



SARRC

Southwest
Autism
Research &
Resource
Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Unites to Drive One For Autism

The Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center Teams Up With Sanderson Ford, Lincoln Mercury and Volvo of Phoenix to Raise Money for Those Affected by Autism

(GLENDALE, Ariz., May 12, 2008) – A three-minute drive will help improve the lives of children and adults living with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). On May 15, 16 and 17, the [Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center](#) (SARRC) will partner with [Sanderson Ford](#), [Sanderson Lincoln Mercury](#) and [Sanderson Volvo](#) to [Drive One For Autism](#). From 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, visitors to [Westgate City Center](#) can test drive a vehicle, and Sanderson will donate \$20 per car to help fund programs for children and families living with autism.

“One in every 150 children born today will be diagnosed with autism; just ten years ago the prevalence was one in 10,000,” said Lyndsey Waugh, SARRC community relations. “Keeping up with the demand for services is our greatest challenge, and we are thrilled that Sanderson Ford has come on board in a big way.”

Participants will choose from one of 20 different vehicles and take a short test-drive through an obstacle course at in the parking lot north of AMC Westgate 20 at Westgate City Center (Loop 101 and Glendale Ave). The goal is to attract more than 500 participants, raising more than \$10 thousand for the autism center.

“We’re challenging the community to come out and not only meet our goal, but exceed it,” said, David Kimmerle, president, Sanderson Ford Lincoln Mercury and Volvo. “We know that throughout this event, participants will not only experience the thrill of driving the highest-quality vehicle, but they’ll walk away with a warm heart knowing they’ve helped a child or family in need.”

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“Westgate City Center is always proud to host these types of community-minded events,” said Dave Groff, president, Westgate Sports and Entertainment Group. “Our venue is ideal and our merchants appreciate the opportunity to support organizations like SARRC.”

In addition to raising money for SARRC, participants will also be entered into a drawing to win a pre-paid, two-year lease on a Volvo S80; a free, year-long movie pass for two from [AMC Westgate 20](#); special discounts from Westgate’s [Margaritaville](#) and [Gordon Biersch](#); a discounted oil change from Sanderson; an additional \$250 discount on any new or pre-owned vehicle from Sanderson and much more. Additional raffle tickets can be purchased for \$10, and all money raised will be given to SARRC.

Other event sponsors include [News-Talk 92.3 KTAR](#) and [Sports 620 KTAR](#), [98.7 The Peak](#), Margaritaville and AMC Westgate 20 Theatres.

About the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center:

Founded in 1997, the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SAARC) is a nonprofit, community-based organization dedicated to autism research, education and resources for children and young adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and their families. SARRC undertakes self-directed and collaborative research projects, serves as a satellite site for national and international projects, and provides up-to-date information, training and assistance to families and professionals about ASDs. For more information about SARRC, call (602) 340-8717 or visit www.autismcenter.org.

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