

DREXEL REVS UP AUTISM EFFORTS WITH A CUSTOM-OUTFITTED VAN FOR OUTREACH AND CLINICAL ASSESSMENTS



PHILADELPHIA, April 21, 2014

The A.J. Drexel Autism Institute at Drexel University can't contain its efforts within the walls of a building – so it is now hitting the road with a custom-outfitted van, called Mobile REACH, to extend autism outreach and clinical research activities into the community.

"With the mobile clinic, we'll be able to connect with diverse communities across the region to raise awareness about autism-related issues and conduct research," said Jennifer Plumb, DSW, director of the institute's outreach core.

A variety of health care organizations across the country have mobile health vans, but Drexel's van is the first in the region, and one of the first anywhere, to specialize in autism services.

Mobile REACH – for Resources and Education for Autism and Community Health – embodies the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute's mission to address autism as a public health issue – reducing the burden of disability associated with autism, and doing so at a wide-reaching scale.

Like popular food trucks that can bring high-quality cuisine to a variety of locations at low cost, the Mobile REACH clinic can go anywhere that services are needed and bring the clinical testing environment with it. Drexel's mobile assessment unit was custom-designed to suit the needs of conducting psycho-social, behavioral and neuro-psychological evaluations of individuals of all ages, at any location. It will also be a tool to