



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Autistic Children to Get House Calls, Thanks to Grant

Tuesday, August 10 – 8:30 a.m.

What: The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's (BCBSF) philanthropic affiliate, will present a two-year, \$33,190 grant to Hope Haven Children's Clinic. The grant will provide 500 hours of intensive behavioral training for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

Who: Hope Haven Children's Clinic offers learning and behavior management training for children and families struggling with autism, Down Syndrome, dyslexia, attention deficit disorder and other learning disabilities. Proven techniques encourage appropriate social interaction and enhance the capacity to learn in autistic children, ages two through eight. However, families already burdened by their child's exceptional needs often are unable to afford these vital services.

Why: The Blue Foundation is dedicated to making a constructive contribution to the health and well-being of all Floridians — including the underserved and uninsured. The Blue Foundation's goals are a great match for Hope Haven and its desire to provide the training that will enhance the quality of life for children and families struggling, emotionally and financially, with autism.

The Hope Haven grant is one of nine, totaling \$514,105, that The Blue Foundation will present this summer to nonprofit health clinics and community outreach programs across Florida.

When: **Tuesday, Aug. 10 – 8:30 a.m.**

Where: Hope Haven Children's Clinic, 4600 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville, Fla. 32207
(904) 346-5100.

Photo Opportunities: Several families who have been helped by Hope Haven will be on hand to share their stories. The Blue Foundation staff will present Hope Haven officials with an oversized check.

Interviews: Hope Haven staff, volunteers and benefiting families will discuss the issues faced by families of children with autism and other learning disabilities. The Blue Foundation staff will talk about the work of Hope Haven and why The Blue Foundation selected Hope Haven's request for funding.