

# Kickball Tournament Kicks Off Autism Month

The fourth annual Adult Charity Kickball Tournament to benefit the Augusta Levy Learning Center in Wheeling will take place Saturday, April 9, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Dimmeydale baseball fields in Wheeling. The event kicks off Autism Awareness Month.

Fifteen teams of 10 people each will compete for the trophy, and all the money raised will provide scholarships for local children who attend the center, which uses research-based intensive therapy to help children with autism spectrum disorders make a transition into typical classrooms.

Kathy Shapell, executive director of the center, said this year's annual kickball event will be bigger and better than ever.

"It is a super fun way of



Photo Provided

Beta Theta Pi fraternity members from Bethany College claim the coveted Kickball Trophy in 2010 for the third straight year. The annual competition raises funds for scholarships to the Augusta Levy Center in Wheeling.

bringing together people from all walks of life for a common cause — supporting local children with autism," said Shapell, noting that team members run the gamut from college students and roller derby girls to middle-aged women and local businesses.

The number of teams participating is the largest turnout thus far, and Shapell said she hopes the public will stop by to

check out the event, which is free to spectators.

This year's sponsors are Bedway Development Corp., Woodbine House, Flag Floors, McDonald's, Pete Holloway, Panhandle Cleaners, Whiteside Auto, Log Cabin Fence Co., Lamar Advertising, Maxim Health Care, Major League Gaming, Shirts 'n' More and Pike Baseball/Softball Association.

Donations can be made online at [www.augustalevylearningcenter.org](http://www.augustalevylearningcenter.org).

On Friday, April 29, the center will host a steak fry also to benefit the scholarship fund. It will take place from 5-10 p.m. at the Italian American Club in Elm Grove, Wheeling. Ticket price includes steak, baked potato, salad, bread, dessert and soft drinks (BYOB).

For information, visit the website or call 304-242-6722.