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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAJOR AUTISM CONFERENCE OFFERS VITAL INFORMATION

(Atlantic City, NJ) – May 4, 2006. The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community (COSAC) will host its 24th Annual *Issues in Autism* Conference May 19th to 20th at the New Atlantic City Convention Center. More than 1,500 parents and professionals will engage in stimulating discussion about autism, a complex, lifelong developmental disability that affects approximately 50,000 children and adults in New Jersey.

Issues in Autism is the nation's largest autism-related conference, providing a critical link between parents of children with autism and the professionals who work with them. "As the amount of available autism information increases, it is crucial for parents and professionals to communicate and work collaboratively with one another," said **Paul Potito**, Executive Director of COSAC. "This conference acts as a link between people and what is needed in the autism world."

Each year the *conference* meaningfully addresses important topics impacting the autism community through quality workshops, exhibits, a keynote panel and networking opportunities. This year's conference is expanded to add a full day seminar, *Autism – Scientific Advances*, in conjunction with University of Medical and Dentistry of New Jersey. "The *Issues in Autism Conference* is a valuable opportunity for both family members and professionals to gain valuable and practical knowledge," said **Madelyn Schiering**, Conference and Operations Director for COSAC. "Basic to advanced information will be shared to appeal to everyone's interest."

(more)

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.

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QUICK CONFERENCE FACTS:

- Autism prevalence rates are at their HIGHEST: 50,000 adults and children are affected in New Jersey alone.
- A special full day seminar on Autism - Scientific Advances, will be presented on May 18th by the Center of Childhood Neurotoxicology and Exposure Assessment at the Sheraton Convention Center Hotel in conjunction with University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.
- Presentation of the Annual COSAC Awards will be held at the New Atlantic City Convention Center, May 19th, 2006, at 7:00 PM.
- COSAC, as an approved provider, will offer Type 2 Continuing Education credits by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

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