



**NEWS RELEASE
GLENVIEW PARK DISTRICT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Perk Center Cafe Grand Opening Celebration to Be Held June 6

GLENVIEW, IL, Thursday, May 28, 2009 -- The Perk Center Cafe, a food service operation located in the lobby of the Glenview Park District's Park Center, will hold a Grand Opening Celebration on Saturday, June 6 from 9 to 10:30 am. The Park Center is located at 2400 Chestnut Ave.

Perk Center Cafe is a non-profit food service operation whose focus is to train and employ individuals with developmental disabilities. Perk Center was conceived of by Jacob Metrick, the sibling of a young woman with autism. A user of Park Center Health and Fitness, he noticed that Park Center's previous food vendor had shut down. He believed that a food service operation could be created in the Park Center that employed individuals with developmental disabilities. The Cafe would provide job training, employment opportunities and quality service to the community. The Perk Center Cafe became a reality with help from Jacob's mother, Gail Metrick, along with mothers of other children with disabilities including Caryn Zelinger, Shari Coe and Linda Jesser, who also works at the Cafe as the general manager.

Perk Center Cafe currently employs 12 individuals ages 18-34 whose disabilities include, but are not limited to, autism, Down syndrome and epilepsy. The Cafe serves breakfast, lunch, snacks, children's meals, frozen drinks and "Seattle's Best" coffee. The Cafe is open Mon-Fri. 8 am-4 pm and Sat. 8 am-2 pm.

The Grand Opening will include a ribbon cutting ceremony, remarks by park district and local officials, entertainment and a sampling of Perk Center Cafe menu items.

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