A SPECTRUM OF OPPORTUNITY

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

AUTISM SOCIETY
Advocating alongside the Autism Society has allowed me to grow, thrive and bring the voices of adults with autism and other disabilities to the table as we fight to preserve, protect and expand our civil rights in this era of uncertainty. The Autism Society makes people with autism spectrum disorder belong and feel truly included.

—Nicole LeBlanc, Self-Advocate and David Joyce Advocate of the Year 2019 Awardee

LETTER FROM OUR LEADERS

Since 1965, the Autism Society of America has been our nation’s leading grassroots autism organization. Every day, our national affiliate network exemplifies passion and dedication to our mission as we improve the quality of life for all affected by autism.

The Autism Society and our 78 affiliates work hard to provide advocacy, education, information and referral, support, and community at national, state and local levels. Together, we have proven that a united voice can amplify our cause, expand our reach, and foster collaborative innovation as we work towards a better tomorrow. This sentiment holds true as we write this letter in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for compassion, unity, and leadership is more apparent than ever before; with this in mind, we are proud to reflect on our collective efforts and the massive impact the Autism Society had in 2019.

Collectively, the Autism Society was honored to serve and support over 522,000 people nationwide in 2019. More specifically, we fostered community as 38,000 people attended support groups for self-advocates, parents, teens, and others. 12,000 people attended conferences hosted by the Autism Society network, expanding their knowledge and skillsets; in total, our network hosted more than 6,200 events for the autism community across the country providing education, resources, support and community. Together, we can create more opportunities for a quality life across the spectrum, and throughout the lifespan.

The Autism Society is incredibly grateful for our generous donors and to the community we serve; we are committed to demonstrating our transparency, responsiveness and measurable outcomes.

It is our fiduciary responsibility to provide financial information that demonstrates transparency, and a high standard of ethics. The Autism Society works to use funds in the most effective way possible, while effectively communicating how those dollars are spent. We strive to produce the highest positive outcome by serving as many people as possible, while maintaining an unparalleled quality of support.

We aim to be responsive and accessible, to ensure that our efforts are timely and relevant to our community’s greatest needs. Our mission drives us to support all affected by autism—regardless of neuro-divergence, ethnicity, nationality, race, religion, or sexual orientation—throughout the lifespan and across the spectrum. This means our support spans everyday life, while navigating the curve balls life throws our way. With this, the Autism Society remains a thought leader as we can quickly respond with systemic call to actions related to first responder training, policy interventions.

1 in 54 children are diagnosed with autism, the fastest growing developmental disorder in the United States.

17% of autistic young adults have attempted to live independently.

5.4 million adults in the United States are estimated to have ASD.

Up to 85% of autistic adults with a college education are unemployed.
A SINCERE THANK YOU & FARERWELL

At the close of 2019, the Autism Society of America bid farewell to President & CEO, Scott Badesch, as he ventured into a well-deserved retirement. Throughout his ten-year tenure with the Autism Society of America, Scott was dedicated to improving the health of this organization, he worked to rebuild a trusting relationship between national and our affiliate network, and he furthered the organization’s reach.

Scott was committed to the Autism Society’s passionate team, and was always accessible to affiliates and our constituents. Above all, he led the organization with an unwavering belief that we can build an inclusive society that offers opportunities for everyone to live a quality, meaningful life. It was evident that he loved his job because he loves helping people, and that’s what makes him happy.

Scott, we thank you for your work ethic, commitment and your passion throughout your ten-year tenure, and wish you nothing but success and great happiness in retirement.

to ensure our community is accounted for, and immediate support needs for individuals with no one else to turn to.

Every day, we are empowered to do this work because we know that our network is needed, valued, and making a tremendous impact for the autism community. We are immensely proud and appreciative for the thousands of volunteers, affiliate leaders and their team members, staff, and board members that work tirelessly and passionately to fulfill our mission each and every day. Our impact is far-reaching and filled with depth, yet we know there is still much work to be done. We thank all of the individuals, families, corporations, foundations and so many more that have helped us fulfill our mission to achieve a higher quality of life for all affected by autism.

Joseph P. Joyce
Chairman of the Board

Christopher Banks
President/CEO

Autism Society of America’s Former President & CEO, Scott Badesch, at his retirement party.
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The Autism Society, and our network of 79 affiliates, is proud to have served over 522,000 individuals and families affected by autism in 2019. Our mission is to measurably improve the quality of life for all affected by autism through five core pillars: education, advocacy, information & referral services, support, and community building at the local, state and national levels.
Success is measured against our 15 Quality of Life Outcomes that impact the autism community throughout the lifespan.

- Respect and Dignity
- Inclusion
- Communication
- Health and Well-being
- Safety
- Academic Success
- Social Connections
- Independent Living
- Meaningful Employment with Fair Wages
- Financial Stability
- Recreation and Leisure
- Subjective Well-being
- Self-Identity and Acceptance
- Autonomy and Self-Sufficiency
- Pursuit of Dreams

As a member of the Autism Society’s Panel of Professional Advisors, I’m able to help support individuals diagnosed with ASD nationwide, along with those who care for and about them. I’m able to do so alongside colleagues who share my passion to help others in their pursuit of a quality life. —Marc Ellison, Ed.D., Executive Director of the West Virginia Autism Training Center, Member of the Autism Society’s Panel of Professional Advisors

These Quality of Life Indicators are used to measure the efficacy of the Autism Society’s advocacy efforts, education, information & referral services, support, and community building. The Autism Society affiliate network provides unparalleled dedication, support and grassroots advocacy within their local communities.
AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHTS

3,000 PEOPLE
worked out at Autism Society San Diego’s 30 sensory-friendly exercise events.

Autism Society of Florida educated 3,150 individuals at 10 Autism 101 events.

5,000 PEOPLE
participated in 25 advocacy events hosted by the Autism Society of Northern Virginia.

784 PEOPLE
participated in the Autism Society of Oregon’s Bike & Swim events.

3,600 people attended sensory-friendly movies with Autism Society Nassau/Suffolk.

The Autism Society of North Carolina served 66,388 individuals through programs, events, services, and direct support.

AFFILIATE EMPLOYMENT REPORT

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<th>FULL TIME</th>
<th>PART TIME</th>
<th>VOLUNTEER</th>
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<td></td>
<td>264</td>
<td>1,042</td>
<td>1,791</td>
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TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED YEAR OVER YEAR

*The decline in the number of affiliates affects the total number of individuals served. The Autism Society plans to address the declining numbers in the upcoming strategic plan.

TOTAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES PROVIDED YEAR OVER YEAR

Autism Society Tidewater hosted 553 teens at social events throughout the year.

Photo Credit: Autism Society of Southern Arizona’s Annual Walk Event
The Board Chair, Vice Chair & CEO attended 17 affiliate events during National Autism Awareness Month.

National staff and board members completed 50+ affiliate visits throughout the year; this reflects trainings, events, and crisis management.

The Affiliate Management Team and Senior staff at National provided 4,500 hours of direct support to affiliates.

The Autism Society of America has provided exemplary, transformational leadership and resiliency for its affiliates nationwide. It has been at the forefront of autism spectrum disorder issues and a voice for its affiliates at the state and national levels. The Autism Society has offered support for team and capacity building, professional marketing collateral, and sustainability. As the primary vehicle of connecting affiliates with each other, we have benefited through engagement, camaraderie, and collaboration. I am so proud to be part of this organization that is rooted in serving the autism community as an advocate, and with compassion, knowledge, and expertise.

—Brie Seward, Executive Director of the Autism Society of Southern Arizona

It is our great privilege to represent a strong affiliate network that executes the Autism Society’s mission at the local and state level. Grassroots advocacy works best through a trusting, collaborative, and forward-thinking approach; the Autism Society network continues to strengthen this symbiotic relationship each year, as we make a meaningful impact within the autism community, together.

National hosted 25 webinars and in-person trainings to disseminate information & best practices.

$100,000 of grants were distributed to affiliates to assist in program development.
ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

Every day the Autism Society of America exemplifies the power of grassroots advocacy through our strong public policy initiatives that are prioritized at the federal, state and local levels. Our Public Policy team works with policymakers to develop effective laws and protective programs that span healthcare reform, education, safety, and long term services and supports. Our mission is to ensure that the autism community has dedicated supports in place so that autistic individuals can achieve the highest quality of life across the spectrum, and throughout the lifespan.

DISABILITY RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS.

In 2019, the Autism Society of America was a major player in helping to pass legislation to reauthorize two important laws: the Autism CARES Act and the Lifespan Respite Care Act.

The Autism CARES Act (PL 116-60) was signed into law on September 30, 2019. Autism Society affiliates and other grassroots supporters were instrumental in helping to move this bill to the finish line. During our Day on the Hill event, approximately 200 people visited their Members of Congress to discuss Autism CARES and other issues; in addition, over 3,000 people sent letters to their Members through our online Action Center.

The Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2019 (S.995/HR 2035) was passed unanimously by voice vote in both the Senate and House. Because the bills are slightly different, the bills must now be reconciled before being signed into law. The Autism Society is currently advocating for an increase of funding for the law to $10 million per year from the current $4 million.

The Autism Society co-sponsored and helped plan several briefings on the Hill surrounding special education, transition services and employment for people with autism and other disabilities. These briefings were well attended by a variety of staffers from offices around the Hill.

8,000 LETTERS were sent to members of Congress in 2019 to advocate for relevant legislation, which more than doubles the amount of letters sent in 2018.

200+ advocates held meetings with state legislators at our annual Day on the Hill event.

100+ MEETINGS held with legislators about policy related to the autism community.

3,227 letters sent to reauthorize the Autism CARES Act.

Photo Credit: Howard County Autism Society at the 2019 Day on the Hill event in Washington D.C.
Thank you to the many donors who supported the following initiatives:

10 MILLION+
people were reached through our Facebook and twitter posts.

2,300 PEOPLE
hosted Facebook Fundraisers, raising over $262k. The power of peer to peer impact!

1.25 MILLION+
individuals visited our website for information, resources, and support.

The Autism Society is driven by the desire to positively affect change in the lives of individuals and families affected by autism. In 2019, we received thousands of donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and volunteers, from $1 to $126,000.

Millions of people helped amplify our message, mission, and impact across social media channels and within our digital landscape. Advocates shared “Stories from the Spectrum,” parents shared milestones in communal celebrations, and professionals accessed hundreds of resources. Because of this, our reach expanded to donors across the country, and world to help us fulfill our mission.

We understand that every contribution matters - big or small - and we are dedicated to being responsive as we work towards a more inclusive, accepting world.

17,000+
people donated to the Autism Society of America.

$51 is the average dollar amount donated.

CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES

The Embassy of Qatar hosted the “Spectrum of Opportunity” Gala, with special guests like Lea Michele and Kodi Lee! The event raised $364k, over $100k more than the year prior.

The Autism Society of America hosted its third annual Autfest Film Festival with lead sponsors, Hyundai and AMC Theaters. The event featured a Star Panel with cast members from Everything’s Gonna be Okay and Duke.

The Autism Society of America raised $120k during National Autism Awareness Month.

Keystone Insurance Group hosted its annual Fore Autism Golf Tournament successfully raising $96k benefiting the Autism Society of America.

APRIL

JULY

SEPTEMBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

The Autism Society of America

Thank you to the many donors who supported the following initiatives:
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

You can make a difference and further the Autism Society's impact by donating your time, talent, in-kind or financial support.

- Become a sustaining monthly donor at www.autism-society.org/donate.
- Attend or sponsor an event like our virtual programs, golf tournament, or Autfest film festival.
- Take action and support our public policy efforts through our online Action Center at takeaction.autism-society.org.
- Use your personal interests and talents to create your own fundraiser or awareness event.
- Remember the Autism Society of America in your will or trust - make a planned gift by contacting development@autism-society.org.
- Donate a life insurance policy you no longer need.
- Donate an unwanted car or truck.
- Donate as part of the Combined Federal Campaign or other workplace giving campaign. We are CFC #11808.
- Create your own personal Facebook fundraiser. Learn how at: www.Facebook.com/fundraisers.
- Donate a portion of every Amazon.com purchase to the Autism Society using Amazon Smile. For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to www.smile.amazon.com/about.

If you are interested in learning more about helping the Autism Society of America, please contact our development staff at development@autism-society.org.

You can also review all giving options on our website at www.autism-society.org/get-involved/donate.

SIGNIFICANT DONORS

The State of Qatar $364,000.
The Estate of Jerome and Raidelle Newman $126,000, the Ireland Family Foundation and the John P. Hussman Foundation $115,000 each.
Billy and Jennifer Frist and ConocoPhillips $50,000 each.
Tracey and Mike Staley $40,000.
The Make Waves Charitable Gift Fund and William B. Alsup III Foundation $30,000 each.
The Eleanor Collins Boas Foundation, EMC Insurance, Excelerate Energy, James R. Cole, Jr. and The Lasky-Barajas Family Foundation $25,000 each.
The Delman Mortenson Charitable Foundation, PhRMA and the Sunshine Foundation $20,000 each.

We are thoroughly grateful to these donors and to the thousands of other donors for their support of programs at the national level and throughout our affiliate network.
FINANCIAL DATA

2019 REVENUE $3.6 MILLION

- Contributions: 78%
- Conferences: 10%
- Fundraising Events: 6%
- Corporations + Foundations: 4%
- Other Revenue: 2%

2019 EXPENSES $2.9 MILLION

- Core Services: 51%
- Education & Awareness: 12%
- Public Policy & Advocacy: 6%
- Fundraising: 8%
- Management & General: 23%

REVENUE

- Contributions: $2,779,320
- Conferences: $83,259
- Fundraising Events: $338,900
- Corp. + Found.: $220,535
- Other Revenue: $155,169

$3,577,183

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: $697,479

EXPENSES

PROGRAM EXPENSES

- Core Services: $1,460,746
- Education & Awareness: $675,357
- Public Policy & Advocacy: $223,138

SUPPORT SERVICES

- Fundraising: $349,304
- Management & General: $171,159

$2,879,704
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Vanessa Zuber

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Alec Fraizier
Darrius Frazier
Kate Gladstone
Kris Guin
Russell Lehmann
Anita Lesko
Kerry Magro
John Miller

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Lars Perner, Ph.D.
Cloe Rothschild
Regi Theodore-Wise
Sondra Williams

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

Without you, our work would not be possible. The Autism Society sincerely thanks each and every one of you for your generosity, passion, and commitment to the autism community.