

## **Partnering with Colleges and Universities**

Colleges and universities *everywhere* can partner with individuals and community nonprofit groups to increase resources for underserved adults with autism and their caregivers. Collaborations for autism social events bring positive recognition to the schools, their faculty members and students. The events can recruit participants for autism research studies and increase new grant funding possibilities. Most of all, partnerships provide new resources for community integration for transition age youth and caregivers in families that have been socially isolated.

### **Students benefit by:**

- 1. Having opportunities to personally engage with the people they are training to serve**
- 2. Gaining new understanding about how autism affects generations in families**
- 3. Encouraging them to become autism service providers**
- 4. Increasing camaraderie with students from 3 universities in allied fields of study**
- 5. Receiving community service hours and possibly extra credit in courses**

### **Universities benefit by:**

- 1. Serving in a model program for other communities**
- 2. Increasing public awareness about autism training**
- 3. Expanding good will and outreach in the community**
- 4. Promoting academic networking**
- 5. Developing new recruitment opportunities and possible collaborative autism research studies**