



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | March 15, 2022

# **Any Baby Can San Antonio Contact:**

Elyse Bernal, President/CEO Any Baby Can San Antonio Ebernal@abcsa.org, 210-995-4594

### Walk Details:

Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 – World Autism Awareness Day 8am – 12:30pm Texas A&M University-San Antonio

This fun-filled event is scheduled for Saturday, April 2, 2022 from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Texas A&M University-San Antonio, and brings together hundreds of participants and community partners from across San Antonio, Bexar County, and South Texas to raise awareness of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). As an Official Fiesta® San Antonio Event, the Annual Walk for Autism will provide a safe and inclusive environment where all families can enjoy autism-friendly activities, food trucks, entertainment, and critical resources.

## **Notable Attendees:**

- Opening Remarks-Senator José Menéndez
- o Honor Guard-U.S. Army 5th Recruiting Brigade
- Walk Kick Off- Sheriff Javier Salazar
- Southwest Legacy Mariachi
- Grupo Folklorico de Bendiciones (Grupo Folklorico de Bendiciones | Facebook)
- DJ AXE6 (<u>AXE6Theory</u>)

### **Sponsors:**

- Blue Cares & San Antonio Police Officers Association
- Community First Health Plans
- University Health Systems
- Amazon People with Disabilities
- Ageless Living Home Health
- George Salinas Injury Lawyers

# Stats:

One in 44 children nationwide will be diagnosed with autism this year. In Bexar and surrounding counties, over 30,000 individuals are living with autism. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes, and cancer combined. That means that you or someone you know has a close connection to a child or individual who lives with autism and whose daily lives are challenged by this diagnosis.

Following the diagnosis, many families are left feeling isolated and do not know where to turn for support. Parents have shared about the uncertainty of their hopes and dreams for their children's future. Challenges associated with ASD can cause severe stress for children and their families. Any Baby Can's

Autism Services Program is designed to support families who have a child diagnosed, or have not yet been diagnosed, with ASD by providing autism education and support through a variety of services such as one-of-a kind parent and community training. Any Baby Can believes that all children can flourish and families can be supported to an improved quality of life.

The Walk for Autism brings together participants and community partners from San Antonio, Bexar County, and South Texas to provide services and support for families raising individuals on the spectrum. All proceeds stay local to fund critical, one-of-a kind programs at Any Baby Can of San Antonio.

The funds raised through the Walk for Autism stay local to fund programs that mean so much to many, including Autism Education and one-of-a kind parent and community training.