



Derby Day Info Sheet



Loyal Source & Derby Day Impacting Lives in Central Florida

Since 2008, Loyal Source has been honored to host the 'Derby Day 4 Autism' extravaganza featuring a Golf Classic and Derby Day Party. **The two-day event focuses on raising funds and awareness for the UCF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) and Providing Autism Links and Support (PALS).** This joint organization offers services and support to more than 27,000 Central Florida families raising an individual with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Since our first event nearly two decades ago, **we've raised over \$2.5 million dollars** that have helped PALS truly impact lives through a variety of camps and state-of-the-art programs that provide:

■ Education & Training

Didactic social skill enhancement programs for individuals with ASD, as well as conferences and professional training.

■ Family Events

Fun-filled activities offered at various times of the year throughout Central Florida for the entire family.

■ Social Opportunities

Community-based outings that support social skills enhancement and friendship development in a natural setting.

■ Community Collaborations

Partnerships with community programs allows individuals with ASD to thrive with extra support from PALS.

In 2024 alone, PALS had:

- Supports to over 11,000 individuals
- More than 3,200 attended social skill enhancement classes; and
- 3,300 participated in community collaborations that included Judo, Tennis, Pickleball, Dance and Soccer



Loyal Source Donations Help Programs Thrive!



In 2024 alone, **Loyal Source raised more than \$450,000** that helped UCF and PALS provide the following programs throughout our community:

- **Level Up** is a Transition Program designed to provide intervention to students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) who are leaving high school and entering adulthood. The program teaches students to become self-dependent with necessary employment skills and increased self-management.
- **TAG** is a spring and fall semester program for 13-17-year-olds where they work to enhance social and life skills while making friends in a safe environment before transitioning to adulthood.
- **ASPIRE Group** is a fun way to make friends and connect with others who may have similar interests. Participants can utilize ASPIRE's private Facebook group page and website, as well as attend events in any county.
- **Teen Group** is designed for adolescents with ASD to practice social, work, and self-advocacy skills in a fun, relaxing atmosphere in community social settings.
- **Eight-12** is a social-emotional regulation interactive program for children, 8-12 years old, with ASD to become flexible thinkers, team players, and problem solvers while increasing social interactive skills.
- **U 13** is a social interactive program for children under 13 that meets on a regular basis, offering interactive games, movement activities, crafts, and social time.
- **Autism Early Intervention Opportunities and You (AEIO&U)** is for children between 2-7 years to enjoy community fun with parents. The program enhances social skills, builds communication, and reduces behaviors.
- **Statewide Annual CARD Conference Organizer** – PALS hosts the statewide CARD Conference with more than 82 presenters and 78 presentations.

