

THANK
YOU



Dear John McAfee-

On behalf of our family, I want to sincerely thank you for all you do for the autism community. Your dedication to the Toledo Music Scene & Acoustics for Autism have made such a meaningful impact on so many families, including ours.

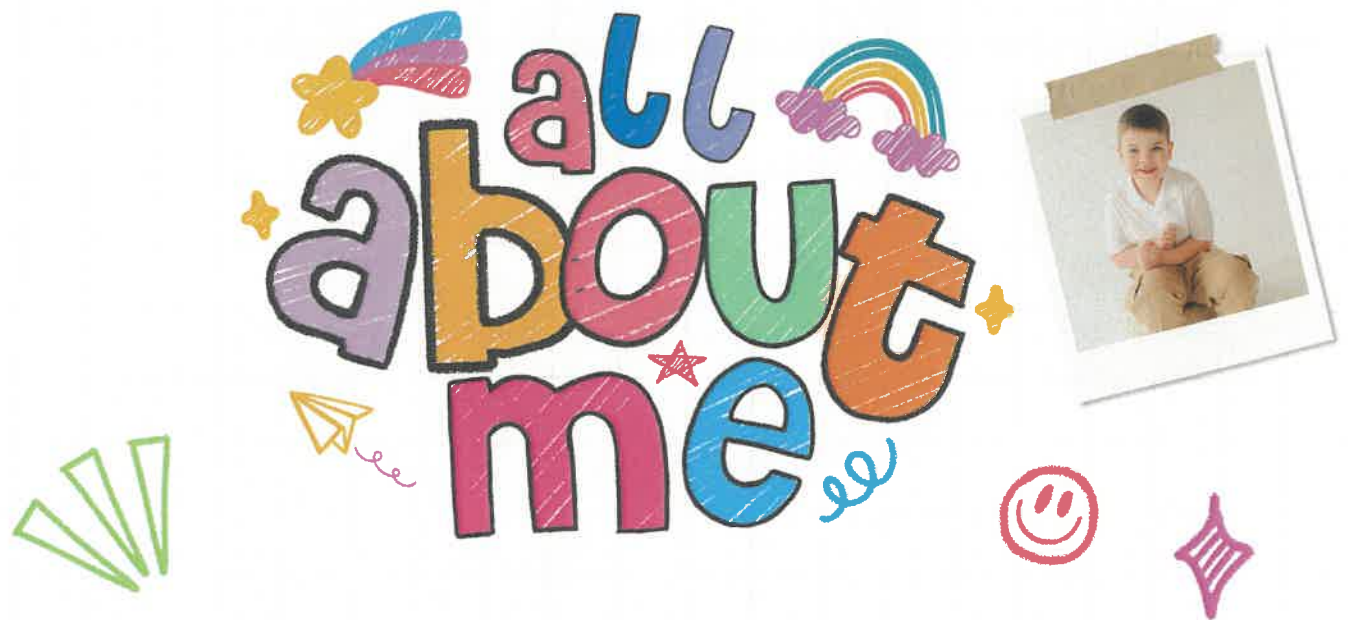
We are grateful for your kindness & commitment for helping others. Thank you for making a difference in our community & in Henry's life.

Love,
Katie & Kyle Chudzinski









Henry was diagnosed with autism shortly after his third birthday, but the signs began to appear even earlier. In June of 2021, our family started noticing that Henry was not meeting expected language and social milestones. He struggled to communicate, often did not respond to his name, preferred to play alone, and found transitions especially challenging. At his third birthday party on June 9, instead of joining in with friends and family, Henry chose to isolate himself. He also displayed repetitive behaviors and significant delays in speech and language, frequently repeating phrases rather than engaging in meaningful conversation.

In July 2021, Henry was officially diagnosed with autism by Dr. Richard Solomon, and his diagnosis was later confirmed through Perrysburg School District in August 2021. From that moment on, we were committed to providing Henry with every support possible to help him grow, learn, and thrive. Shortly after his diagnosis, Henry began outpatient speech and occupational therapy at Wood County Hospital—services he has continued to attend consistently since the age of three. We are currently requesting funding support to help cover the cost of Henry's ongoing occupational and speech therapy services. These therapies have made a world of difference for Henry and remain a vital part of his development.

Through speech therapy, Henry has made incredible progress. He is now able to engage in conversations with both adults and peers and uses more spontaneous language to express his thoughts, needs, and excitement. His ability to communicate has opened doors to friendships, learning, and confidence that once felt far out of reach. Occupational therapy has helped Henry build independence by focusing on many essential life skills. Currently, Henry is working on learning the steps needed to shower successfully, tying his shoes, and forming letters appropriately when writing. These skills may seem small, but each one represents meaningful growth toward independence and self-confidence.

In addition to OT and speech therapy, Henry attended The Ready Program Preschool for children with autism for three years, beginning in September 2021. During his time there, Henry experienced tremendous growth socially, emotionally, and academically. Our family also participated in the Play Project Play Therapy, which taught us how to better engage with Henry through play. With guidance from a play consultant, Henry strengthened his connections with us and others around him.

From January 2023 through August 2024, Henry received Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy and made remarkable progress during that time. Today, Henry is talking in complete sentences, gaining independence, and growing in confidence every day. He is now in first grade with the support of a one-on-one aide and is truly thriving. He engages more with peers and adults, and his continued success reflects the importance of early intervention and consistent therapy.

Henry also benefits from enrichment opportunities such as music therapy, safety swim lessons, therapeutic horseback riding, occupational and speech therapy copays, and social skills summer camp. Each of these experiences has played a meaningful role in his growth and overall well-being. Today, Henry is a joyful child with many interests that light up his world. He loves trains, swimming, and visiting Cedar Point, and his excitement is contagious. He approaches life with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a genuine love for new experiences. Watching Henry grow into himself—more independent, more confident, and more connected—reminds us daily of how far he has come and how much potential lies ahead.