

APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021  
ANNUAL REPORT



A year of  
kindness and  
challenge.



## Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This year has been like no other in the history of our organization. It has truly been a year of both goodwill and challenge. We began by naming 2020 as our Year of Kindness and, amidst the challenges of COVID-19, were able to achieve 1.5 million acts of kindness by sharing stories, making connections and creating a more understanding, inclusive world through awareness and support.

Led by our Public Health team, we called upon the values, commitment and work of Autism Speaks in powerful ways. We soon discovered that the virus had an especially profound and widespread impact on people with autism and their families. We doubled our efforts to provide immediate support to those impacted while remaining steadfast to our mission – to promote solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of people with autism.

Our commitment to **ensure access to reliable information and services throughout the life span** included the mobilization of a COVID-19 Community Task Force that created online access to evidence-based coronavirus resources, visited more than 275,000 times, to support the needs of the autism community impacted by the pandemic.

In our efforts to **increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism** we initiated an Autism Speaks Autism Friendly Designation certification program to businesses and destinations committed to providing customer-inclusive service for people with autism and other disabilities. We are thrilled by the prospect of what the growth of this program will mean for our community.

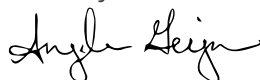
As a catalyst for **life-enhancing research breakthroughs**, we launched the Precision Autism Treatments to Health (PATH) research initiative and the Autism Care Network. Both efforts are aimed to accelerate autism research and care improvements at speed and scale.

In our commitment to **increasing early screening and timely interventions**, as a result of our bilingual public service campaign directed to underserved populations, we increased the number of people accessing the M-Chat autism risk screening questionnaire by 15 percent year over year.

We celebrated many achievements for **improving the transition to adulthood**, including the development of Workplace Inclusion Now™ (WIN), an integrated employment system to support job seekers with autism, communities and employers.

Lastly, this year challenged us to ask ourselves what actionable steps we could and should take as an organization to further address the rising national concern of diversity, access and inclusion from both an internal and external perspective for our community. We are truly humbled by the unwavering support of our supporters, staff and volunteers who empower and inspire us to lead strongly through challenges and remain steadfast in our belief in the many opportunities to advance our strategic priorities and mission.

Sincerely,



**Angela T. Geiger**  
President and CEO



**Brian Harper**  
Chairman, Board of Directors

# 2020 – a year of kindness.

In an unprecedented year of challenge, Autism Speaks continued to lead with care and compassion, marking 2020 as the Year of Kindness and achieving **1.5 million acts of kindness**. Every act, both large and small, fueled our work to increase global understanding and acceptance of people with autism. We made connections between people on the spectrum and the things they love the most, shared hundreds of stories of autistic people of all ages and levels of support and started a nationwide movement to take 5,400 virtual steps for the 1 in 54 children with autism in the U.S. – all to create a kinder, more inclusive world.



*Watch 7-time all-star and former Mets third baseman, David Wright, connect with autistic Mets superfan, Daniel B.*



David Wright



Daniel B.

## Increasing global understanding and acceptance of people with autism

Autism affects 1 in 54 children and 1 in 45 adults in the U.S. and more than 70 million people worldwide. Creating a kinder, more understanding and inclusive world is core to achieving our vision of a world where all people with autism can reach their full potential.

**Engaged a social community of 2.8 million followers** on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

**Established 2020 Year of Kindness.**

- **Achieved 1.5 million acts of kindness**, surpassing our 1 million goal
- **Reached more than 32 million people** by social media during April, World Autism Month
- **Over 63 Congressional leaders posted support** on social media

**Established a 15-member Community Advisory Council** to provide Autism Speaks with feedback and guidance on programs and publications, comprised of:

- **People with autism**, caregivers and healthcare professionals
- **Diverse gender identities, ages, races and ethnicities**

**Shared the stories of our community** in meaningful ways.

- **Unveiled three Kindness Connections and five new video profiles** of children and adults with autism, highlighting the diversity of the autism spectrum
- **Shared more than 330 inspirational stories** of people with autism across the spectrum and throughout the life span through social media, press, podcasts and emails
- **Obtained over 2.1 million monthly average page views** on autismspeaks.org

**Expanded Caregiver Skills Training program** helping underserved and low-resourced communities at 36 locations – fostering vital social and communication skills for toddlers and young people on the spectrum.

**Launched an “Autism Friendly Designation” certification program** providing autism-friendly employee training, resources and supports to businesses committed to providing inclusive customer service for families with autism. To date, 332 employees have taken the autism-friendly training.

**Increased the number of autism-friendly calendar of events by more than 10 percent**, providing people with autism and their families access to events in a safe, welcoming environment through the Autism Speaks online event calendar and partner-supported events.

# Bringing better autism care.

A first of its kind learning health system for autism, the Autism Care Network is built on more than a decade of work in improving autism care and a family-centered approach to drive improvements with speed and at scale. The Network connects patients, families, researchers and healthcare teams to continuously improve whole-person and whole-family autism care.

Bringing together families, clinicians and researchers – this integrated, growing network is committed to advancing autism care more rapidly and getting the right care to the right patient at the right time – no matter where families live.



*Learn more about the Autism Care Network and find a center near you.*



## Being a catalyst for life-enhancing research breakthroughs

Autism Speaks is helping lead faster implementation of best practices and more informed autism research for personalized care and treatments through health networks, advancements in virtual learning, funded autism research grants and strategic advocacy.

**Launched the Autism Care Network with our co-founders**, a first-of-its kind learning health system for autism - built on more than a decade of work in improving autism care.

- ***The network drives rapid and significant effects*** on quality care, quality of life and reach into underserved communities
- ***Added nine new tertiary care centers to the Network*** to total 20 premier centers – a collaboration of people on the spectrum and their families, researchers and healthcare teams to find solutions that improve care years earlier than traditional research

**Increased the number of community providers and autism centers participating in Echo Autism**, a telehealth monitoring and educational learning network, by 50 percent to 1,468 providers in 28 communities.

**Launched PATH to Discovery research initiative aimed at advancing precision autism treatments for health.** PATH expands upon our MSSNG global resource by capturing new and more diverse biologic and phenotypic information to develop and test precise treatments in the clinical care setting.

- ***Six Autism Care Network sites integrated into the PATH to Discovery effort*** where they will enroll 100 families who will share information on autism behaviors and a wide set of biology data
- ***Studies published from MSSNG data analysis uncovered 135 new genes involved in autism***, increasing the total number of ASD-risk genes in the scientific literature to 204

**Helped secure 87 U.S. Representatives and 14 U.S. Senators** to sign autism research funding letters to the Appropriations Committees, in support of a significant increase in funding in FY21.

**Increased number of Autism Speaks Advocacy Ambassadors by 10 percent** enlisting 375 new ambassadors from 49 states and the District of Columbia.

- ***Completed nearly 400 legislative visits*** through events, in-person and virtual meeting opportunities to educate legislative leaders on autism public health priorities

**Grew the Autism Speaks Grassroots Advocacy Network**, more than doubling the size, to nearly 1,500 members representing 49 states and the District of Columbia.

**Hosted a virtual Thought Leadership Summit on Challenging Behaviors** to spark innovations in programs and policies for better systems of care for autistic people with severe and harmful behaviors.

**Led a virtual Advocacy Forum and Hill Day** with over 200 attendees from 42 states and the District of Columbia. Met with over 180 congressional offices to share perspectives from diverse communities.

# Lowering the age of diagnosis.

We continue to leverage our successful use of public service campaigns in collaboration with the Ad Council to help close the diagnosis gap, especially in minority populations. Ranking in the top 10 of all national Ad Council public messaging campaigns, our most recent initiative was launched in January 2021, in English and Spanish, and equated the importance of recognizing developmental milestones and the signs of autism with the celebration of a child's "Big Day." The percentage of parents who have spoken to a doctor or healthcare practitioner about autism in the past six months increased from 21 percent to 23 percent in the first quarter of the campaign.



*View the Autism Speaks "Big Day" national bilingual campaign.*



Cuanto antes reconozcas las señales del autismo, más temprano puedes ayudar.



Comienza el cuestionario





## Increasing early childhood screening and timely intervention

Autism Speaks helps children on the spectrum reach their highest potential through our mission to increase early screening and intervention. We continue our work with a special focus on high need, underserved populations by empowering parents, educating physicians and increasing access to interventions and support.

**Helped lower the age of diagnosis** with an emphasis on lower socioeconomic populations by increasing the number of people accessing the M-CHAT autism screening questionnaire by 15 percent year over year.

- **Initiated a new bilingual public service campaign initiative in English and Spanish in collaboration with the Ad Council**, to encourage families to learn the signs of autism and support their child's healthy development
- **PSA awareness increased by three percent** since the campaign launch
- Percentage of parents who have spoken to a doctor or healthcare practitioner about autism in the past six months **increased two percent**

**Collaborated on the production of Caregiver Quick Tips six-part video series**, based on Autism Speaks Caregiver Skills Training program (CST). These first of their kind videos help parents and caregivers use play and everyday routines to better support their autistic child's development and proved particularly important for families unable to access intervention services due to COVID-19.

- **More than 4,000 views** in first four months following launch
- **Increased number of trained CST providers** by 75 percent to 1,337

**Successfully advocated autism benefits coverage for an additional 3.4 million Americans**, bringing the total number of individuals covered to over 207 million or an estimated 65% of the U.S. population.

- **Advocated for the launch of Illinois state's Medicaid autism services benefit for children, under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) program**, making Illinois the 48th state to implement this benefit and covering over 2.8 million people
- **Advocated for the ChampVA military plan** providing autism services to 560,000 people

**Successfully advocated for the removal of Medicaid requirement in Maryland** for parents/guardians to be present at all times during applied behavior analysis (ABA) appointments. This change will significantly improve access to autism services within Medicaid for children in Maryland.

**Presented a three-part webinar series on Navigating an Autism Diagnosis** across the U.S. to nearly 1,700 attendees and more than 3,800 video views.

**Maximized donated media of more than \$22 million to drive awareness** of the signs of autism and the importance of early childhood screening and timely intervention.

# Willing and eager to work.

Today 90 percent of autistic adults are unemployed or under-employed despite many having the skill set and being willing and eager to work. Compared to their peers without disabilities, they are less prepared to join the workforce. Autism Speaks has created Workplace Inclusion Now™, an integrated employment initiative aimed at enhancing access to job opportunities across industries and providing sustainable support to job seekers, employers and communities. It is built on the premise that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts – that by convening people, employers and communities to work together toward one common vision, we can make meaningful, lasting change toward a more inclusive workforce.



*Read Sophie's story and learn about her "Broadway" career aspirations.*



***"I am authentic and myself all the time. Because I'm enthusiastic, people are happy when I'm with them."***

*Sophie K., 24, diagnosed at 20 months*

## Improving the transition to adulthood

Every year, an estimated 70,000 autistic adolescents age out of school-based services and lose access to critical resources and support in their transition to adulthood. Autism Speaks is committed to identifying solutions to address the diverse needs of all adults with autism and create opportunities to live life to the fullest.

**Developed an integrated employment system, Workplace Inclusion Now™ (WIN),** to support job seekers with autism, communities and employers committed to building a positive workplace culture and improving meaningful employment opportunities for autistic people.

- **Launched five online courses for autistic workers** in manufacturing and hospitality industries, for co-workers, human resources and management professionals and community service providers
- **Targeted virtual Pathways to Employment events** to local communities, employers and employees
- **Introduced our first, interactive Transition Roadmaps to Employment and Post-Secondary Education,** providing guidance, action steps and goals to help autistic people ages 10-22 plan for and reach their goals for adulthood

**Created an interactive Roadmap to Housing and Residential Supports for Autistic Adults,** ages 18 and older, to help plan for housing-related needs across the life span.

**Marked the one-year anniversary of the Delivering Jobs campaign,** our commitment to creating one million pathways to employment and leadership opportunities for people with autism and other developmental differences - in partnership with Best Buddies, Special Olympics and the Entertainment Industry Foundation.

- **Reached nearly one billion people with messages of employment and inclusion** through radio and TV announcements that have a combined media value of over \$70 million
- **Aligned with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and the SHRM Foundation** reaching more than 300,000 HR professionals
- **Autism Speaks CEO Angela Geiger and Holly Robinson Pete** participated in a Delivering Jobs radio media tour to promote the Delivering Jobs campaign

**Implemented a state advocacy priority to lower the required age to begin transition planning from age 16 to 14.** Campaigns focused on Alaska, California and Nebraska.

**Fulfilled more than 15,600 requests from families for resources on the transition into adulthood.** These materials included the Transition Tool Kit, Community-Based Skills Assessment, Advocacy Tool Kit, Postsecondary Educational Opportunities Guide, Employment and Housing tool kits.

# Guiding the way.

Because autism is a spectrum disorder, each person with autism has unique strengths and challenges and as a result, a distinct set of needs. Finding the right information can be overwhelming. With "My Autism Guide," users can identify their own, or their child's own, unique profile and access trusted, evidenced-based resources based on their specific age, sex and support needs. In addition to obtaining relevant autism content, users are guided to information to prepare in advance for next steps and proactive transition planning. Learn more at [guide.autismspeaks.org](https://guide.autismspeaks.org).



*Read Jair's story and learn how Autism Speaks Spanish resources helped his family learn about autism and provide support.*



***Pedro, Gaby y Jair Velasco usaron recursos en español para ayudar a su familia a entender el diagnóstico de autismo de Jair.***

*Jair V., 13 años, diagnosticado a los 25 meses de edad*

## Ensuring access to reliable information and services throughout the life span

During the year, Autism Speaks provided services, resources and support to more than 1.5 million people, ensuring reliable, trusted information for every life stage and level of need.

**Launched My Autism Guide**, an online, personalized portal that enables users to access relevant information and resources by age and support level and includes local service providers, online and in-person community events, as well as the latest news and information related to autism.

**Translated Autism Speaks resources and videos** into six widely used languages to reach a broader audience of non-English speaking autistic people around the world.

- **Updated 100 Day tool kits for Newly Diagnosed and School Age Children in English and Spanish**
- **12 tool kits into Arabic**
- **17 tool kits into Vietnamese**
- **Six tool kits into Turkish**
- **100 Day kit into Italian**
- **Transition tool kit into Chinese**

**Funded more than \$1 million in local grants** throughout the U.S. to support local families and communities during an unprecedented challenging year.

**Granted more than \$607,000 to 123 community providers serving the autism community** through the Norma and Malcolm Baker Recreation Grant program, with a focus on providers serving underserved minority groups.

**Created five new closed Facebook Groups on areas of interest**, including Adulting on the Spectrum, Employment Wins, Navigating a New Diagnosis, Transition to Adulthood and a Spanish group: Voces Latinas de Autism Speaks.

**Offered free online access to Autism Speaks tool kits**, downloaded nearly 208,000 times, on topics of vital concern to families and professionals seeking information about autism.

# Building a more inclusive world.

We have long worked with our global partners to address the stigma and misunderstanding that still surrounds autism in much of the world. Today, advancing diversity and inclusion is more important than ever before and we are addressing this need in a myriad ways, including initiating a diverse Autism Speaks community advisory council, providing guidance and perspective; advancing employment initiatives to support job seekers with autism; spearheading inclusive legislative policy efforts as well as taking an in-depth organization review to ensure a diverse and inclusive workplace that best reflects our mission, our vision and our community.



*See our most recent Autism Speaks diversity, equity, access and inclusion (DEAI) efforts.*



***As a non-traditional family, we run into many challenges but this journey is ours and resilience is the name of the game.***

*Leighton's moms, Lisa and Shanae with Leighton, 5, diagnosed at age 2*

## Diversity, equity, access and inclusion

Autism Speaks is working to achieve our vision of a world where all people with autism can reach their full potential, especially those in underserved communities who face greater disparities. We are committed to continuing work already underway and identifying new opportunities to sharpen our focus on the equitable and inclusive needs of all people with autism.

**Engaged a minority-owned diversity consulting group** to assist Autism Speaks with internal, external and board baseline assessment and help shape the strategy to inform our work in the future.

Worked to **broaden the stream of funding for federal autism research** and expand its focus, so that disparities in access to services and interventions are better addressed.

**Activated local communities through outreach**, bringing together young adults with autism, families, groups, businesses and service providers from diverse backgrounds to share resources, explore opportunities and needs and connect.

**Participated in the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council (NIEHS)**, a working group on anti-racism, diversity, inclusion and equity.

**Provided best practices on quality autism care through the Autism Treatment Network** in partnership with the Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health, to improve autism care for diverse, underserved groups.

**Partnered in the development of a policy brief with Dr. Lindsay Shea of Drexel University**, devoted to the criminal justice system and the treatment of people with autism designed to engage and educate law enforcement.

**Highlighted in Hulu's Black History Month Campaign** as one of nine non-profit organizations that support the Black community.

# A profound effect.

The U.S. outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 touched people in every corner of the country, but for people with autism and their families, the effects of the pandemic have been especially profound. Addressing food insecurity and accessibility of vaccines and vaccine information was critical to supporting autistic people. As we learned more about the health impacts of COVID-19 specifically for people with autism, we set out to better understand where the community's needs have been greatest and outline ways to support those with autism moving forward.



*View our, first of its kind, COVID-19 and Autism health and economic impact report.*





## Response to COVID-19

When schools, communities, states and regions closed during the pandemic, children and adults with autism and their families experienced disruptions to critical services, healthcare, learning, employment and direct care for those with significant support needs. Autism Speaks was uniquely positioned to respond and mobilize support and resources from across the autism field and our pool of supporters. Together, we provided the following assistance to autism communities:

**Successfully advocated for the inclusion of priorities for autistic individuals** and their families in federal COVID-19 relief legislation, including the American Rescue Plan in 2021, providing:

- **Over \$12.6 billion in emergency** home and community-based services
- **\$3 billion in funding** for special education
- **\$1,400 stimulus payments** for dependents over the age of 16 (previous rounds were only provided for dependents under age 17)
- **An expansion of telehealth services** and other flexibilities for autism services and supports

**Successfully advocated for flexibilities in state private insurance coverage and Medicaid**, to help with continuity of services to the greatest extent possible during pandemic shutdowns.

**Mobilized an Autism Research COVID-19 Community Task Force of autism researchers** to create online access to COVID-19 evidence-based resources addressing the needs of the autism community, visited more than 275,000 times.

**Conducted critical research to assess the needs and impacts of COVID-19** on the autism community in terms of basic needs, health impacts and economic effects of the pandemic.

**Created information in English and Spanish** on where to find critical food resources.

**Produced three videos and five tip sheets** on behavior and medication resources.

**Developed an Autism Telehealth Tool Kit for providers and parents** to ensure successful telehealth visits, which proved particularly useful during the pandemic.

**Compiled 90+ resources by the Autism Treatment Network** for families and providers ranging from information about COVID-19 to telehealth tips and visual supports from a variety of best-practice resources.

**Hosted 25 state-specific webinars and two nationwide special education-related webinars**, engaging over 5,300 registrants and informing the autism community about federal and state public policy and governmental actions during the pandemic.

**Funded 834 Autism Cares Grants totaling nearly \$400,000** to assist families in urgent need of financial assistance.

**Partnered with CDC to answer COVID-19 vaccine questions** for the autism community, featuring the CDC's Dr. Georgina Peacock, Director, Division of Human Development.

**Provided personalized support from the Autism Response Team** to over 2,800 individuals and families in need of COVID-19 resources.



# autism speaks CANADA

As we monitored the evolving impact of COVID-19, our top priority remained the health and safety of our constituents, community, employees, volunteers and donors. While we adapted to new ways of working during this challenging time, our team remained fully operational and committed to working together to support the autism community and fulfill our mission. We made necessary adjustments to the annual plan and budgets. We leaned into our closest partners, scaled up programs, and identified new opportunities. Most of all, we all came together as a team to respond to the needs of the community.

## Increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism

- **Maintained a very strong brand likeability** at 96 percent and the highest share of voice at 40 percent – a measurement of the strength of our brand - compared to other autism organizations in Canada.
- **Promoted a message of kindness**, understanding, acceptance and inclusivity during World Autism Month, reaching 22.6 million – an increase of 29 percent year over year.
- **Remained committed to including a first person voice** and shared authentic stories of over 30 autistic Canadians of different cultures, ethnicities, genders and geography.
- **Launched an Autism Myth Buster series** on our social channels to further educate the public about autism.
- **Reimagined Canada's leading fundraising initiative** from in-person walks to Walk on Wheels Car Parades, raising more than \$306,000 with 4,900 participants, donors and volunteers.
- **Donated over 2,000 new Samsung tablets** as an educational tool for autistic Canadians challenged by the pandemic.

## Being a catalyst for life-enhancing research breakthroughs

- **Two Canadian sites became part of the Autism Care Network;** Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Toronto and Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Edmonton.
- **A unique program, the Autism Sharing Initiative, was launched in Canada** made of important autism stakeholders to develop a federated network for sharing health information to accelerate research and personalized healthcare. Autism Speaks is a critical partner and founding member of this consortium.
- **Working with U.S. Autism Speaks, launched Precision Autism Treatments for Health (PATH),** a research program to build a roadmap to personalized medicine for people across the autism spectrum. The Wise Family Foundation provided founding leadership support to establish and launch PATH.
- **Granted \$10,000 to the naming of Dr. Stelios Georgiades** as the McMaster Children's Hospital Chair in Autism and Neurodevelopment, to bridge the research-to practice gap in autism among autism families, researchers, clinicians, educators and policymakers.

## Increasing early childhood screening and timely interventions

- **With funding from the Public Agency of Canada (PHAC), we partnered with McGill University on the Caregivers Skills Training Program** to empower parents and caregivers with evidence-based skills training in Quebec, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the Yukon for children with autism.
- **Launched Toys R Us 'Stay at Home Developmental Play Packs'** to help caregivers maintain and improve developmental skills at home during COVID-19.
- **Provided virtual autism-friendly experiences** like Sensitive Santa to celebrate during a stay-at-home holiday season.

## Improving the transition to adulthood

- **Connected 1,200 autistic job seekers with 18 employers** and appropriate supports and services through Spectrum Works Virtual Job Fair, endorsed by The Prime Minister of Canada.
- **Provided 41 service providers education webinars** on inclusive hiring best practices.
- **Through funding from the Government of Canada, Autism Speaks Canada collaborated with the Sinneave Family Foundation** to initiate the Employment Works program.

## Ensuring access to reliable information and services throughout the life span

- **Due to COVID-19, provided no cost extension to our 2019 Family Services Community Grant recipients** who were awarded \$400,000 to help build service capacity.
- **Conducted a Pandemic Survey on the impact of COVID-19** in collaboration with Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance (CASDA) and McMaster Autism Research Team (McART) with 1,066 autistic Canadians and their families' respondents.
- **Hired a dedicated an Autism Response Team member** to provide curated COVID-19 resources and resources across the life span for people with autism and their families.
- **Funded the Canadian Autism Leadership Summit,** Canada's largest autism conference, bring together self-advocates, service providers, policymakers, government and thought leaders.

# We reimagined the Walk!

The strength of the Autism Speaks Walk community persevered in 2020, as nearly 30,000 people joined in 70 virtual events across the country to fundraise for our mission. The Walk was reimagined, with people taking their Walk-day steps on treadmills, in their neighborhood or in smaller groups with community members. Where it was possible to be together safely, we paraded in support from our cars. We shared online sponsor resources and posted pictures and shout-outs throughout the day.



*Join us! Sign up for an Autism Speaks Walk near you.*





Undeterred by the challenges of the pandemic, our top teams and supporters did more, raised more and were an undeniable force in their commitment to Autism Speaks and the autism community. With \$7.4 million raised, many teams defied all odds and achieved even higher team fundraising averages. Individual participants set goals to make 2020 their best year ever. **Our deepest thanks to them all.**

### Top Teams

<b>Team Katz</b> (LA)	<b>\$260,860</b>	<b>Sonic</b> (DFW)	<b>\$ 61,017</b>
<b>Team Topping</b> (LA)	<b>\$113,536</b>	<b>PITT OHIO</b> for Autism Speaks (Pittsburgh)	<b>\$ 49,195</b>
<b>Christian's Crusaders</b> (Palm Beach/Nantucket)	<b>\$131,625</b>	<b>New York Department of Sanitation</b> (NYC/Staten Island)	<b>\$ 42,773</b>
<b>Jack Garchik's Crew</b> (Palm Beach)	<b>\$ 65,519</b>	<b>Team Tyler</b> (North Shore, Chicago)	<b>\$ 37,903</b>
<b>The Balters</b> (Arizona)	<b>\$ 65,304</b>		
<b>North Allegheny</b> aka An Evening For Autism (Pittsburgh)	<b>\$ 62,585</b>		

### Top National Fundraisers

<b>Lisa Katz</b>	<b>\$259,785</b>	<b>Ryan Arenson</b>	<b>\$ 32,131</b>
<b>Harry Topping</b>	<b>\$113,486</b>	<b>Kim Cherniss</b>	<b>\$ 29,028</b>
<b>Bob &amp; Susan Wright</b>	<b>\$131,625</b>	<b>Marci Ingram</b>	<b>\$ 28,337</b>
<b>Marla Garchik</b>	<b>\$ 65,063</b>	<b>Chad Slawner</b>	<b>\$ 27,679</b>
<b>Neil Balter</b>	<b>\$ 64,769</b>	<b>Spencer Savitz</b>	<b>\$ 26,025</b>

# Funding our mission.

We are so grateful to our generous supporters who have continued to drive our mission forward by event participation, national sponsorship, personal milestones and community outreach. You are our champions and change makers!



## Special Events

Although most events looked and operated differently than in years past, our volunteer and staff commitment to success never wavered. While we held some modified in-person golf events, most events found fun, creative ways to go virtual. The **Chip In Casino Night in Chicago** captured the spirit of past events, even as guests participated from home. Our signature **Celebrity Chef Gala in New York City** featured Chef Andrew Zimmern hosting at-home fine-dining activities. Combined, our events across the country **raised more than \$2 million**.

Each of these events rely heavily on our supporters, sponsors, honorees, committees, chairs, chefs and celebrities who give generously of their time, talent and treasures. We are extremely grateful for their continued support.

## Alpha Xi Delta

In 2020, members of our **national Walk partner, Alpha Xi Delta**, continued to fundraise through virtual AmaXing Challenge events and Walks, **raising more than \$900,000** for Autism Speaks. Through their annual **Letters of Love** campaign, in which members reach out to their networks with letters and email. **Alpha Xi Delta raised more than \$200,000**.

Throughout our 12-year relationship, Alpha Xi Delta has raised more than \$12 million and donated hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours in support of our mission across the country.

## TeamUp and Endurance Events

Since no in-person major marathon endurance events occurred after February 2020, we shifted our focus to local community runs. Our new **Race to a Kinder World Virtual Series** of 5K and 8K events was rewarded by the participation of more than 5,700 runners and **raised over \$1 million** to help people with autism and the Autism Speaks mission.

As part of our **TeamUp** program, participants combined purpose and fun as they rode, both in-person and virtually, in the annual **Bike to the Beach** 25, 50 and 100-mile events. Doing good with every mile, **proceeds from the event reached \$165,000** to benefit Autism Speaks. We are grateful for the continued support of the Bike to the Beach community and our TeamUp supporters and participants.

## Thank you to our social media community

COVID-19 presented a serious side effect for nonprofits with respect to canceled events and a decrease in dollars available to fund their vital mission work. The continued donations and fundraising efforts of our social media community played a critical role in our ability to maintain our mission efforts and ensure our support of people with autism and their families. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the continued commitment and generosity of this engaged and caring community of supporters.

# Donor spotlight:

## Meet Michele and Nelson Carbonell

"As a parent of a child with autism you need hope. You want to feel like someone is out there trying to make a difference in the world. For us, that's Autism Speaks, especially for the work they do in science with their fellowships for early career researchers, the MSSNG genomic global platform and most recently their new PATH to Discovery initiative."



*Michele and Nelson with their son Dylan, 26, diagnosed at age 2*



*Artwork by Dylan Carbonell*



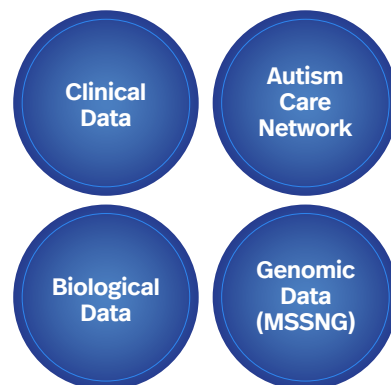
**When Dylan was first diagnosed,** doctors told Michele and Nelson their son would likely never communicate or even express emotion – a presumption that didn't sit well with the Carbonells. It was at that moment Michele decided to put a crayon in her son's hand and teach him how to express himself through art. Today, at 26, Dylan is still using his art to communicate his thoughts and emotions.

Dylan lives independently in Los Angeles and continues to achieve milestones that his parents were told he'd never reach. He attended and graduated from Exceptional Minds, a computer animation studio and non-profit digital arts vocational academy for young adults on the autism spectrum, has interned for Nickelodeon and Warner Bros. and worked on digital animation projects for the likes of Sesame Street and Special Olympics.

In order to make a positive impact for other people on the spectrum, the Carbonells founded the Nelson and Michele Carbonell Family Foundation. Through tireless advocacy and generous donations to Autism Speaks and other organizations close to their heart, the family has continued to keep the promise they made to themselves more than two decades ago – to spur change in the autism community.

"Whether it's providing access to resources, a sense of community or even just everyday support for parents, Autism Speaks is there for the autism community," says Michele. "That's why we continue to support them after all these years. I'd encourage other people to do the same if they have the opportunity."

## Making a Difference Through Research



### The Path to Discovery

*Integrating autism genomic and clinical sciences to develop personalized treatments at various stages of life*

- *Increase early detection of autism through whole genome sequencing as part of first-line medical evaluation for autism.*
- *Identify autism subgroups to better understand how biology and genetics are at work in autism.*

# Thank you to our corporate supporters!

We are so grateful to the following generous companies for their continued dedication and commitment to our work. **They are the fuel that powers our mission.**



BMO Bank of Montreal

**BMO Financial Group** continues to be a cornerstone partner supporting My Autism Guide and the Autism Response Team in Canada.



**Charitable Adult Rides & Services (CARS)** remains a valued supporter of auto, boat or other motor vehicles to benefit Autism Speaks.



**CIT** was the first company designated by Autism Speaks to receive the Autism Friendly Designation making their company a welcoming workplace for all.



**Costco** is helping ensure the future of the Autism Response Team (ART) through funding focused on data and technology call center improvements.



**Dental Corp** continued to support Autism Speaks Canada's top priorities like community grants.



**Genentech** funded Autism Cares grants assistance to families impacted by the pandemic and support for the transition to adulthood.



**Gillette TREO** launched the first razor created for caregivers of young men with autism and raised vital funds to improve the transition to adulthood.



**Great Wolf Lodge** continued their support through on-site and social campaigns.



**Greensource** continued to fundraise in support of the autism community with autism-inspired apparel locally sold at Walmart.



**Home Depot** offered specially packaged Feit Electric blue light bulbs for supporters to "Light It Up Blue" in celebration of World Autism Month.



**The Lee Family Foundation Fund**, supported the development of Workplace Inclusion Now™ (WIN) employment initiative.



**NFP Canada** contributions are helping to develop a financial literacy resources for the autism community in Canada.



**Samsung Canada** conducted its 7th technology campaign donating over 5,000 devices to individuals, schools and service organizations across Canada.



**Stanley Black & Decker** and Autism Speaks continued the development of a community college curriculum for people with autism.



**T.J. Maxx** conducted its 17th campaign for Autism Speaks, engaging their customers to support the autism community and help create a kinder, more inclusive world.



**Toys R Us Canada** continued to empower service providers to build their capacity to support individuals and families impacted by autism across Canada.



**A Truist Foundation** grant enabled 31 small businesses to achieve the Autism Speaks Autism Friendly Designation and complete the Workplace Inclusion Now program (WIN).

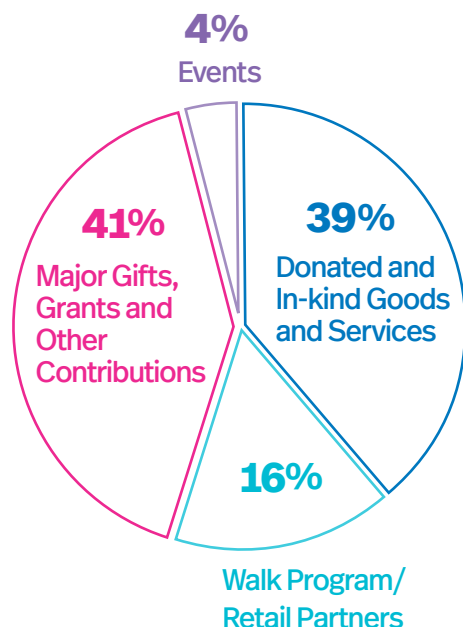


**White Castle** promoted to raise funds for Autism Speaks, fueling our mission in deep, meaningful ways since 2009.



**Wilson Sporting Goods** offered a limited-edition line of baseball equipment to benefit Autism Speaks.

# Financials April 2020 - March 2021



## FUNDING SOURCES

Donated and In-kind Goods and Services	\$ 30.3 M
Walk Program/Retail Partners	\$ 12.6 M
Major Gifts, Grants and Other Contributions	\$ 31.6 M
Events	\$ 3.2 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 77.7 M</b>

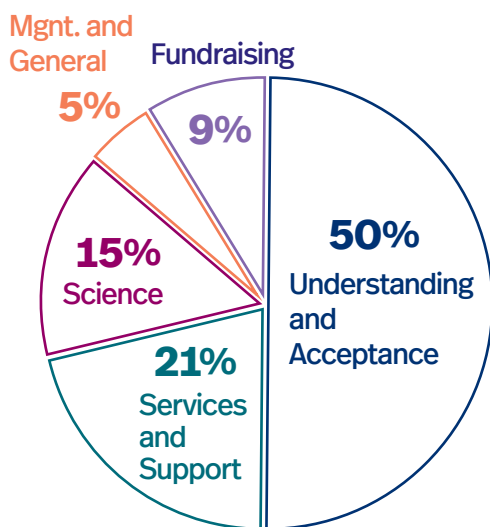
## YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

### PROGRAM SERVICES

Understanding and Acceptance	\$ 36.8 M
Services and Support	\$ 15.0 M
Science	\$ 10.9 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 62.7 M</b>

### SUPPORTING SERVICES

Management and General	\$ 3.7 M
Fundraising	\$ 6.9 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10.6 M</b>




## NET ASSETS

### TOTAL NET ASSETS

at March 31, 2021	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 47.6 M</b>
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To view Autism Speaks' complete audited financial statements please refer to our website [autismspeaks.org/about-us/annual-reports](https://autismspeaks.org/about-us/annual-reports).

Included in the Funding Sources and Your Dollars at Work are donated and in-kind goods and services totaling \$30.3M, primarily related to media and related services, \$29.7M supporting our program services and \$0.6M relating to fundraising efforts.



*"Jocelyn is my joyful and  
kindhearted daughter who  
happens to also be autistic."*

*Jocelyn, 4 1/2, diagnosed at 18 months*

# A special note of thanks during an unprecedented year.

We are proud of the progress we continued to make in furthering our work and supporting the autism community in such an unprecedented year. We are especially grateful to our donors, staff, board members, volunteers and broader constituency's unstoppable commitment to our mission – a commitment that continues to make all the difference.

**Our deepest thanks.**





*"I owe it all to my mom. The first word that comes to mind when I think about her is inspiration."*

*Ronaldo, 32, diagnosed at age 17  
Read Ronaldo's story here*





*“I can’t stress enough the importance of early intervention services and how much they’ve made an impact on both the boys’ lives.”*

*Lauren M.*

*Colleen, Lauren and 2-year old Maggie M. with twins Callan and Brennan, diagnosed at 14 months. Read their story here.*



**autism speaks**

1060 State Rd, 2nd Floor, Princeton, NJ 08540

**autismspeaks.org**