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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Milk 'n Cookies with Santa  
Hosted by the Illinois Center for Autism**

**Fairview Heights, Illinois, December 5, 2011** – The Illinois Center for Autism (ICA) will host a “Milk ‘n Cookies” with Santa event on December 13, 2011 at the Fairview Heights Elks, 9480 Old Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, Illinois, 62208. The event will be held from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. and it is designed to welcome **all** children and their families in the community.

“We are thrilled to have received donations from Reeb’s Wholesale, Scott Credit Union, Dollar Tree, Fairview Heights Elks Lodge and a few personal donors. It is because of our community donations and committed volunteers we are able to continue to have special events like this one,” said Rachel Newsome, Director of Communications and Development for the Center.

There will be many enjoyable activities at the event including North Pole pictures with Santa, Reindeer Games, Santa’s Crafty Workshop, Santa’s Gift Shop, plus a variety of cookies from Pasta Fare Restaurant! Each child to visit Santa will receive a small toy (while they last). The cost for this event is only \$3 per visitor.

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.

*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).*

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