



[www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

Each April 2, Autism Speaks celebrates Light It Up Blue along with the international autism community, in commemoration of the United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day. Light It Up Blue is a unique global initiative that kicks-off Autism Awareness Month (April) and helps raise awareness about autism. In honor of this historic day, many iconic landmarks, buildings, businesses and institutions all over the world will take part to Light It Up Blue.

Autism is a complex neurocognitive disorder that affects brain development. Children with autism have abnormal developmental processes that cause difficulties with cognition, social interaction, and communication. Autism now affects one in 88 children in our country and has been recognized by the Center's for Disease Control as an epidemic.

Awareness of autism is the key to funding research for a cure and helping develop treatments that provide opportunities for people with autism to thrive in this world. Even more importantly, awareness leads to the acceptance of people with autism, and their differences, by others. Given that one in 88 children are now being diagnosed with autism, just imagine how many of our local Delawareans have children, family members, or close friends that are affected. The numbers are staggering!

In 2012, over 3000 iconic buildings in over 50 countries on six continents turned their lights blue in support of World Autism Awareness, including the Empire State Building, Niagara Falls, Madison Square Garden, the Sydney Opera House, and many universities such as UCLA and UNC Chapel Hill. Right here in Delaware, many schools, businesses, and iconic buildings of our own supported Light It Up Blue. Legislative Hall in Dover, Dover Downs Hotel, Nanticoke Memorial Hospital, the Christina School District, the City of Seaford, and the Governor's mansion were just a few of the many supporters in 2012.

This year, Elegant Designs and Penco Corporation will stand in support of Autism Awareness by lighting Elegant Designs blue in support of Light It Up Blue and World Autism Awareness Month.



*Elegant Designs Showroom Seaford, DE April 2, 2013*