

**Star Cinema**  
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### **Background Information**

Star Cinema is owned and operated by AGT Enterprises and operates 93 screens in the states of Wisconsin and Iowa. There are eight locations in Wisconsin alone, highlighted by an IMAX theatre in Madison. The Madison location, which opened in 1999, has 18 auditoriums/screens, including an IMAX.

<b>Star Cinema</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The last Saturday of every month the Madison theater offers All Star Saturdays, where children with autism and their families can enjoy movies in a friendly environment to those children with autism.</li><li>• A Star Cinema in Iowa employs two people with autism; David and Aaron clean tables, greet visitors, stock condiments and do other jobs around the theater.</li></ul>



### **Story**

Star Cinema puts on All Star Saturdays the last Saturday of every month. It is an event where families can bring children with Autism, ages three to sixteen, to watch movies. This is an opportunity that they might otherwise never experience.

The sound is lowered in the theatre, the lights are brighter, and the movies are offered at a discounted price. The staff is welcoming to all families. If the child has an issue of any kind, they are free to leave or receive help from the nonprofit organization Imagine a Child's Capacity.

The staff finds it very rewarding when the child shows a marked improvement. An example was when a child could not sit through a movie one week. Several weeks later the child was able to sit through the entire movie. Each family feels wonderful too, since it gives them an experience that most families take for granted.

Reported by Eric Anderson, Edgewood College, March 2007, for Professor Denis Collins ([dcollins@edgewood.edu](mailto:dcollins@edgewood.edu)) and the 2007 Good Samaritan Award, co-sponsored by the Samaritan Counseling Center and Edgewood College.