



# Hit It FARR for Kirby

Fifth Annual Golf Classic Benefiting Autism Research  
Four Person Captain's Choice Format  
1:30 PM Shotgun Start 8:00 AM FULL  
June 24, 2011 at River Ridge Golf Club, Raleigh, NC



**100% of tournament proceeds to be donated to research and education**



In June of 2003, we were blessed with the birth of our triplets. 2 girls and a boy. We thought then that our lives had changed forever. Little did we know what was in store for our family. At the age of 2, our precious son Kirby was diagnosed with Autism. Our whole world changed on that day. We were told to adjust our goals and dreams for Kirby, that most likely he would never leave home, and that we would have to “settle” for what his limitations would be. We were devastated. We felt that there was no hope. We wanted to cry, and in the days to come, we did cry. The statistics for those affected by Autism are quite bleak.

- Autism is the second most common developmental disability.
- Autism affects 1 in 150 children, some studies show that it is 1 in 94 boys.
- Autism increased by 172% in the 1990's, the U.S. population grew by 13%.
- Autism affects 30,000 individuals in North Carolina.

*“With current treatments and educational programs many of these children are expected to speak and to eventually make good academic progress. But, the devastating effects of Autism will remain throughout their lives and will constitute a major impediment to a quality of life for all but a small minority of those afflicted. Even after years of intensive treatment, estimates are that at most 10% are expected to gain full-time employment and less than 5% are projected to live independently. Relationships outside of the immediate family are rare and marriage is almost unheard of. Debilitating anxiety, hopelessness, unemployment, or marginal employment and isolation are still the norm for adults with this disorder.” (Quote from FARR, the Foundation for Autism Research and Remediation)*

Well, that was just not good enough for us. We knew that Kirby could exceed any expectations, and we did not want to place limitations on him. Fortunately, we discovered a therapy called RDI (Relationship Developmental Intervention, [www.rdiconnect.com](http://www.rdiconnect.com)) and began this at age 3. Since that time we have been amazed at his developmental growth. He has proven that he is capable of exceeding expectations, and we believe that his future is very bright. Now, we again have hopes and dreams for his future.

In 2007 we began to consider how we could help support research in the field of autism. Many ongoing studies were examining cause and genetics, and though noble, we did not feel that this was where we wanted to put our efforts for our son and the others who are already affected by autism. Rather, we wanted to fund research that was focused on improving quality of life for these individuals and their families. Fortunately, we became involved with FARR. The Foundation for Autism Research and Remediation, known as FARR ([www.farrsite.org](http://www.farrsite.org)), was formed in 2004 by Drs. Steven Gutstein and Rachelle Sheely in Houston, Texas. They support research which explores innovative treatments for autism and examines quality of life outcomes for individuals with autism. Over the past four years our tournaments have raised **\$80,000**, which has already funded ongoing research studies through FARR. We also established Hit It FARR For Kirby as an official 501(c)(3) public charity. **In 2011, as we celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> year, we are hoping to reach our goal of \$100,000 donated to autism research in 5 years!!**

We are excited to announce the Fifth Annual “Hit it FARR for Kirby” Golf Classic. Please partner with us as we support important quality of life outcomes based research, as we aim to support the families living and dealing with autism every day. Together we can give others their hope back. We can support the efforts of those looking for a better life for our children, a better vision for our future, and a hope for all of those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders. **On the attached page you will find a list of sponsorship options.** Please consider your donation for this worthy cause. **All proceeds from this event will go directly to fund ongoing research and education in the field of autism.**

On behalf of the 1 to 1.5 million Americans affected by Autism, the 30,000 North Carolinians affected by Autism, and our precious son and his loving sisters, we say “thank you.” We appreciate your consideration, we are grateful for your donation, and we hope to see you at the Fifth Annual “Hit it FARR for Kirby” Golf Classic!



[www.autoparkhonda.com](http://www.autoparkhonda.com)

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Yours truly,  
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