



## “HOW CAN WE HELP?” “IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?”

How often have we stumbled when answering these heartfelt outreaches from family and friends. While immediate family and close friends can be a blessing for families with autism, sometimes parents have a harder time receiving help from extended family and friends who are willing. It is often easier to turn down assistance, than to try and educate the person about autism or your child's needs.

That's where TACA's Family & Friends program can help. The Family & Friends program will attempt to give you the tools, information, and words to help you both educate and direct willing friends and family members. Sometimes the program will be about receiving help directly to your family and other times, how they can help TACA in its mission to serve and improve the quality of life of families with autism in our community. The “Awareness Band” fundraiser is our first step in this program to help raise funds for TACA's efforts as well as raise the level of understanding during April's “Autism Awareness Month”

## awareness band fundraiser

Remember we are NOT asking for money from TACA families. We are asking TACA families to reach out to their circle of friends who our interested in helping with autism awareness and fundraising for families with autism. Including family, friends, neighbors, colleagues and paraprofessionals.



### 1 Check the contents of the Red Envelope.

Should include five complete sets of:

- A Blue Autism Awareness Band
- Band Information Wrap & Info Card (attached to band)
- TACA Mission Statement Document

One return envelope for all donation checks

A Personal Letter from Lisa Ackerman of TACA

### 2 Ways to approach your Circle of Friends.

Many of our Circle of Friends want to help but just don't know how.

Here are some great things to say to them:

- April is Autism Awareness Month.
- I found a great way for you to help.
- The Blue Band is a way to outwardly show your support for my child.
- The Blue Band can help start conversations about autism in public.
- The donation to TACA directly helps families like mine who desperately need help and support.
- You've been there for my family, but some TACA families have no one to talk to or get support from. They would be alone without TACA.

### 3 Collect donations for TACA, then send envelope to TACA.

Each TACA family should look to raise a minimum of \$150 with their 5 bands, and hopefully will shoot for \$250 or beyond. That means a minimum of \$30- \$50 per blue band.

We realize that makes it a very expensive piece of blue rubber, but the real return is a donation that will directly help a family with autism. TACA needs support not just for your family, but families so overwhelmed they cannot even find time to attend meetings, much less participate in a fundraiser. Families newly diagnosed, battling depression, or with serious marital problems. That blue band means your friends are bringing some light to families whose lives seem very dark.

**THANK YOU!** For you help with this fundraiser.

Please see Lisa's letter inside for more information on why this is important, and Keep up the great hard work you do for your family everyday!!