



**AUTISM
SERVICES
INCORPORATED**
OF WINDSOR & ESSEX COUNTY

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NEWS RELEASE

June 25, 2009

Autism Services Incorporated of Windsor and Essex County receives \$5,000 grant from the Raptors Foundation for Kids

Autism Services Incorporated would like to thank the **Raptors Foundation for Kids** for their generous gift of \$5,000. This much-needed grant will be used to purchase musical instruments and recreational equipment for the ASI 2009 Summer Program.

The Summer Program runs five days a week for seven weeks in July and August and is available to children between the ages of 6 to 21 years with high-needs autism. The program operates at locations in Windsor and Essex and accommodates 50 participants. It is the only program in the area to offer a high level of service with trained specialized support workers specific to Autism.

The program is highly structured and emphasis is placed on communication, socialization, behaviour management, and daily living skills. There are also out door and community activities for the children to enjoy. The equipment purchased from the Raptors Foundation for Kids grant will allow us to expand our recreational element, providing the children with the opportunity for a fun summer program experience. The musical instruments purchased will be an integral part of the music therapy portion of the program—which has many benefits for children with autism including providing alternatives for self-expression, reducing anxiety, and promoting positive life experiences.

The Raptors Foundation for Kids, the charitable arm of the Toronto Raptors Basketball Club, is committed to lifting the spirits and changing the lives of at-risk youth in Ontario through grants, scholarships, basketball court refurbishments and community programming. ASI and the children in our Summer Program are grateful to have the opportunity to benefit from that commitment.

If you are interested in finding out more about the ASI Summer Program or would like to make a charitable donation please contact our office at 519-966-7283 or visit the website at www.autismservicesincorporated.com.

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