RISING INCIDENCE OF AUTISM
CHALLENGES PARENTS,
SIBLINGS AND TEACHERS

By Mary Ellen Alu ’77

JOHN JOSEPH ’97, MBA ’06 WAS ON HIS WAY HOME FROM JUNIOR HIGH
BASKETBALL PRACTICE WHEN HIS FATHER BROKE THE NEWS ABOUT HIS
YOUNGEST BROTHER, DAVID. DAVID, JUST 3 ½ YEARS OLD, HAD BEEN
DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM. “YOUR FIRST REACTION IS, ‘WHAT’S THAT?’ ”
SAYS JOSEPH. “YOU DIDN’T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT THEN.”

David’s Coffee Shop, which provides jobs for autistic youth, has been a family
project for the Joseph family, pictured from left, mother Suzanne, father John
Joseph Sr., Linda Joseph MS ’05, John Joseph II ’97, MBA ’06, Megan (Joseph)
Yelland ’02 and David Joseph. Matt Joseph is not pictured. PHOTO BY EARL & SEDOR
I knew he was DIFFERENT...
And he would learn things differently.

– Megan (Joseph) Yelland ’02

Learning more about autism:

- [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/facts.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/facts.html)
- [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)
- [www.researchautism.org](http://www.researchautism.org)