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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME RUN FOR AUTISM: The Thunder 500

(Trenton, NJ) – August 29, 2006. Trenton Thunder Assistant General Manager, **Greg Coleman**, will attempt a feat of baseball endurance in order to raise funds for autism research, education and advocacy to benefit The New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community (COSAC), New Jersey’s leading autism resource. Coleman’s three year-old son Kevin was recently diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD-NOS), a disorder related to autism, which affects the development of social interaction and communication. Coleman will round the bases at Mercer County Waterfront Park 500 times, more than 34 miles, on Wednesday, August 30, beginning at 7:00 am. The Trenton Thunder is now accepting pledges for each lap Coleman completes around the bases.

COSAC educates the public about autism, which is treatable, and encourages families affected by autism to seek early diagnosis and intervention. “The Thunder is excited to support COSAC,” says Coleman, “because the agency offers so many valuable services to New Jersey’s autism community. We hope that our involvement will encourage others in the community to make a pledge so that COSAC can continue to expand upon the very services that help families.

COSAC Executive Director **Paul Potito** is grateful to the Thunder for the team’s continued support. “We have been fortunate in having members and friends raise dollars for us in a number of interesting ways,” Potito said. “Greg’s challenge is certainly the most unusual, and we will be there to cheer him on. We wish Gregg good luck and offer our deepest gratitude for being so dedicated to the work of COSAC.”

To make a pledge, call the Trenton Thunder at (609) 394-3300 or e-mail fun@trentonthunder.com. To schedule an interview with Greg Coleman, contact Bill Cook at (609) 394-3300, or e-mail bill@trentonthunder.com. For information on autism and COSAC, visit www.njcosac.org, or call COSAC at **1-800-4-AUTISM** (in NJ only) or (609) 883-8100. The rain date for this event is Thursday, August 31 at 7:00 am.

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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.