



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA-PIMA COUNTY CHAPTER & CARE RESOURCES CO-SPONSOR TRAINING ON EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION STRATEGIES FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM**

Tucson, AZ Tuesday, November 6, 2007. Autism Society of America – Pima County Chapter, the leading voice and resources of the entire autism community and CARE Resources Inc., a foremost provider of comprehensive special education staffing and compliance solutions co-sponsored two days of training on intervention strategies for children with autism. Training featured Marti Weiner, MS, CCC-SLP, the highly respected expert on instructional intervention for children with autism. Ms. Weiner conducted training seminars for parents, teachers, and therapists on November 2-3, 2007 as part of ASA's and CARE's combined commitment to continuing education for parents and school based practitioners. The two day training explored techniques for managing behavior in the home and community as well as strategies for teaching communication skills. The Mid America Association for Autistic Training and Research was an additional co-sponsor.

Autism, the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States , affects 1 in 150 children and is more common than multiple sclerosis, cystic fibrosis or childhood cancer. "A diagnosis of autism in a child is life-changing for the entire family," said Peter Earhart, President, Autism Society of America – Pima County Chapter. "The Tucson Chapter focuses on providing evidence based training for children and their families. We are pleased to join with CARE to offer this training and future courses in Tucson on methods that are proven beneficial to children with autism."

"Autism presents real challenges for parents, and the educational community as well," said Jane Satterfield, President and Founder of CARE Resources Inc. "While the medical community seeks to find answers to the causes of autism, CARE sees its obligation to promote promising practices and to provide technical support to parents and educational practitioners. Training like this enables therapists, teachers and allied staff to be thoroughly equipped with a bank of strategies for helping children with autism to develop functional skills for success in school and beyond. CARE is pleased to be part of the Tucson community dedicated to helping families and practitioners deal with the hardships of caring for children with autism."

Ms. Weiner, a board certified behavior analyst and speech pathologist, presented detailed case studies and successful practices based on more than 30 years of experience working with children with autism. As a parent with an adult son with autism, Ms. Weiner combined her professional training and insights to teach parents, therapists and educators from schools throughout Arizona about autism as a spectrum disorder and how parents and school-based staff can help guide children to achieve success along the spectrum. The seminar explored how challenging behaviors, typical in children with autism spectrum disorders, can negatively impact their ability to attend and learn. Ms. Weiner presented behavioral procedures that not only replace problem behaviors with appropriate behaviors, but also how to use those procedures to promote attending and acquisition of new skills.

According to Ms. Weiner, "Most educators and therapists receive little or no information in their training programs regarding the management of challenging behaviors. For parents it is trial and error. Yet a child with autism cannot attend and learn when behavior is interfering. Knowing how to replace a child's interfering behaviors with appropriate behaviors allows the child to benefit from the learning programs and makes for a healthier home environment."

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. The result of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, autism and its associated behaviors has seen a significant increase. Autism is four times more prevalent in boys than girls and knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries. Family income, lifestyle, and educational levels do not appear to affect the chance of autism. The disability impacts the normal development of the brain in the areas of social interaction and communications skills. Individuals with autism typically have difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, and leisure or play activities. This disorder makes communication challenging for the child, parent, and care providers. Research and experience of practitioners is allowing for the identification of some promising practices and interventions. Yet the medical and professional community still struggles to identify specific causes and interventions to effectively work with the wide spectrum of individuals diagnosed with autism.

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About Autism Society – Pima County Chapter – ASA-PCC provides support to Tucson area families who have loved ones with autism, or have autism themselves. It offers many services for families such as support meetings, guest speakers, lending library, conferences, scholarships, listserv subscription, electronic and print newsletters, resource guides, etc. The ASA-PCC is part of the Tucson Alliance For Autism, a collaboration of private autism groups along with the University of Arizona, which offers a variety of diagnostic and therapeutic services to the autism community out of the TAFE Center. ASA is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families and the professionals with whom they interact. The Society and its chapters share a common mission of providing information and education, and supporting research and advocating for programs and services for the autism community. ASA is a partner with the Tucson Alliance for Autism, TAFE.

About CARE Resources Inc. - CARE, doing business in Tucson as CARE Resources-West, is a multifaceted, solutions driven company. CARE has been serving as a resource for schools and educational agencies for more than 23 years. With offices in Tucson, Arizona and Baltimore, Maryland, CARE maintains a staff of more than 350 teachers, therapists and allied practitioners. CARE is a leading provider of special education solutions and continuing education for a variety of health care practitioners including occupational, physical and speech therapists, teachers, nurses, other practitioners and parents. CARE's proven solutions aid school districts and health agencies in implementing effective, intelligent and scalable compliance initiatives: quickly deployed staffing remedies, effective management of the related service program, and enhanced staff training. Training is a trademark and CARE offers clinically relevant, hands-on practical training seminars to the health care community, education agencies including public and private schools, and other public and private agencies. As part of its mission, CARE helps clients fulfill state requirements for training and continuing educations by providing quality and convenience for health care practitioners to advance their knowledge, meet licensure requirements, and enhance their overall educational experience. CARE's scope of services includes planning and implementing conferences, continuing education courses and inservice training. In the high demand arena of human services, CARE removes the administrative challenges for training and allows clients to focus on core competencies. CARE's staffing and training solutions save time and money.

Mid America Association for Autistic Training and Research – MAATR has a mission to provide care and services for the needs of autistic children and adults. MAATR seeks to make the lives of persons with autism better through programs that focus on the challenges faced daily, with an emphasis on education and vocational training. In addition, MAATR conducts and sponsors research to advance the understanding of autism. The main focus of MAATR is to establish a ranch facility in the Santa Rita Mountains just south of Tucson, Arizona. MAATRhorn Ranch will be a place where the autistic, their families and their caregivers can find comfort in the serene beauty of the mountains and surrounding desert landscape. In addition to having outdoor activities such as horseback riding and hiking, there will be vocational training and teaching to help persons with autism develop their talents and abilities. MAATR is a partner with the Tucson Alliance for Autism, TAFE