



MEDIA ALERT

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Navicent Health to Host Two Free Events for Families with Autism *Events to Provide Day of Fun, Connect Families Affected by Autism*

MACON, GA (Tuesday, October 20, 2015) – In an effort to support central Georgia families living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), Navicent Health plans to host two free events for those facing the challenges of living with ASD. **The following events are not open to the public, but media are invited to attend:**

- Air Autism
 - Saturday, October 24
 - 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 - Middle Georgia Regional Airport (1000 Terminal Drive, Macon)
 - Families will enjoy a tour of the airport, including luggage check-in, TSA screenings and simulated flight takeoff , in addition to concessions and other fun activities.
 - Reservations are required.

- Movie Sunday
 - Sunday, November 1
 - 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - The Douglass Theatre (355 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Macon)
 - Families will enjoy a showing of the movie *Annie*, starring Jaime Foxx and Cameron Diaz.
 - Reservations are required.

In addition to providing families with a day of fun, Navicent Health representatives and community partners will provide new information on accessing autism services in our area.

“Families affected by autism often face barriers to autism support resources. A well informed parent becomes an even more effective advocate for their child, leading to greater access to important ASD support services. Navicent Health would like to provide our families with fun outings in an autism-friendly environment. We enable families to meet others affected by autism in a relaxed social setting. Additionally, our goal is to provide information on how to best access ASD support services,” said Tripp Ritchie Director of the Autism Center, Navicent Health

ASD is a group of developmental disabilities that can cause social, communication and behavioral challenges. According to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 68 children in the U.S. have been identified with ASD, a disorder that affects all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

About Navicent Health

Navicent Health was incorporated on November 17, 1994, as a nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is to coordinate the Medical Center, Navicent Health and other affiliated entities in their mission of providing a comprehensive continuum of high quality, reasonably priced healthcare services to the region. Navicent Health has 830 beds for medical, surgical, rehabilitation and hospice purposes. The health system includes Medical Center, Navicent Health, a nationally recognized tertiary teaching hospital; Children’s Hospital, Navicent Health, the region’s only dedicated pediatric hospital; Medical Center of Peach County, Navicent Health, a rural critical access hospital; Rehabilitation Hospital, Navicent Health, the region’s oldest and most experienced rehabilitation provider; Pine Pointe Hospice, Navicent Health, which provides palliative and hospice care in homes and in its facility; Carlyle Place, Navicent Health, the area’s first continuing care retirement community; Medcen Community Health Foundation, Navicent Health, the philanthropic arm of Navicent Health; as well as diagnostic and home care services.

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