



## Editorial: A flawless festival

THE BLADE EDITORIAL BOARD

MAR 9, 2024

12:00 AM

Another Acoustics for Autism music festival has come and gone with the million-dollar milestone of funding for assistance to families with children affected by autism, broken by record crowds, and more music than ever.

Project iAm's sole fund-raiser has grown from a performance featuring 12 bands on one stage to an event with eight stages and 95 bands. Last Sunday in Maumee a crowd estimated at 30,000 came to hear music provided by Greater Toledo bands contributing their talent to the charitable mission behind Acoustics for Autism.

[Read more Blade editorials](#)

A veritable army of volunteers selling adult beverages and event merchandise, along with the labor to set up, tear down, and clean up along Conant Street in downtown Maumee is further evidence of a mission-driven success story that bathes Greater Toledo in the most positive light.

The unseasonably warm weather Sunday drew a crowd that was universally well-behaved and happy for the opportunity to gather for a good cause, with high-quality entertainment options provided nonstop into the night.

Lucas County Municipal Court Judge Nicole Khoury has created a one-of-a-kind event focused on the mysteriously growing problem of autism. Area families are blessed by the presence of Project iAm for the assistance the charity provides with expensive but essential individually tailored therapies.

The city of Maumee is an excellent partner for Acoustics for Autism and has facilitated the growth catalyzed by the presence of the Village Idiot music pub where the event began in 2008.

Now, many locations would like to host Acoustics for Autism, Ms. Khoury said, but the founder also said the event “will never outgrow Maumee.” Ideally Acoustics for Autism will help propel Maumee to a level of national prominence.

Maumee is the only Ohio location selected as a finalist in America’s Strongest Towns, a vehicle for the Strong Towns think tank to encourage more livable communities.

Maumee is competing against Grand Rapids, Mich., and Edmonton in the category of streets, with safety and wealth creation given top priority.

Maumee turned Conant Street into a regional benefit in partnership with Acoustics for Autism with order and safety well-maintained. It well illustrates why Maumee was selected for the Strong Towns program.

Regardless of the outcome of the America’s Strongest Towns competition, Maumee is a winner. Acoustics for Autism incredible growth shows the city’s ability to scale for success.

Project iAm’s ability to find 95 local bands and enough volunteers to put on an event of Acoustics for Autism’s size is evidence of the people power that exists to make Toledo greater.