



**Media Contact:**

Daphne Plump  
Director of Publicity & Promotions  
Telephone: 661.478.6512  
Email: [daphne@act-today.org](mailto:daphne@act-today.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 1, 2011

**FILM STARS AND ON-AIR PERSONALITIES JOIN FORCES WITH AUTISM CARE AND TREATMENT FOR HISTORIC EVENT BENEFITING MILITARY CHILDREN WITH AUTISM**

*The ACT Today for Military Families (ATMF) 5k/10k Run and Festival will be held in San Diego, California on April 2, 2011.*

**February 8, 2011 - SAN DIEGO, CA** Actors Mark Lawrence Christopher ("Terminator: 2", "Pursuit of Happyness", TV sitcom "Chuck") and Kyle Massey ("Corey in the House", "Dancing with the Stars", 2010 Runner Up) along with KGTV's Kerstin Lundquist and Steve Atkinson, and Sophie@103.7 announce they will co-host Autism Care and Treatment Today's (ACT Today!) inaugural ACT Today! for Military Families (ATMF) Run and Family Festival on Saturday, April 2, 2011. The event will be held on Fiesta Island, in San Diego.

"We are thrilled to have these celebrities co-host this special event," says ACT Today!'s Executive Director Nancy Alspaugh-Jackson. "Their generous support of the cause and their passion is inspiring. We hope the community will come out and enjoy a fun-filled day that will build autism awareness, and raise funds to help military children with autism get the necessary tools they need to reach their highest potential."

According to Department of Defense data, it is estimated that 1 in 88 military children have autism. Autism is a complex neurological disorder. Research shows, in the treatment of autism, early intervention and intensive behavioral therapy are imperative to success. The continuum of care afforded to military children diagnosed with autism is disjointed and compromised due to frequent geographic moves and lack of effective services available publicly and through existing healthcare programs.

"The emotional and financial challenges autism brings to the military family are very personal to me," says Karen Driscoll, Marine wife, mother of a son with autism, and ACT Today! for Military Families National Campaign Director. "ACT Today for Military Families works to help lighten the load many of our brave military families carry today."

Corporate sponsors of the event (as of February 7, 2011) include: ONEHOPE Wine, Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Inc. (CARD), Ralph's, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Allied American University, Granite Investment Funds and Sophie@103.7. Sponsorship opportunities are still available by contacting Laura Marroquin at [Laura@act-today.org](mailto:Laura@act-today.org).

Team and individual registration for the run/walk/wheelchair event is now open. Registration fees start at \$10. Register online at [www.acttodayformilitaryfamilies.kintera.org](http://www.acttodayformilitaryfamilies.kintera.org). A free family festival with resource and wellness booths, food, live concerts, celebrity appearances, and more will round out the day's festivities. Submissions for entertainment and VIP/celebrity participation should contact Daphne Plump at [Daphne@act-today.org](mailto:Daphne@act-today.org).

ACT Today! (Autism Care and Treatment Today!), is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to raise awareness and provide treatment services to families that cannot afford the treatments and services their children require. Recognizing the extraordinary challenges military families experience (waging a battle on two fronts - one for their country and another for their children), ACT Today! for Military Families (ATMF) is a dedicated fund to assist military families impacted by autism. ATMF works to improve awareness and delivery of effective autism services, and provides financial assistance to military families to help defray out-of-pocket costs associated with autism treatments and other quality of life programs.

For more information about the ATMF 5k/10k Run and Family Festival, visit: [www.acttodayformilitaryfamilies.org](http://www.acttodayformilitaryfamilies.org) or [www.act-today.org](http://www.act-today.org).

If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with the celebrities and/or Executive Director Nancy Alspaugh-Jackson and Karen Driscoll, Call: Daphne Plump at (661) 478-6512.

### **About the Event Hosts:**



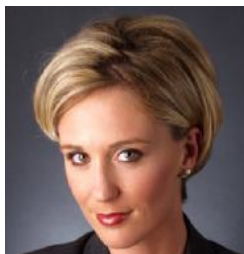
#### **About Mark Christopher Lawrence:**

Mark Christopher Lawrence is one of Hollywood's most sought after character actors. The constant entertainer depicts a variety of comedic and dramatic characters in feature films: *The Pursuit of Happyness* (starring Will Smith), *The Island*, *Lost Treasure*, *Crimson Tide*, *K-Pax*, *Planet of the Apes*, *That Darn Cat*, and *Fair Game*. His small screen credits include: *Reba*, *Seinfeld*, *Coach*, *3<sup>rd</sup> Rock From the Sun*, *Touched by an Angel*, *Malcolm in the Middle*, and *Dharma and Greg*. He was a series regular on *The George Wendt Show* and *The Mullets*. Lawrence currently stars on the TV sitcom, "Chuck."



#### **About Kyle Massey:**

Kyle Massey stars as Cory Baxter in Disney Channel's #1 hit sitcom, *Cory in the House*, Disney Channel's first-ever spin-off. He originated the role of Cory in Disney's *That's So Raven*. In addition to appearing in numerous commercials, he starred in the Disney Channel Original Movie, *Life is Ruff*. Currently, Kyle is starring as the voice of Milo on the Disney Channel's upcoming animated series *Fish Hooks*. Currently, he and his brother are co-hosting and starring in the comedy series *World's Funniest Moments*.



#### **About Kerstin Lundquist:**

Kerstin Lindquist feels blessed to be a broadcast journalist and believes "it is a privilege and a responsibility to be welcomed into your household every morning." Lindquist was awarded four Emmys in two years for her nationally recognized reporting. Kerstin moved into the role of weather anchor in 2008. She has also guest starred in primetime programs such as "The West Wing" playing, of course, a TV anchor.



#### **About Steve Atkinson:**

Steve Atkinson is the Co-Ancor of 10News at 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. He began his career in Arkansas in 1989 but returned to his home state of Texas with stops at KVUE-TV in Austin and WFAA-TV Dallas. He won multiple awards from the Arkansas and Texas Associated Press for Best Sportscaster and Sports Reporter. Steve has collected several Edward R. Murrow Awards for his reporting and a Regional Emmy Award as a television host.