



## Behavioral Consulting of Tampa Bay

### AUTISM SPEAKS AWARD RELEASE

**RELEASE:** Immediate

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#### **LOCAL CENTER NAMED 'MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE' BY NATIONAL AUTISM ORGANIZATION**

*Autism Speaks Presents Honor at 'Autism Awards'*

**Tampa, FL**, May 2009 – Behavioral Consulting of Tampa Bay has been named the 'Most Valuable Resource' by international advocacy organization, Autism Speaks.

Behavioral Consulting Founder and President, Kelley Gardner-Prince accepted the award on behalf of the organization May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Autism Speaks' Autism Awards held at the Improv in Ybor City.

"Autism Speaks and Behavioral Consulting of Tampa Bay share a common goal which is to help individuals living with autism and their families," Gardner-Prince commented. "We are honored to have been recognized and feel it is our duty to support other local organizations that focus on autism research and treatment."

Last year, Behavioral Consulting of Tampa Bay hosted an autism awareness event at the St. Pete Times Forum for a Tampa Bay Lightning game, and for the last several years, the staff has volunteered at and participated in the Tampa Bay Walk Now for Autism at MOSI.

Behavioral Consulting Operations Assistant, Susan Bonifield was asked to be on the Autism Speaks committee for this year's walk after becoming involved with them almost three years ago. "Working on their committee is very rewarding to me because, after seeing the struggles families go through on a daily basis, any help we can provide to them is very gratifying."

This year's local walk attracted more than 2,800 supporters and raised more than \$140,000 for autism research and awareness.

Autism Speaks is the nation's top private funder of research into causes of and treatments for autism and is dedicated to raising public awareness about autism. They have been instrumental in successfully passing autism insurance legislation in five states, including Florida's *Window of Opportunity Act*, and are working with 23 other states to pass new insurance bills to provide important treatment coverage for families affected by autism.

#### **About BCOTB**

*Behavioral Consulting of Tampa Bay, Inc. is an organization committed to changing the lives of families and children through quality behavioral services and interventions. Our experienced and dedicated staff provides a patient and loving environment where they develop and implement skill acquisition and/or behavior reduction programs for children with autism or similar disorders. We also provide services for children who engage in disruptive behavior. We believe that all children, regardless of their skill deficits, diagnosis, or behavior, can learn skills and develop behaviors that were never thought possible if a quality behavior analysis program is implemented.*

*We are located at 6916 W. Linebaugh Avenue, Suite 102, Tampa, Florida 33625 with a second location at 3717 Turman Loop, Suite 102, in Wesley Chapel, Florida 33544. For more information, please contact us by phone: 813-265-0210, by email: [info@bcotb.com](mailto:info@bcotb.com), or on our web site at [www.bcotb.com](http://www.bcotb.com).*