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OCHN Recognizes World Autism Acceptance Month

OAKLAND COUNTY, MI (April 2, 2024) – The United Nations sanctioned April 2, 2024 as World Autism Acceptance Day, and Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) is joining world-wide efforts to raise awareness and increase understanding and acceptance for individuals living with autism.

The [Autism Cares Act of 2024](#) was recently introduced by Congressmen from the Autism Caucus. This proposed act would authorize more than \$2 billion in funding over the next five years for Autism programs primarily at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The funds would advance autism research, services, and training of healthcare professionals. The positive impact this initiative will have on the autism community will be unmatched as it is the only piece of federal legislation solely dedicated to improving the lives of people living with autism.

In addition, this year's theme "Celebrate Differences" addresses the negative stereotypes often associated with individuals diagnosed with autism, and OCHN will champion for change within the communities we serve during the month of April and beyond.

OCHN acknowledged World Autism Acceptance Day, which is celebrated annually by participating in the "Light It Up Blue" campaign on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. "Light It Up Blue" is an initiative to spread awareness and celebrate the unique talents of individuals with autism and bring attention to these individual's needs.

To learn more about Autism and resources please visit:

- [World Autism Awareness Day - EN | United Nations](#)
- [Autism Acceptance Month Partner Toolkit | Autism | NCBDDD | CDC](#)



Pictured: OCHN staff at the Administrative Building



Pictured: OCHN staff at the Resource & Crisis Center

About OCHN

OCHN is contracted by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to lead a provider service network and manage care for approximately 29,000 Oakland County residents at more than 400 service sites across the county. People who receive public behavioral health services through OCHN's provider network include those who have an intellectual or developmental disability, mental health concerns, or substance use disorder. Most of these individuals have Medicaid insurance coverage.

OCHN's goal is to ensure these individuals are aware of and have access to services and supports that will improve their health and quality of life, as well as ensure their engagement in full community participation. Its mission to "inspire hope, empower people, and strengthen communities" reflects an unyielding belief in a "Valuable System for Valued People." Programs and supports provided by OCHN's service network are available at www.oaklandchn.org.

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