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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **\$100,000.00 raised at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism Tournament Supporting Pacific Autism Family Network (PAFN), Fraser Valley Spoke, Chilliwack BC**

Fraser Valley, October 13, 2022: Steve Saccomano, Founder and Volunteer, Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism, presented by RBC, was delighted to present a \$100,000.00 cheque to Hannah Vannery, Manager, PAFN Fraser Valley Spoke, Chilliwack.

Upon receipt of the funds, Hannah said: *"One of my first introductions to my PAFN role was volunteering at the 2022 Ag4Autism events. I was blown away by the organization between volunteers, golfers, and sponsors. Seeing over 300 people supporting our spoke was inspiring. I feel so lucky to be a part of it. Receiving a \$100,000 check for our center was a surreal experience and I can't thank the Saccomaniacs enough for choosing PAFN as their charity."*

At the same time, Steve Saccomano announced a three-year partnership with the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) as the presenting sponsor of Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism Tournament.

*"RBC is proud to once again be the presenting sponsor for Ag4Autism. This annual event raises important and needed funds for the Pacific Autism Family Network (PAFN); a centre of excellence and network of support here in BC for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Ag4Autism is a resounding success as people, businesses and community organizations across the Fraser Valley came together to support, whether it be by way of donations, volunteering and participating in the golf tournament or the fishing derby. We look forward to the 2023 events and hope to see you there!"* **Jacky Gill**, Regional Vice President, Fraser Valley, RBC Royal Bank

Steve and Antoinette Saccomano, of Chilliwack BC, started Saccomaniacs in 2008 as a fundraising golf tournament to support autism research; to make a difference for children and families living on the autism spectrum.

In 2014, the Saccomano family dedicated all funds raised to the registered Canadian Charity, Pacific Autism Family Network, serving children and families across British Columbia.

Fundraising efforts sponsored a learning classroom at the PAFN Hub, located in Richmond.

From 2017 forward, funds were dedicated to opening, and maintaining, the spoke office in the Fraser Valley. PAFN Chilliwack supports the Fraser Valley and has helped hundreds of families with children on the autism spectrum.

Since 2014 Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism has raised \$700,000.00+ in cash, and over \$250,000 in-kind for Pacific Autism Family Network, Fraser Valley Spoke. Since 2009 over \$850,000.00 NET has been raised and donated to various autism charities.

**Steve Saccomano** says: *“When Antoinette and I started this fundraiser, the agriculture community generously gave. Funds were gifted to various autism research and charities from 2009 - 2013. In 2014 I met with Sergio and Wendy (Lisogar-Cocchia); their PAFN vision resonated with my family and I. The hub and spoke model touches children and families across British Columbia, making a hands-on difference.”*

Saccomaniacs has grown to a year-round event, which includes an online auction (April 20 - May 6, 2023), a Sturgeon Fishing Derby and the famous Agriculture for Autism Golf Tournament and Awards Dinner and live auction.

The goal for 2023, the 15th annual, is to raise \$150,000.00 net for PAFN.

Steve Saccomano wrapped the presentation: *“With the help and support of Dawn Donahue and Go Golf Events, our events and amounts raised have grown way past our original dreams. PLUS, our agriculture industry and corporate BC, continue to support and participate. We are so grateful to everyone who is involved. Over 1000 companies and individuals have participated in some form since 2014. The golf tournament and the fishing derby sell out every year; Ag4Autism has become a must sponsor and attend event.”*

#Ag4Autism23 invites your support and participation. There are many ways to be involved: Donate an auction item, become a sponsor, enter a golf team or fishing derby team, volunteer with us, or donate and receive a tax receipt.

More information [www.saccomaniacsgolf.com](http://www.saccomaniacsgolf.com)

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Sacromaniacs Agriculture for Autism Tournament. Presented by RBC  
RBC Volunteers: (L-R) Melanie Lantz, Parm Kooner, Quincy North and Jacky Gill



RBC volunteers at Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism Tournament  
Presented by RBC #supportedbyRBC



RBC Golf Team at Saccomaniacs Agriculture for Autism with Steve Darling (Ag4Autism emcee) and Steve Saccomano (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) with daughter Stephanie Saccomano (far right)



The 2022 #Sacomaniacs #Ag4Autism volunteers saying Hello and Thank you. This photo represents 50% of the volunteers who support the events each year. Sponsored by Vitalus