

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Nickie Ronsini, 342-2400 x241**

**Date: March 5, 2014**

**Parents Run AMOC and Mental Health Association Sponsor Autism Awareness Events  
For March April and May**

Parents Run AMOC (Autism Move-a-thon of Orange County) in partnership with Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc. is participating in April as Autism Awareness Month with several events throughout the spring to raise awareness for autism spectrum disorders which affects many individuals and their families living in our community. In addition, some events are designed to raise funds to support the Autism Spectrum Fund which offers fiscal stipends to those living with autism here in Orange County.

The Spring Fling Dinner Dance for Autism will be held on Friday March 21, 2014 from 7:30 – 11:30pm at Mountainville Manor, Mountainville NY. This is an adult only event and tickets must be purchased prior to the event. A buffet dinner complete with DJ, one hour open bar and dessert will be offered.

Jesse A. Saperstein, bestselling author, autism advocate and motivational speaker, will celebrate his birthday with Parents Run AMOC on Sunday March 23, 2014 at The Castle Fun Center from 5-7pm. This is a sensory and family friendly event. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the event. Dessert will be provided to all that attend and skate rental is free.

Hustle for the Puzzle, a 5K race/walk and 1K Fun Run for autism, will be held on Sunday April 6, 2014 starting at 8:30 am from the Boat House at Thomas Bull Memorial Park in Montgomery. Registration begins at 7:30am and a free breakfast will be served to all runners and walkers after the event. Free t-shirts will be given to the first 150 pre-registered participants and many awards and ribbons will be given for various age groups.

The Candle Lighting Ceremony for Autism will be held on Sunday April 27, 2014 from 4 – 6 pm at the Arboretum of Thomas Bull Memorial Park on Route 416 in Montgomery. Anyone interested may attend and light a candle in honor of a specific individual, group, program, or agency to show support, love, understanding, and acceptance for the entire autism spectrum community. There will be music and light refreshments, including gluten free/casein free snacks.

The fifth annual Canine Convention for Autism will convene at the Day Camp Area of Thomas Bull Memorial Park on Saturday May 17, 2014.

-more-

Beginning with registration at 9:00 am, activities will include a one mile walk for dogs and their families, a dog related raffle, information tables, contests, breakfast, snacks to purchase, and more.

For further information or to register for an event, you may call Nickie Ronsini at 342-2400 ext. 241 or you can leave a message on the AMOC voicemail at ext. 307. You may also go to [www.mhaorangeny.com](http://www.mhaorangeny.com) and choose the link for Autism Move-a-thon of Orange County for more information.

-end-