

Autism awareness month takes off



TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK - DOHA April is 'Autism Awareness Month' and one of the global highlights is the continued partnership between Autism Speaks, the world's leading autism science and advocacy organisation, and the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs to raise awareness about autism and the need for early diagnosis and intervention.



Autism Speaks is dedicated to raising funds to quicken the pace of research, raising public awareness of autism and giving hope to all those who suffer from this disorder across the globe. Autism Speaks co-founders Bob and Suzanne Wright will celebrate their collaboration with Shafallah Center at the 4th Annual International Forum on Children with Special Needs this week.

As part of its awareness raising campaign, the Shafallah Center recently announced collaboration with Qatar Airways. The national carrier of Qatar will be airing an in-flight public service announcement on all its flights, and distributing autism awareness pins and informational pamphlets on Qatar Airways' flights to the United States. The airline is also working with the Shafallah Center to train its cabin crew in disability awareness.

Autism Speaks and the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs in Doha, Qatar partnered to increase global autism awareness and speed the pace of autism research. The Shafallah Center became an Autism Speaks Global Affiliate for the Middle East region on February 13, 2008 when Mr. and Mrs. Wright joined Shafallah Center Chairman Hassan Ali bin Ali to announce the new partnership. Guided by the vision of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser al Missned and the leadership of Hassan Ali bin Ali, the two parties have turned their shared passion to help the autism community into a thriving partnership.

The Shafallah Center has 54 students with autism spectrum disorders. Sixty-six students are currently on a waiting list.

Wright will present at the Forum, providing a global overview of their organization and the organisation's newly launched online resource guide, Autism in the Workplace, which provides invaluable resources & guides to families.