

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

**PROCLAMATION**

- Whereas:** *Autism Spectrum Disorder or ASD* is a term used to describe complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors.
- Whereas:** Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the nation. ASD is now estimated to effect 1 in every 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls. Recording over 3 million individuals in the USA and tens of millions worldwide.
- Whereas:** More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, Diabetes, Obesity and Breast Cancer combined. There is no known medical cause or cure for autism.
- Whereas:** The current cost of Autism to the society in the U.S. is a staggering \$137 Billion. This cost is up from \$35 Billion in 2006 – just a seven years ago! The lifetime cost to an individual living with ASD is estimated at \$2.3 Million!
- Whereas:** While there is currently no cure for Autism Spectrum Disorders – ASD, there is help for families, friends, and patients in the form of education, support, and services available statewide.
- Whereas:** The City of Bellevue recognizes the efforts of those organizations that raise funds and promote awareness to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), thereby improving the quality of human life for those that have or support those with ASD and to continue the research to find the cause and the cure of ASD.

**Now, therefore, I, Claudia Balducci, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim April 2015 as:**

***Autism Awareness Month***

and urge the citizens of Bellevue to show support by wearing Blue during the designated period.



Claudia Balducci  
Mayor

