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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Illinois Center for Autism Celebrates 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Auction**

**Fairview Heights, Illinois, March 18, 2011** – The Illinois Center for Autism (ICA) will host its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling Dinner Auction on Saturday, March 26, 2011. The event will be held at the St. Clair Country Club located at 100 S. 78<sup>th</sup> St. in Belleville, Illinois. This is the largest fundraiser the Center sponsors each year.

“Auction items range from vacations to dinners, fine jewelry to signed sports memorabilia, artwork from local artists, as well as, remembering the art of one of ICA’s own. This is an opportunity to see and bid on once-in-a-lifetime experiences,” explained Event Planner, Jude Mosby.

This year’s event will be extraordinary – the Master of Ceremonies will be KTVI/Channel 2 News anchor, Andy Banker! Additionally, there will be a special guest appearance from motivational speaker and author, Travis Breeding, an adult living with Asperger’s syndrome.

The cost per person is \$50.00 and includes a wine reception, a formal dinner, both a silent and live auction and entertainment by the distinguished jazz guitarist John Farrar.

Historically, individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) were thought to need lifelong care and monitoring. However, with specialized training, many people with autism can achieve varying levels of independence and personal fulfillment. All fundraising events sponsored by ICA are opportunities for ICA to help fulfill the dreams of individuals with ASD.

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Coming up in April, ICA will celebrate Autism Awareness month. Various retail establishments will sell autism ribbons for a \$1 to raise awareness and to help individuals on the autism spectrum. Also, in April, ICA's Marathon Team will participate in the GO! St. Louis Marathon on April 10, "All Stars for Autism" day at Busch Stadium is on April 23 and our Annual Draw Down winner(s) will be announced at our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Shopping Bazaar is on April 28.

If you would like to participate in or have questions regarding any of our upcoming events, please feel free to contact the Center at 618-398-7500.

*The Illinois Center for Autism, located at 548 S. Ruby Lane in Fairview Heights, is a non-profit, community-based mental health treatment and education agency. For more information about these services or autism, visit the Illinois Center for Autism website at [www.illinoiscenterforautism.org](http://www.illinoiscenterforautism.org).*