



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# NEWS RELEASE

### **HERO FOR AUTISM AWARD RECIPIENT IS KAREN FAIRCHILD**

*Autism Resources of Utah County presented their first "Hero for Autism Award" to Karen Fairchild from Kids On The Move at the UVU Conference on Autism.*

Karen Fairchild is a mother of five children, three of whom have Spectrum disorders. It was her love for her children that inspired her now over twenty-year career in Autism. She spent fourteen years advocating for appropriate services for her own children in the school districts, quickly becoming involved in many community organizations as well.

Karen's devotion to helping children and families is evident in everything she does. No one can doubt her passion to help families affected by Autism, through direct care, education, and the spreading of awareness. It is because of her sacrifice and dedication, manifested in her many accomplishments, that we award her our first annual "Hero for Autism" award.

She has served for seven years as a Board Member and as President of the Autism Society of Utah, volunteered at Utah State Hospital, served four years as the Utah Chapter Liaison to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Social Workers, and been a presenter at the National Association for Case Management Conference, the Scenic View Parent Workshops, and in BYU's Family Life classes, as well as at this UVU Autism conference.

Kelsey Lewis, KOTM Early Intervention Program Director has this to say about Karen, "She is an incredible social worker and one of the hardest working people I know. It is apparent to others that she loves her job. She builds trusting relationships with her colleagues and the families and children she serves."

Karen worked for nine years at Giant Steps, first as a Teacher's Aide and then as a Case Manager. She has also provided therapy and taught classes at Valley Mental Health and the Family Support and Treatment Center.

Continued on next page

In all of this she also found time to return to school, where she graduated from BYU in 2002 with first a bachelor's of Marriage, Family, and Human Development, and then again from BYU in 2009 with a Master's in Social Work. She has worked, first as an intern, then as a Clinical Social Worker, and now as a fully Licensed Clinical Social Worker at Kids on the Move, where she continues her Autism work through providing low cost Autism diagnostic assessments. She also teaches a step-families class, a marriage class, runs a parent support group, and counsels clients. She is also just finishing her first semester co-teaching a university course here at UVU, Autism 100.

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## **Kids On The Move**

Kids On The Move supports the development of children under age three with special needs and offers assistance to families in the community. Our Early Intervention program provides services to kids with a variety of delays and disabilities, while Early Head Start is designed to help low-income families as well as pregnant mothers-to-be. Our newest program, Bridges, extends services to children with Autism and similar disorders who are between three and six years of age. For a free assessment or volunteer opportunities, contact us at [www.kotm.org](http://www.kotm.org) or at (801) 221.9930.

### **Available for interviews:**

Karen Farechild, Kids On The Move

Eileen Chamberland, Executive Director, Kids On The Move

Contact Holly Bushnell, Public Relations, Kids On The Move at 801-358-8424 (cell) to arrange an interview.