2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

We improve lives, support families, and educate communities... together!
Campers support each other by holding up their part of the parachute. This year, our donors supported us and made so much possible.
As we begin this new year, we want to thank you for your support in 2021. The past year presented many challenges, but the autism community in our state has worked together to ensure that loved ones can build fulfilling lives and families can receive the support they need. Together, we have impacted, in a meaningful way, the lives of more than 43,000 individuals who received direct supports. We’ve also taught an additional 334,000 how to support individuals with autism through our outreach efforts. Our impact has been remarkable as a result of the individuals and families we work with, our incredible Autism Society of North Carolina staff, and our donors. We would like to thank each one of you.

• To the loved ones with autism who give us the opportunity to help you reach your goals, thank you for all you contribute to our communities and our lives. We are here because we love working with you.
• To the families we serve, thank you for letting us be a part of your lives. We see how hard you work to support your loved ones, and it inspires us.
• To the Autism Society of North Carolina staff, thank you for giving so selflessly, for taking so much pride in your work, and for seeking every opportunity to make a difference.
• To our donors, thank you for your leadership and friendship and for your generous donations during this unprecedented time.

Over the past 50 years, our family has grown, and each of you has become an important part of it. While we wish that we weren’t still facing the challenges associated with COVID-19, we have seen the strength and resiliency of our community, and we know there is no stronger community than the autism community. Working together, we achieved much to celebrate:

• We continued to work with state officials and legislators to ensure that our communities are able to meet the specific needs of people on the spectrum. We are pleased that legislators worked together to pass the State Budget, which contains an unprecedented number of provisions that will benefit those with autism.
• Our frontline staff continued to serve hundreds of individuals in their homes and in our residential programs with appropriate safety protocols.
• More than 300 adults with autism were helped with their job search by the Employment Supports program. Adults with autism are playing an important role in the economic recovery from COVID-19.
• More than 200 children and adults were able to experience the magic of summer camp at Camp Royall, and we continued to identify and implement new year-round offerings.
• We continued to serve children and adults in our programs across the state. Participants learned new skills and made new friends at Social Recreation, IGNITE, and our day programs.
• Our Autism Resource Specialists and Clinical Department supported individuals and families through one-on-one trainings, webinars, and consultations, while they educated communities through presentations and trainings.
• We worked to ensure that our efforts are equitable in reaching people of all backgrounds, and we will continue to work towards greater acceptance for neurodiversity.

Regardless of where you or your loved one is on the spectrum or phase of life, the Autism Society of North Carolina is here for you. Because we have each other, we have much to give us hope.

We are partners for a lifetime.

Chris Whitfield
Chair of the Board of Directors

Tracey Sheriff
Chief Executive Officer
**Our Mission**

The Autism Society of North Carolina improves the lives of individuals with autism, supports their families, and educates communities.

- **43,000** individuals with autism and their families received direct supports.
- **334,600** learned how to support individuals with autism through our outreach efforts.
A PARTNER FOR A LIFETIME

The Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC) is the leading statewide organization serving people across the spectrum throughout their lifetimes. We reach out to families when they learn their children have autism and work alongside them to ensure that their children build fulfilling adult lives.

The Autism Society of North Carolina provides individuals with autism, their families, and their communities with life-changing programs and supports unavailable anywhere else.

WHERE WE WORK

We have 13 locations throughout the state, supporting North Carolinians in all 100 counties.
The Autism Society of North Carolina’s high quality, direct-support services are tailored to the unique needs of individuals with autism and enable them to have healthy, safe, and fulfilling lives in their own communities.

Our expertise in home, work, and community settings helps individuals – many of whom have significant lifelong needs – reach their maximum level of independence and achieve their goals and dreams.

Our Eastern NC Social Recreation programs, supported by Trillium Health Resources, served 232 individuals.
Employment & Transition supports focus on job development, job placement and ongoing support, while incorporating skill development in other areas necessary for a successful transition to adulthood.

Clinical Services provide comprehensive treatment for all ages using evidence-based practices to develop meaningful skills and behaviors in the home, school, and community. Behavioral consultations are also available.

Skill-Building develops and improves communication skills, cultivates social skills, and fosters community integration through one-on-one support.

Reported outcomes from caregivers and participants include:

- **83%** reported an increase in receptive communication*
- **98%** reported their experience as Excellent or Good
- **91%** reported an increase in receptive communication*
- **84%** reported improvements in self-confidence

*Each of the above outcomes is significant because they address the core deficits of autism.

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333 improved
COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL SKILLS, & BEHAVIOR

100 counties served via
RAPID RESPONSE CLINICAL CONSULTATION telehealth

550+ CHILDREN & ADULTS GAINED SKILLS through one-to-one staffing

Skill-Building develops and improves communication skills, cultivates social skills, and fosters community integration through one-on-one support.

300+ gained skills to obtain & maintain employment

Employment & Transition supports focus on job development, job placement and ongoing support, while incorporating skill development in other areas necessary for a successful transition to adulthood.

710+ LEARNED NEW SKILLS & MADE FRIENDS

Social Recreation provides camps, afterschool programs, respite care, adult programs, and social groups, to help individuals improve their social and communication skills, peer networks, and physical well-being.
ENSURING A STRONG START

Kai was diagnosed with autism when he was two years old. His mom could tell that something was missing because Kai rarely cried or asked her for anything.

With help from the Autism Society of North Carolina, Kai learned to tell his parents when he needed something, and he started to acknowledge and play with his baby sister. Kai then began working on the communication and social skills he needed to be ready for kindergarten.

On his first day of school, Kai’s mom wrote on a chalkboard that kindergarten was the first step to college. When Kai read the sign, he told his mom that the sign was incorrect. Kindergarten wasn’t the first step, he told her. His time at the Autism Society of North Carolina was his first step to college.

Kai’s mom said the Autism Society of North Carolina was the answer to a prayer. “My hope as a mom is for him to feel loved and be accepted. I want him to have the same start as everybody else.”

With the Autism Society of North Carolina, Kai was able to get the best start possible, and Kai’s parents had a place where they knew their son was safe and loved unconditionally.
This year, we created a new dedicated clinical space at our Wilmington location for the LifeLong Interventions (LLI) program. This space was made possible by a matching grant created by the Cape Fear Memorial Foundation, which supports organizations providing services that improve the health and wellness of the people of southeastern North Carolina.

The new space was developed to support the needs of multiple age groups, learning styles, and sensory preferences. One large room is primarily used for older children and teens for both individual and social group sessions, and includes sensory materials, games, comfortable seating, electronic learning and leisure activities, and a group hang-out space to allow for both individual and group activities.

The other large room focuses on the needs of younger learners, with the goals of improving daily living skills and academic readiness, building language and social skills, and minimizing challenging behavior. This area has different learning and play areas to support social development and interaction, sensory and pretend play, creative play, group learning, and physical activity.

“We are grateful to Cape Fear Memorial Foundation for their matching grant. Our new space in Wilmington is a motivating and enriching environment for building skills and engaging with others.”

Whitney Sukonick, LifeLong Interventions Director
WE SUPPORT FAMILIES TOGETHER

The Autism Society of North Carolina empowers families by helping them to understand their options, learn best practices, and connect with community resources.

We help them care for their children at home and in the community and see them through times of crisis.

We are there for families from the time of diagnosis, through the school years, and into their child’s adult life.
Autism Resource Specialists are available to guide families in all 100 counties of North Carolina. They are all parents of children or adults with autism themselves, as well as trained professionals with many years of experience.

Chapters and Support Groups provide families an opportunity to encourage one another, share experiences and solutions, and have a place where they feel understood.

Direct supports and programs keep children with autism in their communities and maintain quality of life for all family members.

Reported outcomes from caregivers include:

- 100% are better equipped to manage challenging behaviors as a result of clinical consultation.
- 86% are able to teach their child new skills as a result of clinical consultation.
- 100% of families with a newly diagnosed child received a resource packet and a phone call from an ARS.

5,900+ people learned about resources and how to solve problems from Autism Resource Specialists.

310+ #help meetings attended by ARS to help families and individuals on issues such as IEPs or understanding a diagnosis.

29,700+ families received support from our Chapters and Support Groups with outreach to underserved populations.

91 Chapters & Support Groups provided support to individuals and families.

309 families assisted through crisis events.
A PLACE OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Jamie Hallman sent her twins Emily and Elizabeth to many camps when they were younger. None of them worked out, because those camps didn’t understand autism.

Then she found Camp Royall.

“We didn’t have to worry,” she says. “They could just be who they are. There’s not one thing that I’ve asked of Camp Royall that they were not able to deliver on.”

Camp Royall meets the needs of every individual. This summer, Emily and Elizabeth attended camp during a week when three other sets of twins were there. Each of those campers was unique, but their families had a lot in common. The families all shared that Camp Royall was the only place where their children could gain valuable skills and develop independence while the rest of the family enjoyed respite.

“It does get stressful for our family, especially the siblings, so this was a nice chance for everybody to get a break,” says Shari Wheeler, mom to Bryan and Ryan. “Camp benefitted them, especially Ryan, who is not the most outgoing kid. He’s not a very big smiler, and I can tell you, we saw some genuine smiles on this kid’s face. I knew he had a great time.”

At Camp Royall, campers are understood and loved for who they are, and that gives families peace of mind.
The annual Run/Walks for Autism bring our community together for fun and celebration, and the funds raised by participants support their local ASNC programs. At the 16th Annual WNC Run/Walk for Autism, Jesse Wills was recognized for raising $60,000 over the years for the event. For his efforts, Jesse received the inaugural Jesse Wills award, which will be given at the race each year to an individual with autism who demonstrates dedication to the Autism Society of North Carolina and advances the well-being of others on the spectrum.

“Jesse is a truly an inspiration to all of us because of his hard work ethic,” said Michael LePage, Regional Services Director, recounting Jesse’s work with his job coach and his determination to find a new job when his previous position was eliminated due to COVID-19. “And you can’t talk about Jesse’s work ethic without talking about the Wills family. Katie and Lewis are two of the strongest advocates for a son that I ever met. They epitomize the spirit of love, understanding, and achieving your highest potential.”

Katie Wills helped to organize the first WNC Run/Walks after seeing the support her son received from ASNC over the years.

“Jesse communicates on a daily basis that you don’t need to use words to communicate loud and clear, and that you don’t need to use words to be a valuable member of your community,” said LePage.

"WE ALL COULD BENEFIT FROM BEING A BIT MORE LIKE JESSE."
MICHAEL LEPAGE, REGIONAL SERVICES DIRECTOR
As the clinical leader in our state, the Autism Society of North Carolina trains professionals who work with individuals with autism in evidence-based best practices, thereby increasing the capacity and quality of care.

We also work to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism in the community, ensuring that they are treated with dignity and their unique talents are valued.
**Community outreach** through trainings, social media, publications, and events to increase awareness and promote inclusion for all.

- **199+ TRAININGS**
  - Trainings were held in-person and were also available through webinars to all 100 counties.

- **5,650+ PEOPLE**
  - Increased public awareness has lowered the age of diagnosis vs. the national norm, enabling individuals to receive treatment sooner.

- **3 YRS 1 MO**
  - Average age of diagnosis in NC

**Professional training** for school staff, health-care professionals, first responders, and other members of the community who work with individuals with autism

- **200+ FIRST RESPONDERS**
  - Developed skills to care for people with autism in emergency situations.

- **450+ HEALTH-CARE, DIRECT-CARE, & FOSTER-CARE PROFESSIONALS**
  - Increased their understanding of autism and best practices.

- **1,980+ SCHOOL STAFF, PROFESSIONALS, & CAREGIVERS**
  - Developed better skills to work with students with autism.

- **334,000+**
  - People learned how to support individuals with autism through our external outreach efforts.

- **99%**
  - Plan to make changes to improve their work with individuals with autism.
Finding Purpose in the Community

At Creative Living, the Autism Society of North Carolina’s day program in Raleigh, adults with autism receive necessary support to develop greater self-sufficiency and community engagement. Volunteering has always been an important part of the schedule.

“Creative Living participants want to feel like a part of the community, and they want to be able to make connections,” says Senior Program Director Rachel McCarty. “That’s what volunteering does for all of us.”

When the pandemic started, the volunteer work performed by these adults became more important than ever. For much of the pandemic, Creative Living participants and their one-on-one staff members delivered meals to homebound seniors.

“I love Meals on Wheels because we do our part. It helps people when they can’t get food.”

Leah, Creative Living participant

With each delivery, the Creative Living volunteers showed love for the members of their community. They knew that people in their community needed them, and they wanted to help. Their work developed skills and improved self-esteem.

“When the door opens for Kevin, I see his eyes just light up a little bit,” says Paola Cabrera, support staff for one of the Creative Living participants. “I think that interaction, even though it’s just literally a second, is very satisfying for him because the person looks him in the eye and says, ‘Thank you so much.’ To be honest, he doesn’t get that enough in life. I think he just feels good. It feels good to do something for other people.”
KICK 4 A CAUSE

The Autism Society of North Carolina was chosen as the 2020 recipient of Kick 4 a Cause, North Carolina FC Youth’s annual fundraising event. A record number of 120 teams competed in the 4v4 tournament, resulting in a donation of almost $20,000 to support scholarships to Camp Royall.

Teams pay an entry fee to play in the tournament, and to keep costs of the event low, referees donated their time for all 240 matches that took place. With players, coaches, parents, and referees coming together for this special day, the soccer community helped support the autism community.

“Players get to learn new skills and make friends when they participate in North Carolina FC Youth Soccer, which makes it so fitting that their efforts made the same thing possible for campers at Camp Royall,” said Kristy White, Chief Development Officer at the Autism Society of North Carolina.

In addition to this amazing fundraising event, North Carolina FC Youth offers opportunities for community and inclusion for all players interested in soccer. TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is for players who may need a little extra help due to a physical, developmental, or intellectual disability, and focuses on player development and a sense of belonging rather than competition.

“FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MADE A HUGE IMPACT IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF A CHILD BY ALLOWING HER TO HAVE FANTASTIC FUN AND BE FREE OF JUDGMENT FOR ONE WEEK.”

PARENT OF CAMP ROYALL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
The Autism Society of North Carolina community includes passionate, committed volunteers, corporate partners, and donors. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors who have made it possible for individuals with autism to have healthy, safe, and fulfilling lives in their communities.

This list reflects donations received on or between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. Please contact Beverly Gill if you have any questions at 800-442-2762, ext. 1105, or bgill@autismsociety-nc.org.

$100,000 AND ABOVE
Estate of Mary V. Balliet
Evernham Family-Racing for a Reason Foundation
The Ireland Family Foundation
Lori and Gregg Ireland

$50,000-$99,999
Mary Evernham

$25,000-$49,999
CADCO Construction Company
Credit Suisse
Facebook Fundraisers
Premiere Communications & Consulting - Raleigh
Truist
United Way of Central Carolinas
Teresa and John Sears
Kim and Jeff Woodlief

$10,000-$24,999
Applied Vision Works, Inc.
ASNC Surry County Chapter
Benevity Causes
Cape Fear Memorial Foundation
Carolina Restoration Services
Celanese Foundation
$5,000-$9,999
AmazonSmile Foundation
ASNC New Hanover County Chapter
Bank of America
Covelli Enterprises
Duke Energy
Eaton Corporation
Enerpac Tool Group
Galloway Ridge Charitable Fund
IBM Employee Services Center
iheart Media
Jack Fanning Memorial Foundation
Landfall Foundation
North Carolina Community Foundation
PPD Development
PVH Foundation
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Samuel P. Mandell Foundation
The Cooper Royall Foundation
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority
Ashlyn and Mark Allred
Rebecca and Cory Bean
Mary Louise and John Burress
Vicki and Rick Cornwell
Carolyn and Bill Gooden
Meg and Gary Jack
Pamela Rogers
Louise and Michael Southern

$2,500-$4,999
ASNC Mecklenburg County Chapter
ASNC Montgomery/Stanly County Chapter
ASNC Orange/Chatham County Chapter
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina
Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
Completakidz
Duke Community Care Fund
Haywood Healthcare Foundation
Lamar Advertising - Greensboro
Lenovo
The Mary Lynn Richardson Fund
John W. Roffe and Marjorie A. Roffe Endowment, a component fund of NCCF
Raleigh Diamond
The Summer Camp Fund
Surry Insurance
Union County Community Foundation, a component fund of NCCF
United Way of Gaston County
WakeMed Health and Hospitals
Wicked Weed Brewing
Women of Fearrington
Lindsay and James Bedford
Peter Bley
Ann Bressler and Robin Barnes
Amy and John Brien
Susan and Randall Carter
Estate of Linda Coppage
Patrick Falvey
Jill and Bob Mack
Heather Moore and Steven Jones
Rebecca and Charlie Peters
Candace and Joseph Roberts
Dawn Rohlik
Cindy and Mark Sokal
Leigh and Jeff Vittert
Jo Ann and Mark Wainwright
Sharon and Chris Whitfield

$1,000-$2,499
AbbVie
Acorn Alcinda Foundation
Ammons Chiropractic Clinic
ASNC Buncombe County Chapter
ASNC Cleveland County Chapter
ASNC Craven County Chapter
ASNC Crystal Coast Chapter
ASNC Lincoln County Chapter
ASNC Onslow County Chapter
ASNC Sampson County Chapter
ASNC Wake County Chapters
Behavioral Consultation and Psychological Services
Behavioral Consulting for Autism
Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation
Carolina Center for ABA Treatment
Clyde’s Restaurant
Confudio
Country Roads Miatas
Craven County Community Foundation, a component fund of NCCF
Curtituck-Dare Unrestricted Fund, a component fund of NCCF
David Allen Company
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 26
Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development
Eastern Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
EmergeOrtho
Grady White Boats
Growler Grlz
High Point Civitan Club Foundation
Holy Infant Catholic Church
Huckleberry Trail Farm
Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital
J. McLaughlin
Johnson Family Farms
Johnston County Community Foundation, a component fund of NCCF
Kamm McKenzie OB/GYN
LaVelle Family Charitable Trust
Lee County Community Foundation, a component fund of NCCF
Lenoir County Community Foundation, a component fund of NCCF
Lincoln Investment
Nester Hosiery
North Carolina Circle of Kings Daughters and Sons
Northern Hospital of Surry County
Paypal Giving Fund
Pediatric Possibilities
Piedmont Local
The Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge
The Raidy Charitable Foundation
Sharlene Riddle Williams Family Foundation
Sumus Development Group
Therapy Works of Wilmington
Triad Moms on Main
Triangle Community Foundation
United Way of Davie County
United Way of the Greater Triangle
Wake Electric Membership Corporation
Walmart
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign
White Memorial Presbyterian Church
Winston-Salem University Foundation
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Katie and Tracey Sheriff
Gretchen Smith and Jeff Kirby
Nancy and Michael Smith
Amy and Ken Soderstrom
Ed Stanek
Michael Stigall
Meenakshi Thanikachalam
Allison Thomas
Kim and Mark Tizard
James Trotter
Andrew Turner
Denise and Steve Vanderwoude
Joanne Westcott and William Buccheri
Susan Whitlow
Kristy and Andrew White
Robert Wilder
Jameson Wildwood
Gwendolyn Woolston Lindner and Andrew Lindner

$500-$999
A Bridge to Achievement
Access Dental Care

Alfredo Negrete V&A Concrete
Alliance One International
Allstate
Asbury Associates
ASNC Davie/Forsyth County Chapter
ASNC Durham County Chapter
ASNC Guilford County Chapter
ASNC Haywood County Chapter
ASNC UNC-CH Campus Group
Behavioral Services
Carolina Carports
Carolina Pediatric Therapy
Carolina Pediatrics of the Triad
Clyde Elementary School
Coastal Kids Therapy
Colt W. Simmons Construction Co.
Dreamweavers Unlimited
Durant Road Middle School
East Coast Contracting
Fayetteville Christmas Tree Shops
Fleet Feet Sport of Greensboro
Freedom and Liberty Worship Center
Great Harvest Bread Company - Greenville
Greensboro Jaycees-The Greensboro Junior Chamber of Commerce
Highland Park Baptist Church
Holly Springs Restaurant Group
Hope Power & Industrial
Ingrid’s Cupcakes & Confections
Intracoastal Realty
Johnson Granite
LAMB Foundation of North Carolina
Libby Hill Seafood
Life Alliance
Magnolia Construction
McKinney Immigration Law
Mill Creek General Store
New Hanover Regional Medical Center
North Surry High School
Northwest Pediatrics
Oak City Government Relations
Omega Construction
ONLINE Information Services
Oowee Products
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company
Physicians East PA
Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation
Raleigh Neurology Associates
Raleigh Pediatric Dentistry
Redd’s on Union
Republic Services
Richmond County Schools
Running River
Sampson Crisis Center
Service Roofing & Sheet Metal Company of Raleigh
Shamrock Nutrition
Southland Transportation Co.
Stangler Family Foundation
Suntrust United Way Campaign
Superior Cranes
Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation
The Knightsly Order of The Fiat Lux-Triangle Chapter
The Players Golf Association
Top Shelf Containers
Transportation Impact
United Way of Forsyth County
United Way of Greater Greensboro
Upstate Racing
Von Drehle Corporation
Vulcan Materials Company
Wayne County Schools
Weyerhaeuser Company
White & Johnson Pediatric Dentistry-Wilmington
Wilmington Sharks
Nancy and Clay Addison
Patricia and Ron Allushuski
J.D. Alvarez
Sherry and Matt Attaway
Dr. Dennis Bahler
Jane and Douglas Ball
Carr Bender
Chris Bishop
Marianne and Jeff Boettler
Bruce Bowen
Bryan Bowman
Michelle Chandler-Korth and Jason Korth
Russell Clayton
Will Close
Kim Costello and Lee Hamilton
Angela and Garry Cox
Bobby Crabtree
Todd Dameron
Lester Degrange
Laurie Daniel Jordan and Lyndon Jordan
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We rely on donor giving to provide our high-quality programming to improve the lives of individuals with autism. As can be seen in the charts above, our program and service revenue covers only a portion of our expenses.

All of the money that we raise stays in North Carolina, with 86 cents of every dollar donated going directly to programs for individuals with autism.

The Autism Society of North Carolina is also supported by:

The Autism Society of North Carolina
Loving Our Community Together

The Autism Society of North Carolina relies on donor giving to our annual campaign to improve the lives of individuals with autism, support their families, and educate communities.

Giving was more important than ever this year. Your gifts showed unconditional love for members of the autism community. It showed you love them for who they are and want to provide the programs and supports that will help them reach their full potential. It showed you want to wrap families in love and support and help teach other communities about how strong we are when everyone can participate.

When you give to the Autism Society of North Carolina, you make an investment that improves lives well beyond the day you make a gift. If you give a scholarship for a camper, he will learn new skills – such as how to make a friend – and build upon them for the rest of his life.

If you give a scholarship to a family to attend a training, they will pick up tools to help them throughout their child’s life. If you give a scholarship for a young adult to receive training, she will use those skills to gain employment.

Every day, new families learn their children have autism. With your help, those families become part of a loving community that works together and supports each other. Expanding this campaign will ensure that individuals with autism lead fulfilling lives.

Together, we can make a difference for the growing number of loved ones with autism. Your love can do so much.
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*Our entire Board of Directors proudly supported our mission through their time, talents, and contributions.*