



Welcome to the Ruth Sullivan Rally for Autism® for 2017. We are excited to Recognize Ruth Christ Sullivan, Ph.D., the founder of all three benefitting agencies of this event by naming it in her honor, Ruth has dedicated her life's work to autism, and it is only fitting that this event should bear her name to reflect such dedication to the cause of autism. Some of the highlights of her career may be found in the Press Release (the following document on this website).

Some of you may ask, why do you organize such an event. The short answer is simple – we want to create awareness about autism in our community so that those affected can feel free to enjoy their local area with their family without the fear of being rejected, ridiculed or avoided. The longer answer is that autism is growing at an alarming rate, /the incidence of autism in 2012 was one in 88 births, Then in March 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that the number has grown by 30% to one in every 68 American children being diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. Today most of us either have a family member affected by the disorder or know someone who does. When the general public sees a child having a meltdown, we want to help them change their response from “Oh, can't that mother control that kid” to “Oh, that child may have autism” and get to the point that they may even offer assistance to the mother in distress.

In order to create more awareness about autism, the organizers have grown the event over time. What began with individuals participating in a 5K Walk, has grown into individuals and teams participating in a 5K Walk, a 5K Run and two Bike Tours (33K and 11K) known as the Ruth Sullivan Rally for Autism®. Thanks to all of you, we began with 220 registered participants walking the first year, and last year we had 1,364 registered participants walking, running and riding bikes.

Volunteers are the workforces behind this event – the entire event is organized, planned and executed by volunteers. Therefore there are no overhead costs – only direct expenses. That means more funds are raised for the cause of autism, and all of those funds stay in our tri-state area to help us serve our local community.

Please join us and be part of one of the fastest growing events of its kind in Huntington.

Thank you,

Elaine Harvey, Lead Organizer
Ruth Sullivan Rally for Autism®