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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM TEE OFF TO RAISE FUNDS AND AWARENESS

(Monroe, NJ)— The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Charity Golf Outing to benefit New Jersey's premiere autism agency will occur at the Forsgate Country Club, Monroe Township, on Monday, August 7, 2006, at 11:30 am to benefit the New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community (COSAC). Proceeds of the golf event, organized by several Middlesex County fathers of children with autism, will be given to COSAC, whose mission is to provide information and advocacy, services, family and professional education, and consultation to the state's families affected by autism, a lifelong, developmental disability for which there is no known cause or cure. Autism affects one in 166 children, and as many as 50,000 New Jersey residents.

In the past eight years, the COSAC Golf Outing has raised over \$500,000 for programs, services and advocacy for children and adults with autism. COSAC Board of Trustee President and golf committee member **Steve Pellegrinelli**, whose 12 year-old son has autism, believes the outing promotes autism awareness and helps support COSAC's important work. "The COSAC Golf Outing affords participants the unique opportunity to have some fun and help people afflicted with this disability at the same time," Pellegrinelli said. Board of Trustee member and golf committee member **Kevin Doherty** whose 11 year-old son is affected by autism, posits that the high number of returning sponsors and players says a great deal about how important the community views the COSAC mission. "The golf outing helps raise funds needed by COSAC to continue to provide services to the autism community," stated Doherty.

Registration is required to participate. For more information, or to register, contact Ellen Schisler, COSAC's Director of Development, at (609) 883-8100, extension 17, or e-mail [ellen.schisler@njcosac.org](mailto:ellen.schisler@njcosac.org).

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COSAC is a nonprofit agency providing information and advocacy, services, family and professional education, and consultation. COSAC encourages responsible basic and applied research that would lead to a lessening of the effects and potential prevention of autism. COSAC is dedicated to ensuring that all people with autism receive appropriate, effective services to maximize their growth potential, and to enhancing the overall awareness of autism in the general public.