



Annual Acoustics For Autism: 14 Hours Of Music For Project iAm To Rock The Village Idiot And Buster Brown's Lounge On Sunday

Family, Maumee News



Arctic Clam will perform at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 9 at The Village Idiot to benefit Project iAm.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARCTIC CLAM



The Eight Fifteens will perform at 10:30 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EIGHT FIFTEENS

BY KAREN BERGER | MIRROR REPORTER — "Fun, loving, silly and hilarious" is how Jeanette Carman describes her daughter Alexys. While the 7-year-old has a great vocabulary and is verbal, Alexys struggles with expressing herself. She also has social and sensory behavior challenges, Carman said. "Without therapy, these behaviors would only get worse," the Grand Rapids woman said. Thankfully, Project iAm has helped pay the \$89.00 an hour for occupational therapy and \$35.00 an hour for applied behavioral therapy. "Alexys is making such strides and while they are baby steps to most, they are milestones to us. Those baby steps would not take place without funds to help our family," Carman said. On Sunday, March 9, Alexys and her mom will be among the many families impacted by Project iAm to attend the 7th Annual Acoustics for Autism fundraiser in Maumee. From noon to 2:00 a.m., over 30 bands will play on three stages at The Village Idiot and Buster Brown's on Conant Street between Wayne and Dudley. The 33 musicians and bands set to perform include Arctic Clam, Kyle White, Barile & May, Zak Ward, Trey McLaughlin, The Eight Fifteens, Brian Bocian, Pat Lewandowski, Captain Sweet Shoes, Old State Line and the Chris Shutters Band, to name a few. For more details on band times and locations, visit www.acousticsforautism.com. Behind the two venues will be a large tent with a third stage, kids' activities, silent auctions and raffles. Admission is free. The goal is to raise money to assist local families affected by autism, said Project iAm founder Nicole Khoury. The focus is to provide support, information, resources and financial assistance. A nonprofit organization, Project iAm is not affiliated with any other organization, nor does it adhere to any specific school of thought. "Our hope is that parents will get their children diagnosed early so they can begin living the fullest life they can," Khoury said. Before Alexys was diagnosed in December 2012, she was identified as having sensory processing disorder. Because this is not recognized in the medical community, her covered services were limited, Carman said. "The diagnosis opened up our ability to get grants," she said, noting that a \$2,000 scholarship from Project iAm helped pay for

therapies. A classmate of Khoury's, Carman was aware of Project iAm from Facebook, but has since become involved. Acoustics for Autism is fitting, as many children with autism are soothed and are better able to communicate through music, she believes. While Alexys took piano lessons for a few months, the young girl had difficulty with the teaching format. Yet she'll go into her room and play instruments and listen to music, Carman said. "She needs music. It's calming and relaxing," she said. For more information, visit www.aboutprojectiam.com or www.acousticsforautism.com.