

Written by Mallory Gleich

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What began as a sweet idea to support autism research has evolved into a powerful fundraising campaign for Rett Syndrome. Since launching its cookie giveback program on National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day in 2021, [Picazzo's Healthy Italian Kitchen](#) has raised over **\$47,000** for the **Rett Syndrome Research Trust (RSRT)** by donating **\$1 for every chocolate chip cookie dessert sold**.

The locally owned restaurant group, with six locations across the Valley, introduced the program as a way to give back to families affected by autism—a cause close to the hearts of loyal customers. Two years in, the mission became deeply personal for Managing Partner **Chris Disney**, whose daughter was diagnosed with Rett Syndrome, a rare and debilitating neurological disorder on the spectrum.

"Having a child diagnosed with a life-altering disease can make you feel helpless," Disney said. "The success of Picazzo's Raising for Rett campaign gives us a way to help our daughter by funding critical gene editing and gene therapy research that could improve her chances for a better future."

Picazzo's Chocolate Chip Cookie Giveback Has Raised Nearly \$50,000 for Autism & Rett

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Rett Syndrome combines symptoms of cerebral palsy, Parkinson's, epilepsy, and anxiety disorder, and can severely impact a person's ability to walk, talk, eat, and breathe.

Supporters can participate simply by ordering Picazzo's **chocolate chip cookie dessert** - featuring a warm, fresh-baked chocolate chip cookie served in a skillet, topped with locally made vanilla bean gelato or coconut ice cream and finished with a choice of organic chocolate, raspberry, or salted caramel sauce - at any of the six locations.

The dessert is **gluten-free and dairy-free**, except for the gelato. Additional donations to Picazzo's Raising for Rett campaign can be made directly at rettgive.org. For more information, visit picazzos.com.