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New FOX TV Series "Touch" Embraces ACT Today!'s Mission to Help Underprivileged Families of Children with Autism

FOX Television series "Touch" underlines ACT Today! (Autism Care and Treatment Today!) mission to help underprivileged families of children with autism spectrum disorders .

NATIONWIDE, JANUARY 27, 2012 – ACT Today! (Autism Care and Treatment Today!), a national non-profit organization whose mission is to provide care and treatment to children with autism who cannot access or afford treatment, applauds the FOX network for producing its new television series "Touch." The show centers on a father, played by Kiefer Sutherland, who discovers his autistic, mute son can actually predict events before they happen. "Touch" airs on Wednesdays at 9/8 Central Standard Time.

"Kiefer's character, Martin Bohn, demonstrates the challenges faced by parents of children with autism spectrum disorders who are in financial crisis," says ACT Today! Executive Director Nancy Alspaugh-Jackson. In the series, the character is in danger of losing custody of his son to social services because of the financial challenges he faces.

"Many of these children are gifted, but due to lack of awareness and proper support these gifts can go unnoticed, much less be nurtured," adds Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh, founder and president of ACT Today! and a world-renown behavior therapist.

Alspaugh-Jackson says "Touch" underlines ACT Today!'s mission in supporting parents who are not able to access the proper care and treatment their children desperately need.

In the past four years, ACT Today! has distributed nearly \$1 million dollars in grants to families with children with autism spectrum disorders. These grants include aide for social skills programs, behavioral therapy, assistive technology, basic safety equipment, assistance dogs, medical care, and special needs schools.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 110 children in America is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), making ASD more prevalent than juvenile diabetes, pediatric cancer and childhood AIDS combined. It is estimated that autism affects 1 in 88 military children. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors. They include autistic disorder, Rett Syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) and Asperger's Syndrome. ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances.

About ACT Today!:

ACT Today! (Autism Care and Treatment Today!) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing resources and funding to families of children with autism who cannot afford or access the necessary tools their children need to reach their full potential. For more information about ACT Today!, visit: www.act-today.org.

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