



April 15, 2024

Dear Friends:

It was 25 years ago that Sam Sauer inspired a dream which led to tens of thousands of dollars being donated to fund research and other programming to support people with autism. At the time it started, there was no organization that funded research or promoted autism awareness in Wisconsin. Two decades later, *Friends of Autism* and the efforts of dozens of volunteers and thousands of golfers have provided hope for families and for those who live with autism.

Over that time, *Friends of Autism* funded research at Harvard Medical School, helped create awareness videos for medical students that highlight warning signs, and provided informational materials for new parents that is shared with them at the hospital prior to talking their newborn home. Grateful for all that our golfers have helped us do through their participation in our **annual golf outing**, the has now passed the torch to Journey21.

Within the past several years, Journey21 ([www.journey21.org](http://www.journey21.org)) has established itself in Oconomowoc with a mission to serve adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD). For the past year specifically, we have been supporting women and men with autism – and their families – by providing education, job training, programs and outings, and partnerships for over 200 with autism and other disabilities. Our vision over the next few years includes a residential community at the west end of Pabst Farms where one year ago we opened a new 10,000 square foot Enrichment Center.

After over two decades, the founders of *Friends of Autism* are very excited that its mission – *and your generous support of it* – is now safely in the hands of another organization with a similar mission.

This year's **Journey21 Golf Classic** will again be held at **Ironwood Country Club**. The date is: **Monday, August 19, 2024**. If you were a sponsor, a donor, secured a raffle item, brought a foursome (or several!), or just played on your own, **we need your continued support**. Sustaining our mission and vision for improving lives of people with autism is what this event has always been about – and that will continue.

**Registration for the event is now open at**

<https://www.eventregisterpro.com/event/friendsofautism2>. Any questions about this year's event can be directed to me at [FriendsofAutismGolf@journey21.org](mailto:FriendsofAutismGolf@journey21.org).

Sincerely,

Mike Brauer  
Executive Director

**Journey21 EIN #84-4727592**