

Autism Program Set

After years of saving money, cutting through red tape and performing repairs, a new program for young adults with autism is set to open this fall. Impact OASIS will use a farm setting at its Sleepy Hollow Road site to help develop employment and social skills for adults with autism between the ages of 18 and 27. The four-year vocational and independent living program also will offer instruction in social skills and language comprehension and usage. Jobs will be focused on agriculture, food and the environment. Impact OASIS and Middletown jointly own the 26-acre property, paid for with \$1 million in contributions to the organization, \$900,000 in township funds, and \$1 million in state Green Acres funds. The first 20 applicants for the September program who meet admissions criteria will receive call backs and invitations for a tour and an interview. Only four residential students and four day students will be accepted in the program's first year. Further information on how to apply is available at the organization's website, impactoasis.org. The deadline for applications is Feb. 23.

Kevin Penton. Asbury Park Press. Feb., 2012