**SAMPLE EMAIL**

**SUBJECT: Autism Acceptance is…**

This year, in celebration of Autism Acceptance Month, [The Arc](http://www.thearc.org) and [The Autism Now National Autism Resource & Information Center](http://www.autismnow.org/) invites everyone to tell us what Autism Acceptance means to them. How does the world look to you when people with autism are fully included and embraced for who they are? What changes have been made already, and what still needs to be done? With the CDC declaring that 1 in 68 children may be impacted by autism spectrum disorders, it’s a fair bet that each one of us knows someone with autism or someone who has a family member or friend with autism. We’ve come a long way, but there is still much needed work to be done!

The Arc has worked diligently to develop programs geared specifically at promoting inclusion and acceptance for people with ASD. These programs aim create an environment that is accessible to everyone, so that everyone can live life to the fullest.

**Autism Acceptance is**…

*Being able to go on vacation with your family* **-** In 2014, The Arc expanded the national initiative, [Wings for Autism®](http://www.thearc.org/wingsforautism), to ten major airports across the country. Programs like [Wings for Autism®](http://www.thearc.org/wingsforautism) provide families with the opportunity to prepare their children for travel across the country, or around the world.

*Having a healthy and active lifestyle -* [The Arc’s HealthMeet](http://www.thearc.org/healthmeet) program aims to reduce the health disparities that occur within the disability community through access to free health screenings and assessments provided by community based medical providers.

*Obtaining and keeping gainful employment-* The Arc and [Autism Now’s](http://autismnow.org/) TalentScout: Unlocking the Talents of Employees with Autism Spectrum Disorders toolkit was created to not only help employers access the hidden potential of their current employees who have ASDs, but to also help employers adequately recruit, hire, and retain employees with ASDs.

*Advocating for victims with disabilities in the criminal justice system-* Through the [NCCJD](http://www.thearc.org/NCCJD)’s Pathways to Justice training program, first responders, attorneys, and victim’s services providers are able to become better suited to prevent victims, witnesses, or offenders with I/DD from falling through any cracks in the justice system. This year, we are spotlighting NCCDJ with Crime Victim’s Week.

To promote awareness and acceptance, we want to know- What does Autism Acceptance mean to you? Let’s start an open and honest conversation! Follow us online and on [Autism Now’s blog](http://autismnow.org/blog/) and read the personal stories of people with autism in a series of guest posts during April. And use the hashtag #AcceptAutism to generate discussion about autism acceptance.