

August 2, 2010

Media Contact

Vanessa Showalter
V/S Communications
949-748-0542
vshowalter@cox.net

**National Campaign Launch Event Raises \$40,000 To
Benefit Military Families Impacted with Autism**

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. – August 2, 2010 – On Saturday, more than 150 community/business leaders, educators and parents from all over the Southland attended a national campaign in an effort to raise money and awareness for military families who are impacted with autism. The event raised more than \$40,000.

ACT Today! (Autism Care and Treatment Today!), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing funding for families that cannot afford or access the treatments needed for their children with autism, launched the first ever national campaign titled, "ACT Today! For Military Families." The goal of the campaign is to build public awareness of the unique challenges of the military family impacted by autism and to raise funds for the treatments and services these children urgently need today.

"This is just the beginning. It is our goal to raise \$1 million to help fund treatment for the 1 in 88 military children who have been diagnosed with autism," said Nancy Alspaugh-Jackson - ACT Today!'s executive director. "We received such an overwhelming amount of support from the Orange County community and beyond. We would like to thank all our donors and sponsors in helping us raise money for such a worthy cause."

On Saturday, ACT Today! hosted a food and wine tasting launch party located in Newport Beach. The event included 25 Young's Market wineries, Karl Strauss beer and local eateries such as The Newport Rib Company, The Arches, Bluewater Grill, Champagne French Bakery Café – South Coast Plaza, Sunflour Bakery, Z-Pizza, Soprano's, and Cookies & Cupcakes by Linda. Entertainment was provided by Orange County's favorite musician – Mark Wood. The event

was supported by the following non-profit organizations: Operation Help a Hero, Families of Active Military and Warrior Mommies. Corporate sponsors included Young's Market Company, TriWest Healthcare Alliance and Latham & Watkins, LLP. Valet parking was provided by Fletcher Jones Motorcars – Newport Beach.

In addition, the launch event unveiled ACT Today!'s PSA featuring the star of "Criminal Minds" veteran actor Joe Mantegna, which is scheduled to air on major television networks this summer.

"Having a daughter with autism, I know first hand how difficult it is to get treatment. I appreciate the unique challenges our military families face in battling on two fronts – one for their country and another for their children," said Mantegna.

For more information or to make a donation, please visit www.acttodayformilitaryfamilies.org.

About ACT TODAY!

ACT Today! (Autism Care and Treatment Today) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing funding to families that cannot afford or access the treatments their autistic children need. It was founded in 2005 by Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh, a renowned expert in the field of autism and ABA, and a group of parents who had experienced great progress with their children with autism.

www.act-today.org