



Autism Society  
of North Carolina

# SPECTRUM

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Tips for Dentist Visits

Fathering on the Spectrum

Employment Supports

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## Mission Statement

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

## The Spectrum

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## Work with Us

The Autism Society of North Carolina is always looking for qualified candidates who are passionate about helping individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. ASNC has offices in Asheville, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, Raleigh, Newport, and Wilmington.

A variety of part- and full-time positions are available. Please visit [www.autismsociety-nc.org/careers](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org/careers) to learn more about current ASNC career opportunities. We appreciate referrals; please help us recruit the best talent by sharing the above link.

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# A message from the CEO

As I reflect on the end of 2021 and the start of 2022, I find that we have much to give us hope in uncertain times. While we wish that we weren't still facing the challenges associated with COVID-19, we have seen the strength and resiliency of the autism community, and I am optimistic about our ability to continue to support one another. I want to remind you that the Autism Society of North Carolina is your partner for a lifetime, and we are here to help address your needs.

One of the bright spots of 2021 was the success of our Employment Supports program, which helped more than 200 adults with their job search. Adults with autism can play an important role in the economic recovery from COVID-19. We know that many adults are eager to work but are unemployed or underemployed because they face disadvantages in the traditional job search. Our staff works closely with potential employers to educate them about autism and how to evaluate neurodiverse job candidates, while also working closely with job candidates to ensure they can succeed in the process. You'll learn more about the Employment Supports offerings in this issue.

In addition to helping adults find meaningful work, we've also been expanding opportunities for adults to develop the skills that will help them live as independently as possible. One of our newest offerings is the Adult Skills Program at Camp Royall, which joins IGNITE, Transitions, and other skill-building and social recreation programs for adults across the state. We will continue to work to offer the most appropriate and meaningful options throughout people's lifetimes.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are important to us, which is why we are working to reach out to all of the members of our state's autism community. As one example, every issue of this magazine includes an update from our Hispanic Affairs department. If you know of a family who speaks Spanish, please share this content with them! We are also adding new materials in Spanish to our website, at [autismsociety-nc.org/recursos-en-espanol](https://autismsociety-nc.org/recursos-en-espanol). At the link, you'll find translated information, including past magazine articles and social narratives. Please note that people who use our website can choose to view it in more than 100 languages.

This new year offers more opportunities to connect and support each other. Please continue to check our website for the latest webinars, Chapter meetings, and events. In April and May, our Run/Walk for Autism events will take place in Beaufort, Greenville, Mount Airy, and Wilmington. We hope you'll join us for these amazing days of community and connection.



This issue includes an article from our Clinical team, expressing their gratitude for the families and communities they serve. Let me echo that gratitude to all of you. Whether you are an autism self-advocate, caregiver, professional, or donor, you are an important part of our family. With you on our side, we have been working diligently to help the autism community address the challenges of the past year. We look forward to another year of improving lives, supporting families, and educating communities.

My best,



Tracey Sheriff, *Chief Executive Officer*

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# A Letter of Love & Gratitude from the Clinical Team

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The Clinical team is thankful to support members of the autism community. We provide direct intervention services in homes and community settings to children and adults, behavioral consultation to families and professionals, open webinars, and workshops and classroom coaching within school systems across the state. To the individuals, families, and communities we work with, thank you. We are forever changed as professionals, and as humans, by our time with you.

One member of the team wrote to parents: “I’m grateful for your trust in me because I know what fearless advocates you are for your child and how hard you work to make sure they are happy, healthy, and supported. Thank you for allowing me to know them, enjoy their many gifts and talents, and to grow to love and care about them. Thank you for sharing your hard moments and your successes. Thank you for teaching me countless lessons about what it means to be a true champion for the people you love.”

We believe that every person with autism and their family deserves access to high-quality, evidence-based supports that promote progress in the areas that matter most to the individual and their family. Our team believes strongly in a concept called “neurodiversity,” which is the understanding that differences in the human brain are normal. Many people experience, understand, and interact with the world in unique ways. These differences should be celebrated and highlighted as strengths rather than weaknesses.

## **Thank you for demonstrating unconditional love**

“Our clients have shown me what it means to love without expectations, without limits, and to love humbly. They’ve shown me how to love and laugh at the simple things in life

and remember that those simple things can mean the world to someone else. Most importantly, they’ve reminded me that loving without limits means taking on the perspective of others and meeting them where they’re at. You can love someone so much deeper when you love them exactly where they are in that moment without trying to change them or their experience.

Our families have taught me what it means to love FIERCELY. These parents love hard, love protectively, and love unconditionally. I challenge you to find a deeper love than that of a parent of a differently abled child. Sometimes love is the only thing that is reminding them they can get through a hard day. These families have taught me how to continue to show love even when it’s difficult and messy and just plain tough to do. I’m not sure I would ever know love on this level without the perspective of the autism community, and I am so grateful that I get to be surrounded by examples of unfiltered, unconditional, pure love on a daily basis.”

## **Thank you for showing us persistence and resilience**

“I’m in awe of the persistence of every family and client that I work with. The family who moves away from their friends and family to be able to access services for their child. The



family who calls all the providers and gets on all the waitlists to access services. The family who has to advocate in every IEP meeting for the needs of their child. The client that works hard every day to be able to communicate their wants and needs. The client who after three attempts is finally toilet trained. The client that practices interviewing every day and finally got a part-time job. To each one of my families, I'm so grateful that I get to see evidence of this persistence every time I walk into the doors of their home."

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*These families have taught me how to continue to show love even when it's difficult and messy and just plain tough to do. I'm not sure I would ever know love on this level without the perspective of the autism community, and I am so grateful that I get to be surrounded by examples of unfiltered, unconditional, pure love on a daily basis.*

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"I've worked with some of the most resilient people I've ever met, and I've learned so much about giving yourself grace, the importance of self-care, and asking for help at your most vulnerable moments, all the while being the fiercest advocate for your child."

"During the last year and a half, we have all had to pivot from our comfort zones, develop new ways to interact with others, and find new ways to support each other. I have been so grateful and honored to work with the individuals and families that we serve during this time. Families have shown such fortitude and grace in the face of an incredibly challenging time. The individual clients (and families) that we serve have demonstrated extraordinary flexibility when faced with disrupted routines, quarantines, technology challenges, and limitations to their systems of supports. Through it all, I have seen individuals face struggles, but also continue to develop new skills, build stronger bonds with their caregivers/parents, and find joy in new experiences. I continually learn from the amazing clients and families that I support and am so grateful to be part of their journeys."

### Thank you for improving our capacity to listen

"Thank you for teaching me to truly listen to the messages that come in all forms."

"Every sign, syllable, sound, and selection on a device is important and deserves to be heard!"

"They have taught me the power of communication in all its forms and the importance and impact of strong human connection."

"I'm grateful for all of the ways that you've shown me that love for your family, for your friends, for yourselves can truly be unconditional and expressed in a million different ways, none of which have to include the words 'I love you.'"

### Thank you for the joy, fun, and the focus on what really matters!

"Digging for worms, playing laser tag, and building forts is still really fun as an adult."

"A smile, a laugh, or another indicator of happiness can be the most important data."

"I am grateful to my clients for the opportunity to return to my child-like self, to splash in puddles on rainy days, to dance to the same song on repeat, and to belly laugh while learning to play jokes with a Whoopee Cushion!"

"There are absolutely no limits to what I will do for a heart-melting laugh (in case you ever hear me making obscenely loud animal sounds in public)."

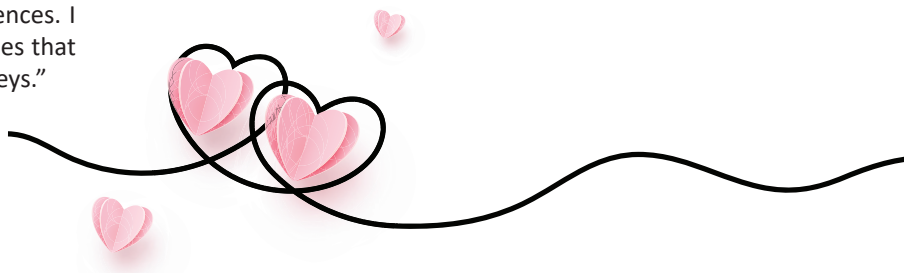
"I've learned to stop and notice and appreciate the gains, regardless how seemingly small they may seem to others. And also, to stop and notice the joy in someone's eyes when they are doing something they love."

"I am learning not to sweat the small stuff – and to also celebrate every win, no matter how small."

"Thank you for showing me a new way to see and experience the world." ■

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To learn more about our Clinical team and the services they provide, please visit [autismsociety-nc.org/clinical](https://www.autismsociety-nc.org/clinical)



# Parenting with Autism

*By Paul Tutherow Jr.*

I am an individual with a clinical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. It seems that I do not appear to be autistic, because when I disclose my diagnosis, the response is almost always someone saying that I don't look like I have autism. The impact of autism has been significant in my life. I spent just over four decades feeling disconnected from the world around me. I was able to approximate expectations, but I didn't really understand. It was like being an actor in a play.

My family lived in Korea for the first six years of my daughter's life. I thrived in Korea. Many of my personal deficits were not obvious to the people I worked with. The environment enabled me to easily meet the expectations that the Korean people had for foreigners. My daughter learned to speak Korean and attended a nursery for children her age. This may have made some of her deficits less obvious to us.

After our return to the United States in 2012, she started kindergarten, where her deficits were apparent. She didn't really play with other children. Even when her cousins were around, she would only play near them, but not engage with them. During this time, we were told she might have autism.

As I began researching autism, I wasn't sure why anything I was reading wasn't ordinary. This is because the materials

were literally describing me and the deficits I had lived with my entire life. A therapist who was familiar with autism informed me that in his opinion I had autism, but he wasn't qualified to diagnose. Following his suggestion to pursue a diagnosis, I was diagnosed in 2014.

My daughter was 11 when her mother moved out in 2017. Her mother is still around, but the day-to-day care, stability, and well-being of my daughter is on me. I am an autistic single father of a child with autism.

Even though we both have autism, we have different challenges. Still, there are many things that I can identify with, and sometimes I believe autism makes it easier to relate to my daughter.

One way we are similar is our very candid nature. We are so plainly honest and direct it can get us in trouble. Shortly after moving back to the U.S., a neighbor visited the house to give us some clothes her granddaughter had outgrown. She was not aware that the alcohol and diluents in her perfume had evaporated and the oils were rancid. I am sensitive to odors. After she left, I commented to my mother-in-law, "She smelled horrible." In hindsight, it wasn't appropriate. It wasn't until a week or two later that I understood why.

The next time our neighbor visited, my daughter was extremely excited. She ran up to the neighbor and sniffed, before announcing, "I don't think you smell horrible." When the neighbor asked what was going on, my daughter followed up with, "My father says you smell horrible!" My mother-in-law tried to make it seem like my daughter didn't know what she was talking about, but I admitted my fault and apologized.

An example of how we are different is our sensitivity to sounds. When my daughter was younger, she enjoyed making noises. She would hum, click, squeal, and squeak for hours at





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*Even though we both have autism, we have different challenges. Still, there are many things that I can identify with, and sometimes I believe autism makes it easier to relate to my daughter.*

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time. I, on the other hand, much prefer a quiet environment and become irritated by extraneous noise like that. I had to make deliberate choices about how I coped with the noises she was making. I never told her she had to stop. Sometimes I would ask her to go to her room if she wanted to make those noises, other times I would leave the room myself, and eventually, I learned to tolerate the noises she was making.

Many years before my daughter was born, I worked for a business technology lab, helping students with their programming and computer course work. When a student asked me for help, I very rarely took their seat at the computer, especially when what they wanted help with was the objective of the assignment they were working on. Instead, I would ask them questions about where they were and then help them find the resolution themselves. This might mean explaining a concept in simpler terms, but it was always the student sitting at the computer and their hands doing the work.

I use the same process now for my daughter, except it isn't limited to programming and logic. It is almost everything. I expect my daughter to do her daily tasks, and this is how I help her – by guiding her, rather than doing the work for her. There are some things she does well, while other tasks are challenging. I try not to be critical. I try to encourage her and offer guidance or an occasional reminder, but I expect her to complete the tasks on her own.

An example of how this worked was finding the right bedtime. In Korea, she stayed up late; when she was with her cousins, she was expected to go to bed earlier, but she couldn't fall asleep. I told my daughter, "I expect you to get up and be ready for school in the morning. Not drowsy or tired, but up and ready. If you do that, you can stay awake as long as you want." She experimented with different bedtimes, and within a week or two, she was going to bed, getting up, and getting ready for school independently.

This example may not work for everyone, but my advice is to give your child the opportunity to try to do something for

themselves. It might take a while. Be supportive, be ready to offer guidance, and enable them to succeed.

One of the struggles that is on my mind lately is, "How is my autistic past having a negative impact on my daughter's future now?"

As a young adult, I was entirely frustrated with the challenge of making and maintaining friendships. I remember one day I just said to myself, "I give up. I don't like people and I am not going to try." I was resolved to go to work, come home, and be left alone.

Now, approximately 30 years later, when I look at my peers, I see that parents are friends with other parents, and their children with each other. These social opportunities are just there for them. It is something they may take for granted. Because I never had friends, I don't have married friends with children. The decision I made 30 years ago to give up on relationships has led to fewer social opportunities.

Encourage your children to build friendships, to push through the challenges of awkwardness and social deficits. Create positive experiences for them. Relationship skills may seem unnecessary to people with autism because the practical purpose isn't apparent, but having friends is rewarding and the benefits literally last a lifetime.

Because we are both autistic, my daughter and I navigate this challenge together. I don't understand some of the weird things people say and do, and when she asks about them, all I can say is, "I don't know, I don't get it either, but I can help you understand what they expect." ■



*Paul Tutherow Jr. was a witness to the era of blaming parents for developmental delays and social deficits in the 70s and 80s. When Paul graduated high school, he felt broken, something he blamed his parents for. In 2014, Paul was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, a label his parents had avoided due to stigma. With new insight into his deficits, Paul and his family have begun to heal. Today he is an advocate for early intervention, parent education, and community representation, so that today's generation of autistic individuals can look forward to better outcomes.*

*Paul is a former chapter facilitator for the Autism Society of North Carolina. He has offered "Magic for Fun & Social Skills," a workshop that teaches children magic tricks as a structured, appropriate social interaction. He is also a board member for ABC of NC, a child development center, providing services and support to individuals with autism.*

# It's Time for the Dentist

*By Kim Tizzard, Director of Family Support, and Judy Smithmyer,  
Autism Resource Specialist Coordinator*

What feelings does this title bring to you? I can tell you that just writing about the dentist brought up all the anxiety-induced emotions that having a loved one with autism spectrum disorder, I/DD, and/or anxiety can bring.

I (Kim) vividly remember my three-year-old son, Trevor, needing to have his blood drawn. It took a papoose holder and three adults to hold him down. It was one of the worst few minutes of our lives. After that experience, the idea of going to the dentist seemed like an impossibility. We were dealing with so much in figuring out how to navigate autism that a dental visit seemed like one more insurmountable obstacle that I did not have the energy to face.

Judy's early experience taking her daughter, Adele, for medical visits was very similar to mine. Adele experienced sensory issues which caused her to be defensive against things such as hair and teeth brushing.

So why add one more challenge to the ones we were already facing? Ultimately, oral health care and good oral hygiene are too important to ignore. Poor oral health can have a detrimental effect on children's quality of life, their performance at school, and their success later in life. The first dental visit should be by 12 months or within six months of the first tooth coming in.

## What the research says:

Tooth decay is one of the most common chronic conditions of childhood. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) have higher levels of dental plaque, more untreated decay, more gum disease, fewer filled teeth, and more missing teeth than their counterparts without I/DD. Additionally, adolescents with I/DD have more difficulty obtaining oral health services than their siblings without I/DD.\*

\*(Zhou N, Ming Wong H, Feng Wen Y, McGarth C. Oral health status of children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Dev Med Child Neurol*. 2017; 59(10): 1019-1026. doi: 10.1111/dmcn.13486.)

Fast forward to today: Trevor and Adele are adults. They have developed the tolerance to have successful visits to the dentist and are currently experiencing good oral health. If you had asked either of us in those early years if this were possible, we would emphatically have said, "no way."





## So, how did we get there?

Let's take a look at a number of strategies that we used for our children that may help your loved one(s) as well.

- Start early with dental care. Both of our children were receiving Occupational Therapy. The first step was tolerating others touching their mouth. One way to practice is running a gloved finger across the gums for just a few seconds.
- Visiting the dental office while only staff was present. Many dentists are open to allowing visits prior to the office opening or shortly after closing. Ask!
- We took pictures and created a book of what our children/adult would see when they went for their tour. This helped to alleviate a bit of the angst of going somewhere they had not been to before.
- Practice what will happen with social stories. Review those expectations ahead of time so the child/adult doesn't get too overwhelmed. We have created social narratives to help prepare the child/adult.
- Have your child sit on your lap while the dentist or hygienist looks at their teeth. This method worked well for us during the younger years.
- Educate staff about your child/adult. There are a number of forms available on the internet to help gather information about best ways to communicate, physical cues, and sensory preferences. Be upfront with the staff about what behaviors they may see, as well as triggers that may cause an outburst or behaviors.
- Model expectations for your child if their understanding is limited. If they see you sitting, smiling, and allowing the dentist to look in your mouth, they may be more willing to allow this to happen to them.
- Ask if cleanings can be done more frequently. Adele can't tolerate having her whole mouth cleaned in one visit, so the dentist she sees now has her come every 3 months. Trevor went every 4 months and just moved to every 6 months.
- Early on Trevor could only tolerate the hygienist "scaling" his teeth (removing plaque and tartar) for 10 minutes while I sang the alphabet song (yes, I sang it very slowly). Your loved one may only be able to sit in the dental chair for 2 minutes. Whatever length of time they can tolerate is a step in the right direction. Setting reasonable expectations not only helps your child/adult but the dental staff as well.
- Be sure to ask the hygienist the best way to help your child clean their teeth between visits.
- You may want to find a pediatric dentist who specializes in children with special needs. Ask if they offer a pre-meeting consultation to discuss your loved one's needs.
- Ask if there are "special times" for quieter appointments. Many do offer this for their patients with special needs.
- START EARLY and be CONSISTENT!

## Perspective from adults with autism

Many of our loved ones may not be able to fully communicate what is making them feel angst or what may bring them comfort during their dental visit. We reached out to a couple of our adult friends with autism who shared some tips on creating a positive relationship with a dentist. This is what they had to say:

- "I didn't like the dentist someone found for me because the location and design of the office made it difficult for me to stay calm. I was able to explore additional options with my staff and found a dentist that explained things to me in a way that I could understand. I liked that they had televisions to look at. Helps me concentrate on something else which made me comfortable."
- "I prefer to have a TV to look at with the subtitles on as it helps me have somewhere to look. I do not like looking at someone's face for such a long time. I like a dentist that is close to my house. I appreciate them being considerate of my questions without judging. Do not talk too much during the cleaning, I do not know how to react to this. Do not attack my poor hygiene but have a way to gently remind me how I can do better. Sensory issues make using an electric toothbrush challenging because it tickles my lip but I am learning to tolerate. I do not like flossing, so hard to hold, so I prefer the floss picker even though I am aware that it is not best. A timer is very helpful too." ■

## Resources

**We have developed several resources to help with medical and dental appointments:**

The Autism and Health toolkit has information on preparing for medical appointments.

[autismsociety-nc.org/toolkits](https://autismsociety-nc.org/toolkits)

We have social narratives for brushing teeth, going to the dentist, and more health and safety topics.

[autismsociety-nc.org/social-narratives](https://autismsociety-nc.org/social-narratives)

ASNC Autism Resource Specialists can connect you to local providers and provide more guidance. They are available to help families in every county of North Carolina on topics such as accessing services, community resources, IEPs, and residential options. Autism Resource Specialists are all parents of children or adults with autism, so they have firsthand knowledge and a unique understanding of what you are going through. To find one near you: [autismsociety-nc.org/ARS](https://autismsociety-nc.org/ARS)

# Celebrating Direct Support Professionals

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Each September, the Autism Society of North Carolina celebrates Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), the staff members who work one-on-one with individuals with autism. We employ hundreds of DSPs across the state. They teach skill acquisition and support individuals in reaching their life goals. We applaud each and every one! This year, we also honored three of them with achievement awards.

## **Laurie Dougherty Named 2021 Roman Award Winner**

Laurie Dougherty has worked at the Fairview House, one of the Autism Society of North Carolina's residential programs in western North Carolina, since the home opened in 2004. For her contribution to the success of the home and the residents it serves, Dougherty has been named the 2021 winner of the John and Claudia Roman Direct Service Award. The annual award, endowed by Lori and Gregg Ireland to honor Christine Roman, honors a direct service employee of the Autism Society of North Carolina who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to individuals with autism and their families.

"Consistency, predictability, and routine are a few of the words we often use to describe what best makes autistic individuals feel safe," says Laurie Kozar, who nominated Dougherty for the award. "With the consistency of Laurie's involvement, her experience, and her knowledge of each

individual, these men have been provided with a predictable routine, creating a successful and safe living environment."

Michael LePage, Regional Services Director, also praises the stability that Dougherty's 17 years of service has brought to the Fairview House. "In a world where consistency is key to success, she has been the beacon of consistency for the residents, year in and year out," he says. "During COVID-19 restrictions, that consistency and calming presence was needed more than ever, and she rose to the occasion."

Fairview House serves three individuals. Dougherty calls it her "second home."

"We have all come a long way together," Dougherty says. "I love getting to see the residents make progress in their goals, and I get to make progress in my understanding of people with autism."

Dougherty works to support independence for each resident, providing assistance with daily living as needed. She helps residents prepare for their days and accompanies them to activities, such as volunteering with Meals on Wheels. But the highlight, for Dougherty, is the opportunity to build friendships with and between the residents. "The social aspect is great," she says. "We've all become very close, and we have so much fun." She cites trips to the state fair and birthday picnics as highlights from past years. While COVID-19 presented challenges, she is proud of the way the residents adjusted to the changes in their schedules.

Dougherty is "the rock of the Fairview House," according to Residential Services Coordinator Charles Steiner. "She has gone above and beyond to support not only her participants, but the guardians and her fellow staff. Her contagious positive attitude brings out the passion of her fellow staff members, and they get to witness daily her experience, dedication, and continuous drive to support her participants. She is a role model to any new or current staff."





In her nomination, Kozar also praised Dougherty for her mentorship of new staff: “Her history is invaluable as new staff are trained in behaviors, communication, and individual needs.”

Dougherty admits she has 17 years of experience with the residents that she shares with colleagues, but she says that the Autism Society of North Carolina’s training provides the necessary foundation for new staff. She encourages anyone interested in working with people with autism to follow that calling.

“If you ever get the opportunity to work with people with autism, you should jump at it,” Dougherty says. “It’s amazing, and your life will be so enriched by the experience.”



### **Carmen Henwood & Sarah Waller Honored with McCrimmon Award**

The McCrimmon Award is named for Ed McCrimmon, a longtime member of the Autism Society of North Carolina staff. He was known for his outstanding dedication and integrity as he served individuals with autism. Tragically, he died in 2017. The McCrimmon Award was established to keep Ed’s memory alive, and at the same time, celebrate others like him who give their heart and soul in providing critical care to individuals with autism. This award is sponsored by Rob and Jennifer Christian.

This year, two direct support professionals were chosen to receive the McCrimmon Award for their outstanding work. Learn more about their impact, directly from the people who nominated them:

#### **Carmen Henwood**

*Nominated by Becky Webb*

Carmen is a bright light in our home! She is always positive and encouraging as she works with our son. She is such a blessing

to our family with her steady guidance and unwavering support. It means so much as a parent for us to have someone so trustworthy to be able to count on, especially over the last year. A year ago, my husband was diagnosed with cancer. It was a complete shock and rocked our world. This would be difficult for any family to deal with, but having a child on the spectrum adds a challenging layer. Carmen has been there every step of the way. She has been so flexible, stepping in to care for Ryan so I could accompany my husband to his various medical appointments and provide his post-surgical care. We truly would never have made it this far without her care and compassion.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the outstanding service she provides for our son. She has gone above and beyond by making his summer fun! She has provided “summer camp at home” activities for our son with a new theme each week for the past 8 weeks. This has truly given our son something to look forward to each week and has kept his mind off of his dad’s recovery. We can’t say enough about the kindness Carmen has shown our family and we are so blessed to have her helping our son navigate through life to reach his highest potential...and to have fun doing it!

#### **Sarah Waller**

*Nominated by Natalie Clark*

Sarah Waller is an angel that has not received her wings yet. The impact that she has had on my family is incomparable. She came into my family’s life in 2019 when our son was a 5-year-old non-verbal severely autistic, fun, loving boy. We had daily challenges such as limited eating, lack of being potty trained, communication, and other issues.

In the time that Sarah has been with our son, the growth that he has made has been exponential. All of the challenges that we were unsure if we would ever get past are now in our rearview. The love and grace that she shows our son is unbelievable. He can be very difficult at times, but she conveys the idea that she is structured, and he will have to be too. This is of utmost importance, and my husband and I feel this skill is what makes her so deserving of this award. The result of that is that she has helped open our son’s mind up to us even more. He is more at ease in spontaneous situations and is comfortable in crowded events. He will at least entertain the idea of eating new foods and enjoying new experiences.

He has grown into a loving 7-year-old boy who will tell you what he wants and can effectively communicate. He is potty trained. He has such a better quality of life because of Sarah. Sarah truly loves my son. My family truly loves her. She is a part of our family. ■

# New Program Builds Skills

On a chilly December morning, four young adults start their day at Camp Royall by singing and dancing to their favorite holiday songs in the gym. They are participating in Camp Royall's newest year-round offering, the Adult Skills Program, which started in 2021. Participants meet weekly to learn and practice various life skills, while also enjoying all the fun that Camp Royall has to offer.

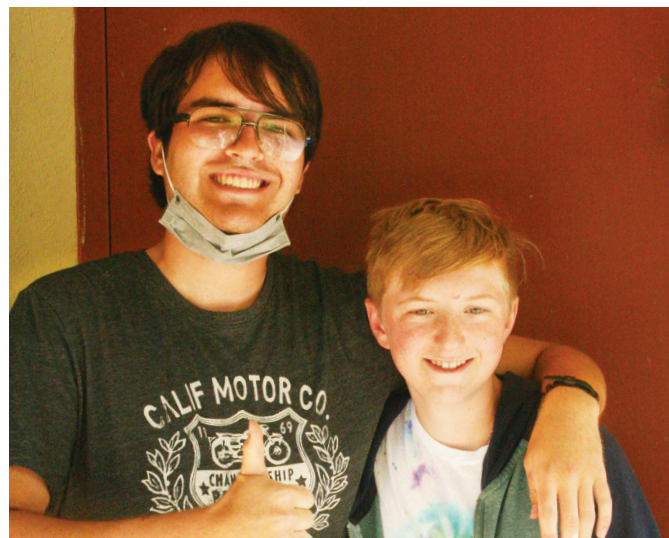
After everyone has had a chance to hear their favorite song, they head to the Dining Hall to continue working on their culinary skills, the focus of this semester. For several weeks, participants have been learning how to safely use kitchen utensils and appliances and how to follow written instructions and recipes. The young adults rotate between various stations; today's activities include making hot chocolate using the microwave, chopping a potato, following a recipe to make a snack, and playing kitchen utensil bingo. At each station, a Camp Royall staffer offers encouragement and guidance.

The program has been able to accommodate a range of skills. Since one of the participants has lived independently and is comfortable with kitchen basics, he works instead on meal planning. With the one-on-one help of a staff member, he selects a recipe from the IGNITE cookbook and scans the Camp cupboards and fridge for which ingredients are on hand. Then, he finds how much the rest of the ingredients cost by using a grocery store website, learning about grocery budgeting. In the coming weeks, the ingredients will be purchased, picked up, and turned into a delicious chili.

The skills session ends with everyone enjoying the snack they made, and then all the participants share in cleaning duties. In the afternoon, they'll enjoy other camp activities, including arts and crafts time, a hike, a hayride, a campfire, and free play in the gym.

"We look forward to continuing to build the Adult Skills Program," says Camp Director Sara Gage. "In the past few months, we've seen participants get excited about learning new skills and completing tasks with limited assistance. We know our adults want to contribute and feel success, and we are proud of the work they are doing to be more independent. We hope to expand this program so we can add more participants and continue to focus on independent living skills."

The Adult Skills program is just one of Camp Royall's year-round programs. Other options include mini camps, teen and adult retreats, Teen Tuesday, and Family Fun Days. To learn more about year-round programs, visit our website, [www.camproyall.org](http://www.camproyall.org).



Photos: Adult Skills program in the kitchen (left); Grant Clark with a happy camper (right).

## Preparing for Summer

**Registration:** By now, you should have received notification about your placement if you entered the Summer Camp lottery. As a reminder, we start our registration for Summer Camp lottery in November and conduct the lottery in January so that families have more time to finalize their summer plans. Though the registration period is complete, you can apply for the waitlist for Summer Camp and our year-round programs.

**Supplies:** Camp Royall always needs supplies to keep camp operating smoothly. If you are interested in giving supplies to Camp Royall, we have an Amazon wish list: [bit.ly/CampRoyallWishlist](https://bit.ly/CampRoyallWishlist)

**Spread the Word about Working at Camp:** We are looking for hard working, passionate young people who are looking to provide service this spring and summer. Working at Camp Royall is a life-changing experience filled with fun, friendships, and an amazing feeling of accomplishment. We provide training and support to our staff so they are prepared to work with individuals with autism. If you or someone you know is interested in working at Camp Royall, please direct them to our website, [www.camproyall.org](http://www.camproyall.org), to learn more. Full job descriptions are available at [www.autismsociety-nc.org/careers](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org/careers).

**Help Send Kids to Camp:** We work year-round to raise money to give campers who are unable to afford camp the opportunity to learn new skills, have fun, and make friends. Each year, the demand for scholarships exceeds the funds we have available. We hope you will consider giving to provide life-improving experiences for campers with autism. Please contact Kristy White, Chief Development Officer, at [kwhite@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:kwhite@autismsociety-nc.org) or 919-865-5086 if you are interested in donating to camp, learning about named scholarships, or helping with fundraising.

## Counselor Spotlight: Grant Clark

Grant Clark first attended Camp Royall in 2012 as a camper. That summer, he decided that he would return one day as a counselor. This year, he fulfilled that promise.

"It's been really special seeing the other side of things, to see how much effort goes into making sure that these campers have an amazing week," he said. "I had an incredible counselor who made that week really special for me, and now I'm doing activities with the campers that I remember my counselor doing with me."

Grant's favorite activity when he was a camper was boating. He made friendships that summer that have lasted to this day.

"I met so many amazing guys that summer, and now I'm meeting incredible campers," Grant said. "I've had a really special bond with every single one of my campers. Maybe it's because I'm on the spectrum like they are, but we're able to bond over shared interests and form a friendship."

## We're Hiring – Summer Camp Counselors



*"Camp Royall has taught me so much. It is truly the happiest place on Earth. Camp Royall has changed my life and will always have a special place in my heart."*

*~ Counselor, Summer 2021*

### We're looking for people to join our AWESOME summer camp team!

Camp Royall offers:

- Extensive training and education
- Practicum/internship/college credit options available
- Free room & board all summer
- Fun, outdoor work environment
- A supportive environment to learn and grow

Scan to learn more.



Camp Director Sara Gage agreed that Grant has created special bonds with his campers. "Grant made very meaningful connections with his campers. He's always willing to go above and beyond to ensure his campers have a great week."

While Grant worked hard to ensure that campers had their "best week ever," he also had fun. "This job is awesome," he said. "Getting to spend time outdoors is always nice, but then you get to make connections, not just with campers, but with the directors and your fellow counselors. It's really something I've never experienced before."

Grant is a student at Queens University of Charlotte, where he's majoring in archeology and minoring in Latin. He hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in archeology and work in Rome, Italy one day. Still, he's willing to make the flight from Rome to Camp Royall.

"If I could have my way, I'd be working here every summer for the rest of my life," he said. ■



# Helping Adults Find the Right Job

In 2021, the Autism Society of North Carolina's Employment Supports staff helped more than 220 adults in their job search. Adults with autism started working in a variety of roles, including IT positions, stockers, cart attendants, auditing roles, bussers, dishwashers, accounting roles, assembly work, warehouse work, administrative positions, animal care positions, data entry, food service, delivery, and automotive work.

For individuals with autism, a job increases self-esteem and self-worth. A job provides the independence that comes with a paycheck as well as opportunities to improve social skills, grow a network of friends and support, and pursue passions. We are grateful for the opportunity to help adults find meaningful, long-term employment.

Employment Supports offers a variety of services to help adults find and succeed in meaningful jobs:

## Vocational Evaluations

Our staff starts by determining if an individual is work ready. This process includes assessing an individual's skills and vocational strengths, including soft skills, communication skills, and ability to follow directions. The evaluation considers environments that the individual can tolerate, based on sensitivities to noise or proximity to coworkers. The evaluation also considers potential limitations, including

aggression or inability to follow directions or stay on task independently. This process helps to inform what types of supports the individual might need to obtain and maintain employment.

The evaluation also includes assessments and interviews to determine what the individual will enjoy doing and to ensure that their desired job is in line with the assessment of their skills and sensitivities. If the individual has worked or volunteered before, they can help to identify their preferences and the skills they want to continue to develop in the workplace.

## Job Development

Once the individual is deemed work ready (by our evaluation or by a Vocational Rehabilitation evaluation), Employment Supports works with the individual, a service provider, and potentially the individual's parents to identify a job goal. Then, staff work with the individual on developing a resume, searching for potential job opportunities, and networking. Because of our history successfully placing job candidates, we may already know some employers in the industries and businesses that might be a good match.

When the individual finds a position they're interested in, we work with them on applying for the job and preparing for the interview. Job interviews can be stressful for any candidate, but the social aspects may be especially difficult for individuals with autism. We practice interviewing with common questions so that individuals learn the best ways to answer questions and schedule mock interviews so that they become more comfortable with the process and know what to expect.

Once the job is secured, our staff supports the individual through the onboarding process, including new hire documents, setting up direct deposit, and preparing for the first day.



## Job Coaching

This service looks different for each individual we serve. Some people need more support on the job, while others need less, so coaching is tailored to each person's needs.

During job coaching, an Employment Supports staff member works with the employee to help them learn the skills required for their position and establish a routine and structure for their day. Our staff works with the new employee on soft skills related to the workplace, such as appropriate topics of conversation with coworkers or how to ask a boss for time off. The new employee may need assistance identifying transportation options. It's important to note that job coaches do not do the job for the new employee but assist that individual with learning how to do the job.

The goal of job coaching is to ensure that the individual can work as independently as possible, but if an employee's duties change, or if there's a change in management or location, job coaches can return to help the employee manage those transitions or learn new tasks.

During this time, our staff is also working with the new employee's managers and co-workers. We help those people understand autism and how to provide natural support to their new employee.

## Funding Employment Services

There are several ways to fund Employment Supports:

**Vocational Rehabilitation (VR):** This is the primary way we provide Employment Services. Candidates must qualify for Vocational Rehabilitation Services and live in a county in which ASNC has a contract with Vocational Rehabilitation. Individuals must understand VR services will fade and they will be expected to work independently after they are

trained and stable in their job (typically within 6-9 months of obtaining the job on average).

VR includes Linking North Carolina to Innovative Talent (LiNC-IT), a unique collaborative partnership between government, Vocational Rehabilitation, non-profits (including the Autism Society of North Carolina), and employers. For young adults with autism who have some level of post-secondary training/college, LiNC-IT uses an "internship-to-hire" model. During the internship, the intern is paid a competitive wage and supported directly by agencies such as the Autism Society of North Carolina. 97% of interns who have used the LiNC-IT program have turned that opportunity into full time employment with the companies.

**B3 State Funding through Medicaid:** This option works for individuals who do not need constant one-on-one support and coaching to remain in their job, but who need more ongoing support than the check-ins provided by Vocational Rehabilitation services. The employee must have active Medicaid to access this service and maintain active Medicaid to continue the service.

**Innovations Waiver:** With this option, the employee can receive one-on-one coaching and support on the job for as long as necessary. The employee must have the Innovations Waiver.

**Private pay:** Individuals may pay for services directly. ■

*To learn more about Employment Supports services, please call the office nearest you or email Shannon Pena at [spena@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:spena@autismsociety-nc.org).*

*Asheville: 828-236-1547*

*Greensboro: 336-404-6664*

*Charlotte: 704-569-5044*

*Greenville: 252-756-1316*

*Fayetteville: 910-864-2769*

*Raleigh: 919-865-0681*

# Employ Someone with Autism

If you are a business owner or manager who would like to know more about how to employ individuals with autism, we can help you!

**Your business can benefit:**

- Employees with autism are reliable, dedicated, focused, attentive to detail, hard-working, and have less turnover than the national average.
- Working with someone with autism will expand your employees' perspectives and inspire their pride to be part of having an impact in their community.
- In some cases, employers may be eligible for tax credits.

We assist employers by helping to train the employee, educating co-workers about autism, and putting in place a structured system to help the employee maintain their job. To learn more, please contact Shannon Pena at [spena@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:spena@autismsociety-nc.org).



# NC State Budget Passes

*By Jennifer Mahan, Director of Public Policy*

SB 105, the state budget for fiscal years July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2023, has passed and was signed into law by the Governor.

The state budget contains an unprecedented number of provisions and funding related to access to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers and other services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), including those with autism. While the funding will not address the full scope of need or eliminate the current waiting list, it is a good move forward.

## Top highlights that impact the autism community include:

- Authorization and funding of an additional 1,000 waiver slots.
- Recurring funding to increase direct support staff wages across community services, as well as one-time direct support bonuses.
- Increasing special education funding cap to 13%, adding the special education ADM and transportation funds, and studying additional funding for special education.
- Including special education due process hearings bill language.
- Creating a community college pilot program to expand career opportunities for students with I/DD and establishing a scholarship for UNC postsecondary I/DD programs, further emphasizing the importance of meaningful employment and postsecondary options for people with autism.

A longer, more comprehensive list of items that relate to ASNC public policy priorities is highlighted on our blog: [bit.ly/NC-budget](https://bit.ly/NC-budget). To view the full budget, visit the NC General Assembly's page at [ncleg.gov](https://ncleg.gov).

We are pleased that legislators and our administration are starting to recognize the need to address the 15,500 people on the waiting list for services, the need to pay the direct care workforce a competitive wage, as well as the significant lack of special education resources.

If you reached out to your legislators during the budget process to help explain the importance of services for our community, thank you. We hope you'll also reach out to your legislators and the governor to thank them for passing the

budget and making autism services and support a priority. You can find who represents you in the General Assembly by visiting [ncleg.gov/FindYourLegislators](https://ncleg.gov/FindYourLegislators). A list of budget chairs is available on our blog, [bit.ly/NC-budget](https://bit.ly/NC-budget).

Please continue to reach out to your General Assembly members to tell them about the importance of services for the autism community. Be brief, be respectful. Our Advocacy Tips Sheet and Advocacy 101 Toolkit can help you with your statement. They are located on our website: [autismsociety-nc.org/make-voice-heard](https://autismsociety-nc.org/make-voice-heard). ■

*If you have questions about the budget or public policy, please contact Jennifer Mahan, Director of Public Policy, [jmahan@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:jmahan@autismsociety-nc.org).*

## Medicaid Transformation Delay

- In November 2021, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) announced that Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Tailored Plans will launch December 1, 2022, instead of July 1, 2022. Standard Plans launched in July 2021.
- Tailored Plans are integrated health plans for people with significant behavioral health needs and/or those with autism and other I/DD who are receiving Medicaid or state and local funded supports and services.
- The updated implementation schedule recognizes community concerns that the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to an increased need for behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disabilities services, which has placed added pressures at the state, Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO) and provider level. The updated implementation schedule will help balance the need to ensure a successful Tailored Plan launch with the imperative to provide current beneficiaries in the system high quality care.
- The Autism Society of North Carolina will continue to provide updates on Medicaid Transformation on our blog, [autismsociety-nc.org/blog](https://autismsociety-nc.org/blog)



Scan to read the NC DHHS fact sheet



# Money isn't everything... but it's a bonus!



*We're offering a sign-on bonus for part-time positions!*

Do you know someone who is passionate about helping individuals on the autism spectrum and their families? Let them know that the Autism Society of North Carolina is always looking for qualified candidates to join us as we improve lives.

## **Why work for ASNC? We offer:**

- Extensive training and education
- Full- and part-time positions across the state
- Flexible hours and customized schedules
- Competitive pay
- Benefits starting at 20 hours
- Extensive client matching to ensure good fit
- Rewarding and relevant job experience

## **We are always looking for candidates or referrals for the following positions:**

- Autism Support Professionals
- Vocational Support Professionals
- Autism Services Coordinators
- Social Recreation Counselors
- Behavior Technicians



## *Improve a life — and yours*

Join the Autism Society of NC to create fulfilling lives for people with autism.



Scan QR  
code to  
apply  
today!



Autism Society  
of North Carolina

[autismsociety-nc.org/careers](https://autismsociety-nc.org/careers)

# Shining Brighter than Ever

Like stars that keep beaming, our more than 70 Chapters and Support Groups continue to provide constancy in the lives of individuals and families across our state. Through support meetings, family get-togethers, and shared information – all within COVID-19 guidelines – our groups have been a beacon of hope during these challenging times.

Check out the many ways our groups have kept busy during the past several months. From educational offerings, to building autism awareness in their communities, to stress-free holiday fun for families, Chapters provide something for everyone. If you would like to join your local Chapter or volunteer to help plan or lead, we enthusiastically welcome you!

Many Chapters have found creative ways to provide support to families throughout the pandemic. The **Granville/Vance Chapter** met at a park so children could play while parents chatted, and the **Rowan County Chapter** members chatted on a coffee shop's outdoor patio. The **Wayne County Chapter** chose a hybrid meeting with a laptop at the meeting site so attendees both online and in-person could hear each other and participate. Jolona Kinlaw, Chapter Leader and Autism Resource Specialist, led a discussion on social anxiety, and members shared concerns for both themselves and their loved ones on the spectrum. The **Jackson/Swain/Qualla Boundary Chapter** has been alternating between virtual and in-person, socially distanced meetings at a local park.

The **Haywood County Chapter** provided volunteer support and participated in the WNC Run/Walk for Autism in September. In October, Chapter families enjoyed a sensory-

friendly visit to the Junaluska Fire Department. Firefighters talked to them about fire prevention, showed the kids around the station, and then taught them not to be scared when they see firefighters in their gear. In December, the Chapter brought families to visit Santa. Families enjoyed quiet appointments with the big guy and then had cookies and cocoa on their way out of the event. One mom commented on Facebook, "We had such a great time and FINALLY! got a picture with Santa!!! After 4 years of taking our middle one to see Santa and get photos. She has refused each time I've tried but tonight she did it and she talked his ear off! I hope we can do this again next year!!!"

The **Richmond County Chapter** hosted a fall festival complete with hayrides, pumpkin carving, outdoor games, a cookout, and mini-donkeys. Fun was had by all! The Chapter also held an informative back-to-school workshop for families, presented by Autism Resource Specialist Amy Perry. While their parents learned, kids had fun at a slime-making dance party. Later in August, the Chapter facilitated autism training for 20 Richmond County first responders.

The **Person County Chapter** had a very successful parking lot trick or treat event with nearly 50 attendees! Chapter Leader Cindy Martin promoted it in some community Facebook





groups, turning it into an awareness event that even drew members of the public from other counties. The Chapter also offered support meetings at a local park and collaborated with a local movie theater to host a sensory-friendly movie in the fall. In December, the Chapter offered a Santa Drive Thru and Make it and Take It Gift event. After families visited with Santa, they could choose from various crafting items to make a gift for someone. The Chapter even offered a wrapping station – families left the event with their gift ready to give!

The **Orange/Chatham Chapter** hosted some creative outdoor activities in the fall, including a sing-along at a local park shelter led by a music therapist and a scavenger hunt at a park. The Chapter also held its support meetings on the back patio of a restaurant, where members could sit spaced apart to chat. In November, the Chapter increased autism awareness and acceptance by promoting local businesses run by autistic individuals or inclusive to the autistic community.

The **Chowan County Chapter** set up an information table at the NC Rock Autism Music Festival, an annual event that unites the community to advocate, educate, and raise money. The Hertford event featured music from local bands, and it was a wonderful opportunity to provide awareness for our northeastern NC Chapters.

The **Pitt County Chapter** teamed up with Family Support Network of Eastern NC for a morning at the park the first weekend in November. Despite chilly temperatures, several families came out to meet, play, and share ideas and resources. The Chapter also hosted a virtual bake-off in December, inviting members to chat while getting some holiday baking done.

The **Duplin County Chapter**, which formed in the early days of the pandemic and has been meeting online, held its first in-person meeting in November. Members enjoyed chatting and brainstorming activities for possible Chapter events. The new **Nash County Chapter** hosted its first official meeting virtually in November, and members are looking forward to more.

**Iredell County Chapter** families got together for a fun Saturday of bowling in the fall. The Chapter also offered a helpful presentation on “Tips for Getting through the Holidays” with Autism Resource Specialist Nancy Popkin.

The **Surry County Chapter**’s new Leadership Team continued their Chapter’s longtime tradition of an annual fall festival, making it drive-thru for safety. The Chapter also received a \$1,000 donation from Sheriff Steve C. Hiatt and the staff of the Surry County Sheriff’s Office in October, proceeds from the department’s “No Shave Campaign” challenge. In December, Chapter families enjoyed a walk-through Christmas celebration. They received gingerbread house kits, cookie-making ingredients, and some sensory-friendly toys. They also took photos in front of a holiday backdrop. Chapter Leaders offered time slots to space families and keep them safe and healthy. Afterward, families posted pictures in the Facebook group of their decorated gingerbread houses. One mom commented, “David just made his cookie house and he had a blast. Messy play has been a struggle for him but he was all in tonight. Thank y’all so much for welcoming us with open arms.”

The **ASNC Campus Club at ECU** used their hard-earned fundraising money to put together sensory gift kits for Pitt County Chapter families! ECU President Cori Clayton collaborated with Regional Chapters and Campus Clubs Coordinator Meleah Lowe to put together a list of sensory items to include in each bag. Once items were purchased, the ECU members came together to pack 20 gift bags. ■

*If you would like to join a local Chapter, find one near you at [autismsociety-nc.org/chapters](https://autismsociety-nc.org/chapters) or contact Marty Kellogg, State Chapters Coordinator, at [mkellogg@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:mkellogg@autismsociety-nc.org).*



*Photos from bottom to top right: Richmond fall festival; Person holiday crafting; Surry holiday celebration; Iredell bowling; Chowan resource table*

*Photos on opposite page: Haywood holiday celebration (left), photos by Gna Wyatt with Starling & Oak Photography; Orange/Chatham sing-along (right)*



# Recursos y Eventos para las Familias Hispanas

El Departamento de Asuntos Hispanos continúa ofreciendo apoyo a las familias a través de Seminarios Web, Reuniones de los Grupo de Apoyo Hispano e información sobre recursos para ayudar a enfrentar los desafíos de la pandemia. Invitamos a los padres a llamar al 800-442-2762, extensión 1, o por correo electrónico, [mmaldonado@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:mmaldonado@autismsociety-nc.org) para comunicarse con Mariela Maldonado, Enlace de Asuntos Hispanos de ASNC. Los padres también pueden contactarse por Facebook o WhatsApp.

## Página web de recursos en español

Visite la página web de Recursos en español de ASNC: [www.autismsociety-nc.org/recursos](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org/recursos) sobre información de los programas de ASNC, narrativas sociales, lista de los próximos entrenamientos y eventos, y recursos para situaciones relacionadas con la pandemia. Nuestro Departamento Clínico ha creado narrativas sociales sobre el uso de mascarillas, vacunación, permanencia en casa, limitación de las visitas familiares, educación a distancia, rutinas, e información sobre las terapias de Análisis Aplicado de Conducta (ABA, por sus siglas en inglés).

El año pasado, empezamos a traducir y publicar artículos de esta revista. También compartiremos información del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Carolina del Norte sobre la transformación de Medicaid, programada actualmente para diciembre de 2022.

## Eventos Presenciales en la Comunidad

En algunas regiones con mayor población hispana como Raleigh, Durham y Charlotte, se están realizando reuniones presenciales siguiendo los protocolos de seguridad para la pandemia. De este modo, las familias celebraron El Día de Acción de Gracias y en Navidad, los niños pudieron tomarse fotos con Papá Noel. Se programarán otras reuniones presenciales según la evolución y el impacto de la pandemia. Contáctenos para más información.

## Reuniones Virtuales de los Grupos de Apoyo Hispano

Seguimos ofreciendo reuniones virtuales el 1er. y 3er. martes de cada mes a las 7 p. m. con la participación de padres de todas las regiones de Carolina del Norte para conocer a otros padres, intercambiar experiencias y discutir formas de apoyar a sus hijos. Agradecemos el esfuerzo de nuestras coordinadoras voluntarias quienes apoyan a los grupos en todo el estado. Comuníquese con ellas para más información.



### Wake, Johnston, Pitt, Nash y el área del NE

Guadalupe Ortega 919-247-5760  
Ana Chouza 919-244-9633  
Hilda Munguia 919-946-5080  
Marta Espino 252-341-6795

### Durham, Orange, Randolph y área del Triad

Juana Garcia 919-687-7692  
Mayra Tapia 919-540-6543  
Monica Giffuni 336-549-5786  
Beatriz Solano 919-525-7682

### Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Union, Gastonia, Buncombe y el área del NW

Laura Torres 704-430-0281  
Clara Amarante 347-217-5661

### Cumberland, Robeson, New Hannover y área del SE

Alma Morales 910-785-5473  
Azucena Montiel 910-274-7632

## Talleres virtuales en español

Los seminarios virtuales en español se ofrecen dos veces al mes, y proporcionan herramientas y recursos para asuntos escolares, acceso a servicios, conductas desafiantes y otros temas de interés. Estos son algunos de los seminarios virtuales que se ofrecieron recientemente en español:

- **Opciones para Estudiantes de Alto Funcionamiento de Autismo después de Graduarse de la Secundaria**, presentado por Mindy Govan, Directora de Servicios de Transición y Empleo de ASNC, y Nancy Nestor, Especialista en Recursos para el Autismo de ASNC.
- **Preguntas y Respuestas sobre el Comportamiento**, presentado por Merlin Duran, BCBA del Departamento Clínico de ASNC.
- **El Acoso es un Tema de Todos**, en una colaboración con el Centro de Asistencia para Niños Excepcionales (ECAC) presentado por Millie Ramos, Educadora Bilingüe de Padres de ECAC.

Se han programado en el 2022 talleres sobre la Transición a la Edad Adulta, la Educación Sexual y la Conducta Desafiante. Para más información, consulte la página web: [www.autismsociety-nc.org/workshops](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org/workshops)

## Carrera/Caminata por el autismo - Primavera 2022

Participe y cree un equipo con su familia y amigos para los eventos de Carrera/Caminata por el Autismo en todo el estado. Estos eventos apoyan la misión de ASNC y educan a la comunidad sobre el autismo. Esta primavera, hay opciones presenciales y virtuales disponibles.

### 23 de abril – Wilmington

Coastal NC Carrera/Caminata por el Autismo,

### 23 de abril – Mount Airy

Caminata por el Autismo del Condado de Surry

### 30 de abril – Greenville

Eastern Carrera/Caminata por el Autismo

### 21 de mayo – Beaufort

Crystal Coast Carrera/Caminata por el Autismo

Para inscribirse en el evento más cercano, visite, [www.runwalkforautism.com](http://www.runwalkforautism.com)



## Estrategias Básicas para la Vacunación de Su Hijo

- Las vacunas contra el COVID-19 están disponibles para todas las personas mayores de 5 años, de forma gratuita.
- Antes de la cita de vacunación, contacte con el médico de su hijo y comparta sus dudas.
- Programe la cita durante las horas menos concurridas para evitar una espera prolongada.
- Comuníquese con el centro de vacunación con anticipación para compartir la información sobre su hijo.
- Antes de la cita, explíquele a su hijo de antemano lo que va a ocurrir con ayudas visuales, secuencias escritas, narrativas sociales. Para ver la narrativa social en español sobre la vacunación ingrese aquí [www.autismsociety-nc.org/wp-content/uploads/Covid-Shots\\_SP.pdf](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org/wp-content/uploads/Covid-Shots_SP.pdf)
- Lleve a la cita materiales que ayuden a tranquilizar y distraer a su hijo.
- Después de la cita, haga las actividades favoritas de su hijo.
- Para ver más narrativas sociales sobre la pandemia, visite el sitio de Recursos en español de ASNC: [www.autismsociety-nc.org/recursos](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org/recursos)

Para buscar un centro de vacunación en Carolina del Norte, visite: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vacunas/ninos>



## Donaciones para el Departamento de Asuntos Hispanos

Agradecemos enormemente su apoyo a través de donaciones que proporcionan educación y promueven oportunidades para las familias hispanas como Becas para la Conferencia Anual, interpretación y traducción para los Seminarios Web, Kits de Herramientas y la Conferencia. Si desea ser patrocinador o contribuir comuníquese con Mariela Maldonado. ■



# Services Across the State

The Autism Society of North Carolina provides services across the state. In this issue, we'd like to highlight a few programs with current or upcoming availability. To find all of the programs near you, please visit our website, where you can find offerings by county: [www.autismsociety-nc.org/find-help](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org/find-help)

## Ascend – Asheville

Opening in 2022 and located in Asheville, Ascend is our newest day program. Ascend offers a variety of activities and opportunities so that adults with autism receive necessary support to develop greater self-sufficiency and community engagement. Activities include creative exploration and expression through art, music, horticulture, culinary activities, and recreational therapy; social skills training through structured leisure activities, social interaction, and community integration; vocational training and supported employment; and community outreach and volunteerism. Individualized tracks are designed for each participant based upon personal interests and skills.



Scan the QR code or visit the webpage below to fill out our interest form today:  
[autismsociety-nc.org/ascend](http://autismsociety-nc.org/ascend)

## IGNITE Davidson and IGNITE Raleigh

Young adults with high-functioning autism or Asperger's Syndrome who are at least 18 years old, have recently graduated from high school with their diploma, and are looking for ways to become involved in the community and increase their independence are invited to apply for membership to our Davidson and Raleigh programs. IGNITE will help members recognize and appreciate their own strengths and interests, and members will work toward their own personal goals, such as getting a job or going to college.



Scan the QR code or visit the webpage below to fill out our interest form for IGNITE: [autismsociety-nc.org/ignite](http://autismsociety-nc.org/ignite)



Greensboro



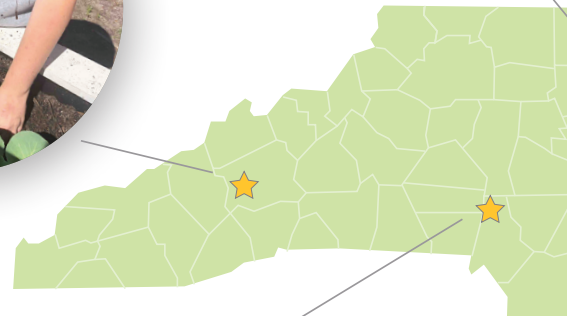
Asheville



Davidson



Raleigh





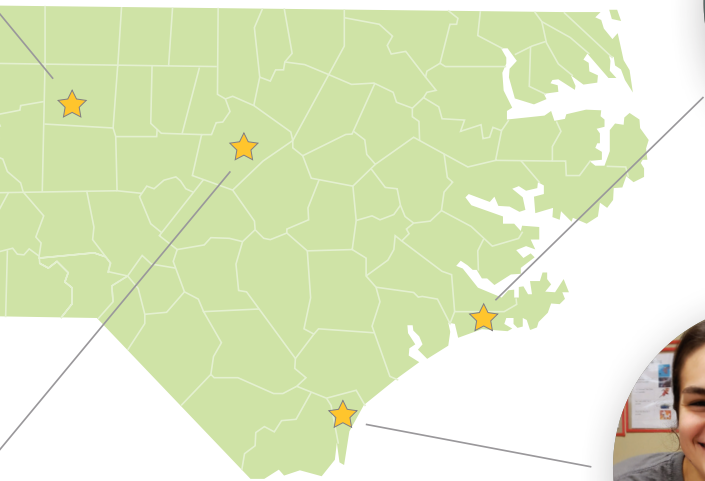
## IGNITE Greensboro

At our newest IGNITE center, young adults with high-functioning autism or Asperger's Syndrome participate in activities and educational groups that foster independence and social interaction. Members work toward financial, educational, and employment success. IGNITE is a place where members come together to share ideas, learn practical skills, build friendships, and feel comfortable being themselves. Members must be at least 18 years old, have graduated from high school with their diploma, and be their own guardian.

At this location, we also offer SPARK, for young adults aged 18-30 with beginning independence skills who want to make social connections and learn social and independence skills. Candidates must not have issues with aggression and must be independent with all personal hygiene.



Scan the QR code or visit the webpage below to fill out our interest form for IGNITE or SPARK today:  
[autismsociety-nc.org/ignite](https://autismsociety-nc.org/ignite)



Newport



Wilmington

## Social Recreation – Newport and Wilmington

With the support of Trillium Health Resources, our Social Recreation programs serve individuals year-round through summer camps, afterschool and adult programming. Applications are considered on a rolling basis. Content for children and young adults is designed to increase social relationships and independence and includes structured recreational activities such as arts and crafts, music and movement, games, media, and outdoor fun. Adults engage in activities such as cooking, health and fitness, social and coping skills, and leisure activities, all geared specifically to adult needs. After spending time in our Social Recreation programs, individuals show increases in confidence, independence, and a willingness to try new things.

Scan the QR code or visit the webpage below to fill out our interest form:

[autismsociety-nc.org/social-recreation/eastern-nc](https://autismsociety-nc.org/social-recreation/eastern-nc)



## Social Connections Groups – Wilmington

We are offering social connection groups for individuals ages 9-12 and 13-16 years old in Wilmington. These groups are designed for participants who have difficulty navigating social situations and want to develop social and self-advocacy skills with the help of our Clinical staff. This program is intended for individuals who can participate in group instruction without intensive or 1:1 support. The groups will meet twice a week for 10 weeks.



Scan the QR code or visit the webpage below to fill out our interest form today:  
[autismsociety-nc.org/social-connections-group-interest-intake-form](https://autismsociety-nc.org/social-connections-group-interest-intake-form)



# Fundraisers & Events

## Fall Run/Walks for Autism Raise \$236,000

We're grateful to all the participants who made the 2021 Fall Run/Walk for Autism a success! Together, the WNC, Triad, and Triangle events raised more than \$236,000. More than 2,000 people registered to participate in-person or virtually. To see photos from each event, please visit our Flickr page: [flickr.com/photos/autismsocietync](https://www.flickr.com/photos/autismsocietync)

## Join Us for a Spring Run/Walk for Autism

We're excited to announce that our Spring Run/Walks will be in-person! Make plans now to join us for an amazing day of community that will improve the lives of children and adults with autism. For each event, we're offering the opportunity to participate virtually, which is a great option for friends and family across the country who want to be part of your team and help fundraise. Proceeds will support local programs of the Autism Society of North Carolina. Registration is online only: [RunWalkforAutism.com](https://RunWalkforAutism.com)

## AmeriCarna LIVE Raises \$100,000 for IGNITE

The 9th annual AmeriCarna LIVE virtual car show raised \$100,000 for IGNITE, the Autism Society of North Carolina's community centers for young adults with high-functioning autism or Asperger's Syndrome. In past years, thousands of car enthusiasts have attended the AmeriCarna LIVE car show in Davidson, NC to see celebrity cars as well as classic, custom, and collector cars. This year, car lovers from around the world submitted photos of their special ride and participated in an online auction. Prizes were awarded for several car classifications and judged by Ray Evernham, NASCAR Hall of Fame crew chief and car owner and founder of IGNITE, and the event's sponsors.

**Coastal NC Run/Walk for Autism**  
**April 23**  
 Wilmington  
[coastalncrunwalkforautism.com](https://coastalncrunwalkforautism.com)

**Surry County Walk for Autism**  
**April 23**  
 Mount Airy  
[surrywalkforautism.com](https://surrywalkforautism.com)

**Eastern Run/Walk for Autism**  
**April 30**  
 Greenville  
[easternrunwalkforautism.com](https://easternrunwalkforautism.com)

**Crystal Coast Run/Walk for Autism**  
**May 21**  
 Beaufort  
[crystalcoastrunwalkforautism.com](https://crystalcoastrunwalkforautism.com)

## Fall Event Sponsors

We thank the following sponsors of our fall events! These events would not be possible without them. Please support these businesses and thank them for helping to improve the lives of individuals with autism and their loved ones.

### Gold Level



### Visionary Level



### Champion Level



Team  
Colin



### Partner Level

Branded  
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Lancaster Law Firm

Mission Children's Hospital  
Mosaic Pediatric Therapy  
Pediatric Possibilities

Spyglass Promotions  
Triangle Wealth Management  
@DJPdubAVL

### Advocate Level

Asbury Associates  
Carolina Pediatrics of the  
Triad  
Centering on Children  
Cornerstone Physical  
Therapy

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David Allen Company  
Fleet Feet - Asheville  
Greensboro Jaycees  
Landura Property  
Management

McKinney Immigration Law  
Milan Hotel Group  
Northwest Pediatrics  
Raleigh Neurology  
Associates, P.A.  
Raleigh Pediatric Dentistry

Ross Photography  
Starbucks  
The Hop Ice Cream  
Triad Moms on Main

### Friend Level

Bruegger's Bagels  
Catherine and John Faherty  
Fleet Feet Sports –  
Greensboro

Higher Ground Pediatric  
Therapy  
Lionheart Academy of the  
Triad  
Oowee Products

Pamela Judson  
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PorterHouse Burger  
Company

P.O.W.E.R of Play  
Publix  
Stepp's Hillcrest Orchard  
Triad Coordinated Services





## Donor Spotlight: Jesse Wills

On September 11, the Autism Society of North Carolina hosted the 16th Annual WNC Run/Walk for Autism. During the awards ceremony, Jesse Wills received the first-ever Jesse Wills award, which will be awarded 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 received the award in recognition of his fundraising work for the WNC Run/Walk for Autism.

"Over the years of doing this run, Jesse has raised \$60,000 for the Autism Society," said Regional Services Director Michael LePage at the ceremony. "To put that in perspective, we have raised about \$600,000, so this man is responsible for 10 percent of everything we've raised."

LePage recounted his 20-year history with Jesse and the Wills family in presenting the award.

"Jesse is a hard-working, intelligent, fun, awesome guy, who happens not to use verbal words, but that doesn't mean he doesn't communicate with us," LePage said. "When he started his job at Red Lobster, we had to learn, and he had to learn how to tell us, what he wanted and what we needed. And what he needed to make that job meaningful for him was an ice cream after every shift."

For that reason, Jesse's award featured an ice cream cone.

During COVID-19, Jesse's job in the restaurant was eliminated, and he now works at a hotel in downtown Asheville.

"Jesse is a truly an inspiration to all of us because of his hard work ethic," said LePage, recounting Jesse's determination to find a new job. "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."

"When I learned Jesse would receive the award, I thought of how he touches the lives of all who meet him and how wonderful it is to recognize that," said Katie Wills. "I thought of our dear family and friends who support us year after year and how happy they would be for Jesse. We are thrilled and humbled that the award will be given annually so that others can be recognized, too."

"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."

## Donor Spotlight: Drew Rosenthal

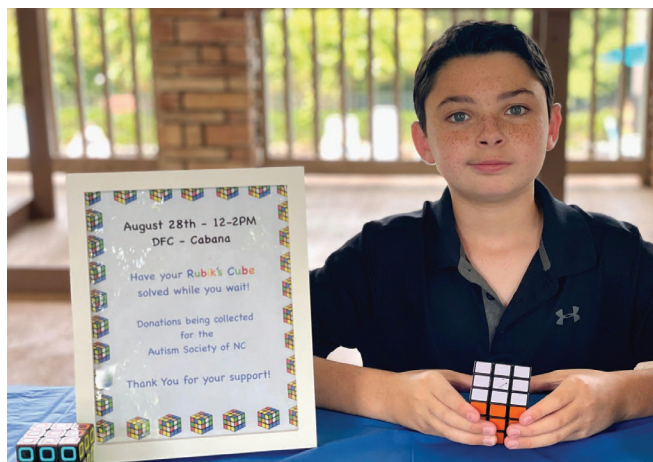
When 12-year-old Drew Rosenthal decided to host a fundraiser, he turned to one of his special skills – solving Rubik's Cubes quickly.

"I am good at solving Rubik's Cubes and I wanted to donate to charity," says Drew. "I chose the Autism Society of NC because I have autism and they have helped me and my family with resources."

In August, Drew set up a table at a neighborhood pavilion and offered to solve 2x2 and 3x3 Rubik's Cubes for a minimum donation of one dollar. He advertised his event with a video on Facebook, showing his ability to solve a cube in less than a minute.

In just two hours, Drew raised \$330 for the Autism Society of North Carolina!

Drew's fundraiser is proof that a simple idea can have big results! We're grateful to Drew for using his skill for speedy solving to help others!



## Host a Fundraiser to Help Families

Volunteers throughout our state host fundraisers to benefit the Autism Society of North Carolina. They rally friends, families, and colleagues to attend unique events or donate proceeds from the sale of various items. It all starts with an idea. If you are interested in hosting your own fundraiser, please contact Heather Hargrave at [hhargrave@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:hhargrave@autismsociety-nc.org) or 919-865-5057. ASNC is grateful to the many individuals and businesses that hold fundraisers to support families affected by autism.

Facebook fundraisers have also become a popular and easy way for our supporters to encourage contributions from their friends. In 2021, they raised more than \$6,200 to improve lives, support families, and educate communities.

Here is a list of recent events and supporters:

Adithi Kishore

Allied Rehab, Inc.

AmazonSmile Foundation

Beta Delta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa

Bonfire Funds, Inc. - Bonfire Fundraiser held by Kenneth J.

CADCO Annual Golf Tournament

Change At Hand, LLC - Growler Grلز Fundraiser

Charityvest

Chris Helms Workout Fundraiser

ClaroLux Landscape Lighting - ISO Autism Awareness Month

Coldwell Banker Realty Fundraiser

Coldwell Banker Realty Fundraiser-Ballantyne office

Denver Broncos Charities - My Cause My Cleats fundraiser held by Jeremy Cox

Drew Rosenthal's Rubik's Cube fundraiser

Dudley High School

Elite Shamrock 5K

Facebook

Flyin High Kingz Motorcycle Club in honor of Terry "T" Holder

Fortitude Roofing Company

Fraternal Order of Police

Huckleberry Trail Farm - September Fall Festival

NC Rock Autism Music Festival

OneHope Foundation - In-home Wine Tasting Event

ONLINE Information Services, Inc. (employee fundraiser)

OrangeTheory Fitness Challenge Fundraiser

Paypal Giving Fund

Pledgeling Foundation

Queens Grant Charter School

Rauch Brands - Christopher Radko's "One Puzzle at a Time" and "A Gifted Perspective" ornaments

Rockingham Dragway - Fundraiser to Pass-Through to Richmond County Chapter

Rogue Fashen Modeling Agency - "Strut Outside the Box: Modeling with Autism Style"

Scentsy fundraiser – Chelsae Geller

St. Matthew Catholic School - N.U.T.S. Fundraiser

St. Michael's Catholic Church & School/PTO

The GoodCoin Foundation - The House of Awareness Fundraiser

Trade-In donation at La-z-Boy Furniture

Turkey Firetruck Fundraiser

UNC Pembroke

Wake Forest Fire Department

Wines for Humanity



## Go Green: Receive the Spectrum electronically!

We send out over 30,000 printed copies of the magazine twice a year.

If you would like to help us save money on printing and postage – and have early access to the magazine and clickable links – sign up to receive your next Spectrum digitally.

**Complete the form: [www.autismsociety-nc.org/edelivery](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org/edelivery)**



# Thank You!

The Autism Society of North Carolina would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to all of our donors. While we appreciate every gift, we have limited the donation list to Honorarium/Memorial gifts in the interest of space and printing costs. Thank you for your tremendous support.

This list reflects donations received on or between July 1 and December 31, 2021. Please contact Beverly Gill if you have any questions or corrections at 800-442-2762, ext. 1105 or bgill@autismsociety-nc.org.

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*Maxine & Austin Spangler*

**Mr. & Mrs. Steve Surratt**  
*Beth & Ronald Swanner*

**Connor Termini**  
*Patricia Devereaux*

**Kellum Thomson**  
*Melissa & Michael Champ*  
*John Dickey*  
*Barry Sellers*

**The Thornton Family**  
*Sydney & Paul Cunningham*

**Vicky & Chris Thornton**  
*Ann & Craig Thornton*

**Mia Tomaselli**  
*Kate & Joel Tomaselli*

**Logan VanHouten**  
*Toni Floyd*

**Laura Walker**  
*Anthem CoE Analytics*

**Baileigh Washington**  
*Jerry Washington*

**Ryan Webb**  
*Doris & Charles Gaunt*  
*Stephanie Leach & Colonel Hobbs*

**Judge & Mrs. William Wellons**  
*Susie & Donald Beck*

**Pieter Westerbeek**  
*Anne Cowdrey*

**Stephen Wickersheim**  
*Deno Adkins*

**Wildwood Forest ES Pre-K Teachers**  
*Jake Potter*

**Rebekah Williams**  
*Kristy & Scott Babcock*

**Jesse Wills**  
*Vicki & James Fuller*  
*William Kleiber*  
*Susan & Scott Nelson*

**Ori Wilson**  
*Heather Hankinson*  
*Jennifer & Blake Lewis*

**Laurie Wood**  
*Mary & Norm Wood*

**Jay York**  
*Kristin & Jeffrey York*

**Zac Yow**  
*Maureen & Douglas Murray*

**Eric Zhang**  
*Cindy Ma & Ying Zhang*

## Memorials

**Donald William Barry**  
*Leesville Elementary School's*  
*Kindergarten Team*  
*Questers, Regulator Chapter*  
*Mary Arrington*  
*Joy & Roger Clary*  
*Frances & Hal Patterson*

**Martin Best**  
*River Hills Marina Club Board*

**Brooke Bielinski**  
*Cheryl Bielinski*

**Eileen Bird**  
*Bird Legacy Fund*  
*David Bird*

**Barbara Louise Blankenship**  
*Mary Federal*  
*Debra Hanson*  
*Sandra List*

**Richard L. Bleigh**  
*Gregory Poole Equipment*  
*Company*

**George Bletsas**  
*Diane & Fred Feldmeier*

**Garrett Capps**  
*Leanne Routh*

**Angela Dawn Cook**  
*Sue Sherrill*

**Jay Cook**  
*Sue Sherrill*

**Ray Crowder**  
*Warner Robins Building Supply Company*

**Charles Edward "Doc" Cunningham**  
*Pinnacle Wealth Advisors*  
*Dottie & Barry Cook*  
*Debbie Pitman*  
*Ty Poston*  
*Christie Webb*

**Robert Edward Darst**  
*Karen Baxter*  
*Lisa & Michael Bullins*  
*Keith Burch*  
*Susan & Russ Caldwell*  
*Mark Goodes*

**James Dearmon**  
*Brenda Garrison*

**Alice B. Duane**  
*Val & Joe Carey*  
*Bob Dutra*

**Doris Duval**  
*Kathy & Paul Heaphy*

**Kyle Early**  
*Wake Forest Fire Department*  
*Tammy & Ronnie Early*

**Anne Eason**  
*Bobby Eason*

**Michael Eason**  
*Bobby Eason*

**Edith Ellene Coore Edmonds**  
*Jackie Edmonds*  
*Linda Evans*  
*Thomas Evans*  
*Renee & Duke Hoogland*  
*Becky & Bob Lockaby*  
*Susanna & Joe Watson*

**James Brent "Jim" Ekey**  
*Brittany Garrison*  
*Kasumi Sminkey*

**Anne Elkins**  
*Sisters of Faith*

**Mary French Hawes Evans**  
*Sally Ann & Ed Atkinson*  
*Carolyn Bennett*  
*Lynn & W.C. Crawford*  
*Becky & Peter Darst*  
*Anne Evans Brewer & Bill Brewer*  
*Betty Lou Howard*  
*Kathryn & James Leach*  
*Ann McRoy*  
*Missy & Will Miller*  
*Bonnie Perkins*  
*Sandy & Charles Vincent*  
*Katherine & Jim Ward*  
*Catherine & Charles Young*

**Aurea Figueroa**  
*Elizabeth Figueroa & Henry Kowalski*

**Barry Friedman**  
*Rachel Friedman*

**Ruby Johnson Gabriel**  
*Brenda Garrison*

**Mary Grace Glynn**  
*Milnes Charitable Foundation*  
*Sherrill & Dan Blazer*  
*Sara & Lewis Cockerill*  
*Martha Thompson*

**Alethia P. Halback**  
*Angela Bagley*

**Steven Douglas Hale**  
*Jenny & Everett Hanzlik*  
*Rhonda & William Hughes*  
*Shirley Maurizzio*  
*Betty & Charles Pace*  
*Amy & Allen Spence*  
*Lisa & Michael Walston*

**Harvey Richard Hallman**  
*Blair Appraisal Service*  
*Charles H. Surles DDS*  
*Complete Design & Packaging*  
*PROACTIVE Vacations*  
*Roseneath Farms*  
*Waldrep Wall Babcock & Bailey*  
*Toby & Joseph Barnes*  
*Jean & Dwight Bumgarner*  
*Alice Burke*  
*Kaya Call*  
*Beth & Fred Clauser*  
*Donna Conwell*  
*Cindy & Colin Dailey*  
*Joan Garner*  
*Cynthia Hammock*  
*Brenda & Chester Haworth*  
*Terri Henderson*  
*Norma Honeycutt*  
*Betsy & Jim Hundley*  
*Rise Kelley*  
*Judy & Harold Kirkman*  
*Scott Krewson*  
*Nancy & Charles Lanier*  
*Bonnie & James Lehman*  
*Jane & Kenneth McAllister*  
*Carolyn & Robert McKay*  
*David Pettyjohn*  
*Brayden Price*  
*Gail Price*  
*Julie Price*  
*Neal Price*  
*Mary Heather & Todd Steinman*  
*Carolyn & Gary Trexler*  
*Donna & Kevin Trotter*  
*Madelyn Wurster*

**Leon Hill**  
*Brenda Garrison*

**Kenneth Dwight Hollowell**  
*Susan Halm*  
*Evelyn Rose*  
*Freida Stacy-Rose & David Rose*

**Peyton Dildy Holton**  
*Pickett Sprouse Commercial*  
*Real Estate*  
*Vernon Averett*  
*Tom Collins*  
*Jason Davis*  
*Paulina, Oleg, & Yoni Flasch*  
*Sousan Karimi*  
*Marcia & Mark O'Neal*  
*Sharilyn & Randy Owens*  
*Angela Pace*

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*Lori Trent*  
*Melissa & Chad Ward*  
*Jamie Zoller*

**Alexander Nikolai Hylton**  
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*David Mirfin*  
*Lacey Theede*

**Rock Jolly**  
*Kathy & Lanny Vaughan*

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*Janice & Henry Julian*

**Mary Frances Lapka**  
*Jill Schray-Simons & Daniel Simons*  
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*Colleen & Jeffrey Thompson*  
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*Karen & Johnny Melton*  
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*Emilie, Eric, Jacob, & Jackson Ogren*  
*Lila Riley & Spencer Merriweather*  
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*Inez Tucker*  
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*Brenda Gress*  
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*Thomas Joyner*  
*Dixie & Ed Manning*  
*Vickie & Terry McStoots*  
*Brenda & Bobby Moore*  
*Anne & Joe Powell*  
*The Reese Family*  
*Gary Rolband*  
*Bonnie & Todd Rose*  
*Walda & Les Stone*  
*Amy & Lee Sweem*  
*The John Tharin Family*  
*Sandy & Donnie Tharrington*  
*Ruth Turnage*  
*Carolyn Wells*

**Robbie Russo**  
*Marta & Rick Brown*  
*Laurie Wilburn*

**Roy Sadler Selby**  
*Jack Kuske*

**Melvin William Sheffield**  
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*Admin & Staff*

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*Helen & Mark Vazquez*

**Judy Purvis Slagle**  
*Lori Clayton*

**Steven Leroy Sledge**  
*Michele Goodwin & Jeff Warren*

**Robert "Bob" Slominski**  
*Marie & Douglas Holom*

**Michael Wayne Stewart**  
*Bell, Davis & Pitt - Charlotte*  
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*TCS Ministry Committee*  
*Susannah Cook*  
*Mary & Dave Ensley*  
*Kay Garrison*  
*Stephanie Green*  
*Pamela & Brian Meyerhoeffer*  
*Riley Patterson*

**Lorene Reece Swaim**  
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**Lori Sweeney**  
*Gale & Greg Hoyt*  
*Katie & Lewis Wills*

**Everett L. Vernon**  
*Susan Whitlow*

**George Alfred Whitfield**  
*Nancy Robinson*

**Ross Wyatt**  
*Brenda Garrison*

# Call on Us!

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

**Autism Resource Specialists** connect families to resources and provide training to help you become your child's best advocate. As parents of children with autism themselves, they understand your concerns. Find yours: [autismsociety-nc.org/ARS](https://autismsociety-nc.org/ARS)

**Workshops and conferences** with our Autism Resource Specialists or Clinical staff will help you learn more about topics that concern you, such as early intervention, evidence-based practices, IEPs, transitioning to adulthood, and residential options. [autismsociety-nc.org/workshops](https://autismsociety-nc.org/workshops)

**Online resources**, including toolkits, webinars, a blog, and a Staying Safe section, provide opportunities to learn on your own time from your home.

**Chapters and Support Groups** provide a place for families who face similar challenges to feel welcomed and understood as they offer each other encouragement. Find one near you: [autismsociety-nc.org/chapters](https://autismsociety-nc.org/chapters)

**Skill-building and support services** provide children and adults with autism the skills to increase self-sufficiency and participate in the community in a fulfilling way. ASNC's services across the state include skill-building in areas such as communication, socialization, community integration, and personal care; family consultation; respite; and adult day programs. Services are provided through the NC Innovations waiver, state funding, B3, and private pay. [autismsociety-nc.org/skillbuilding](https://autismsociety-nc.org/skillbuilding)

**Clinical Services** offer a variety of supports for individuals with autism and their families to increase independence and empower children and adults. **LifeLong Interventions (LLI)** provides comprehensive treatment for children and adults. LLI is rooted in the principles of ABA and involves effective instruction using evidence-based practices to promote meaningful skills and behaviors in the home, school, and community. **Rapid Response Clinical Consultation (RRCC)** is available in all 100 NC counties via telehealth for children and adults. RRCC is a short-term consultation service (2-4 weeks) that provides tips and strategies to address social communication, behavior intervention, and other skills. **Behavior consultations** provided by our psychologists and Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) can help explain why behaviors are occurring, develop comprehensive behavior plans, and coach caregivers on effective strategies.

[autismsociety-nc.org/clinical](https://autismsociety-nc.org/clinical)

**Employment Supports** helps individuals with autism explore their skills and interests, then assists them in finding, keeping, and thriving in a job. Services are funded through the state Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

[autismsociety-nc.org/jobservices](https://autismsociety-nc.org/jobservices)

**Adult programs** serve individuals ages 16 to 28 with a focus on job readiness, development, placement, and training, as well as financial literacy, daily living and independence skills, and social skills. The year-round programming

includes small group instruction in centers and one-on-one support in the community.

[autismsociety-nc.org/adults](https://autismsociety-nc.org/adults)

**IGNITE** community centers in Davidson, Raleigh, and Greensboro offer activities, skills training, and educational workshops that foster social, financial, educational, and employment independence for young adults with high-functioning autism or Asperger's Syndrome.

[autismsociety-nc.org/ignite](https://autismsociety-nc.org/ignite)

**Camp Royall** is the nation's oldest and largest camp for individuals with autism. Located near Pittsboro, Camp Royall serves all ages and offers year-round programming. [camproyall.org](https://camproyall.org)

**Social Recreation** programs provide opportunities for participants to bond over common interests, practice social skills, and try new activities. In Newport, Wilmington, and Winterville, social recreation programs include summer day camp, afterschool programs, and adult programs, with support from Trillium Health Resources. In other areas, summer camp and group activities may be available. Contact us to learn which services are available in your area.

[autismsociety-nc.org/socialrec](https://autismsociety-nc.org/socialrec)

**ASNC's public policy** efforts aim to advocate for the needs of individuals with autism and their families by maintaining a wide range of ties with the executive and legislative branches of state government. You can get involved and make your voice heard.

[autismsociety-nc.org/policy](https://autismsociety-nc.org/policy)

[www.autismsociety-nc.org](https://www.autismsociety-nc.org)

We have regional offices in Asheville, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, Newport, Raleigh, and Wilmington. Contact our state office to be connected to resources.

State Office: 800-442-2762  
5121 Kingdom Way, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27607  
Sign up online to receive our email updates:  
[autismsociety-nc.org/contact-us](https://autismsociety-nc.org/contact-us)





**Autism Society**  
of North Carolina

5121 Kingdom Way, Suite 100  
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## Register for Spring 2022 Events

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**Coastal NC Run/Walk  
for Autism**

*Wilmington – April 23*

**Surry County Walk  
for Autism**

*Mount Airy – April 23*

**Shop & Dine 4 Autism**  
*Statewide – April 26*



**Eastern Run/Walk for Autism**

*Greenville – April 30*

**Camp Royall Classic  
Golf Tournament**

*Chapel Hill – May 2*

**Crystal Coast  
Run/Walk for Autism**  
*Beaufort – May 21*



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**[www.autismsociety-nc.org](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org)**

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For sponsorship opportunities contact Heather Hargrave at 919-865-5057 or [hhargrave@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:hhargrave@autismsociety-nc.org).