

# Time for a noble action

Capital's art fraternity joins hands to spread awareness about autism through a fund-raiser do held recently

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For most, Dustin Hoffman in *Rainman* gave us our first glimpse of the life of an autistic man. The level of awareness about this condition in the country is wanting. In such times any effort to raise consciousness is welcome.

A step in that direction was the fund-raising charity dinner organised by the NGO Action for Autism at the Hyatt Regency recently.

Marking their presence were top corporate brass, ambassadors and diplomats. Australian deputy high commissioner David Holly, who

came with wife Monica, said, "I feel strongly for the cause. It affects people across the world. I think it is great that such events are organised as they create awareness."

The evening saw a performance by Franky Cardozo's band and an art exhibit by Manna Art. A 14-minute film on autism was also screened.

Director of Action for Autism, Merry Barua, said, "We wanted to raise awareness. The film was made 10 years ago when not much was known about autism in India. Though we have come a long way, a lot needs to be done."

**Cause we care:** (1) Gail Gerrard (right) with Harriet and Lilly Okaafa; (2) Mavis Rajpal, with Jerry Oldfield; (3) Artist Mandira Malik who donated one of her sculpture for the charity show; (4) Director of Action for Autism Merry Barua (right) with its treasurer Reeta Sabharwal; (6) (from left) Dennis Oldfield with David Holly, Australian deputy commissioner and John Ustas (7) Artist S Ayesha (right) with guest Bernadette Narayan



Photos: Prabhas Roy

