



News Release

For immediate release – January 3, 2018

Bittersweet and Toledo Public Library Offer Book Club to Teens with Autism

**Note to media: You are invited to attend. Please contact Shannon or Taylor.*

Whitehouse, OH... Bittersweet's Social Living Club (SLC) will be partnering with the Toledo Public Library (Maumee Branch) to offer a reading book club to teens with autism. The SLC is a recreational program that provides social and community opportunities to teens with autism. Teens in the SLC will be reading and reviewing the book *Wonder* by Raulo Jaramillo.

Community Outreach Specialist Taylor Barndt, says, "We are so excited to partner with the Toledo Library to offer a book club to teens in the SLC. This is a great opportunity for the SLC teens to find a passion for reading, as well as an opportunity to discuss the various books and develop social skills. We are thrilled to be participating in this awesome opportunity!"

Beginning March 13, the six week program will be on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Maumee Public Library, located at 501 River Road, Maumee, OH 43537. Scholarship opportunities are available from ProMedica and the Great Lakes Collaborative for Autism. SLC participants must be able to participate in the activity independently or with the appropriate support staff provided by the family. For more information, contact Taylor Barndt at 419.206.7803 or tbarndt@bittersweetfarms.org.

The SLC is also seeking teen mentors to volunteer and help adolescents with autism in the SLC build relationships among their peers. Teen mentors are expected to provide positive attitudes towards academics, positive emotional support, friendships, and fun community experiences to other teens with autism. Teen mentors are required to commit to an orientation prior to volunteering and will be expected to commit to one hour per week for six weeks. No experience is needed. Contact Taylor Barndt at 419.206.7803 or tbarndt@bittersweetfarms.org for more information.

About Bittersweet, Inc.

For 35 years, Bittersweet, Inc. has been successfully serving adults and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders across three locations in Ohio. Bittersweet offers unique supports that encourage individuals with autism to grow and develop their abilities and talents in an agricultural setting. The Bittersweet community offers many products for sale to support employment and vocational opportunities for individuals with autism. The mission of Bittersweet, Inc. is to positively impact the lives of individuals with autism and those whose lives they touch.

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