



The Center for Autism Appoints Local Business and Community Leaders to its Board of Directors

--Board Member George Gannon elected chairman--

PHILADELPHIA, July 20, 2006—The Center for Autism announces the appointment of Howard Burde, Esq., Scott Tattar, Jim Murray and Joseph Nolan to its board of directors. Additionally, George Gannon, a board member for 17 years has been elected chairman.

“The Center for Autism is proud to welcome its new board members and chairman. As the Center expands its services to meet the needs of individuals affected by autism, their valued expertise and leadership will be truly beneficial,” said Jean Ruttenberg, executive director, The Center for Autism.

Howard Burde, Esq., is a partner with Blank Rome, Philadelphia, and is the firm’s health law practice group leader. He serves as legal counsel to numerous health information technology companies, as well as federal, state and local governments. Previously, he was deputy general counsel to former Pennsylvania Governors Tom Ridge and Mark Schweiker. He also serves on the board of directors for the *Journal of Health Law* and *BNA Health Law Reporter*.

Scott Tattar is one of the regions leading public relations professionals. He has worked with clients such as Pfizer, Hitachi, DuPont, the Philadelphia International Auto Show and the Drug Information Association. He previously served as president of Tattar Richards-DBC Public Relations in Horsham. Throughout his career, his philanthropic endeavors have included work for The American Heart Association, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and The Philadelphia Recreation Department.

Jim Murray is president of Jim Murray, Ltd., a sports promotion and marketing firm in Philadelphia. He has spearheaded numerous marketing campaigns throughout the region, including the production of “Eagles Cheers,” a local football TV show. Murray is best known for his work with the Philadelphia Eagles, where he served as general manager for nine years. Murray has been active in the community for many years. He was an integral player in the establishment of the Ronald McDonald House of Philadelphia and now serves on its Local Operations Advisory Council.

Joseph Nolan is the vice president of finance for Independence Blue Cross. Since joining the company in 1977 as a manager in accounting services, he has held a number of leadership positions. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Accountants

and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He also serves on the board of directors for Inter-County Health Plan, Inc.

The Center for Autism also elected current board member, George Gannon, as its new board of directors chairman. Gannon has served on the board for 17 years and is former president and CEO of AmeriHealth Administrators. He currently resides in West Chester.

Other board members include G. Michael Bellenghi, Melvin Buckman, Esq., Nadia Ciaravino, Alan S. Gold, Esq., Fredric R. Mann II, Robert J. Murphy, Jr. Esq., Hon. Dennis O'Brien, Bertram Ruttenberg, M.D., David St.Clair and Anthony Simonetta.

About The Center for Autism

The Center for Autism was founded in 1955 by child psychiatrist Bertram A. Ruttenberg, M.D. Operating as a private, non-profit specialized clinic, the Center offers comprehensive evaluation and intensive treatment to individuals with autism and their families. The organization also provides consultation to school districts, counties and rehabilitation centers serving autistic people of all ages throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. The Center for Autism is headquartered on Conshohocken Avenue in Philadelphia. For more information, please call 215.878.3400.

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