

The Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are a group of developmental disabilities that involve difficulties with social interactions, communication and unusual behaviors. ASD typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime. Prior to the 1990's, the occurrence of autism was about 3 to 5 individuals per 10,000 births. Today, 1 in 110 children is diagnosed with ASD, making it more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. It occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups and is four times more likely to strike boys than girls.

The main beneficiary of this annual Gala is the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, located at the University of Missouri in Columbia. The Thompson Center was established in April, 2005, through the generosity of Bill and Nancy Thompson, and is quickly becoming one of the top centers for autism research, training and clinical services in the country. The Thompson Center takes a cutting-edge approach by addressing the disorder from a variety of angles that include the help of physicians, psychologists, special educators, speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists, nurses and dieticians.

In December 2010, the Thompson Center relocated to a newly renovated 26,000 square foot building to handle the growing need for services. There are 97 total faculty and affiliated staff members at the Thompson Center, which collaborates with 19 Missouri University Departments/Units.

The Thompson Center offers 14 clinical services and is the largest and most comprehensive center for autism spectrum disorders in Missouri, serving families throughout the state. At fiscal year-end in June 2010, the Thompson Center had over 9,400 patient visits with 2,300 children. The Thompson Center strives to make new discoveries about ASD and to identify new models of care. Researchers from across the University of Missouri campus are engaged in over 30 research projects that seek to answer urgent questions about ASD and to address the pressing needs of individuals with ASD and their families.



INVITES YOU TO



2011 DINNER GALA AND AUCTION

BENEFITING

UM THOMPSON CENTER
FOR AUTISM & NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS
University of Missouri

<http://thompsoncenter.missouri.edu>

Photo By Dan Donovan



With Special Guest
Tony LaRussa
Legendary Manager
of the St. Louis Cardinals

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2011

The Four Seasons Hotel
999 North Second Street
St. Louis, Missouri

It's in the **Cards**

Dinner Gala and Auction
to benefit children with autism

Complimentary valet parking

5:30 pm
Exclusive VIP Reception with Tony LaRussa

6:00 pm
Cocktail Reception and
Silent Auction

7:00 pm
Dinner, Live Auction,
and Special Guests

Tony LaRussa
Honorary Chair and Legendary
Manager of the St. Louis Cardinals

Charlie Brennan
Master of Ceremonies

Malcolm Ivey
Auctioneer

Business Attire

Please RSVP by April 14, 2011

For event information, contact
Donna Wilkinson (314) 367-8118

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