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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Center for Autism and Related Disorders to Host Family Holiday Festival in Fresno**

*The family fun festival seeks to raise autism awareness as the Center for Autism and Related Disorders celebrates 20 years of effective treatment of autism.*

**Fresno, CA – October 30, 2010** The Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Inc. (CARD), considered the world's largest organization effectively treating children with autism, will host a CARD Family Festival on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The event will be held from 10am – 2pm at Blackbeard's Family Entertainment Center, located at 4055 North Chestnut Diagonal, in Fresno, California.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, one in 110 children in America, is diagnosed with autism. Autism is more prevalent than AIDS, pediatric cancer and juvenile diabetes combined.

"With statistics like that, many people in the Central Valley know someone with a child with autism," says CARD Fresno Managing Supervisor Sarah Cho, MSW, BCABA. "We want to bring awareness to the issue of autism, share valuable resources, and show community appreciation with this fun filled family holiday festival. "All families and children are invited to attend our event at Blackbeard's, a local amusement center. The event will include rides, games, and food all in the spirit of Halloween fun."

The CARD Family Festival will also include a children's costume contest. Best Overall winner will receive a Nintendo DS, Best Boy and Best Girl will each receive an IPOD nano.

The event will also include a silent auction. Proceeds of the auction will go toward Autism Care and Treatment (ACT Today!), a non profit organization that provides funding and support for therapy, biomedical treatment, social skills groups, and helmets for children with autism whose families can not afford the necessary tools for their child to reach their highest potential.

The CARD Fresno Family Festival is free to CARD families and staff. The general public can attend the event at a discounted rate of \$9 with the event flyer, which can be located at [www.centerforautism.com/autism\\_events](http://www.centerforautism.com/autism_events). The cost covers unlimited rides and games. The family holiday festival celebrates autism awareness and celebrates CARD's 20 years of leading the way in the successful treatment of autism.

**About the Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Inc. (CARD):**

CARD, headquartered in Los Angeles, maintains a reputation as one of the world's largest and most experienced organizations effectively treating children with autism, Asperger's Syndrome, PDD-NOS, and related disorders. Following the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), CARD develops individualized treatment plans for every child. CARD has 20 treatment centers around the world. CARD was founded in 1990 by world renowned autism expert, Doreen Granpeesheh, PhD, BCBA-D. For more information about CARD Fresno, visit [www.centerforautism.com/autism\\_fresno](http://www.centerforautism.com/autism_fresno).