Since 1965, the Autism Society of America has worked tirelessly to support the autism community through advocacy, education, information and referrals, support and community building. We have made it our mission to improve the lives of all affected by autism, alongside our 73 affiliates nationwide.

Through the decades, the Autism Society has proudly served the autism community and established itself as the nation’s leading grassroots autism organization. Together, we are creating a more inclusive and accepting society full of opportunities for autistic individuals to maximize their potential.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought unparalleled challenges and grief to the global community, and our autism families were disproportionately affected. Through service interruptions, school closures, job loss, isolation, lack of respite care, and regression, many autistic individuals and families were left with few support options and increased worries.

In March of 2020, the Autism Society of America became the first national autism organization to develop a comprehensive COVID-19 relief toolkit with rapidly evolving information and resources specific to the disability community. As April approached and we prepared for Autism Acceptance Month, we quickly pivoted as we saw more than 350 events and programs canceled essentially overnight. Our affiliates quickly responded with virtual support groups, game nights, mental health coffee chats, and so many more innovative and creative solutions. Throughout the many challenging times of the pandemic, building a space in which the autism community could feel connected, supported and advocated for became our main focus.

Over the course of 2020, our digital toolkit was accessed over 135,000 times to review policy, healthcare, education resources and more. Thanks to the generosity of Make Waves Family Foundation, the Autism Society network distributed 53,000 medical masks to Direct Support Professionals and autistic residents in congregate settings during the onset of the pandemic. We created social stories that provide simple language and visual cues to address COVID-19 issues like mask-wearing and the vaccination process; our social stories were downloaded over 8,500 times. We launched

Acceptance is important to me because I consider my autism to be a part of who I am; similar to my other characteristics. I’m ready for more and more people to move from awareness to acceptance.

—Chloe Rothschild, Self-Advocate and David Joyce Advocate of the Year 2020 Recipient

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

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups, but is 4X MORE COMMON IN MALES THAN FEMALES

5.5 MILLION ADULTS in the United States are estimated to have autism.
a Coronavirus Information Series on Facebook Live to feature autistic self-advocates and industry experts to discuss relevant topics like mental health, virtual learning, and more; our 29 episodes have been viewed over 191,000 times. Collectively, our digital and virtual supports provided information, resources, and a connected community for over 391,000 people during 2020.

The Autism Society and its network of affiliates served over 668,000 individuals and families affected by autism in 2020. 154,000 people called or emailed Autism Society helplines across the country; 124,000 people attended events, mostly virtual, to gain connection and community; 26,000 people attended online and live support groups to battle isolation, stress, and grief.

The Autism Society is incredibly grateful for the generosity of our donors who have allowed us to provide essential services and supports throughout a devastating year; as always, we are committed to demonstrating our transparency, responsiveness and measurable outcomes.

Our organization works to use funds in the most efficient and effective way possible, so that we can produce positive, quality outcomes for the autism community. We continually strive to be responsive and accessible to societal needs, challenges, and opportunities that arise such as we did in 2020. Our mission drives us to support all affected by autism throughout the lifespan and across the spectrum, regardless of neuro-divergence, ethnicity, nationality, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

Every day we are proud of the work that we do at the national, state and local levels to ensure the autism community is represented, supported, and provided meaningful opportunities to be happy.

We thank all of the individuals, families, corporations and foundations that have helped us fulfill our mission and positively impact the lives of so many.

Lori Ireland
Chair of the Board

Christopher Banks
President/CEO
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>OUR 2020 IMPACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>STRENGTH OF OUR NETWORK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ACTIONABLE ADVOCACY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>MAKING A DIFFERENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>FINANCIAL DATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>GOVERNANCE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2020, the autism community faced extraordinary challenges during the COVID-19 crisis. The Autism Society was the first national autism organization to provide a COVID-19 toolkit and ongoing resources to support the autism community. Last year, the Autism Society, and our network of 75 affiliates, served over 668,000 individuals and families affected by autism. We made strides to 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.

**OVER 7K ADULTS**

- 2,727 people attended summer camps or activities hosted by affiliates
- 14 Marketing Toolkits sent to affiliates
- 52,022 Helpline phone calls supported network-wide
- 9/10 individuals who reached out to the National Helpline would contact again, and recommend the Autism Society to others
- 3,436 letters were sent to members of Congress from advocates through the Autism Society Action Center

**OVER 6K INDIVIDUALS**

- Over 6,000 individuals attended support groups in 2020
- 4,576 hours dedicated by full-time staff for affiliate support
- 101,036 Helpline emails supported network-wide
- 20,384 individuals attended IEP workshops across the country

**1.35 MILLION+**

- 101,036 Helpline emails supported network-wide
- 5,046 first responders received training on safely and effectively interacting with the autism community

The Autism Society of America was the first national autism organization to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

**Digital and virtual supports provided**

- Over 391,000 people visited our website for information, resources, and support
- 1.35 MILLION+ times to review policy, healthcare, education resources and more

- 8,500 people downloaded social stories that explained COVID-19 related issues
- 52,022 Helpline phone calls supported network-wide
- 5,046 first responders received training on safely and effectively interacting with the autism community

**COVID-19 digital toolkit was accessed**

- Over 135,000 times to review policy, healthcare, education resources and more

- 29 episodes of our Coronavirus Information Series on Facebook Live have been viewed over 191,000 times

- Make Waves Family Foundation donated 53,000 life-saving masks for the Autism Society network to distribute to Direct Support Professionals and autistic residents in congregate settings

**2020 Annual Report**
SUPPORTING OUR NETWORK

AFFILIATE EMPLOYMENT REPORT

| FULL TIME | 293 |
| PART TIME | 1,083 |

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED YEAR OVER YEAR

| 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| 650K | 620K | 522K* | 669K |

INVESTING IN OUR NETWORK

- National provided 4,500 staff hours to supporting affiliates.
- 14 marketing toolkits provided marketing assets, messaging, and campaign resources.
- Autism Society of America hosted a four-day Affiliate Training Event to educate affiliate leaders, board members and staff on strategies and best practices to achieve growth and organizational success.
- National continues to offer a bi-weekly support group for affiliate leaders to navigate the added challenges of 2020, led by leading psychiatric professionals.
- Autism Society of America developed a three-year strategic plan focused on network-wide growth through development, marketing, national programs, affiliate expansion, and advocacy efforts.

2020 Annual Report 2
COVID-19 elevated the awareness of the extreme health disparities experienced by autistic individuals. Promoting health equity for the autistic community must be a priority. The Autism Society’s rapid development of COVID-19 tools and resources to address the needs of people with autism and their families was a step in the right direction in ensuring safety and wellness for every citizen.

—Patricia Wright, Ph.D., BCBA, MPH
Senior Vice President, Strategic Initiatives at Next for Autism and Member of the Autism Society’s Panel of Professional Advisors
STRONGER TOGETHER

We are honored to work alongside a strong and resilient affiliate network that tirelessly serves the autism community and the Autism Society’s mission at the state and local level. Grassroots advocacy allowed us to adapt to the many transitions and challenges of 2020 through a collaborative, strategic, and dynamic approach. The perseverance of our affiliate network has strengthened our bond and impact in the autism community, quickly adapting and providing service needed during the pandemic.

“"As an affiliate leader, I am truly grateful to the ASA team for offering such incredible support, guidance, and encouragement to us throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They hosted several helpful webinars and even started support groups for affiliate leaders, fostering relationships, camaraderie, and strength for our affiliate network at a time when we needed it most. It was a year filled with extreme uncertainty and challenges for our organization, and having the ASA team’s support helped us not only get through our toughest year yet, but actually come out even stronger on the other side.

—Ann Flippin, Executive Director of the Autism Society of Central Virginia""
In 2020, advocacy was unlike any other year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented challenges it brought to the disability community. When a national emergency was declared in March of 2020, the Autism Society of America redirected its advocacy efforts to the safety and civil rights of people with autism and their families.

Our policy team tirelessly and successfully advocated for funding for home and community based services, support and protection for direct support professionals, inclusive paid leave, civil rights to medical treatment, access to testing and vaccinations, and additional funding for special education and related services. Through the power of grassroots advocacy, the Autism Society of America constituents sent over 3,000 letters to Congress urging that COVID relief packages consider the needs of the autism community.

Throughout the year, the policy team provided resources regarding federal legislation, regulations, and guidance through the Autism Society's COVID19 Toolkit. The Autism Society of America was a major player in helping to pass legislation to reauthorize three important laws: Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2020, Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. In addition, the team developed a state advocacy toolkit for affiliates to help ensure that COVID relief funding was used by states and local communities to help the autism community.

IN ADDITION TO ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, THE AUTISM SOCIETY CONTINUED TO ADVOCATE FOR ITS OTHER LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES, INCLUDING ADVANCING LEGISLATION TO:

> Promote employment opportunities
> Authorize funding for law enforcement and first responder training
> Prevent dangerous restraints and seclusion in schools
> Reauthorize the Lifespan Respite Care Act, expand access to health and long term services and supports
> Increase funding for all programs that support people with autism and families

1070 LETTERS SENT TO STATE LEGISLATORS
urging them to use money from federal covid-19 relief dollars towards autism related priorities

547 LETTERS SENT TO CONGRESSMEN AND WOMEN
urging Congress to include HCBS in a relief package
The Autism Society is driven by the desire to positively affect change in the lives of individuals and families affected by autism. In 2020, we received thousands of donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and volunteers, from $5 to $100,000.

We are fortunate that so many people helped amplify our mission across social media channels and within our digital landscape to positively impact more people. Advocates, parents, loved ones and professionals shared personal stories and advice to create connection. Because of our great community, 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.

**COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **11,900** PEOPLE donated to the Autism Society of America
- **1,831** PEOPLE hosted Facebook Fundraisers, raising $179,686 - the power of peer to peer impact!
- **1.35 MILLION+** individuals visited our website for information, resources, and support
- **7 MILLION PEOPLE**
- **$164** is the average dollar amount donated
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

> Become a sustaining monthly donor at www.autism-society.org/donate.
> Attend or sponsor an event like our golf tournament, affiliate training event, annual gala or Autism Acceptance Month.
> Include Autism Society in your will. To help you start your planned gift, you can use our online will-writing tool created by our partner, FreeWill, and write your will in 20 minutes online, completely for free.
> 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.
> 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.

YOU CAN ALSO REVIEW ALL GIVING OPTIONS ON OUR WEBSITE AT www.autism-society.org/get-involved/donate.

THANK YOU TO THE MANY DONORS WHO SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:

APRIL

The Autism Society of America raised $117k during National Autism Awareness Month.

JULY

Keystone Insurance Group hosted its annual Fore Autism Golf Tournament successfully raising $108k benefiting the Autism Society of America.

DECEMBER

The Autism Society’s “Spectrum of Opportunity” campaign for #GivingTuesday - successfully raising $24,677.

SIGNIFICANT DONORS 2020:

The Ireland Family Foundation $100,000, the Make Waves Charitable Gift Fund $50,000, EMC Insurance $25,000, Keystone Insurer’s Group $22,000, Westfield Insurance Foundation $15,000.

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

2020 REVENUE $2.1 MILLION

- Contributions: 11%
- Conferences: 4%
- Fundraising Events: 11%
- Corporations + Foundations: 1%
- Other Revenue: 73%

2020 EXPENSES $2.3 MILLION

- Core Services: 37%
- Education & Awareness: 16%
- Public Policy & Advocacy: 15%
- Fundraising: 4%
- Management & General: 29%

REVENUE

- Contributions: $1,565,706
- Conferences: $21,200
- Fundraising Events: $230,277
- Corp. + Found.: $238,125
- Other Revenue: $83,887

Total Revenue: $2,139,195

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: ($194,082)

EXPENSES

PROGRAM EXPENSES

- Core Services: $855,361
- Education & Awareness: $670,790
- Public Policy & Advocacy: $338,504

SUPPORT SERVICES

- Fundraising: $375,256
- Management & General: $93,366

Total Expenses: $2,333,277
PANEL OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

Jack Scott, Ph.D.
Committee Chair
Ruth Aspy, Ph.D.
Barbara Becker-Cottrill, Ed.D.
James Ball, Ed.D., BCBA-D
Diane Cullen
Geraldine Dawson, Ph.D.
Marc Ellison, Ed. D
June Groden
Doreen Granpeesheh, Ph.D., BCBA
Barry Grossman, Ph.D
Michael Hannon
Martha Herbert, M.D., Ph.D.
David L. Holmes, Ed.D.
Sue Kabot
Bill Kiernan
Gary LaVigna, Ph.D.
Bennett L. Leventhal, M.D.
Kristie Lofland, MS, CCC-A
Robert Naseef, Ph.D
Cathy Pratt, Ph.D., BCBA
Kathleen Ann Quill, Ed.D. BCBA-D
Christine Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Wendy Ross
Stephen M. Shore, Ed.D.
Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D.
Ruth Christ Sullivan, Ph.D.
Jennifer Twachtman Bassett, M.S., CCCSLP
Amy Van Hecke, Ph.D
Patricia Wright, Ph.D., BCBA, MPH
Vanessa Zuber

PANEL OF PEOPLE ON THE SPECTRUM

Carly Fulgham,
Committee Chair
Darrius Frazier
Michael Gilberg
Kate Gladstone
Kris Guin
Anthony Ianni
Russell Lehmann
Anita Lesko
Kerry Magro
John Miller
Jennifer O’Toole
Lars Perner, Ph.D
Chloe Rothschild
Regi Theodore-Wise

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Richard Wolf,
Committee Chair
Jean Bender
Jacquie Benestante
Laura Carr
Rachel Deaton
Cathy Dionne
Cate Fopma
Stacy Hoagland
Terri Hussman
Joseph Joyce
Susan Kabot
Jonathan Kratchman
Janine Kruiswijk
Evelyn Lu
Jennifer Mahan
Betsy Mahoney
Hannah Marken
Jillian Nelson
Cathy Pratt
Tobi Rates
Kris Steinmetz
Melanie Tyner Wilson
Valerie Williams
Ellie Wilson
Barbara Yavorcik

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Brian Roth,
Committee Chair
Gyasi Burks Abbott
Neal Beggan
Laurie Cramer
Marc Ellison
Ann Flippin
Carly Ott Fulgham
Mary Helen Richer
Joseph Joyce
William Kiernan
Russell Lehmann
Robin Lerner
Howard Miller
Lars Perner
Pete Schwarz
Jack Scott
Tracey Staley
Jose Velasco
Curt Warner
Ellie Wilson
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

Our work is possible because of you. The Autism Society sincerely thanks each and every one of you for your generosity, passion, and commitment to the autism community.