



2022 Annual Report

The connection is **you.**[™]

Letter from our Leaders



Since 1965, the Autism Society of America and our nationwide network of 70+ affiliates empower the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully. We meet people wherever they are in their journey and our impact pillars center on education, advocacy, support, information and referral services, and community programming. As the nation's oldest and largest grassroots Autism organization, our expansive impact is reflected both at the national level, and throughout local communities. The Autism Society's commitment to showcasing the diversity within the Autism community and authentic representation is essential to promoting understanding and acceptance of Autistic individuals.

In 2022, hundreds of thousands of Autistic individuals, family members, and caregivers turned to the Autism Society and its affiliates for information & referral services, support, and to participate in community events. Approximately 1 million people accessed resources and educational materials at our national website, and 214k people attended events across the country, demonstrating the desire for information, connection, and community. Relatedly, the Autism Society National Helpline saw a 238% increase in calls and emails from 2021, as more people turn to the organization for trusted, quality support.



The Autism Society continued to reach individuals, family members, and caregivers through our Vaccine Education Initiative (VEI). We believe that increasing vaccine confidence is a crucial and necessary step towards improving overall health equity in the Autism community. Throughout 2022, the Autism Society trained 1,252 healthcare professionals and held 33 vaccine clinics through this initiative. We believe our continued work through the VEI will work towards a more accessible, equitable future for people with Autism and their loved ones in the healthcare space.

In April, the Autism Society and our affiliate network continued its fourth annual #CelebrateDifferences campaign in honor of Autism Acceptance Month. Our efforts to designate April as "Autism Acceptance Month," a progression from "Autism Awareness Month", continued to be seen across the Autism community. Throughout the month, we proudly partnered with multiple organizations who demonstrated acceptance in action through this campaign and beyond. These partnerships allow us to support the wider community with tools, resources and products that serve Autistic individuals and their loved ones, and enhance their internal employment and cultural practices.



There are approximately

5.4 million

Autistic adults in the US.

1 in 36 children

are diagnosed with Autism,
the fastest-growing developmental
disorder in the United States.

Children who receive an
Autism diagnosis by age 4, are

50x more likely

to receive services.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
occurs in all racial, ethnic, and
socioeconomic groups, but is

4x more common

in males than females.

As dedicated advocates for the Autism community, The Autism Society is grateful for the ongoing and generous support of our donors for being the connection - allowing us to provide essential services and supports. Because of your commitment in 2022, we've connected over half a million people in the Autism community with resources and advocacy to create a world where all those with Autism can live to their fullest extent. Above all, to eliminate feelings of isolation, we create connections to each other, facilitating a community of acceptance.

All of us at the Autism Society recognize your role in ensuring that Autistic individuals and their loved ones can connect with each other, with resources, and with supports and services so that they may live full, vibrant, self-actualized lives.

Thank you to all of the individuals, families, corporations, and foundations that have played a crucial role in fulfilling our mission and positively impacting the lives of so many in 2022 and beyond. Your contributions help us grow the movement to ensure that every person with Autism is seen and accepted.

The connection is you.

Christopher S. Banks

Christopher Banks
President/CEO

Tracey Staley

Tracey Staley
Chair of the Board

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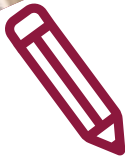
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The Autism Society’s timeless commitment to the dignity and potential of people on the Autism Spectrum and families like mine, evidenced every hour of every day of every year, has impacted the lives of millions of people in ways that the most sophisticated models cannot accurately measure. I consider myself fortunate to have an opportunity to serve our community through the Autism Society of America.

– Jose Velasco, Board Member, Autism Society of America

Autism Society Impact Report

In 2022, the Autism Society of America continued our impact in the Autism community and fulfilled our mission to create connections, empowering everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully. We advocated to address health inequities, expanded our reach, and continued to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands. Through our work, individuals connected with each other, with resources, and with supports and services to live full, vibrant, self-actualized lives.



Approximately **1 million people** accessed resources and education materials through national's website

46,700 people visited our "What Is Autism?" resource pages

 **5k people** attended Autism Society conferences



4,300+ first responders received training on safely and effectively interacting with the Autism community

Served over 8,300 people through our affiliates "Autism 101" programs



Approximately **1,700 people** attended employment workshops

27% of people needed support "Navigating Services" and 15% sought help surrounding "Adult Services"

49% of National Helpline inquiries

came from Parent/Guardians, while Autistic adults represented our second highest inquirers at 18%



130k people contacted Autism Society helplines nationwide; the National Helpline specifically saw **137% increase** over 2021 inquiries

2,243 letters were sent to members of Congress from advocates through the Autism Society Action Center



Almost 600 letters were sent to members of Congress to urge the FDA to take action to ban electric shock devices

Vaccine Education Initiative



Since the onset of the global pandemic, people with Autism and other developmental disabilities continued to face unique challenges and uncertainty. In early 2022, the Autism Society launched the Vaccine Education Initiative (VEI) to promote vaccine awareness, increase vaccine confidence, and improve access to vaccine clinics. Establishing confidence is a crucial step towards improving the lives of people with Autism, their families, and communities as we all work towards creating health equity in the Autism community.

Individuals Served Nationwide Year Over Year



Approximately **35k attendees** attended **3,600 support groups** nationwide

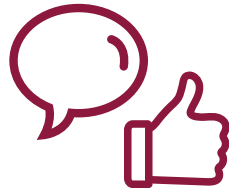


13,706 parents attended **1,216 support groups** across the country



9k people attended advocacy events

Autism Society advocated for 42 bills, and successfully helped pass key legislation including, the ABLE Age Adjustment Act, the reauthorization of Kevin and Avonte's Law, and the Assistive Technologies Act



Social media audiences grew **over 235% across all channels**

158k+ engagements with National's posts and content on social media



Over 8,000 events were held nationwide

1,460 individuals attended water safety and wandering events

Over 2022, our work with the VEI impacted the healthcare and Autism community in the following ways:

- Piloted the VEI program in 12 affiliates across 8 states representing rural, urban, and suburban communities
- 2,335 vaccine kits were distributed nationwide
- 1,252 healthcare professionals were trained on how to create a sensory friendly vaccine experience for individuals with Autism
- 561 individuals with Autism were given vaccinations
- 35 accessible vaccine clinics were hosted across the country

214,584 people attended events across the country; over 10k more people attended events in '22 vs '21



I think I'm unbiased when I say that I was given extraordinary care and personal attention when comparing her service to the rest of the online and in person world.

– Helpline Testimonial



I am truly thankful for your help. This is new to us, it's like a new world, I am truly blessed for the resources and for actually answering us back. We have had no luck {previously}.

– Helpline Testimonial



Better Together

Our impact at the Autism Society relies upon the tremendous work and support of our approximately 70 local and state affiliates.

Through our network, we have a national reach with meaningful, local impact. Our affiliates served over 335,000 individuals, families, and caregivers within the Autism community in 2022. Grassroots advocacy allows us to serve Autistic individuals and community members with localized services and supports. The commitment, dedication, and resiliency of our affiliate network has strengthened our impact and connection to the Autism community.

Investing in our Network

The Autism Society supports our national network of affiliates in the areas of marketing, public policy, operations, governance, development, education, affiliate connection.

- National provided over **5,400 staff hours** to supporting affiliates.
- Developed **100+ marketing resources** including toolkit assets, event materials, campaign resources, downloadable graphics and more.
- National team members attended almost **50 affiliate events nationwide**.
- National hosted **23 webinars** focusing on monthly meetings, topical trainings, and affiliate requested learning sessions.
- **13 marketing toolkits** provided marketing assets, messaging, and campaign resources.
- Autism Society hosted a **three-day Affiliate Training Event** to educate affiliate leaders, board members and staff on strategies and best practices to achieve growth and organizational success.

“

I have been on almost the entirety of the 3 days, and have to tell you how impressed I am with what you all have put together under challenging circumstances: great information, well packaged and presented! All has gone very smoothly. Thanks for what I know has been a lot of hard work!

– Sara Spragens, President, Autism Society of the Bluegrass



Autism Society Tidewater

Collaborated with support of local partners to launch a new program titled “Love on the Spectrum,” a nod to the popular Netflix show. This program was created in response to feedback from local community members requesting help with dating or navigating more complex relationships. The 12-week relational program focused on various types of relationships, working towards individual and group goals. They also discussed the following topics: what is dating, the “dos” and “don’t” of dating, first impressions, small talk, thinking of others, hygiene and attire, personal space, dating safety, finding a compatible mate, handling rejection and other feelings.

Autism Society Northwestern Pennsylvania

Created the “Friends and Pals Teen Social Club” and “Bridge to Success” program for individuals aged 13-21 in response to teens feeling isolated and alone in school settings. This program allows individuals to work on various social and communication skills to get them connected with each other. During the evening, they have dinner together and incorporate relationship development activities. The program started 6 years ago with 15 kids and has grown to 37 participants who now meet on a weekly basis.

Autism Society of Indiana

Used grant and private funds to equip first responders across the state with communication boards. The communication boards will serve as a tool to assist police, fire fighters, and EMS providers to communicate with Autistic individuals, including those who are non-speaking. The communication boards will assist in the increase of positive interactions between first responders and the Autism community. Board President, Kristie Lofland, shared “It’s extremely important that we have a way for a non-speaking individual to communicate with first responders, but it is equally important for the first responders to be able to communicate with that person and understand what they need.”

Autism Society San Diego

Hosted their 3rd annual Lights! Camera! Autism! event designed to showcase all of the talent in the community for Autism Acceptance Month. Every aspect of the event highlighted the strengths and talents within the Autism community including, a showcase of 25 local artists, musical entertainment, and film presentations by and about Autistic individuals. The special guest was Max Park, a person with Autism, and a Rubix Cube World Champion. During the event, they featured the Netflix film about him and he showed off his Rubix Cube skills. In addition, the catering for the event was provided by a company that teaches and employs Autistic individuals, and the gift bags included goodies made by the Autism community.

“ This year, every single session was jam-packed with useful and impactful information all of which can benefit my affiliate now or in the future.

– Affiliate Conference Participant

Actionable Advocacy

Public Policy 2022 Achievements

The Autism Society has made significant strides in advancing public policy initiatives that positively impact individuals with Autism and their families. Throughout 2022, our dedicated efforts have yielded remarkable achievements that further our mission, and improve the lives of those within the Autism community.

Increased Funding for Autism Programs

In the past year, our advocacy efforts successfully led to increased funding for several critical programs supporting individuals with Autism. Within the Fiscal Year 2023 omnibus bill, we tirelessly campaigned for and secured additional funding for programs in 2022 such as IDEA, early intervention, respite care, and DD Act programs. These enhanced funding allocations will enable better support and services for individuals with Autism, empowering them to reach their full potential.

Passage of Vital Legislation

Multiple pieces of legislation aligned with our legislative goals for the 117th Congress were successfully passed. The ABLE Age Adjustment Act, an extension of the Money Follows the Person program, is among the more notable achievements. Additionally, bills to reauthorize Kevin and Avonte's Law and the Assistive Technology Act received approval in the final days of Congress. These legislative victories signify our commitment to advocating for policies that safeguard the rights and well-being of individuals with Autism.



Ban on Electric Shock Devices

Through our powerful Autism Society Action Center, we mobilized advocates to send over 600 letters to Congress, urging them to prioritize banning electric shock devices. With half of these letters featuring personal stories, we effectively conveyed the importance of this issue. As a result of our collective efforts, Congress included language authorizing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to take action to ban these devices. This significant milestone in our advocacy work will protect individuals with Autism from harmful and inhumane practices.

State Policy Success

In 2022, the Autism Society of America began working with Affiliates to promote and advance different state policies. Our first state policy win came in Ohio, where a bill was signed into law to include Autism in the Missing Adult Alert system. This achievement was made possible through the tireless efforts of our seven affiliates in Ohio, who played a crucial role in educating state legislators and their staff on Autism and safety issues. Additionally, we have five bills currently pending in other states, demonstrating our commitment to expanding these critical policies nationwide.

Continued Advocacy Efforts

The Autism Society of America remains dedicated to advocating to:



Expand access to health and long term services and supports



Authorize funding for law enforcement and first responder training

Collaboration for a Stronger Voice

The Autism Society of America collaborates with the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD), the nation's largest coalition of organizations representing individuals with disabilities, families, and professionals. Within CCD, we provide leadership on the Developmental Disabilities, Autism, and Family Support and Education Task Force. Through this powerful coalition, we amplify our voice on Capitol Hill and effectively advocate for policies that benefit individuals with Autism and their families.

Disability Policy Seminar (DPS)

In March 2022, the Autism Society co-sponsored the annual Disability Policy Seminar (DPS) held in Washington, DC. This prestigious event drew over 900 disability advocates from across the United States. The seminar featured enlightening sessions with notable representatives, including HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, ACL Administrator Alison Barkoff, Education Assistant Secretary Katy Neas, and Jennifer Mathis from the DOJ Office on Civil Rights. Additionally, influential Members of Congress, including Senators Bob Casey (PA) and Chris Murphy (CT), shared their perspectives, emphasizing the urgent need for increased funding for home and community-based services (HCBS). Majority Whip James Clyburn (SC) highlighted the importance of voting. Advocates then utilized the knowledge gained during the DPS to engage in virtual and in-person meetings with legislators on Capitol Hill, effectively educating them about the needs of individuals with Autism.



Advocacy Highlights

- **2,200 people sent letters** to their representatives in support of the ABLÉ Age Adjustment Act, authorization for the FDA to take action to ban electric shock devices, reauthorization of the Kevin and Avonte's Law and the Assistive Technology Act.
- The Autism Society of America had over **200 meetings** with federal legislators.
- **24 Capitol Connection newsletters** sent throughout the year.



Promote employment opportunities



Increase funding for all programs that support people with Autism and families



Prevent use of dangerous restraints and seclusion in schools



Celebrate Differences

As the nation's oldest leading grassroots Autism organization, millions of people have engaged with our network and helped spread our message to positively impact more individuals. Advocates, parents, loved ones, and professionals shared personal stories, advice, and their own resources to create connections. Our reach expanded to donors across the country, and the world,

to achieve a world where everyone in the Autism community is connected to the support they need, when they need it.

At the Autism Society, we are dedicated to being responsible stewards as we promote a more inclusive, accepting, and connected world as we provide supports and services throughout the lifespan.

Thank you

to the generosity of all of our donors who helped make an impact, including:

Make Waves Foundation, Embassy of the State of Qatar, Ireland Family Foundation, Hussman Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, Bike to the Beach Inc, Color Street Foundation, Jennifer and Billy Frist, Sanofi US, Susan Knox, Keystone Insurers Group, American Endowment Foundation, EMC Insurance Foundation, Nickelodeon - Paramount, TikTok, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Joe Ireland, Westfield Insurance Foundation, Curemark LLC, Imperial Premium Finance, Taxbiz USA, Stars & Strikes for Autism, Dynami Therapy, AIG, Eleanor Collins Boas Foundation, Immunize.org, Howard Miller, Donna and Hank Roth, Sea Foam Sales Company



Thank you to our donors who changed the lives of so many.

- The Autism Society **raised \$327K** during National Autism Acceptance Month.
- Longtime donors and friends, the **Ireland Family Foundation** continues to make an impact with families around the country through its generous giving.
- The **Hussman Foundation** continued its generous, annual support that provides grants to our affiliates to execute a variety of programs and events across the country.
- We are grateful for our collaborative partnership with **Liberty Mutual**, who's team has worked passionately and efficiently to support our technological needs as part of our strategic plan.



9,816 donations were made to the Autism Society of America

5,815 people donated to the Autism Society of America

1,345 people hosted Facebook Fundraisers, raising **\$103,950** - the power of peer-to-peer impact

\$298 is the average dollar amount donated; **up 140%** from 2021

Corporate Partnerships

Corporations have increasingly acknowledged that they have critical roles to play in creating a more accepting and inclusive culture for individuals with Autism, among other developmental disabilities and physical differences. The Autism Society has many partnerships with companies looking to support the wider community with tools, resources, and products that serve Autistic individuals and their loved ones, as well as enhance their internal employment and cultural practices.

Notable leaders in the corporate and entertainment worlds are committed to highlighting the critical need for acceptance, inclusion, and connections to support people with Autism across the lifespan. These partnerships underscore the many ways in which businesses can demonstrate acceptance and inclusion in their daily operations.

For employers, acceptance is an invaluable practice for the 5.4 million Autistic adults in the United States. At more than 70%, the underemployment and unemployment rate for Autistic individuals remains unacceptably high. The Autism Society believes that with appropriate support, and matching an individual's strengths and abilities, employment is attainable for the majority of Autistic individuals who want to work.

“

These partnerships come from a wide variety of industries and will have a true impact on our ability to bring acceptance and support to the Autistic community.

We hope their leadership in promoting initiatives like inclusion and neurodiverse hiring will encourage other companies to join our efforts.

**- Christopher Banks,
President/CEO,
Autism Society of America**



Autism Society of America's Premier Partners:

Liberty Mutual

Volunteers from the Liberty Mutual Insurance Technology team are partnering with the Autism Society of America on an ongoing digital transformation project. The project aims to drive efficiencies in business operations and better leverage data for member engagement. The end goal is to create a systems recommendation that encompasses all anticipated functionality for their national office and affiliates that utilize their systems. This represents a three-year implementation plan, keeping cost efficiency in mind.

Keystone Insurers Group

Keystone Insurers Group hosts this annual Fore Autism Golf Classic event at Westfield Golf Club in Virginia to support the Autism Society of America. In 2022, This event raised over \$155k. The winning team received an invite to play in a 72-hole cumulative scramble tournament at the Liberty Mutual Invitational National Finals in Kiawah Island Golf Resort, South Carolina.

Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo supported the Autism Society of America's employment initiative in 2022. The goal of this ongoing partnership is to help promote neurodiversity in the workplace and create opportunities for individuals with Autism. Employment initiatives will be expanded through the creation of a strong foundation, building knowledge and awareness, and equipping employers with the strategies necessary to support Autistic employees.



Embassy of Qatar

The Embassy of Qatar supports the Autism Society of America by hosting its Qatar Gala benefiting the Autism community. Since the onset of the pandemic, the Qatar Gala was placed on hold and plans to resume hosting this annual event in November of 2023.

Nickelodeon

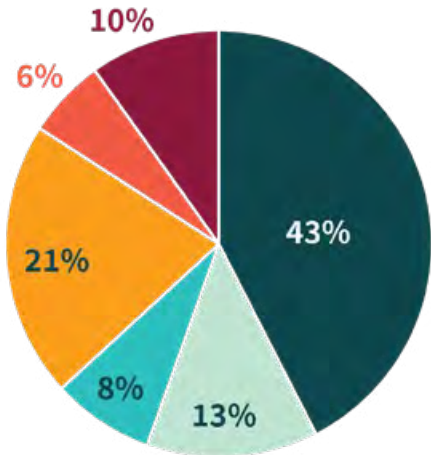
Our ongoing collaboration between Nickelodeon and the Autism Society of America includes education, content creation and learning resources for Autistic children. This partnership continues to produce meaningful content like its guide during Autism Acceptance Month guide, back-to-school resource back, and Autism storylines in Nick media.

Igloo

The Autism Society of America is proud to continue our collaboration with Igloo Coolers. During Autism Acceptance Month in 2022, Igloo offered a branded Autism Society playmate cooler incorporating our new brand assets. 100% of all net proceeds were donated to support our efforts surrounding employment, first responder training, and our National Helpline.

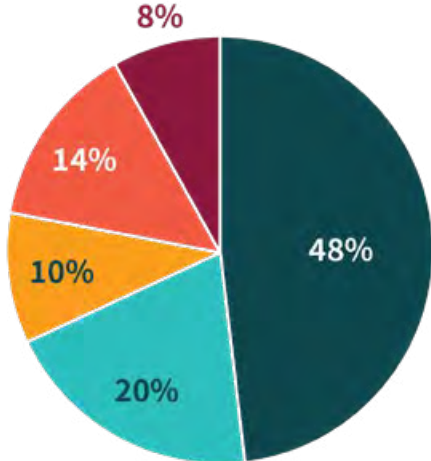
Financial Data

2022 Revenue \$3.2M



- Annual Fund
- Restricted Revenue
- Major Gifts
- Reserve Loan Funding
- Fundraising Events
- Bequests

2022 Expenses \$3.5M



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

Revenue

Annual Fund	\$1,347,218
Major Gifts	\$390,081
Fundraising Events	\$239,475
Restricted Revenue	\$671,637
Bequests	\$199,918
Reserve & Loan Funding	\$305,914

\$3,154,243

Expenses

Program Expenses

Core Services	\$1,694,683
Education & Awareness	\$706,721
Public Policy & Advocacy	\$340,703

Support Services

Fundraising	\$492,966
Management & General	\$289,990

\$3,525,063

Change in net Assets: (\$676,734)*

*excluding reserve and loan funding



Ways to Get Involved

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 AutismSociety.org/donate.
- You can also review all giving options on our website at AutismSociety.org/ways-to-give.
- Attend or sponsor an event like our golf tournament, affiliate training event, annual gala or Autism Acceptance Month.
- Include Autism Society in your will. To help you start your planned gift, you can use our online will-writing tool created by our partner, [FreeWill](https://FreeWill.com), and write your will in 20 minutes online, completely for free.
- Donate a life insurance policy, or an unwanted vehicle.
- Donate as part of the Combined Federal Campaign or other workplace giving campaign. We are CFC #11808.
- Create your own personal Facebook fundraiser benefiting Autism Society at: facebook.com/fund/AutismSociety.
- Take action and support our public policy efforts through our online Action Center at: takeaction.AutismSociety.org.

If you are interested in learning more about supporting the Autism Society of America, please contact our development staff at:

development@autism-society.org



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The National office has been a great partner in helping us create and distribute new resources to our entire community. Not only have they created excellent national resources, but they have also been gracious and collaborative when we needed to customize them for our local community. We worked together on a grant project which had a group of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) users create a new Communication Toolkit for individuals who are non-speaking during an emergency. This resource has been distributed across California and would not have been possible without their assistance.

**- Beth Burt, Executive Director,
Autism Society Inland Empire**

Governance



Being part of this network of organizations is a powerful thing. We can draw on the guidance and experience of over 60 other affiliates regarding governance, operations and programming. And the resources provided by the Autism Society of America connect us to a national conversation around disability advocacy and policy development that benefit not only our local community, but Autistic individuals and families across the country.

– Melissa Rosenberg, Executive Director,
Howard County Autism Society

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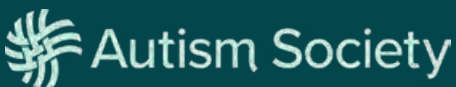
Joseph Joyce

Howard Miller

Tracey Staley

Brian Roth

The connection is you.™



A sincere thank you for the dedicated work, commitment and passion from the Autism Society of America team.

Our work is possible because of you. The Autism Society sincerely thanks each and every one of you for being the connection. Because of you, more people within the Autism community are connected to the support they need, when they need it.

800.328.8476 | [AutismSociety.org](https://www.AutismSociety.org)

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