



## **Paxton Campus Trustees Recognize Autism Awareness Month**

Leesburg, Va, April 24, 2015 – In recognition of Autism Awareness month, the trustees of the Margaret Paxton Memorial for Convalescent Children have made a big investment in the programs at Paxton Campus that serve children with intellectual and developmental disabilities as they look toward the promising future of the campus. Trustee Melinda Hetzel presented a check for \$100,000 to Paxton Campus’s Executive Director Jennifer Lassiter.

“It’s wonderful to have the support of the greater community behind Paxton and I can think of no better partner to be on this journey with than the trustees,” said Lassiter. “This money not only ensures the continued success of the current programs, it validates the trustees’ commitment to us as we prepare for our Barns of Paxton capital improvement project.”

The proposed \$8 million Barns of Paxton capital improvement project will create opportunities for children and adults with disabilities through The Arts, Fitness and Wellness.

“The trustees have great confidence in the Barns of Paxton project and the tremendous impact it will have on the children of the greater Loudoun community”, said Hetzel. “Paxton’s programs have been so successful serving those with intellectual and developmental disabilities; the Barns will add a facility to serve children and adults with physical disabilities as well.”

Ms. Hetzel, along with trustees Bill Hanes and Basil DeLashmutt, has been dedicated to carrying out Mrs. Paxton’s mission to serve children in need. Paxton Campus has been utilizing the property since 2009. In addition to the Aurora School for children with disabilities, the campus also has an inclusive preschool, the ALLY (‘A Life Like Yours’) Advocacy center, STEP Up vocational training and employment program, and Maggie’s Closet, a free clothing store.

As Autism Awareness month comes to a close, the activities on Paxton Campus are just beginning to heat up as it holds its inaugural Barns of Paxton fundraiser called “Music at the Manor”, every Thursday in May, from 5pm-8pm. Paxton will host live performances by local musicians with a variety of music on its 17-acre property. This family-friendly event is free. Wine, beer, food and raffle tickets are available for purchase.

Paxton Campus is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization that advocates for and provides direct service to adults and children with disabilities, as well as their families and caretakers, through its many programs: The Aurora School, Open Door Learning Center, ALLY Advocacy Center, STEP Up and Maggie’s Closet. Paxton’s very low 3.6% overhead costs mean that almost 97 cents of every donated dollar goes back to our programs.