



# WE SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY...

WE ARE THE AUTISM SOCIETY



## SUPPORTING ADULTS ON THE SPECTRUM

“I love the Autism Society and its network because they develop amazing programs and services that focus on improving the quality of life for people with autism. Now, as a member of the Autism Society's Panel of People on the Spectrum Advisors, I have had the unique opportunity to provide career coaching to many of my fellow autistics. There's nothing better than knowing that someone is succeeding in a role that they otherwise wouldn't have because of your help.”

— Carly Fulgham, Autism Society of America Panel of People on the Spectrum and 2018 Volunteer of the Year; Vice President, Autism Society of California; President, Autism Society of Ventura



**Scott Badesch**  
President/CEO  
Autism Society of America

We see things differently at the Autism Society and to us, different is great. For those who do not know where to turn. For those seeking answers. For those looking for hope. We are here to help them navigate through the journey of autism.

For more than 50 years we have worked with individuals and families living with autism maximize their quality of life to ensure they are treated with the highest level of dignity and live in a society in which their talents and skills are appreciated and valued.

We are proud of the successes over the last year, headlined by serving over 650,000 people with autism and their families, 196,000 calls and emails through our National Contact Center, and 11,000 first responders trained on autism sensitivity and awareness. Our work is just beginning—we are painfully aware that millions of individuals live with autism in the United States and are still waiting for and need our help.



**1 in 59 children are diagnosed with autism.**  
This is up from 1 in 10,000 in 1970.



**7 in 10 adults with autism are either unemployed or underemployed.**



**Most adults with autism live only on SSI income of approximately \$750 per month or \$9,000 per year. This is well below the \$15,000 Federal poverty level.**



**Joseph P. Joyce**  
CPCU, CWCA, Executive Chair  
Autism Society of America

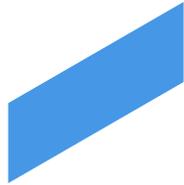
No other organization possesses our proven track record or our unique combination of services. At the same time, the urgency of the millions of individuals and families impacted by autism need support and tools to navigate through the complex issues of autism. By improving access to programs, services, and support directly where people live and work through our 80 affiliates in 37 states, we help to ensure that all those on the spectrum are equipped with the resources they need to succeed and improve their quality of life.

Starting this year and in conjunction with our 80 affiliates, we've begun our work to measure the impact of how we are helping to increase one's quality of life by helping individuals become self-sufficient, independent, improve their communication, and find employment. These quality of life measures define our success.

We're building new partnerships, listening to our community, and looking to quickly respond to the needs of those living with autism. We look forward to sharing our impact, our vision, and most importantly, working together in the year to come.

**Scott Badesch**  
President/CEO  
Autism Society of America

**Joseph P. Joyce**  
CPCU, CWCA, Executive Chair  
Autism Society of America



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# AUTISM SOCIETY IMPACT REPORT 2017

How you helped the Autism Society support individuals and families where they live and work through our network of more than 80 affiliates in 37 states.

## EDUCATION, SUPPORT, AND COMMUNITY BUILDING



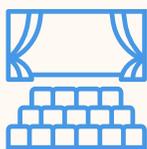
**650,000**  
people with autism and their families served.



**196,000**  
calls and emails through our National Contact Center and across our affiliates.



**143**  
summer camps for 4,690 campers with autism.



**24,800**  
people attended sensory friendly movie screenings.



**4,350**  
Support groups for 50,000 people with autism.



**11,000** first responders trained on autism sensitivity and awareness.

## PUBLIC POLICY



Over 250 advocates participated in Capitol Hill Day to educate Congress on employment, safety, health etc.



Advocated passage for Kevin and Avonte's Law protecting health and safety of individuals with autism.



Led the charge to reauthorize Autism CARES Act providing research, education, and development of evidence based services.

## QUALITY OF LIFE MEASURES

We define success through key Quality of Life Indicators. We surveyed people who contacted our National Contact Center and 7 in 10 people told us, after receiving services, they felt **more capable of:**



Communicating and expressing themselves in a meaningful way.



Improving their health and well-being and accessing needed services.



Pursuing dreams and achieving their aspirations.



# THE POWER OF OUR NETWORK

The National network has reached over 650K individuals and families throughout the United States. These individuals and families were impacted through the following avenues: Information and Referrals (I&R), Support, Community events/connections, Advocacy, and Education. A key connecting point for the National network is educating its audience through local, state, and national conferences. Over 30 were held over the year, including the Autism Society National Conference held in July 2017. See charts highlighting the successes below.

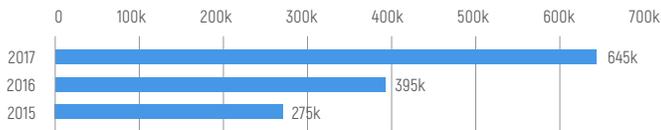
	Impacted Over 30K	Impacted Over 100K
<b>Information &amp; Referrals (I&amp;R):</b> Providing individual assistance with navigating services through information and referrals		
<b>Support:</b> Topic based groups, serving as an additional support system to individuals and families		
<b>Education:</b> Webinars, workshops, conferences and additional professional skills and development for constituents to better support themselves and family members		

The organization relies upon the tremendous work and support of the local and state affiliates as they support individuals and their families navigating services in their home state/town. As the National Network works to impact the lives of individuals with autism, the organization prides itself on its Quality of Life Outcomes (listed below). To highlight, over 70% have improved their communication skills, more comfortable and equipped to express themselves and successfully interact with others; over 50-60% in all other outcomes areas.

- 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

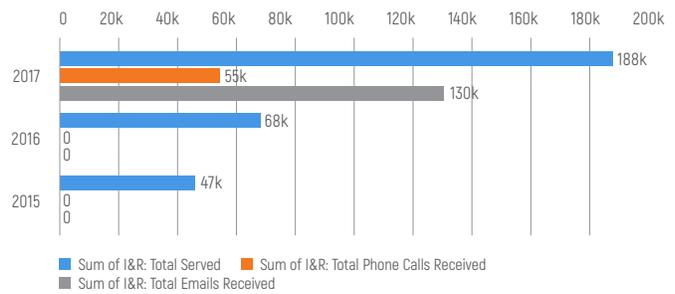
### AFFILIATE TOTAL SERVED: YEAR OVER YEAR

Sum of Total Served: Individuals



### AFFILIATE I&R: YEAR OVER YEAR

Sum of I&R: Total Served. Sum of I&R: Total Phone Calls Received. Sum of I&R: Total Emails Received.



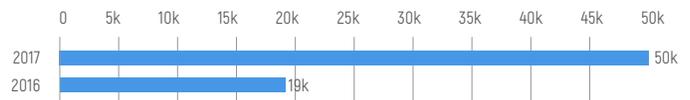
### AFFILIATE EMPLOYMENT REPORT

Sum of Paid Staff: Full-Time. Sum of Paid Staff: Part-Time. Sum of Total Volunteer Staff



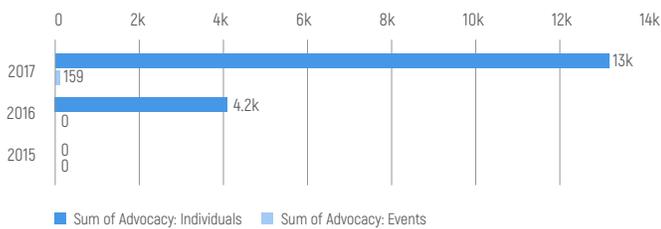
### AFFILIATE SUPPORT: YEAR OVER YEAR

Sum of Support: Groups (Ind)



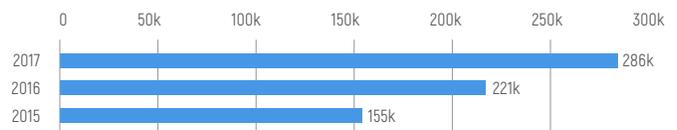
### AFFILIATE TOTAL ADVOCACY: YEAR OVER YEAR

Sum of Advocacy: Individuals. Sum of Advocacy: Events



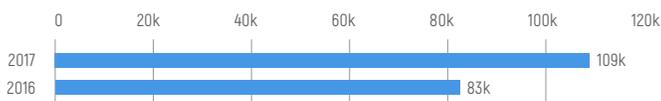
### AFFILIATE COMMUNITY: YEAR OVER YEAR

Sum of Community: Individuals



### AFFILIATE EDUCATION: YEAR OVER YEAR

Sum of Education: Individuals





# RAISING OUR VOICES



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Led by a strong Public Policy Committee and Board of Directors, the Autism Society works with the U.S. Congress and the Administration to increase the likelihood that children and adults with autism and their families will be healthy and have the right to fully participate in American society. We are unique in that we work for and with people on the autism spectrum.

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The Autism Society advocates at the federal level for comprehensive, affordable health care that includes long-term services and supports in the community. The Autism Society also advocates for improvements and enforcement of existing laws that support people with autism, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Social Security Act, Affordable Care Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Autism CARES Act, Kevin and Avonte's law, and other laws that benefit people with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Some of the successes in the 115th Congress include:

- **Passage of Kevin and Avonte's law** to promote safety and prevent elopement;
- **Passage of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act** that emphasizes inclusion of students with disabilities;
- **Protection of health care** for those with pre-existing conditions and access to Medicaid health and long term services;

- **Increased funding for special education** and other disability programs; and
- **Implementation of the ABLE Act** allowing individuals to save money for disability-related expenses.

The Autism Society provided written and oral testimony before Congress on issues related to employment and economic security for people with autism. We also submitted comments to the Administration in response to notices of rulemaking on education and civil rights issues. We work in coalition with other national disability and civil rights organizations to leverage our expertise and grassroots power to enact our policy agenda.

During the annual meeting of the Autism Society, over 200 people spent a full day on the Hill to educate their members of Congress about the needs of people with autism. The Breakfast on the Hill was attended by four congressional champions: Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ), Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and Representative Mike Doyle (D-PA), all co-sponsors of the Autism CARES Act.

Over the past year, the Autism Society developed new tools to increase our outreach and impact. Our online Action Center allows visitors to read and review sponsors



Above: Autism Society Affiliates pose with Rep. Pallone of New Jersey before heading to talk to their Members of Congress.

Right: New Jersey affiliates meet with Rep. Chris Smith.

Far Right: Autism Society Board Chairman, Joe Joyce, welcomes Rep. Mike Doyle of Pennsylvania to address affiliates on the Hill.



of legislation that impact our constituents. Visitors can also easily respond to action alerts with letters that are emailed directly to their members of Congress.

During the 116th Congress, the Autism Society will introduce its leaders to new Members of Congress and educate them about the needs of people with autism as well as educate them about their important contributions.

We look forward to working with the new Congress to build bipartisan new legislation and public policy initiatives that increase opportunities for competitive integrated employment; improve education in schools; provide safety in the community; and increase capacity for services and supports that allow people with autism to live with their families or in homes in the community.



200+ people spent a full day on the Hill to educate their members of Congress about the needs of people with autism



# POISED FOR GROWTH?

Making a positive difference is what the Autism Society is about, and more than 80 cents of every dollar donated goes to serving and supporting those affected by autism. In fact, if you include the value of in-kind support, that jumps to 90 cents of every dollar.

To do all the good work we do requires committed and supportive donors, foundations, corporations and many volunteers. Thousands of individuals come together every year to support our work improving the lives of all affected by autism.

The Autism Society has consistently earned the trust of our donors and supporters who continue to rank us highest in trust, transparency, value, respect, and most importantly, outcomes.

Giving to the Autism Society is an investment in advancing the quality of life of people with autism. Whether a gift comes from elementary students doing a fund drive, a parent of a newly diagnosed child, or an individual with the ability to provide a transformational major gift, we value each and every donor.

We know that any contribution to us requires us to be responsive and make sure that the donor feels valued in the partnership they have with us.

Here are some other highlights of how we were supported in 2017:

In **January**, a Racers for Autism BBQ Fun Dinner Night was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma to honor and remember Bryan Clauson, who tragically died in a race car accident. Over the last 4 years, this event has raised over \$400,000 for the Autism Society.

In **March**, a family foundation provided us with a substantial gift to advance the work of our amazing affiliate network. In July, another family foundation provided a pool of funds to award program grants to our 80 affiliates.

In **April**, companies such as Sony Pictures Entertainment, Warner Brothers Entertainment, Ainsworth Pet Nutrition, and Hyundai Motor America provided needed funding so we could have our very successful Autfest Film Festival in Los Angeles.

In **July**, Keystone Insurance Group sponsored the Fore Autism Golf Classic in Nashville, TN, that brought in \$87,000.

January

March

April

July



Throughout the year, we get donations from so many. Every month, individual donors provide gifts from \$5 to over \$10,000 or more through our direct mail and online campaigns. Our Board of Directors and staff are also donors. Thousands of federal, state and municipal government workers give every pay period thru payroll deductions, and dozens of corporations give to us through employee matching campaigns.

While we cherish every donation, we know that more dollars are needed to meet the growing demand. Right now, we are working to create programs and services that support those with autism through their lifespan. This includes creating customized employment opportunities, community based housing, and supporting parents with getting a correct diagnosis and treatment plan for their child.

Every month, individual donors provide **gifts** from **\$5** to over **\$10,000** or more through our direct mail and online campaigns.



**Bryan Clauson**, who tragically died in a race car accident, was a strong supporter of the Autism Society of America and through his efforts over **\$400,000** has been raised.

In **October**, Redskin football player Ziggy Hood hosted a Halloween Bash to benefit Autism, raising over \$20,000.

In **November**, individuals on Facebook started asking friends to donate to the Autism Society in honor of their birthday, wedding or other special occasions. In the first month of this effort, we received over \$35,000!

And in **December**, we received a very large check from a donor who wished to remain anonymous, simply because this person valued our work and effort.

October

November

December

## WORKING CLOSELY WITH AUTISM PROFESSIONALS



"I have always been impressed by the Autism Society of America's grass roots nature and true dedication to individuals with autism spectrum disorder as well as families. As the chair of the Panel of Professional Advisors I see a group of top notch autism professionals who readily give of their time and expertise to support the mission of the society because they know that the Autism Society does make a difference in lives."

— Barbara Becker-Cottrill, Autism Society of America Panel of Professional Advisors; Autism Society National Board member

## COLLABORATING WITH BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

I am one of the founders of Ventures ATL- a nonprofit that creates sustainable jobs for adults on the autism spectrum. Our partnership with the Autism Society has been extremely important to our growth in a couple of important respects. First, the support of the Autism Society has helped us grow our data management service and hire more employees. Second, the Autism Society has helped spread the word about the Autism Awareness Dooney & Bourke handbags for which our employees perform all the product fulfillment services. We are honored to have such a meaningful relationship with the Autism Society as it has helped us provide more jobs for these deserving individuals.

— Chet Hurwitz, Board Chair, Ventures ATL,  
Autism Society Business Supporter





## Friends on Facebook

donated to the Autism Society in honor of their birthday, wedding or other special occasions.

We received over

# \$35,000

in the first month alone!



## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED AND SUPPORT OUR WORK?

There are many ways you can support our work through your time, talent and treasure. Here are some things to consider:

- 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).
- Sign up for our Autism Matters monthly newsletter, <https://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: <https://www.facebook.com/fundraisers>
- Donate a portion of every Amazon.com purchase to the Autism Society using AmazonSmile. For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to <http://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).



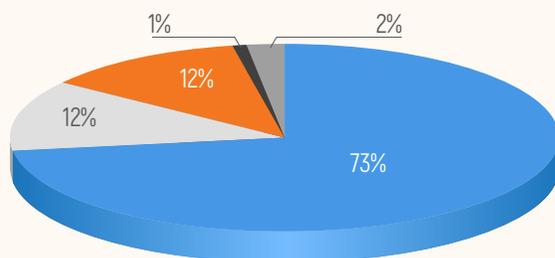
# FINANCIAL DATA

## Revenue

Contributions	1,838,334
National Conference	293,120
Events	315,686
Corporate Support	35,000
Other Revenue	47,109

**2,529,249**

2017 Revenue \$2.5 Million



- Contributions
- National Conference
- Events
- Corporate Support
- Other Revenue

## Expenses

### Program Expenses:

Core Services	761,805
Education & Awareness	839,833
Public Policy & Advocacy	415,359

### Support Services:

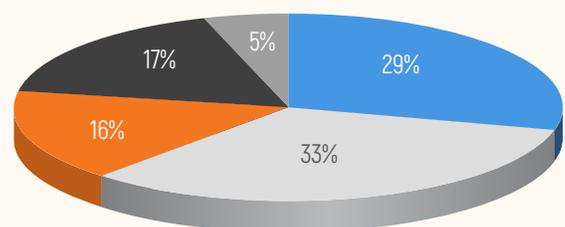
Fundraising	442,990
Management & General	127,679

**2,587,666**

### Change in Net Assets:

(58,417)

2017 Expenses \$2.6 Million



- Core Services
- Education & Awareness
- Public Policy & Advocacy
- Fundraising
- Management & General

# 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



**Donna G. Andrus**  
P.E.



**Jon Basinger**



**Neal Beggan**



**Michael J. Brown**  
Esq.



**Catherine  
Purple Cherry**  
AIA, LEED AP



**Barbara  
Becker Cottrill**



**Andres Filippi**



**Benjamin  
E. Hodgin**



**John Hussman**  
Ph.D.



**Howard Miller**



**Terry Murphy**



**Kate Palmer**



**William Parker**



**Brian Roth**



**Kristyn Roth**



**Pete Schwarz**



**Curt Warner**



**Richard Wolf**



## HELPING PARENTS

“About a year ago, I was at my wits end. My nine-year-old son kept finding himself in the principal’s office. I felt frustrated, helpless and overwhelmed. Then I connected with Catherine, an Autism Source™ Specialist at the Autism Society’s National Contact Center. She armed us with tools and resources to really advocate for my son. I partnered with the school to create a positive learning environment for him. Now Donovan likes going to school. The Autism Society made a very positive impact on our family.”

— Caroline W., Michigan, Mom



4340 East-West Hwy, Suite 350  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814



1 (800) 328-8476



[www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)