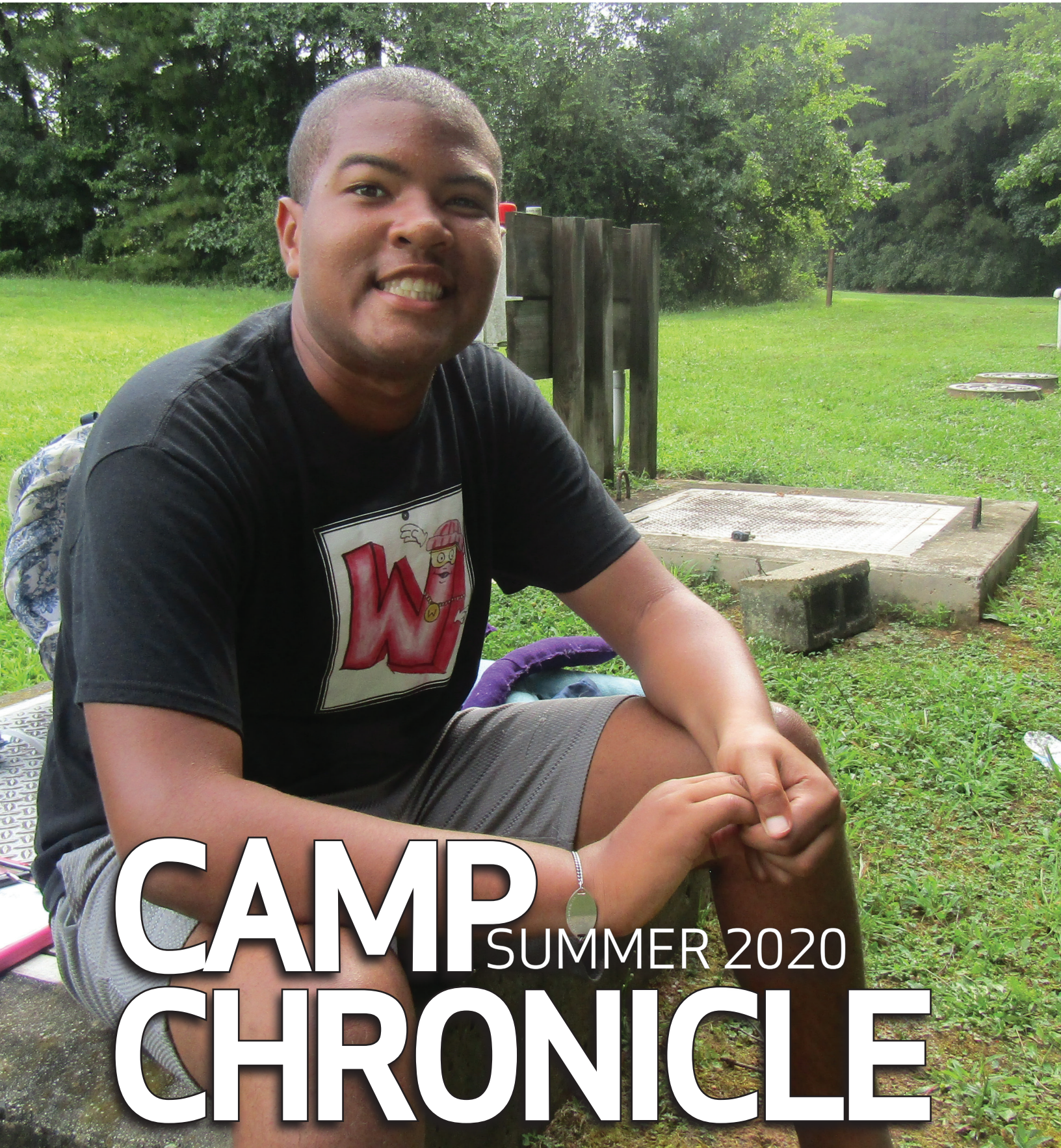




Autism Society  
of North Carolina



# CAMP CHRONICLE

SUMMER 2020



I had never gone down a real steep slide. It was scary, but I did it! Miss Ashley told me I could do it. [Camper]



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## CAMP CHRONICLE

The **Camp Chronicle** is published by the Autism Society of North Carolina for campers, parents, supporters, and the counselors and professionals who work with Camp Royall.

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# Letter from the Director



Greetings, Campers, Families, and Friends of Camp Royall,

After another wonderful summer at Camp Royall, I am so pleased to present to you the 2020 Camp Chronicle. With summer 2020 in the books, ASNC has successfully recorded its 49th installment of Summer Camp (the 24th at Camp Royall) as well as its 11th full year of continuous year-round programming.

It may have been a smaller summer than we are used to, but we still felt all the same excitement and energy from our staff and campers and have amazing memories to share. I know this has been such a difficult year for many of our campers and their families. We feel so grateful that our facility crew, program staff, and counselors came together to make camp a reality this summer against the odds. We worked diligently to ensure the safety of our campers and staff and had six awesome weeks of camp, serving 92 campers ages 6-44 from 34 counties across the state of NC.

Throughout the summer, campers had fun while learning new skills and trying activities for the first time. Our campers also connected with old friends and made new friends at camp. Harrison and Josh (page 4) have been FaceTiming almost every day since meeting at camp this summer!

Campers were supported by 27 staff members, three of whom are on the spectrum themselves. Some staff members like Activity Director Delaney (page 6) have discovered their lifelong passion by working at Camp Royall. It takes so many people to make Camp Royall a reality each summer, and we are so grateful for all of our dedicated staff.

We are so fortunate to have many generous donors who make camp a reality for many of our campers every summer. Donald Hadley (page 8) not only supported our campers financially but volunteered his time and encouraged others to donate. We owe a debt of gratitude to all of our supporters for making campers' dreams come true; see page 10 for a list of these amazing people.

Please be sure you take notice of the great opportunities for you to get involved at camp all year long. Check out page 13 for more info on our year-round programs, and we hope to see you at camp soon!

We hope you and your family stay safe, healthy, and happy.

With much camp love and "Enthuuuuusiasm,"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Sara Gage, Camp Royall Director





## CAMPER HIGHLIGHT: Harrison & Josh

Harrison Moore and Josh Albon are typical pre-teen boys with a lot in common. They love to play video games, watch YouTube, and look at memes online. And they both wanted one thing from their experience at Camp Royall – to make a friend. Since meeting at camp, the boys have been FaceTiming almost every day!

After visiting Camp Royall for orientation, Harrison and his mother Rosewell decided it would be the perfect place for him! When the COVID-19 pandemic began, they were both nervous about camp being cancelled. Rosewell said, “When Harrison found out he would still be able to go, he was so happy! He had been struggling at home because he hasn’t been able to see his friends. He needed a break so he could be with other kids, even from 6 feet away.”

It was Harrison’s first time at Camp Royall. He loved boating and the pool, but mostly loved that he was able to make a friend. Harrison was sad that he had to return home from camp, but said that communicating with Josh has made it easier. His mother said that it

keeps his day occupied and helps him feel like he has a friend, even though they aren’t together in person.

The first time Josh attended camp he was five years old and his father, an active duty Marine, was deployed. His mom, Susan, was overwhelmed during the deployment and needed a break. When Josh came back from camp that first time, he started getting ready for bed independently! Susan said that Camp Royall always increases his independence and his self-esteem. “Josh always wants to go to Camp Royall. He would rather be with peers who understand him, not just tolerate him. He feels a sense of belonging, like he has found his people. Camp Royall is the only place on the planet where he can be himself. He doesn’t just fit in there... he belongs there!”

Like Harrison, Josh’s favorite thing about Camp Royall is the people. Josh said, “Although I like all the activities at camp, the reason I go is because the people. I know I will always make good friends!” As Josh was getting settled in the cabin at camp, he said to himself, “I want to meet other people!” Then, Harrison walked through the door and they immediately hit it off. They both loved the pool and having sword duels with pool noodles.

At the end of camp, Camp Director Sara Gage reached out to the two moms to see if they would like to connect. Now, the boys are FaceTiming almost every day, playing Minecraft, and sharing videos. Both families are so excited to see their children make a genuine connection. We love seeing campers like Harrison and Josh stay friends after their week at camp. Camp Royall friendships can last a lifetime! ■







I made four new friends at camp and was happy to be connected with them during my time there. [Camper]







## COUNSELOR HIGHLIGHT: Delaney Burns

When Delaney Burns started as a lifeguard at Camp Royall in 2016, she never expected that a summer job would help her find her true passion in life. During high school Delaney worked as a babysitter and tutor for a family with a child with autism. They were involved with Camp Royall and encouraged her to apply as a lifeguard. She immediately fell in love with Camp Royall and realized she had to come back as a counselor the next year.



Delaney said her favorite part about coming back every year is seeing how much the campers have grown and developed new skills. “I want every camper to have a fantastic week here. Every time I come back, I feel like I fit in. It’s an awesome atmosphere with an amazing culture.”

**“It made me a stronger person. I can speak out to help others advocate for themselves so they can get the services they need.”**

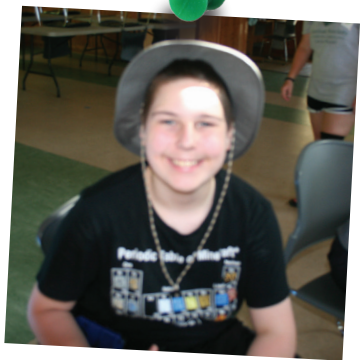


Working at Camp Royall eventually inspired her to change her major from electrical engineering to a dual degree in special education and elementary education. This summer she worked as an Activity Director at camp and is starting her first year teaching at an elementary school in Raleigh this fall.

Delaney said that camp has taught her all about autism and how to advocate for others. “It made me a stronger person. I can speak out to help others advocate for themselves so they can get the services they need.” She has also found that working at Camp Royall has made her a leader in the classroom. In her education classes, she has been a resource for her peers and professors because of the teaching strategies she has learned at camp.

“Autism isn’t one of those things you can just read about and then know everything. Once you’ve met one person with autism, you’ve met one person with autism. It has been great for me to be a resource for my peers because the more people that know about autism, the more accepting the classroom will be.” We know that Delaney will do great things as a teacher and we appreciate her continued dedication to our campers! ■





Life is better since attending camp! I made two friends!

[Camper]







## DONOR / VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT: Donald Hadley

Since visiting Camp Royall three years ago, Donald Hadley has been a dedicated volunteer, donor, and advocate of the Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC). Don attends the Catwalk to Camp each year and hosts two tables of guests. He also helps lead the event to create a positive experience for all the campers, their families, and supporters. As a result of his fundraising efforts and personal contributions, he has raised over \$50,000 to send over 30 campers to Camp Royall!

Don shared, “The staff at ASNC is incredible. They truly fulfill the mission of helping children with autism as well as their families to live better lives. Connecting the children to new skills, friends, and perspectives is what all of us need, and they are doing it with those that truly take joy in it!”

Don is the President of Applied Vision Works, an organizational development firm providing solutions for organizations in both the private and public sectors. The Applied Vision Works team looks forward to the Catwalk to Camp event each year. Team members not only make generous donations themselves, but also inspire friends and family to contribute to the cause.

Don said, “I would encourage everyone to support the event with attendance and donations, but more importantly, visit the camp and see the real work of ASNC occurring in action.” Craig Chase, Operations Manager at Applied Vision Works, also enjoys attending Catwalk to Camp. He shared, “It is the most positive and heartwarming event I have attended. I also encourage everyone to experience the pure joy.”

As a business owner and thought leader for over 30 years, Don brings extensive experience and knowledge to the Autism Society of North Carolina. We appreciate his advice and new ideas, and his dedication to sharing our mission with the community! ■

“The staff at ASNC is incredible. They truly fulfill the mission of helping children with autism as well as their families to live better lives. Connecting the children to new skills, friends, and perspectives is what all of us need, and they are doing it with those that truly take joy in it!”





I felt safe exploring with my counselor by my side. She worked hard to keep up with my adventurous spirit. [Camper]







**Camp Director:** Sara Gage [24]  
**Assistant Director:** Kristian Page [8]  
**Program Coordinator:** MaKia Akiens [3]

**ASNC Property Director:** David Yell [29]  
**Property Management Executive:** Ann Kastner  
*[ ] indicates how many summers spent working or volunteering*

#### Facility Staff:

Ed Wolfram [11]  
 Tristan Wolfram [5]  
 Jeffrey Oestereich [3]  
 Josh Hodge [3]  
 Joshua Feltenberger [3]  
 Noah Feltenberger [3]  
 Tessa Yell [2]  
 Malachi Levy [2]  
 Charles Keens  
 Jadelyn Robles



#### Lifeguards:

Dean Cannon [4]  
 Primo Costa [2]  
 Bailey Jones  
 Caroline Murrell

#### Activity Directors:

Amaris Smith [5]  
 Delaney Burns [4]  
 Marian Easler [4]  
 Kaleigh Woodard [3]  
 Pieter Westerbeek [3]

#### Counselors:

Rico Thorpe [8]  
 Brianna Lewis [3]  
 Edward Austin [3]  
 Kayley Daniel [3]  
 Maddy Webber [3]  
 Rachel Galbraith [3]  
 Ashley Harris [2]  
 Diamond Blue [2]  
 Gabby Adams [2]  
 James Elder [2]  
 Kensley Hubbard [2]  
 Mason [2]  
 Nina Kerr [2]  
 Anastasia Sapienza  
 Chole Lineman  
 Emiliee May  
 Gabby Lardizabal  
 Gabe Sprouse  
 Rebekah Williams  
 Terrance Higgins-Keziah  
 Zachary Briggs

#### Nurses:

Tina Harris [9]  
 Katie Zimmerman [3]









# Camp Royall Wish List

If you want to support Camp Royall through material donations, we would be grateful to receive the items below. For your convenience, we have also created an Amazon list: <https://amzn.to/2HhvVlF>

## Arts & Crafts Wishes:

- Construction Paper
- Glue/glue sticks
- Scissors (of all sizes)
- Paint (fabric paint, tempera paint, face paint, watercolors, finger paint)
- Painting supplies (brushes, small paint containers, watercolor paper, canvas)
- Pipe Cleaners
- Glitter
- Beads (not too small) and plastic string for beading
- Noise-canceling headphone
- Sensory Toys
- Chewie Tubes
- Construction paper
- Googly Eyes
- Plain white T-shirts of all sizes (youth small- adult 4XL)
- Tie-dye Supplies
- Dry-erase markers (thin)
- Sharpie markers
- Markers
- Blue painter's tape
- Cardstock (any size or color)
- Bubble solution
- Musical Instruments
- Pool toys
- Gym equipment (yoga balls, tumbling mats, balls)
- Board games (new or like-new)
- Books (new or like-new)
- Coloring books (new or like-new)
- DVDs (new or like-new)

## General Program Wishes:

- Ziploc baggies (sandwich-size and gallon-size)
- Bubble solution
- Postage stamps
- Toilet paper
- Liquid hand soap
- Shaving foam
- Hand sanitizer
- Baby wipes
- Clorox wipes
- Laundry detergent
- Fans
- Noise machines
- Power strips
- Digital timers
- Charging cords (old Apple chargers, lightning chargers, Android, USB plugins)
- Velcro dots
- Flashlights
- Night Lights (and bulbs)
- Batteries (AA and AAA)
- Puzzles (new or like-new)
- DVDs (new or like-new)
- Digital timers
- Laminating sheets (to be used in a hot laminator)
- Fishing Gear (cane poles, rod and reel, bobbers, hooks etc.)
- Paddle boats
- Golf Carts
- 4 wheel drive pickup truck







## Fun at Camp Royall Year-Round

Camp Royall never stops! We offer programs for campers of all ages and on all levels of the autism spectrum year-round. Check out our upcoming programs below – we hope to see you soon!

**Mini Camps** are set for four dates this fall: September 4-6, 25-27, October 16-18, and November 13-15. Mini Camp provides campers the chance to spend the weekend at camp, from 5 p.m. Friday to 12 noon Sunday. Campers enjoy a miniature version of summer camp while families benefit from respite; preference is given to campers living at home. Supervision at a ratio of 1:1 or 1:2 is provided during these weekends.

**Adult Retreats** give independent adults, 18 years and older with high-functioning autism, a chance to enjoy time with friends at Camp Royall. This fall, we will have three weekend retreats, September 18-20, October 30 - November 1 and November 20-22. Participants enjoy recreational activities at camp as well as outings in the community.

**Teen Tuesday** offers teens (ages 13-22) the opportunity to learn life skills in a welcoming group setting. The group meets one Tuesday a month from 5 until 7:30 p.m. We will meet on October 6 and November 10.

**Teen Retreats** offer independent teens (ages 13-22) with high-functioning autism time to spend at camp with friends! Friday evening features dinner and activities, while Saturday includes leisure and recreational activities at camp, outings in the community, and dinner at a local restaurant. Sunday allows for more hangout time before checkout at noon. There are 1-2 staff in cabins at night, and any new participants will be screened by camp staff to make sure they are a good fit. The next retreat is November 6-8.

**Residential Camps** will be offered over 5 weeks this fall/winter including November 29 - December 4, December 6-11, 13-18, December 27 to January 1st and January 3-8 for campers of all ages. The overnight program includes a 1:1 or 1:2 counselor-to-camper ratio, based on each camper's level of need.

**CamperCare Days** is a new program starting this fall to help families through the pandemic. We are providing a day of fun and individualized care for campers from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 2 days per week and campers can sign up online to get on our waiting list at this time. We are placing campers in half day or full day slots either 1 or 2 days per week based on staffing availability.

**Track Out Day Camps** are scheduled for school-age children during breaks from school. Activities include arts and crafts, hiking, boating, music, gym play, the zap line, hayrides, and more. Supervision is provided at the ratio of 1:1 or 1:2, based on each camper's level of need. Upcoming track-out day camp weeks are October 5-9 and 12-16. ■

*For more information or to register for any of our programs, please visit [www.camproyall.org](http://www.camproyall.org). Questions? Contact us at 919-542-1033 or [camproyall@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:camproyall@autismsociety-nc.org).*





## You Can Help

### How Does ASNC's Camp Royall Change Lives?

Camp Royall is the oldest and largest camp program for individuals of all ages with autism in the world, serving more than 3,000 individuals with autism and their families a year. Camp experiences provide an opportunity for exploration, for making friends, for trying new and exciting activities, and a time for personal growth in independence and confidence. As a result, campers return home with skills once thought unattainable by their families and the ability to make a friend and be a friend.

### What Are Camp Royall's Needs?

**Camp Scholarships:** Providing summer camp scholarships to campers each summer is the most critical need. Due to the additional financial demands of caring for a child with autism, most families are unable to afford the \$1,750 cost per week for their child to attend camp and receive the benefits of a week with specialized staff. Fundraising for camp scholarships is a year-round focus. Each year we raise close to \$300,000, but it is not enough to help each family in need.

**Program/Facility Donations:** Providing program supplies and maintaining a 133-acre facility is expensive. In-kind and financial donations help offset these costs. Current needs include: arts and crafts supplies, sensory toys, technology items, and a pickup truck.

**Planning for Our Future:** As we look to the future and the growing number of children and families who depend on our services, we must expand the number of campers we are able to serve each

week by providing additional sleeping facilities. We are currently assessing the costs and looking at fundraising opportunities for the future.

### How Can You Help?

More than 88 cents of every dollar we raise is used for services that directly affect people with autism, and every dollar raised stays within North Carolina, helping people who live and work in our local communities. Contact Kristy White to

discuss partnership opportunities that include individual gifts, named scholarships, planned giving, connections to corporations or foundations, and other opportunities to get involved.

"Camp Royall has increased my son's confidence, independence, and willingness to try new things."

I can tell that he feels valued for his contribution," one mom said. "Camp Royall has created happy memories that will stay with him throughout his life. It gave me peace of mind, knowing that he was in a safe, loving, and supervised environment."

We are excited about what is happening today as a result of our efforts. We're even more excited about what can happen with your help. ■

### Contact Information

Kristy White  
Chief Development Officer  
5121 Kingdom Way, Suite 100  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
919-865-5086  
[kwhite@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:kwhite@autismsociety-nc.org)



# Many thanks to our Camp Royall donors.

The support of the following individuals, businesses, and foundations helped the Autism Society of North Carolina provide camp scholarships during 2020.

## \$10,000 and Above

Applied Vision Works  
BB&T Charitable Giving  
Citibank Trust South Dakota  
Estate of Mary V. Balliet  
Fulcrum Strategies  
North Carolina Football Club Youth  
Premiere Communications & Consulting  
Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Carolina  
The Pratt Family Foundation  
Triangle Community Foundation's - Send A Kid to Camp Program  
Donald Hadley  
Kristen and Ron Howrigan  
Torrie and John Kline  
Lorraine and Dale Reynolds  
Teresa and John Sears  
Kim and Jeff Woodlief

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Carolina Panthers Charities  
Credit Suisse  
Foundation For The Carolinas  
Galloway Ridge Charitable Fund  
Integrated Speech Therapy  
LGI Homes  
Pfizer  
Raleigh Diamond  
University of Delaware  
Jill and Doug Terry  
Leigh and Jeff Vittert

## \$2,500-\$4,999

Foodbuy  
Gaston Community Foundation (Roberts-Miller Children's Fund)  
John W. Roffe and Marjorie A. Roffe Endowment (for Moore County), a component fund of NCCF  
North Carolina Community Foundation (NCCF)  
The Summer Camp Fund  
Women of Fearington  
Meg and Gary Jack  
Sharon and Randy Martin  
Heather Moore and Steven Jones  
Denise and Stephen Vanderwoude  
The Bobby and Gloria Martin Foundation  
Craven County Unrestricted Endowment Fund, a component fund of NCCF  
Jamie's Vision, Inc  
Kamm McKenzie OBGYN  
The Knightly Order of The Fiat Lux (Triangle Chapter)  
Martha Frances Pruitt Endowment Fund, a component fund of NCCF  
Mayer Brown LLP  
The Raidy Charitable Foundation  
Wake Electric Foundation  
George Araujo  
Kiel Bowen  
Janet and James Cozart  
Karen and Michael Crow  
Sandy Daston  
Paula Dinnerstein  
Amy Durso  
Patrick Falvey  
Carol and Douglas Fink  
Leeann and Mark Garms  
Marea and Brad Goodwin  
Jemma and Chris Grindstaff  
Ruth Hurst and Tom Wiebe  
Alison Kalinowski and Anthony Womack  
Helene and Bill Lane  
Carol Manzon and Chris Diplock  
Bev and Alan Moore

Maureen Morrell  
Kristy and Aleck Myers  
Elizabeth and Chris Norton  
Nina and Scott Pernell  
Jim Phillips  
Linda and Kevin Routh  
Karen Schaefer  
Katie and Tracey Sheriff  
Kristy and Andrew White

## \$500-\$999

ASNC Craven County Chapter  
ASNC Crystal Coast Chapter  
ASNC Guilford County Chapter  
ASNC Lee County Chapter  
ASNC UNC-CH Campus Group  
Chapel Hill Service League  
The Eisner Charitable Fund  
Enviva Holding LP  
Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation  
Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church  
Melissa Barbour  
Julie and Scott Bare  
Courtney and Daniel Cantrell  
Holly and Darin Clark  
Kimberly and Robert Cummings  
Pamela Dilavore  
Kathleen DuVal and Marty Smith  
Kerri and Jeremy Erb  
Jenny and Michael Farmer  
Shirley and Vincent Francis  
Lesley and Michael Graves  
Karen Harbin  
Sandra and Ed Hooks  
Melissa and Matt Huemmer  
Melissa and Robert Johnson  
Kari and Monte Johnston  
Lisa and David Kaylie  
April and Brian Lehrman  
Sandra and Stephen Lehrman  
Cindy and Scott Nyberg

Candace and Joseph Roberts  
Dawn Rohlik  
Dionne and Don Silvester  
Tracey and Henry Smith  
Gina and Jeffrey Stocton  
Don Stroud  
Maria Townsend and Michael Baker  
Judy and Paul Wendler

## \$250-\$499

Durham Tech  
Kiwanis Club of Lee County  
LAMB Foundation of North Carolina  
Spyglass Promotions  
Rebecca and Cory Bean  
Joe Booden  
Amy Brande  
Angie and Doug Brown  
John Coleman  
Christina Flake  
Madison Gardner  
Bruce Gresham  
Judy and Norbert Lechner  
Nan and Craig Maples  
Sue and Jan Martin  
Kirby Ring  
Kimberly and Robin Rose  
Michelle Scatamacchia  
Kristin and Scott Selby  
Laura and Phillip Simson  
Susan and Derek Smith  
Andrew Turner



