



[New Search](#) [Return to results](#) [Printer Friendly](#)

Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle (MI)

Girl's bat mitzva project raises money for autism

MARY BETH ALMOND C & G Staff Writer

Published: March 25, 2009

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP - When Sarah Moreno was in fourth-grade, she couldn't help but notice the talents of a young girl in her class who could play the violin, an instrument most children her age were just beginning to learn, with ease. "We could only just begin to play the violin, and it really amazed me, so I wanted to learn more about autism," she said.

Now in seventh-grade at Birmingham **Covington** School, Moreno's vivid memory of the young violin "wiz" has turned into a memory of a friend. Sarah Moreno, 12, of Bloomfield Township said that though people with autism are able to do so much, many people don't see that.

"Every autistic person has something that they are really good at - one could be a doctor, and maybe the guy who was in a wheelchair when he grows up ... but they can't unless they learn how to communicate," she said.

Moreno hopes to raise public awareness about autism while raising \$1, 000 for the Autistic Children's Treatment Network through her bat mitzva project.

"I wanted to raise money to help this organization because I thought it was good and I wanted to raise money for an organization that helps everyone. ... I don't know how, or if, I can get there, but I really hope I can," she said.

Moreno's mother, Irene Moreno, said she's proud her daughter is undertaking such an ambitious project on her own.

"A bat mitzvah is coming of age, learning responsibilities, learning about community work, learning about how fortunate she is and how to help as soon as possible. ... I feel that she's doing a good job, but it's very tough right now to raise money for anything, so Irene Moreno said.

The ACT Network is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "provide quality intervention services to children with autism through inquiries on issues related to autism from parents and professionals and to respond with useful information and referrals." The network opened up the Early Intervention Center in Southfield in 2001.

Jessica Rogers, the center's clinical director, said the center provides one-on-one services based on the principles of "applying to autistic children 18 months to 8 years old.

"These children don't learn as fast as a typically developing child, so we try to catch them up as quick as possible so they can learn to program independently, if that's possible," she said.

Rogers said Sarah Moreno's project will bring more awareness to autism, to the center and to the children.

"Unfortunately, even though we are a nonprofit, insurances don't cover the therapy, so any donations and any fundraising we do through parents and gain the tuition is fantastic. I really commend her for doing this kind of project," Rogers said.

To donate money to ACT Network on behalf of Sarah Moreno's bat mitzva project, send a check with "Sarah Moreno" in the memo.

Attn: Kris Rose, 32500 Telegraph, Suite 209, Bingham Farms, MI 48025. For more information about ACT Network, conta 559-5820 or jrogers@actnetwork. org, or visit www.actnetwork. org.

Copyright, 2009, Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle (MI), All Rights Reserved.

E-mail this article to:

add message:

Archives Technical Questions: For technical assistance, please send an email to cgnewspapers@newsbank.com.

Advertiser Times • Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle • Eastsider • Fraser-Clinton Chronicle • Grosse Pointe Times • Jour Madison-Park News • Rochester Post • Royal Oak Review • St. Clair Shores Sentinel • Shelby-Utica News • Southfield St Troy Times • Warren Weekly • West Bloomfield Beacon • Woodward Talk • Eastside Shopper

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Class Reunions](#) | [Dateline](#) | [News Archives](#) | [Neighbors In The News](#) | [Advertising Information](#) | [Link to Us](#) | [Webmail Login](#) | [Employee Login](#) | [Assignment Ware](#) | [FTP Login](#)