



The Ruth Sullivan Rally for Autism®

c/o Autism Society River Cities
P.O. Box 1296
Huntington, WV 25714

Welcome to the Ruth Sullivan Rally for Autism® 2018!

Some of you may ask, why organize this kind of 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 the local area with their family without fear of being rejected, ridiculed, or avoided.

The longer answer is that the incidence of autism is growing at an alarming rate! In 2012 it was one in 88 births; in 2014, that number had increased by 30% to one in every 68 American children being diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. [Center for Disease Control, March 2014]

Today, most of us either have a family member with ASD or know someone who does, yet the need for increased awareness and acceptance is still there. When the general public sees a child having a meltdown, many will think, “Can’t that mother control that child?” Instead, with better awareness, they could be thinking, “Maybe that child has autism. Maybe they are experiencing sensory overload.” Perhaps a person might even offer assistance. The Rally is one way for us to help bring about that kind of change.

All of the funds raised through the Rally go to three local agencies -- The Autism Services Center, The Autism Training Center, and Autism Society River Cities – and because the entire event is organized, planned, and executed by volunteers, there is no overhead; only direct expenses. That means more funds stay in our Tri-State area to help serve our local community.

And with your help, we can do more! What once started with 220 individuals taking part in a 5K Walk has now grown into nearly 1,400 attendees annually coming together – individually and in teams – to participate in a 5K Walk, a timed 5K Run, and two Bike Tours (11K and 33K) collectively known as the Ruth Sullivan Rally for Autism®. Why not join us? Better still, grab some friends and form a team!

Come be a part of one of the fastest growing events of its kind in Huntington! And we’ll see you at Ritter Park on April 28th!

Michelle Perry - Lead Organizer
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Ruth Christ Sullivan, Ph.D., was the founder of all three agencies benefitting from this event, and she has dedicated her life’s work to the cause of autism. It is only fitting that the Rally should bear her name to reflect such dedication, and we are excited that we are able to honor her in this way.