

**Contacts:** Hope Arvanitis, Director of Communications  
Jessica Alloway, Communications Assistant

**Phone:** 609.883.8100

**E-mail:** hope.arvanitis@njcosac.org  
jessica.alloway@njcosac.org

**Web site:** www.njcosac.org



---

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Attention News Directors and Health Correspondents**

#### **TEE OFF TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM**

**(Basking Ridge, NJ) – September 4, 2006.** The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Matthew Ruchlin Foundation for Autism Golf Tournament will be held at the prestigious Basking Ridge County Club on Monday, September 18. Proceeds will help support effective treatment for individuals with autism and benefit the New Jersey Center for Outreach & Services for the Autism Community (COSAC). Registration begins at 7:30 am with a shotgun start at 9:00 am. COSAC is New Jersey's autism resource. For 41 years, the nonprofit has provided 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; In New Jersey alone, as many as 50,000 residents have an autism spectrum disorder.

Warren County resident **Gary Ruchlin** created the Matthew Ruchlin Foundation for Autism when his son Matt was diagnosed with the disability. "We continue to select COSAC as the major beneficiary of our golf event because COSAC continues to be an integral part of our lives in raising our son Matt," Ruchlin said. "COSAC has always been there, ready and willing to help."

Because autism is now the fastest growing developmental disability, greater awareness and early diagnosis and intervention are the best tools to ensuring a better quality of life. For more information on the September 18 event, contact Gary Ruchlin at 908-387-1383. For information on autism and COSAC, visit [www.njcosac.org](http://www.njcosac.org), or call COSAC at **1-800-4-AUTISM** (in NJ only) or (609) 883-8100.

###

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.