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Calvin's Happy World – Through the Eyes of an Autistic Child

Calvin Shin, a 19 year old student at Saguaro High School in Scottsdale, sees the world a little differently than you and I. At age 3 ½ he was diagnosed with autism; however, this life-affecting disability has not broken his spirit or his positive outlook on life. Calvin is a self described, "happy, happy person."

Growing up with a disability, it would be very easy for anyone to see the world and their surroundings as a cruel and unfair place; however, Calvin chooses to focus on all the good the world has to offer and he expresses this through his artwork. His drawings are often depictions of the places he wants to go and the people he wants to meet.

At an early age, Calvin began drawing. At first he struggled with this task. The objects within his drawings were repetitive and unknown to anyone expect himself. Over time, and with a lot of practice, his artwork began to evolve and take shape.

On Friday, April 24th, come meet the "happy, happy" artist, Calvin Shin. His artwork will be on display at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts located at 7380 E. 2nd Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85251.

For more information or to learn more about Calvin and his artwork please visit <http://www.happycalvinshin.com/home>.



Nearly a quarter century ago, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all, and assure that each person with ASD is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life.

FACTS ABOUT AUTISM

- Autism now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys
- Autism prevalence figures are growing
- Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disorder in the U.S.
- Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average
- Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism

Research shows that early intervention treatment services can greatly improve a child's development. Early intervention services help children from birth to 3 years old (36 months) learn important skills. Services include therapy to help the child talk, walk, and interact with others. In Arizona we're very fortunate to have SARRC and First Place.

The **Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center (SARRC)** was formed in 1997 as a research center. Today SARRC operates the Sybil B Harrington Campus for Exceptional Children, Colonel Harland D. Sanders Center for Autism Studies and SARRC's Vocational & Life Skills Academy.

First Place represents home for individuals who live there, peace of mind for family and friends who come and go, and an inspiring and enriching environment for those who work and learn there. It represents a new residential prototype for adults with autism and related disorders and individuals without disorders, that aspires to be an international model.

First Place vision is to enhance their quality of life through jobs, friends, homes and a supportive community that provide for individuals today and when family members are no longer able to care for their loved ones.

The Arizona Department of Housing celebrates the advancements achieved to eliminate discrimination through fair housing and the ongoing progress to enhance the quality of life for individuals with autism.