



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lauren Reid, Fundraising and Events Manager  
Autism Society of Alabama  
[lauren@autism-alabama.org](mailto:lauren@autism-alabama.org)  
205-951-1364

## **ANNUAL GALA SHINES LIGHT ON EXPANDED PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

**BIRMINGHAM, ALA** – This year the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Autism Shines Gala will be held on August 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Birmingham Marriott located at 3590 Grandview Parkway. The event is open to the public and all proceeds benefit the mission and projects of the Autism Society of Alabama.

Autism Society of Alabama works diligently to provide advocacy and programs for families who face an autism diagnosis in our state. Recent programs such as Autism Respite Program, the Library Initiative and First Responder Trainings are just a few projects the Autism Shines Gala contributes funding toward. The Autism Society of Alabama is a nonprofit organization that reaches the entire state. Their programs are funded by general donations, grants, walks and the annual gala.

Back by popular demand, the JOX Roundtable favorites, LT, Dunaway and Brown will emcee throughout the night. Dunn Entertainment will bring it's favorite DJ out to get guests out on their feet and a delicious catered dinner are just a few of the highlights expected. The live and silent auction items will feature beach vacation rentals, restaurant packages, gift certificates, beautiful art and so much more donated by supporters throughout Alabama. "We look forward to celebrating with the community while also recognizing a disorder that now affects 1 in 68 individuals," said Melanie Jones, Executive Director of the Autism Society of Alabama.

The Autism Shines Gala is hosted by our board of directors: for a complete listing visit our website at [www.autism-alabama.org](http://www.autism-alabama.org). Reserved seating is available for sponsors. Become a sponsor, purchase tickets and reserve a room at the Marriott on 280 for a discounted rate online at [www.autismshinesgala.com](http://www.autismshinesgala.com). To stay informed on the event, join the Facebook event, Autism Shines Gala 2016.

If you would like more information on the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual AUTISM SHINES GALA or if you would like to schedule an interview with Lauren Reid, please call 877-AUTISM or email [lauren@autism-alabama.org](mailto:lauren@autism-alabama.org)

###

Autism Society of Alabama is a 501©3 nonprofit whose mission is to improve services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families through education and advocacy. They provide camps, conferences, and other events statewide.