



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pasta Fare Restaurant Launches New Menu

Fairview Heights, Illinois, Aug. 1, 2010 – Pasta Fare restaurant, an enterprise of the Illinois Center for Autism (ICA) is launching a new menu and Soup, Salad and Pasta Bar. Customers will now have the opportunity to not only order the Soup, Salad and Pasta Bar as a stand-alone, but also have the opportunity to make it an addition to any delectable lunch entrée.

A fresh look at the menu initiated a renewed vision for inventory, recipes, customer favorites, as well as the overall program. “Our client-based program has always and will always be at the forefront of our minds, however, with the statewide budget cuts and overall economy, we realize that it is in our best interest to place a greater focus on the economical fortitude of our restaurant,” said Mia Stroter, Vocational Services Director.

Recently celebrating its eighteenth year, Pasta Fare is specifically designed to provide vocational training and employment opportunities for adult clients, 21 and older, who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Designed to teach the social and vocational skills necessary to function in a job setting within the community, clients are trained in the areas of cooking, retail food packaging and preparation, janitorial services, housekeeping, and clerical skills. Clients are paid a wage based on their individual productivity level. This program also includes training in household management, functional academics, and social leisure skills.

ICA serves nine counties in the Metro East Area and is in its 33rd year. Presently, we serve between 200 - 250 children and adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families. Rarely a day goes by without a call from a concerned parent, relative, or provider asking for assistance.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) it is estimated that an average of 1 in 110 children in the United States has an ASD. Fifteen years ago the statistic was 1 in 2,500.

Historically, individuals with autism were thought to need lifelong care and monitoring. However, with specialized training, many people with ASD can achieve varying levels of independence and personal fulfillment.

For more information about ICA please go to www.illinoiscenterforautism.org or contact us 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.

