

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRED R. VOLKMAR, MD
TO SPEAK AT
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER FUNDRAISER
Saturday, February 1st – 7pm – St. Barbara’s Church, Orange, CT

January 7, 2014, Orange, CT - The **Bethany Leapley Autism Spectrum Disorder Scholarship Fund** is pleased to announce that Fred R. Volkmar, MD and Pam Ventola, Ph.D. will be the guest speakers at the **Wine & Craft Beer Tasting Fundraiser** event on Saturday, February 1st at 7pm in Orange, Connecticut. The wine & craft beer tasting event will also feature hors d’oeuvres and appetizers, a silent auction, and entertainment provided by DJ Jay.

Volkmar is the Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Psychology and the Director of the Yale University Child Study Center at Yale University School of Medicine. He is also the Chief of Child Psychiatry at Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT. Pam Ventola, Ph.D. is the Assistant Professor at the Yale Child Study Center. Both presenters are honored to participate in this



1st annual event to raise funds for scholarships awards to children and adults for the soon-to-be opened **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Fitness Center** in Orange, Connecticut.

The ASD Fitness Center, scheduled to open in April of this year, is a facility designed specifically to provide a safe, comfortable and structured environment for empowering individuals with ASD to improve their fitness, nutrition and social/emotional well being. Founders Adam and Dedra Leapley were inspired to create a specialized gym for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

based on their own experience of raising a child with ASD. Adam Leapley says, “We believe in an overall healthy mind and body and introduced our son to personal training several years ago. This led to his improvement physically, emotionally, and socially.” Recognizing his son’s talent for mentoring others on the Spectrum through his work with “Unified Sports”, the “Best Buddies” program and the “Autism Spectrum Resource Center”, Leapley thought that a specialized gym would give his son the opportunity to translate his strength for working with others into a career. After floating the idea to professionals in the field of ASD, he found there was a great enthusiasm for this unique concept and decided to move forward in launching the **ASD Fitness Center**. The **Wine and Craft Beer Tasting Fundraiser** event is planned to coincide with the opening of the gym to financially support youth and adults who will benefit by attending the gym’s program.

“The ASD Fitness Center is the first of it’s kind in our region.,” says Leapley. “All of our trainers have a special education background and will offer one-on-one training and small group fitness classes. Our intake and evaluations are thorough and Individual Fitness Plans (IFP) will be created for each member to achieve specific goals in the areas of nutrition and functional skills. “

Tickets for the **Wine & Craft Beer Tasting Fundraiser** a on February 1st are \$100 per person and must be purchased in advance. Payment may be made via Pay Pal at ASDcharity@gmail.com or by checks payable to The Bethany Leapley ASD Scholarship Fund which should be mailed to: Richard Polio, Fundraiser Chair at 17 Ironwood Way, Orange, CT 06477. Donations are also graciously accepted.

For questions about the **Wine & Craft Beer Tasting Fundraiser** or the **ASD Fitness Center**, please email ASDcharity@gmail.com or call Fundraiser Chairman Rich Polio at (203) 641-1696. To learn more about the ASD Fitness Center, please visit www.asdfitnesscenter.com.

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