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**GRANT GIVES CHILDREN WITH AUTISM NEW OPTIONS FOR SUMMER
CAMP**

Autism Society of America-Oakland County Chapter awards \$20,000 to Judson Center and Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit for summer camp inclusion programs

Royal Oak, MI – Judson Center and the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit (JCC) are pleased to announce the receipt of a grant for \$20,000 from the Autism Society of America – Oakland County Chapter to support a Summer Inclusion Camp Training and Consultative Services.

Judson Center and the JCC will work collaboratively to provide training and consultative services to various local Oakland County organizations such as YMCAs and Parks and Recreation Departments providing summer inclusion camps for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

“This grant will provide an opportunity for families of children with autism affordable summer camp activities in the community that provide a safe and inclusive setting with their peers. Without this funding, many kids may not be able to successfully participate,” said Stephanie Harlan, Director of Judson Center’s Autism Connections program.

The combined experience and knowledge of Judson Center and the JCC in training and direct delivery of services for children with special needs will enable this collaborative to achieve the Autism Society of America – Oakland County Chapter’s goal to increase the quality and availability of summer inclusion camp opportunities for campers with ASD in the coming year and beyond. The program will also serve as a replicable model for summer camp programs throughout Michigan and enable more camp programs to provide inclusive programming for children with ASD.

- *Judson Center is a non-profit human service agency that provides better lives and brighter futures to children, adults with disabilities and families in crisis. Since opening its doors in 1924, Judson Center has grown to provide more than 360,000 direct services to children, adults and families every year in 10 Michigan Counties.*
- *The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit is committed to cultural unity and continuity offering recreational, cultural, educational and social opportunities for all people throughout metropolitan Detroit.*
- *The Autism Society of America - Oakland County Chapter advocates for meaningful participation in all aspects of life for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families who reside in Oakland County. More information is available at www.asaoakland.org.*

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