

# DISCOVER

# THE DIFFERENCE





### **Pete Schwarz**

*Chair of Affiliate Leadership  
Committee and Director,  
Autism Society of America  
Past Board President, Autism  
Society of Southern Arizona*

“

*The Autism Society was the first call I made after my son, Tyler, was diagnosed with autism 14 years ago. Since then, I've had the honor of working with the Autism Society Southern Arizona to provide needed programs, education, support and information to those impacted by autism in my community. The past two years, my passion has been working with Affiliate leaders across our network to ensure Affiliates have what they need to provide the most efficient and effective services to improve the quality of life for all individuals with autism. I am proud of the Autism Society's incredible impact, as we work towards a more inclusive, supportive society.*

## **LETTER FROM OUR LEADERS**

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Since its founding in 1965, the Autism Society of America has been our nation's leading autism grassroots organization. Today, the Autism Society of America's national network of caring and compassionate team members continues to help more individuals with autism advance their quality of life than any other grassroots autism organization.

The Autism Society and our 79 affiliates work hard to provide advocacy, education, information and referral, support, and community at national, state and local levels. Collectively, we were honored to serve and support over 620,000 people in 2018. Highlights from this number include over 225,000 phone calls, emails, and support cases, 157,000 attendees at Autism Society events, plus over 40,000 individuals raised their voices at Support Groups across the country.

## 1 in 59 children

are diagnosed with autism. This is up from 1 in 88, five years ago, and 1 in 125, just ten years ago.

## 500,000 individuals

with autism spectrum disorder are transitioning to adulthood in the United States.

## 88,000 individuals

are on state waiting lists, hoping to receive adult housing services; the rate continues to grow exponentially.

## 85% of autistic adults

with a college education are unemployed.

We believe that together we can accomplish a better quality of life, create more opportunities in employment where skills are valued and appreciated, build a more inclusive society, and advocate for better legislative rights at the national and state level.

In addition to our daily commitments, the Autism Society of America is dedicated to being a responsive, accountable, and transparent organization to our donors and the community we serve.

Responsiveness means that we are available and accessible to be the support the community needs. Our support spans everyday life, natural disasters and traumatic events - such as the fires that impacted our California affiliates, and a mass shooting impacting autistic individuals in Virginia - while making certain that we remain a nonpartisan, reasonable voice of advice and education.

For us, transparency means providing financial information and measurable outcomes for our donors' generous contributions. We hold ourselves accountable to our mission and a high standard of ethics when fulfilling our work. Accountability means that we are demonstrating the most effective use of our dollars, spent in ways that produce maximum positive results at the lowest possible cost. It also means that while the numbers we serve are great, it is as important to demonstrate that we are in fact helping individuals and families advance their quality of life.

We are immensely proud of the work done each and every day by the Autism Society and our network of caring, passionate and dedicated affiliates. Thank you to the thousands of compassionate volunteers, the affiliate staff members who work tirelessly to hold the hand of a person in need, to our national and affiliate board members dedicating their time and expertise, and to our hardworking staff that has ensured the Autism Society of America remains the go-to agency for all impacted by autism. Collectively, the results produced are extremely impressive, and we thank all the individuals, families, corporations, foundations and so many more that have assisted us in fulfilling our mission.



**Joe Joyce**  
Chairman



**Scott Badesch**  
President & CEO

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# AUTISM SOCIETY IMPACT REPORT

The Autism Society of America works tirelessly to measurably improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by autism. Our network of 79 affiliates operates in 37 states and collectively we support our community through information & referral services, direct support, education & awareness, and policy advocacy at the local, state and national level.

## Education, Support and Community Building

### Honored to serve & support

approx. 620,000 individuals and families affected by autism.

### Network hosted

approximately 8,000 events to support our community; this includes fundraisers, conferences, walks, inclusion events, and more.

### Approx. 157,000

people attended community events hosted by the Autism Society network.

## Policy Advocacy

### 2,000+ individuals

sent letters to representatives through the Autism Society Action Center.

### Advocated for

the passage of the Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act, the extension of Money Follows the Person Program, and maintained funding for programs important to people with autism.

### Supported 10 bills

that directly impacted the autism community; we advocated in 150+ meetings with legislators, and committed over 3,000 National staff hours committed to public policy.

## Measurably Improved Quality of Life

### 8/10 individuals

who reached out to the National Help Line would contact again, and recommend the Autism Society to others.

### 48% of our audience

indicated that having Support Networks for autistic adults was a critical need; the Autism Society network hosted 624 "Adults on the Spectrum" Support Groups across the country.

### 8/10 individuals

who contact our National Help Line expect to improve their quality of life.

# MEASUREABLE OUTCOMES

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Success is measured against our 15 Quality of Life Outcomes that impact the autism community throughout the lifespan.

- Respect and Dignity
- Inclusion
- Communication
- Health and Well-being
- Safety
- Academic Success
- Social Connections
- Independent Living
- Meaningful Employment with Fair Wages
- Financial Stability
- Recreation and Leisure
- Subjective Well-being
- Self-Identity and Acceptance
- Autonomy and Self-Sufficiency
- Pursuit of Dreams

We support these Quality of Life Indicators through information & referral services, direct support, education & awareness, and policy advocacy at the local, state and national level.

The Autism Society relies upon the unparalleled work ethic from our local and state affiliates that support individuals and families within their local communities.

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*My involvement with the Autism Society has brought me into close contact with a unique group of people who are committed to improving the lives of individuals with autism.*

*The Autism Society works cooperatively to identify the challenges, reaching out actively to ensure diverse opinions are heard and valued, and then work to bring about changes. I see this most clearly in relation to the safety problems of children with autism, but it is happening on many fronts. There is a great deal of attention nationally on autism, but the Autism Society is able to bring about focused action on key problems.*

## **Jack Scott**

*Autism Society of America  
Panel of Professional Advisors*



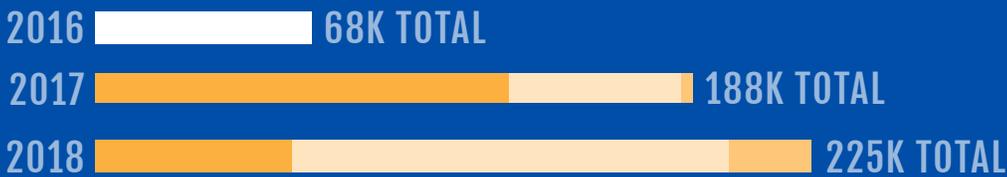
## TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED, YEAR OVER YEAR



## AFFILIATE EMPLOYMENT REPORT

**2018** Full Time 311  
Part Time 1,076  
Volunteer 1,133

## TOTAL INFORMATION & REFERRAL SERVICES PROVIDED



\*APPROX. 20% INCREASE in I&R support provided in 2018, compared to 2017

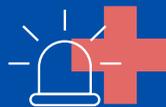
■ TOTAL ■ PHONE ■ EMAIL ■ OTHER

Led the charge to reauthorize **Autism CARES Act**, protect Medicaid-funded long term care and protections within the Affordable Care Act.



Approximately 145,000 people served through **educational programs and service events.**

**10,451** people attended Autism Society conferences in 2018.



Our network trained over 7,100 first responders to be better prepared and understand proper protocol for interactions with autistic individuals.

↳ **750 from Autism Society Los Angeles**



**22,000 individuals attended sensory-friendly movies throughout local communities,** with support from our national partner, AMC Theatres.

**About 5,000 autistic adults attended self-advocate support groups throughout the country;** 900 attended adult-specific support groups hosted by Autism Society of Minnesota.



**600 Siblings attending support groups** hosted by Autism Society of America Nassau-Suffolk.

# STRONGER TOGETHER

We are honored to have a strong network of passionate affiliates executing the Autism Society's mission and vision at the local and state level. Through trust, collaboration, and an honest relationship, we've worked together to make a meaningful impact on our community.

**The Affiliate Management team at National provided 5,200 support hours to affiliates;** plus another 2,400 hours of support from additional staff members.

**The Board Chair, Vice Chair, & CEO attended 12+ events** during National Autism Awareness month across the country.

**Completed 50+ affiliate visits** throughout the year; this includes trainings, events, and crisis management.



**200+ resources provided to affiliates**

including I&R, program & service templates, marketing toolkits, grant writing, and more.

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*As the Executive Director of the Autism Society of Oregon, it has been invaluable to learn and brainstorm with a network of dedicated volunteers and professionals through the Autism Society affiliate network. Their diverse perspectives and wide range of experiences are so important in helping us provide much-needed resources and services to everyone impacted by autism in Oregon.*

**Tobi Burch Rates**  
Executive Director



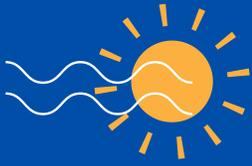
*Photo credit to Shealyn Stout*

**Created and maintained** National partnerships with AMC Theaters and Cedar Fair Parks to offer localized sensory-friendly events and opportunities.



**National sent 43 newsletter emails**

to Affiliate Executive Directors & Board Members. —————> Hosted 20+ trainings including one-to-one support on-site, Board development, and webinars.



Sunshine affiliate, Autism Society San Diego, had over **1,400 people participate in swim and bike programs**

**60,683**

Collective Help Line Calls



**20% of I&R outreach requested help navigating services;** 11% of inquiries specified adult services.



**Over 40,000 individuals attended** Autism Society support groups hosted across the country.

The Autism Society of Florida taught over **4k individuals with "Autism 101" Training.**



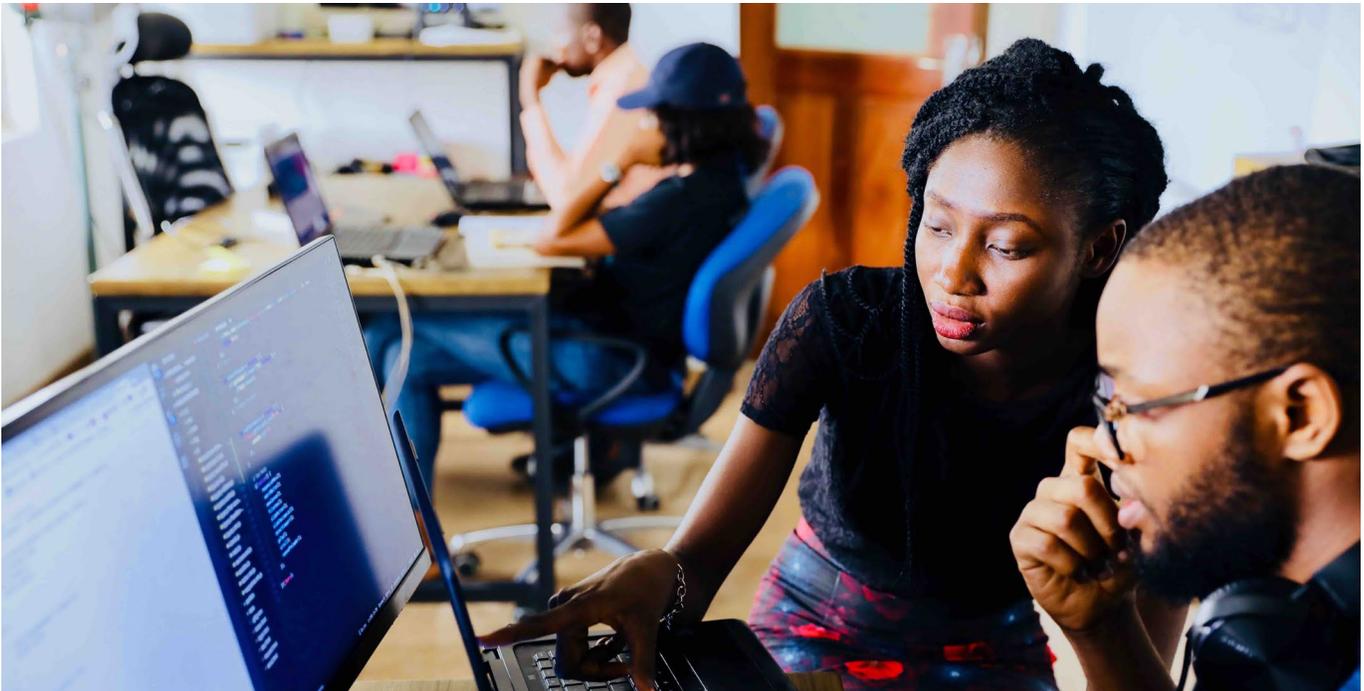
**138,407 I&R Inquiry Emails;** another 26k through social media or in person.



**17,000 people** attended IEP workshops.

**36k individuals**

participated in family outings or trips planned through Autism Society affiliates.



# ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

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Every day the Autism Society advocates for change at the national, state, and local level to improve the quality of life in all areas for individuals and families living with autism. With our strong Public Policy Committee, staff and Board of Directors, we educate policymakers so that they utilize science-based evidence to develop effective laws and protective programs across healthcare, employment, housing, education, and long-term services and supports. Our goal is to ensure that individuals with autism have supports in place to achieve their full potential and live high quality lives. We are proud to work with individuals on the autism spectrum across our governance board and staff, as we work together to improve the lives of our community.

The Autism Society of America advocates for multiple federal public policies that improve the lives of children and adults with autism. These policies include early intervention, K-12 education, post-secondary education, transition services, employment, healthcare, and long-term home and community-based services and supports.

In 2018, we successfully worked on the following public policy activities:

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**Took a leadership role in advocating for the reauthorization and improvement of the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Supports (CARES) Act, the Lifespan Respite Care Act, and an extension of Money Follows the Person Program.** These laws are on the verge of becoming law.

**Supported the Coalition to Advance Competitive Integrated Employment** through Hill briefings and the introduction of several bills.

**Maintained federal funding for programs important to people with autism**, such as special education and employment services, and newly authorized money to protect children who wander.

**Continued to advocate to protect Medicaid funded long-term care** and protections within the Affordable Care Act.

**Submitted comments on numerous proposed regulatory changes** related to health care, education, employment, and civil rights.

**Supported affiliates to advocate at the state and local levels** in the areas of restraints and seclusion in schools, school safety, and first responder training.

Approximately 200 people with autism, their families, and affiliate leaders visited their Members of Congress to educate about the needs of people with autism.

Through our online, interactive Action Center, our advocates sent approximately 2,000 letters to their legislators. With the help of our advocates, we have expanded the membership of the Autism Bipartisan and Bicameral Caucus, led reauthorization efforts for the Autism CARES Act and the Lifespan Respite Care Act and submitted comments on proposed regulations.

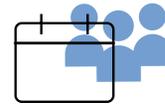
## 1000+ actions taken

to invite members of Congress to join the Bipartisan Bicameral Autism Caucus.



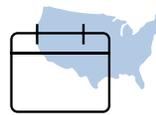
## Launched an online Action Center

so that members across the country could more actively engage in educating their Members of Congress.



## 200 advocates

attended our annual Day on the Hill event to meet with legislators to discuss their needs and rights.



## 138 advocacy events

were held by affiliates across the country.



*Senator Casey (D-PA) meets Matt Joyce and Joe Joyce*

# ONWARD & UPWARD

The Autism Society is driven by the desire to positively affect change in the lives of individuals and families affected by autism. In 2018, we received thousands of donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and volunteers from \$1 to \$125,000.

Our work is dependent on supportive donors who believe in our vision and ability to positively improve the quality of life for all affected by autism.

We value transparency, quality of support, advancement, and meaningful outcomes; we thank our supporters for consistently trusting us to collaborate, connect and pave the road forward to a better future.

We understand that every contribution matters - big or small - and we are dedicated to being responsive as we work towards a more inclusive, accepting world.



## The Power of Good.

### Some of our significant donations

**in 2018 include:** The John P. Hussman Foundation for \$125,000, The Ireland Family Foundation for \$125,000, Color Street for \$100,000, the Eleanor Collins Boas Foundation for \$60,000, Hyundai and Sony for \$25,000 each, Billy and Jennifer Frist for \$40,000, Westfield and EMC Insurance for \$20,000 each. We are thoroughly grateful to these donors and to the thousands of other donors for their support of programs at the national level and throughout our affiliate network.

## We also thank our many donors who supported through the following highlights:

### APRIL

Donors lent their support through online giving, **raising \$77k for National Autism Awareness Month.**

### JULY

**Keystone Insurance Group** hosted its annual Fore Autism Golf Tournament, writing a check for approximately **\$75,000 to the Autism Society.**

### NOVEMBER

**“Empowering Autism: Embracing the Spectrum” Gala** was hosted by The Embassy of the State of Qatar, benefitting the Autism Society of America. **The event raised over \$250,000!**

### OTHER

**In 2018, Facebook donations reached almost \$290,000!** Thousands of people donated, hosted birthday fundraisers, and raised support and awareness on behalf of the Autism Society.

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

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You can make a difference and further the Autism Society's impact by donating your time, talent, in-kind or financial support.

- Become a sustaining monthly donor at [www.autism-society.org/donate](http://www.autism-society.org/donate).
- Attend or sponsor an event like our national conference, golf tournament, or Autfest film festival.
- Become an Autism Society member at [www.autism-society.org/membership](http://www.autism-society.org/membership).
- Take action and support our public policy efforts through our online Action Center at [takeaction.autism-society.org](http://takeaction.autism-society.org)
- Sign up for our Autism Matters monthly newsletter, [www.autism-society.org/sign-up/](http://www.autism-society.org/sign-up/)
- Use your personal interests and talents to create your own fundraiser or awareness event.
- Remember the Autism Society of America in your will or trust - make a planned gift.
- Donate a life insurance policy you no longer need.
- Donate an unwanted car or truck.
- Donate as part of the Combined Federal Campaign or other workplace giving campaign. **We are CFC #11808.**
- Create your own personal Facebook fundraiser. Learn how at: [www.facebook.com/fundraisers](http://www.facebook.com/fundraisers)
- Donate a portion of every Amazon.com purchase to the Autism Society using **Amazon Smile**. For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to [www.smile.amazon.com/about](http://www.smile.amazon.com/about).

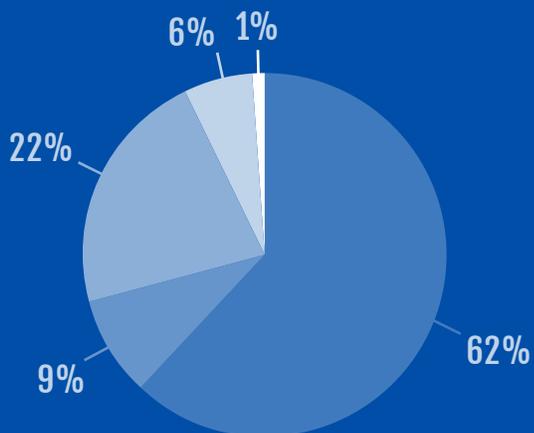


You can learn about other ways to get involved and support our work at <http://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/donate>.

If you are interested in learning more about helping the Autism Society of America, please contact our development staff at [development@autism-society.org](mailto:development@autism-society.org).

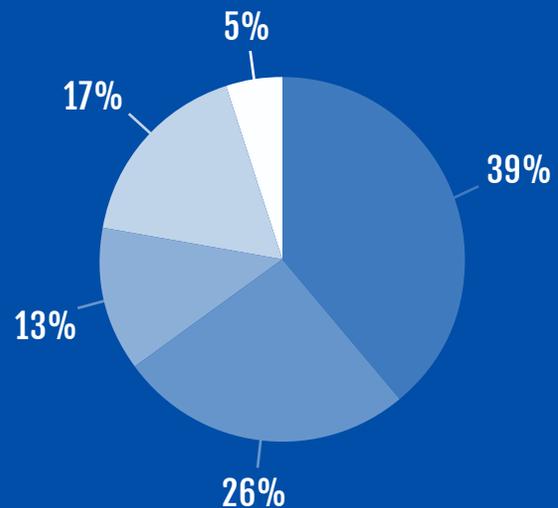
# FINANCIAL DATA

## 2018 REVENUE \$2.8 MILLION



- CONTRIBUTIONS
- CONFERENCES
- FUNDRAISING EVENTS
- CORPORATE SUPPORT
- OTHER REVENUE

## 2018 EXPENSES \$2.9 MILLION



- PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY
- CORE SERVICES
- EDUCATION & AWARENESS
- FUNDRAISING
- MANAGEMENT & GENERAL

## REVENUE

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Contributions      | 1,556,798 |
| Conferences        | 225,502   |
| Fundraising Events | 556,704   |
| Corporate Support  | 158,990   |
| Other Revenue      | 31,255    |

**2,768,172**

**Change in net Assets: (136,701)**

## EXPENSES

### PROGRAM EXPENSES

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Core Services            | 1,131,533 |
| Education & Awareness    | 750,315   |
| Public Policy & Advocacy | 387,812   |

### SUPPORT SERVICES

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Fundraising          | 493,245 |
| Management & General | 141,968 |

**2,904,873**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Joseph P. Joyce**  
*CPCU, CWCA,  
Executive Chair*



**Lori A. Ireland**  
*Vice Chair*



**Tracey Staley**  
*Treasurer*



**Lars Perner**  
*Ph.D., Secretary,  
PSA Chair*



**Scott Badesch**  
*President/CEO*



**Carly Fulgham**



**Neal Beggan**



**Michael J. Brown**  
*Esq.*



**John Hussman**  
*Ph.D.*



**Ryan Lockard**



**Howard Miller**



**William Parker**



**Brian Roth**



**Pete Schwarz**



**Curt Warner**



**Richard Wolf**

# THANK YOU

## FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

Without you, our work would not be possible. The Autism Society sincerely thanks each and every one of you for your generosity, passion and commitment to the autism community.

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*Autism Society is making a true difference in the lives of those in our autism community. As a professional speaker I'm never surprised to find an Autism Society affiliate member or supporter in the audience who says the same exact thing. As a member of Autism Society's Panel of People on the Spectrum Advisors, I've met even more wonderful people who are dedicated to creating widespread opportunities for our community.*

### **Kerry Magro**

*Professional Speaker, Best-Selling Author, Autism Entertainment Consultant, Nonprofit Founder & Autism Society of America Panel of People on the Spectrum*

