

Team,

Behind every uniform is a family.

Many of you know Firefighter Nate Powell, but you may not know the journey he and his wife, Sierra, have been navigating with their son, Benjamin, who was diagnosed with autism at age two. Their story is one of patience, resilience, difficult moments, growth, and unwavering love. It is a powerful reminder that the work we do extends far beyond the firehouse walls.

Firefighter Powell came up with the idea for this Autism Awareness fundraiser and brought it forward as a way to turn his family's experience into something that could support other families in our community. Charlotte Fire stands firmly behind him and is proud to support this effort benefiting Ignited Minds ABA.

To help show that support, **on-duty wear** of the official Autism Awareness fundraiser shirt is authorized on **April 1, 2, and 3**, ensuring each shift has the opportunity to participate. This limited-edition shirt represents inclusion, advocacy, and action. One hundred percent of proceeds from every shirt sold will directly support families and children on the autism spectrum by providing access to essential therapeutic tools, adaptive devices, and critical resources that help them thrive.

We commend Firefighter Powell for his initiative and leadership in launching this fundraiser, and we are proud to stand alongside him and his family.

If you have not yet purchased a shirt, you can learn more and place an order at:

www.cfdautismawareness.com