



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Shelby Sledge (512) 206-0229

Raising kids on the autism spectrum

Chicken Soup for the Soul supports parents of children with autism and Asperger's

COS COB, Conn. – As Anne Moore Burnett wiped down the playground slide for her son with sensory sensitive autism, she felt shunned by the other mothers. Then another mother of a child with autism gave her a paper bag containing a towel and a candy bar. “Through tears of disbelief I thanked her and she hugged me. I had been so alone for so long, I could barely contain myself. I began to sob,” Anne writes in her story. “‘We wanted to help; we just didn’t understand,’ said the other mothers as they handed me tissues.”

But others do understand. The 101 personal stories in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Raising Kids on the Spectrum* (Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, April 2, 2013, 978-1611599084, \$14.95) create a portable support group for parents of children with autism spectrum disorder. They will see pieces of themselves reflected in the stories by other parents and also by people who have been diagnosed with autism and Asperger syndrome. This book also makes it clear that every child on the spectrum is an individual with a unique set of talents and non-neurotypical behaviors.

The journey is hard, but it’s not all doom and gloom. Michele Bissonnette Robbins’ twin boys, who are on the spectrum, love to dress up in costumes. But when one wants to dress up as a flamboyant female singer, she says no. After explaining to her son “that some people would be uncomfortable seeing a boy dressed in a girl’s costume,” her son balks. Outraged, he says President Obama should pass a law allowing it. “It’s enough to warm an activist mom’s heart,” Michele says.

This collection is a great resource for parents of children recently diagnosed with ASD, as well as a useful guide for what the coming years will bring, even including stories from parents of grown children on the spectrum. There is something for all parents in this book, whether they have a child newly diagnosed or they are experienced.

“I remember when my son was first diagnosed. It was like I was staring into the abyss, and I felt this need to turn somewhere for information,” says co-author Nancy Burrows. “I would have loved to have this book to turn to for support, guidance and tips. There’s a big difference between Googling ‘autism’ on the Internet and reading 101 stories from parents who have already been there.”

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Raising Kids on the Spectrum (Dr. Rebecca Landa, Mary Beth Marsden, Nancy Burrows, and Amy Newmark) releases on April 2, 2013, World Autism Awareness Day. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, publishes the famous Chicken Soup for the Soul book series, which is distributed through Simon & Schuster, Inc. In 2007, *USA Today* named Chicken Soup for the Soul one of the five most memorable books in the last quarter century. Since 1993, more than 100 million books in the series have been sold in the United States and Canada alone. Chicken Soup for the Soul titles have been sold in more than 100 additional countries and translated into more than 40 languages. The company is currently implementing a plan to expand into all media, including TV shows and a major motion picture, and is also developing a digital presence for life improvement, emotional support, inspiration, and wellness. Chicken Soup for the Soul Foods, a joint venture with Daymon Worldwide Inc., will start rolling out its line of delicious, nutritious comfort foods in Spring 2013. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing also licenses the right to use its famous brand to high-quality licensees. For more information visit www.chickensoup.com.

To receive a review copy of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Raising Kids on the Spectrum* or to request an interview, please contact Shelby Sledge at (512) 206-0229 or shelby@sheltoninteractive.com