

April 2, 2009: How you can take part

UN World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) encourages all Member States to take measures to raise autism awareness throughout society and encourage early diagnosis and early intervention. Additionally, WAAD will celebrate the unique talents and skills of persons with autism and will be a day when individuals with autism are warmly welcomed and embraced in community events around the globe.

By bringing together autism organizations all around the world, we will give a voice to the millions of individuals worldwide who are undiagnosed, misunderstood and looking for help. Please join us in our effort to make this possible.



**World Autism
Awareness Day**

- ✚ Organize an event on World Autism Awareness Day, April 2, 2009. The event can be anything of significance to your country and culture. For instance, visit a school and read to children with autism; hold a press conference to announce a new autism initiative, or program; or simply voice your support of WAAD publicly. We want to hear your ideas.
- ✚ Encourage your Ministry of Health to allocate significant additional funding into autism research and autism awareness.
- ✚ Submit photos of your loved ones who have autism to the *Stand Up for Autism* campaign website to celebrate the unique talents and skills of persons with autism. Visit www.autismspeaks.org.uk/waad to learn more.
- ✚ Print and disseminate the *About Autism Brochure* at www.worldautismawarenessday.org in your local language(s) by giving them to schools, doctor's offices, and government offices.
- ✚ Ask friends, celebrities, government officials and other members of your community to take part in the WAAD *Walk with Wubbzy on the Web* to make a difference. Go to www.worldautismawarenessday.org for more information.
- ✚ Ask local or governmental television stations to broadcast awareness raising media (PSAs, documentaries) about autism.
- ✚ Make a proclamation in your nation reinforcing April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day or the month of April as Autism Awareness Month.
- ✚ Include a link to WAAD www.worldautismawarenessday.org on your website.
- ✚ Any other local awareness raising activities are strongly encouraged, and we are happy to help with these initiatives however we can!
- ✚ **Don't forget to wear your Autism Speaks pin and your WAAD T-shirt!** You can purchase both by going to www.autismspeaks.org/store