SAMPLE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE VERSION ONE:

HEADLINE: What’s YOUR Definition of Autism?

COPY: As you may know, a new edition of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM) is coming out in May with changes to the definitions of certain disorders on the autism spectrum which is used by medical professionals, government agencies and insurers. There has been much talk about what this will mean to individuals and their families when it comes to obtaining a diagnosis and receiving services. But during Autism Awareness Month in April, (YOUR CHAPTER NAME) would like to refocus the conversation on the individuals living with autism day to day and ask: “What’s Your Definition of Autism?” What does the word “autism” really mean to you on a personal and individual level?

This month, we invite you to join us in raising awareness about what autism really means. If you are not already familiar with Autism NOW, The National Autism Resource & Information Center, visit [www.autismnow.org](http://www.autismnow.org) for a wealth of high-quality, reliable information designed specifically individuals on the autism spectrum or with other developmental disabilities, their families and others who care about them. Autism NOW is a project of The Arc funded in part by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

And, be sure to join us online on Facebook and Twitter (IF APPLICABLE) to help further the conversation during Autism Awareness Month. (YOUR CHAPTER NAME) and Autism NOW will be start a discussion on social media this April to find out what autism really means to people with autism. Jump into the conversation and be sure to share with your friends and family using hashtag #AutismAware. Let’s get people talking and raise a little awareness this year!

You can find links to Autism NOW’s social media channels on [www.autismnow.org](http://www.autismnow.org) and you can follow The Arc nationally at [www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org).