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Dear Business Owner or Manager,

Autism is a developmental disability primarily characterized by difficulty with social interactions and communication barriers. The rate of children diagnosed with autism has reached staggering numbers in recent years, with current studies estimating that 1 in 36 will be diagnosed. Our goal as the Autism Society of the Black Hills (ASBH) is to walk alongside families that have had life's journey re-routed and offer them support, education and advocacy.

ASBH was founded in 1997. We are a 501c3 nonprofit affiliate chapter of the Autism Society of America (ASA). The Black Hills chapter is the only one within a 500-mile radius. We offer support groups for parents and caregivers, informational meetings, support resources, activities, and advocacy for these families. We want to help educate and empower our families today so they can offer the same for other families that will follow in their footsteps.

April is National Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month and the highlight for us is the Autism 5k Run/Walk. This year our event will begin at Founders Park, at 3:00pm on Saturday, October 12, 2024. Funds will primarily be used for the educational summer camp program and other activities throughout the year for children with Autism. At summer camp, we offer daily activities for kids that might not otherwise have a chance to participate in group outings. Ask any of our kids what the highlight of their summer is and they will tell you it's hanging out with their friends at camp! We are asking that you consider a donation to ASBH to help our kids feel like they have a place to belong, a place that is suited specifically to their needs. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely, Kelly Keim and Beth Zimmerman, Co-Presidents The Autism Society of the Black Hills

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