other health care providers who need to know how to work and communicate with individuals with autism.

For more information about the Artists-4-Autism Auction, contact Rita Crozier at rcrozier@salud.unm.edu or (505) 272-1913. To learn more about autism and the CDD, visit <http://cdd.unm.edu/>.

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