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**MOCHA AUTISM NETWORK JOINS BAY AREA SORORITY FOR AUTISM AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

*“Royal Blue for Autism Awareness” campaign to use social media to provide information to underrepresented communities*

**Oakland, CA:** To address the information gap regarding Autism in Areas in need, the Mocha Autism Network has decided to take to Social Media to increase awareness. Called the “Royal Blue for Autism Awareness,” the Oakland organization has teamed up with the Omega Kappa Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated to provide information on Autism Spectrum traits and resources to underrepresented communities.

“Latest numbers state that 1 in 68 children are diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum, Studies note that People in underrepresented areas are diagnosed last. The goal of this campaign is for the Electronic Footprint of our followers to be used to serve the community.” states Monika Brooks, Executive Director of the Mocha Autism Network.

Joining the Mocha Autism Network in this Social Media campaign includes the following: NetRoots Nation, This Week in Blackness, Black Girl Nerds, Autistic Seas, Nerdgasm Noire and others. Go to [mochaautismnetwork.com](http://mochaautismnetwork.com) for the current full list of supporters.

Per the CDC, children or adults on the autism spectrum may:

* avoid eye contact and want to be alone
* have trouble understanding other people’s feelings or talking about their own feelings
* prefer not to be held or cuddled, or might cuddle only when they want to
* appear to be unaware when people talk to them, but respond to other sounds
* be very interested in people, but not know how to talk, play, or relate to them
* repeat or echo words or phrases said to them, or repeat words or phrases in place of normal language
* have trouble expressing their needs using typical words or motions

***Established in 2013, the goal of the Mocha Autism Network is to provide awareness, promote advocacy and form alliances among the Autism communities in underrepresented communities.***

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