



Croyden Avenue School / Autism Awareness Group The Mary Jane Underwood Stryker Institute for Service-Learning

*“Working Together to
Solve the Puzzle”*



Each quarter, about ten K students work in Croyden Avenue School classrooms every week. Croyden is a special education center-based school that provides service to all 9 districts within Kalamazoo County. Students who attend Croyden Avenue School are three to 26 years of age.

Additionally, many more K students are involved in the Autism Awareness Group. These students plan Autumn and Winter Fests where families with autistic children come to campus for a day of fun and respite, sponsor campus-wide events including speakers and panels, and plan annual fundraisers to benefit the Autism Society of America.



The Autism Awareness Group grew largely from Dr. Bruce Mills' First-Year Seminar, "Crossing Borders: Autism and Other Ways of Knowing" -- a course that included visiting Croyden and connecting with families of children with autism in order to facilitate awareness of the autism experience.



Program Mission: To encourage greater understanding and support for autism spectrum disorders through community outreach and education. By raising awareness, everyone can work together to promote the growth and independence of those affected by the disorder.

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Poster created by Civic Engagement Scholar Brianne Wood, K'10.