Attention: Community/Health Editors
(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

Autism Awareness Events focus spotlight underserved youth and young adults

Toronto, March 30, 2010 – Geneva Centre for Autism, Canada’s largest autism service provider, today announced it will mark the third annual celebration of World Autism Awareness Day by hosting a series of public events to underscore the needs of teens and young adults with autism in the community.

March 30 – As a founding member of the Canadian ASD Alliance, Geneva Centre will join Senator Jim Munson and other parliamentarians at a World Autism Awareness Day reception on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

April 8 – A special performance will be performed by the National Ballet of Canada – You Dance for Geneva Centre for Autism families at the Betty Oliphant Theatre. Thanks to an anonymous donor, Toronto families living with autism will experience for the first time the beauty of classical dance. Families who attended the first performance in 2009 report they rarely attend public events or festivals because they feel unwelcome due to the behaviour and communication issues associated with this disorder.

April 26 – Geneva Centre will host a community awareness event “The Autism Journey – From Diagnosis to Adulthood”. Our staff, clients and volunteers join together to present a family’s experience learning to live with autism and to publicly launch the first-ever public fundraising campaign held in support of youth and adults at the centre.

May 2 – Geneva Centre for Autism Foundation presents The Autists – An evening of Art, Jazz and Genius. International and national art and music artists shine the spotlight on gifted young people with autism. This exclusive fundraising gala features a concert featuring Grammy award winner Chaka Khan and Matt Savage, a jazz prodigy with autism. Tickets start at $65.

For more information on any of these public events, please contact Holly Bannerman, Geneva Centre for Autism, 416.322.7877 or hbannerman@autism.net

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Geneva Centre for Autism is a Canadian and international leader in the development and delivery of training, support and clinical intervention services, for individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families. Designated by the Ontario government as a provincial autism resource, the Centre trains thousands of professional, parents and other family members each year.

www.autism.net