

 **AUTISM SPEAKS®**

2 0 1 7 A N N U A L R E P O R T



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

For Autism Speaks, 2017 was a pivotal year of progress toward fulfilling our mission objectives and strategic roadmap, which are dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. We are excited to share this year's many notable achievements.

We continued to **increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism** through worldwide social media engagement, reaching more than 7.1 million people in 170 countries during April, World Autism Month. Our first special report, *Autism and Health: Advances in Understanding and Treating the Physical and Mental Health Conditions that Frequently Accompany Autism*, brought together collective scientific insight on the broad spectrum of autism and some of the co-occurring conditions that can impact the quality of life. With the creation of our national autism-friendly calendar, people with autism and their families had access to more than 7,500 events, including holiday traditions and travel opportunities, many for the first time.

In support of our goal to act as a **catalyst for life enhancing research breakthroughs**, 2017 has been an exciting year of discovery and advances in best-practice clinical care. Autism Speaks-funded research identified 18 new autism-linked genes, furthering our understanding of the underlying biology of autism. In addition, more than 50 Autism Speaks-funded fellows and senior researchers were selected to present their work at the International Meeting for Autism Research. Our continued grant funding for bright young scientists has made Autism Speaks one of the field's most important supporters of early-career autism scientists.

Research has shown that **early childhood screening and timely intervention** improve outcomes for people with autism. In 2017, Autism Speaks utilized a telemedicine platform through its Autism Treatment Network to reach primary care practices and community health centers in underserved areas and inform best-practice care for children with autism. Meanwhile, through Autism Speaks advocacy efforts, autism health insurance benefits, including coverage for evidence-based treatments, became a standard benefit in the nation's largest health insurance company covering more than 37 million members.

We recognize that there is an urgent gap in the autism field concerning the transition to adulthood and ensuring that adolescents have the support, resources, opportunities and skills to live as independently as possible. Our 2017 achievements included the expansion of the Autism Speaks career website by 70 percent. And our launch of a tele-learning series on transition attracted more than 2,700 registrants. Of those, 40 percent requested and received additional assistance from our Autism Response Team. **Ensuring access to reliable information and services throughout the life span** is paramount to the work we do. In 2017, Autism Speaks provided information and resources to more than 1 million people – a 58 percent increase over 2016.

None of this progress is possible without generous families, volunteers, donors and partners. This year, we raised \$96.8 million to fuel our mission and help as many people as possible. Our community has supported our mission through donated and in-kind goods and services, Autism Speaks Walks, Team Up races, special events, and donations made online or by mail.

We are grateful for our network of donors and constituents and proud of the impact we are making to enable people with autism to live their best possible lives. By working together, we can enhance lives today and accelerate a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

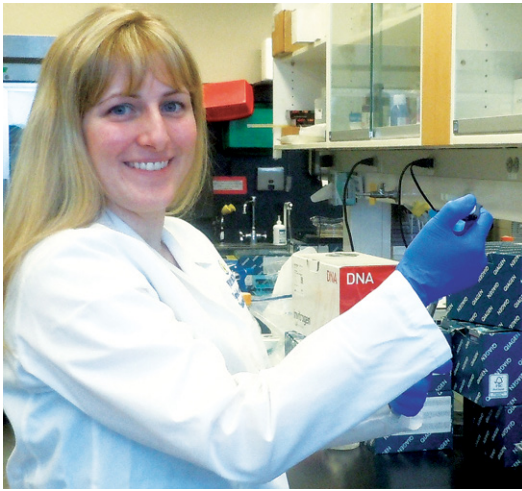
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Kelly".

Brian Kelly
Chairman, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Geiger".

Angela Geiger
President and Chief Executive Officer

OUR MISSION



Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. We do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism spectrum disorder; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.

Autism Speaks is enhancing lives today and accelerating a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow.



2 0 1 7

At Autism Speaks our priority mission objectives focus on enhancing the lives of people with autism and their families in tangible, strategic ways that span science, services and policy.

Through partnerships and collaborations, we are:



INCREASING UNDERSTANDING
& ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE
WITH AUTISM



BEING A CATALYST FOR
LIFE ENHANCING RESEARCH
BREAKTHROUGHS



INCREASING EARLY
CHILDHOOD SCREENING &
TIMELY INTERVENTION



IMPROVING THE TRANSITION
FROM ADOLESCENCE
TO ADULTHOOD



ENSURING ACCESS TO RELIABLE
INFORMATION & SERVICES
THROUGHOUT THE LIFE SPAN



INCREASING UNDERSTANDING & ACCEPTANCE

Autism affects an estimated 3 million people in the United States and 70 million people worldwide. More than 90 percent of the world's autism community lives in low- and middle-income countries with little access to autism services or support, challenged by the high cost of care, as well as stigma and social intolerance.

1 in 68
children
is diagnosed with
autism in the U.S.

nearly
2/3 of children
with autism
between the ages
of 6 and 15 have
been bullied

nearly
1 in 3
people with autism
feels socially
isolated

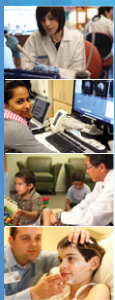
autism affects
more than
70 Million
people worldwide

Through your support, we are measurably increasing understanding of autism, elevating public health practices and supporting the delivery of sustainable services across the life span. In 2017, we:

WELCOMED MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION VISITORS EACH MONTH TO AUTISMSPEAKS.ORG, providing a unique opportunity to find answers, resources and ways to get involved in our mission.

ENGAGED 7.1 MILLION PEOPLE IN 170 COUNTRIES DURING APRIL, WORLD AUTISM MONTH, aimed at educating and motivating individuals to increase support of people with autism.

- Developed the first in an annual series of comprehensive special reports, *AUTISM AND HEALTH: Advances in Understanding and Treating the Physical and Mental Health Conditions That Frequently Accompany Autism*.
- Co-hosted a United Nations panel discussion, Populations on the Move, examining the need for autism services in refugee communities, a U.N. priority for the coming years, in collaboration with Bangladesh and Qatar.
- Created an interactive quiz taken by 83,000 people to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism.
- Created a Facebook frame used by 1.1 million people during World Autism Month to increase awareness and show their support.



AUTISM AND HEALTH:
A SPECIAL REPORT BY AUTISM SPEAKS
Advances in Understanding and Treating the Health
Conditions that Frequently Accompany Autism

AUTISM SPEAKS 2017

SPECIAL REPORT: AUTISM AND HEALTH

Advances in Understanding
and Treating the
Physical and Mental Health
Conditions That Frequently
Accompany Autism



USED OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS TO SHARE STORIES FROM PEOPLE WITH AUTISM

and those who support them. Increased our social media presence by 8 percent, bringing our following to more than 1.8 million on Facebook, 131,000 on Instagram and 242,000 on Twitter.

LAUNCHED PILOT TESTING IN THE UNITED STATES OF THE AUTISM SPEAKS/WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION CAREGIVER SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM

for developmental disabilities. In Xiamen, China, co-hosted the first global technical conference for the 30 countries implementing the program.

ENGAGED WITH THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION IN COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS ON PATIENT-FOCUSED DRUG DEVELOPMENT

for autism, bringing our community's perspective to the evaluation of new medicines.

CREATED NATIONAL AUTISM-FRIENDLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS with 7,500 listings at AutismSpeaks.org/Autism-Friendly-Events.

- Through partnership with the Noerr Programs, 13,000 people benefited from autism-friendly Santa and Easter Bunny visits.
- Our partnership with JetBlue Airways enabled 500 people with autism to practice air travel, from check-in through taxiing along the runway.

LAUNCHED THE VOLUNTEER ADVOCACY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM. Participants include self-advocates, parents, lawyers, service providers and more. These ambassadors enhance Autism Speaks' advocacy efforts by promoting constituent outreach to elected officials. More than 160 people representing 39 states have joined the program.

PROVIDED PERSPECTIVE AND CONNECTIONS TO THE AUTISM COMMUNITY to ABC, CBS, CNN, FOX, NBC, PBS, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, NPR, Sirius XM, Scientific American, HuffingtonPost.com, RealSimple.com and many more worldwide.

PARTNERED WITH KIEHL'S AND ACTOR MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY, who designed a limited-edition label for Kiehl's Ultra Facial Cream, with worldwide donations benefiting Autism Speaks. This partnership made headlines on social media and around the globe, including articles in *Variety* and *People*.

PARTNERED WITH THE AD COUNCIL AND ZENITH to generate \$41.5 million in donated media placements for The World of Autism public service campaign and autism community support.



BEING A CATALYST FOR LIFE ENHANCING RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGHS

Autism Speaks is helping to lead the explosion in discovery of genes associated with the underlying biology of different subtypes of autism. At the same time, we have generated a vital pipeline of talent for the future of autism research. Autism Speaks Science has played a major role in:

Early identification
(screening and diagnosis)

early **developmental and behavioral** intervention

Increasing knowledge **and ability to care for co-occurring** medical and mental health conditions

Uncovering the basic **biology** of autism

Through the work of Autism Speaks and our grant-funded researchers, we are enhancing the future for people with autism. In 2017, we:

SUPPORTED THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES’ Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee recommendation to double the autism research budget.

INCORPORATED THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE AUTISM COMMUNITY in the Autism Speaks Strategic Plan for Science 2018-2020, to focus future research funding in areas that can enhance lives today and deliver a spectrum of personalized solutions in the years ahead.

IDENTIFIED 18 NEW AUTISM-LINKED GENES, deepening the understanding of autism’s broad spectrum.

ESTABLISHED THAT 80 PERCENT OF 61 GENE VARIATIONS identified through whole genome sequencing affect biochemical pathways that have clear potential as targets for future medicines.

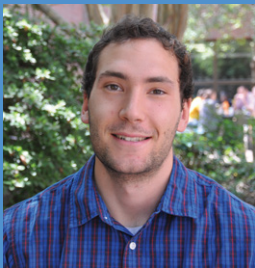
SUPPORTED THE RESEARCH BEHIND MORE THAN 50 STUDIES, published in respected scientific journals.



**AUTISM SPEAKS’
PIONEERING
AUTISM DENNIS WEATHERSTONE
RESEARCH PREDOCTORAL FELLOWS**



THE AUTISM TREATMENT NETWORK (ATN) is a collaboration of Autism Speaks and 12 cutting edge medical centers and academic facilities in North America caring for nearly 40,000 children each year. The ATN also serves as the Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health (AIR-P), funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), to improve medical care for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder.



Eric Rubenstein,
Autism Speaks
Weatherstone Class
of 2016



MSSNG RANKS AMONG THE FIELD'S LARGEST GENOMIC DATABASES and is driving research into personalized treatments and support services. MSSNG makes more than 7,000 genome sequences freely available for autism research, including nearly 3,000 sequences from the Autism Speaks Autism Genetic Resource Exchange. In 2017, more than 100 investigators in 60 research institutes conducted studies using MSSNG resources.

MSSNG.ORG

SUPPORTED BEST-PRACTICE CLINICAL CARE THROUGH RENEWED GRANT FUNDING of Autism Speaks' 12 Autism Treatment Network (ATN) centers in North America.

REACHED A MILESTONE FOR THE AUTISM TREATMENT NETWORK by publishing more than 100 peer-reviewed medical research papers.

LAUNCHED EIGHT HIGHLY PROMISING PREDOCTORAL STUDENTS INTO CAREERS IN AUTISM RESEARCH with our highly competitive Weatherstone Predoctoral Fellowships, bringing the total to 71 fellows since 2009 and making Autism Speaks one of the field's most important supporters of early career scientists.

SUPPORTED THE RESEARCH BEHIND MORE THAN 50 SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS at the 2017 International Meeting for Autism Research.

- For example, Eric Rubenstein, of the Autism Speaks Weatherstone Class of 2016, is advancing understanding of the association between autism symptoms in diagnosed children and broader (subclinical) autism traits in their parents. The goal is to better understand how and when inherited factors play a role in the development of autism, then use this information to tailor interventions to best meet a child's need. Three of Mr. Rubenstein's studies were selected for presentation at the 2017 International Society for Autism Research – a remarkable honor.

SUPPORTED THE RESEARCH BEHIND THREE LANDMARK SCIENTIFIC REPORTS identifying early brain changes that predict the onset of autism in babies at high risk for the condition – opening earlier opportunities for effective intervention.





INCREASING EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING & TIMELY INTERVENTION

Autism Speaks is helping to lay the foundation to ensure all children on the spectrum reach their highest potential. We continue our work with a special focus in high need, lower socioeconomic populations by empowering parents, educating physicians and advancing research.

Autism can be diagnosed between **18-24 months** with a thorough behavioral assessment

the average age of diagnosis in the U.S. remains around **4 years of age**

AUTISM AFFECTS **ALL ethnic and socioeconomic groups**

minority groups tend to be **diagnosed later and less often**

Research has brought about a consensus in the field: When interventions begin at a young age, the chances of progress are significantly greater. In 2017, we:

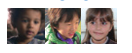
PROVIDED 560,000 FAMILIES WITH FREE ACCESS VIA AUTISMSPEAKS.ORG TO THE M-CHAT-R, the recommended risk assessment questionnaire tool for children 16 to 30 months old.

HELPED DEVELOP AND SUCCESSFULLY TEST A TELEMEDICINE PLATFORM to teach and support best practices in autism screening and care among more than 100 primary care practices and community health centers in underserved areas.

LAUNCHED A TELELEARNING SERIES FOR FAMILIES WITH NEWLY DIAGNOSED CHILDREN. Of almost 1,500 registrants, nearly half requested and received follow-up from our Autism Response Team.

FUNDED TWO PUBLISHED STUDIES PROVIDING GREATER INSIGHT ON AUTISM'S EARLIEST RISK FACTORS. Our support for the Infant Brain Imaging Study and Early Autism Risk Longitudinal Investigation collaboration (two NIH Center for Excellence Networks) continues to produce insights on very early signs.

Does your toddler show any of the following signs?



If so, what should you do?

1. Don't wait! If you ever have concerns, talk to your health care provider. The sooner your child has many types of health insurance must cover the autism screening at 18 months and 24 months of age.

No babbling by 12 months

No back and forth gestures such as pointing, clapping, reaching or waving by 12 months

No response to name by 12 months

No words by 16 months

No meaningful two-word phrases (not including "I want" or "no") by 24 months

Preoccupation with parts of objects or toys

Repeats unusual movements or actions

Any loss of speech, babbling or social skills at any age

ACT NOW

Early intervention can make a lifetime of difference.



2. Fill out the M-CHAT-R Screensaver on the back of this page or online and share with your health care provider. More information on autism can be found at: AutismSpeaks.org/signs

3. Start your intervention process right away. Your child can receive a FREE evaluation even without a formal diagnosis. If your child is under 36 months, contact your local state or tribal agency or early intervention office as soon as you have a concern.

4. If you need help go to AutismSpeaks.org for more information. Contact the Autism Speaks autism response team. They can answer your questions and provide you with local resources.

In English: 800-AUTISMS (800-288-4762)
In Spanish: 800-772-6000
help@autismspeaks.org
Fax: 949-755-2044



AUTISM SPEAKS PRESENTS
Navigating an Autism Diagnosis
FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

A TELE-LEARNING PROGRAM



SUPPORTED RESEARCH SHOWING THAT A VIDEO-FEEDBACK TRAINING PROGRAM for parents of babies with signs of autism can lead to long-term improvements in social communication.

CO-AUTHORED GLOBAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS AND DISABILITIES: BRIDGING RESEARCH AND POLICY GAPS, in the peer-reviewed journal *PLoS Medicine*.



CO-SPONSORED THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICS CONGRESS, in Mumbai, India.

ALIGNED WITH FAMILIES, PROFESSIONALS, ADVOCACY GROUPS AND GOVERNMENTS in more than 70 countries to enable practical and effective delivery of care, especially in under-served areas.



FILED A FRIEND-OF-THE-COURT BRIEF IN THE CASE OF ENDREW F. V. DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1, in which the U.S. Supreme Court held that a school must offer an individualized education plan (IEP) reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress appropriate in light of the child's circumstances, not merely minimal progress.





IMPROVING THE TRANSITION FROM ADOLESCENCE TO ADULTHOOD

Autism Speaks is urgently identifying solutions to address the diverse needs, challenges and strengths of adolescents with autism and develop new opportunities to enhance adult life.

an estimated
50,000
teens with autism
age out of school-based
services each year

teens with autism
receive **healthcare
services**
1/2 as often
as those
with
other healthcare needs

nearly
half
of 25-year-olds
**with autism never
held a paying job**

many young adults
with autism
**do not receive
healthcare**
for years after they stop
seeing a pediatrician

It is essential that families have the support and resources to create a transition plan that will develop the skills needed for people with autism to live as independently as possible. In 2017, we:



EXPANDED AUTISM SPEAKS CAREER WEBSITE OPPORTUNITIES BY 70 PERCENT. The online employment portal provides adults with autism seeking jobs access to more than 230 employers and 500 service providers. Employers include Xerox, Microsoft GE, Macy's, Johnson & Johnson, American Express, Hilton Hotels and more.



INCREASED CORPORATE EMPLOYMENT EFFORTS FOR ADULTS through a collaborative corporate disability consultancy service funded in part by Autism Speaks to assist companies in developing autism-led hiring initiatives. Companies include Cintas, Amazon, Quest Diagnostics, Meijer Superstores and NCR.

FULFILLED MORE THAN 15,000 REQUESTS FROM FAMILIES FOR RESOURCES ON THE TRANSITION INTO ADULTHOOD. These materials included the Transition Tool Kit, Community-Based Skills Assessment, Advocacy Tool Kit and Postsecondary Educational Opportunities Guide.

LAUNCHED TELELEARNING SERIES ON TRANSITION. Of nearly 2,700 registrants, more than 40 percent requested and received follow-up with our Autism Response Team.



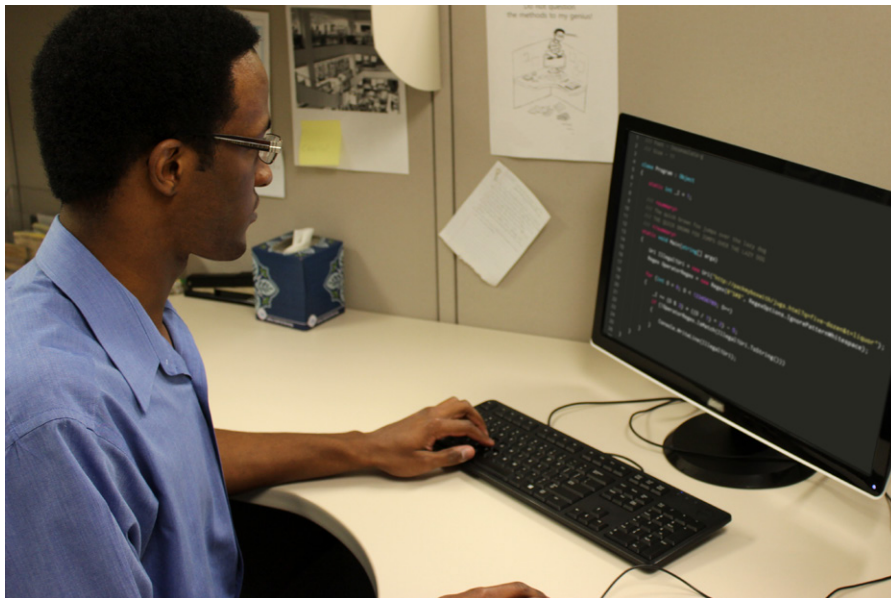
Join Autism Speaks For a Tele-Learning Program for Families with Transition-Aged Youth

AUTISM SPEAKS PRESENTS
Transitioning to Adulthood
A TELE-LEARNING PROGRAM

INCREASED MEMBERSHIP in our LinkedIn Housing and Residential Supports Network by 42 percent and the Autism Employment Network by 35 percent.

PARTICIPATED IN DEVELOPING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES REPORT TO CONGRESS on Young Adults and Transitioning Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATED FOR CONGRESS TO ENHANCE STATE SAVINGS PLANS, KNOWN AS ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE (ABLE) PROGRAMS by allowing rollovers from college savings accounts to ABLE accounts and by providing additional savings incentives for ABLE beneficiaries who work. Thirty-one states now have ABLE programs.





AUTISM SPEAKS®

ENSURING ACCESS TO RELIABLE INFORMATION & SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE LIFE SPAN

Autism Speaks provided services and resources to more than 1 million people in 2017 – a 58 percent increase over 2016. We are committed to providing information and referrals to people with autism and those who support them, at every life stage.

on average, it costs an added
\$60,000
a year **to care for someone
with autism**

The majority of these costs are in **special
education and lost parental income.**

FOR MOST
autism is a
**lifelong
condition**

The incremental
cost of autism
across a lifetime
averages **\$1.4 M
to \$2.4 M**
**with costs increasing with
intellectual disability**

Each person's experience with autism presents unique challenges as well as strengths, which define the type of support necessary to live a fulfilling life. In 2017, we:

SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATED FOR IMPROVED HEALTH COVERAGE FOR AUTISM. As a result, the nation's largest health insurance company, United Healthcare, which has 37.7 million members in the U.S., began covering applied behavior analysis for autism as a standard benefit in group plans in 2017. Cigna will follow suit beginning in 2018.

EXPANDED FACEBOOK LIVE DISCUSSIONS TENFOLD. More than 420,000 people viewed the sessions, covering school, safety, transition to adulthood, and updates on science and research.

PROVIDED NEARLY 170,000 COPIES OF AUTISM SPEAKS RESOURCE MATERIAL and educational information on topics across the life span to families and health professionals.

INCREASED THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE RECEIVING DIRECT SUPPORT from the Autism Response Team by 12 percent to almost 70,000 people in the U.S.



Autism Treatment
Network and
Autism Intervention
Research Network
on Physical Health

Making a difference in the lives of
children with autism spectrum disorder
through integrated research and
clinical care.



PROVIDED SERVICES TO 38,000 PATIENTS IN THE AUTISM SPEAKS AUTISM TREATMENT NETWORK. This included care coordination for 14,000 patients, provided by the network's Family Navigators.

CO-AUTHORED REPORT ON BRIDGING RESEARCH AND POLICY GAPS in global services and support for children with autism and other developmental disorders.

CO-HOSTED THE 2017 AUTISM LAW SUMMIT SPONSORED BY EASTER SEALS BAY AREA, attracting 230 stakeholders from more than 40 states to strategize on policy reforms.

HOSTED MORE THAN 50 COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS to provide resources and support in local communities to 3,200 attendees.

CONTINUED TO LEAD EFFORTS FOR STATE INSURANCE REFORM, requiring coverage of treatments and therapy associated with autism. In 2017, Alabama became the 46th state to enact these laws for people of all ages.



Enhancing lives today and creating a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow.

AUTISM SPEAKS[®]
Town Hall
ON ADULT SERVICES



Enhancing lives today and accelerating a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow.

Discover the latest innovations in science, research and technology related to causes and improved interventions for autism spectrum disorder.

AUTISM SPEAKS[®]
Autism Research Series: Discovery to Solutions



Enhancing lives today and accelerating a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow.

AUTISM SPEAKS[®]
Community Meeting

Join Autism Speaks to learn how we are growing in new ways to support individuals with autism and their families across the life span.

Transition Tool Kit
For Families on the Journey from Adolescence to Adulthood

AUTISM SPEAKS[®] FAMILY SERVICES



**AUTISM SPEAKS®
CANADA**

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS HELP ADVANCE THE ORGANIZATION'S
MISSION OBJECTIVES ACROSS NORTH AMERICA



INCREASING GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING & ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE WITH AUTISM

- In partnership with Samsung, the Learn the Love Spectrum campaign was launched and 500 electronic tablets were distributed to people living with autism and service providers.
- Increased sensory-friendly events across Canada, including 192 sensory-friendly shopping opportunities hosted by Toys“R”Us; 384 autism-friendly movie screenings hosted by Cineplex; and 50 Sensitive Santa visits hosted by Cadillac Fairview.
- Hosted 19 Autism Speaks Canada Walks in five provinces including support of volunteer-led Community Walks.
- Developed and executed national training for first responders.

BEING A CATALYST FOR RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGHS

Published paper on Suicidality and Autism.

Funded Dr. Jonathan Weiss’ research at York University, ASD Treatment and Care, focusing on treatment of mental health problems in people with autism spectrum disorders and/or intellectual disabilities across the life span.

IMPROVING THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

Held leadership role in two federally-funded government grants for pre-employment and employment programs. The partnership is dedicated to the creation of a national network of autism organizations that enable the sharing of innovative and promising practices and collaboration from coast to coast.

Hosted and facilitated Canada’s first federally funded national employment conference.

INCREASING EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING & TIMELY INTERVENTION

Provided comprehensive services to hundreds of people at the two Canadian sites of the Autism Speaks Autism Treatment Network.

Funded the Pediatric Developmental Passport Program, helping families find pathways to care through the Family Services Community Grants program.

ENSURING ACCESS TO RELIABLE INFORMATION & SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE LIFE SPAN

Granted \$450,000 to service organizations to support people with autism.

Served as advisory committee member of PHAC National Needs Assessment System, establishing the first Canadian prevalence numbers for autism.

Created the rural and remote network with representation from every province and territory.



FUNDING OUR MISSION

Autism Speaks relies on the generosity of our constituents, partners and corporations to fuel our mission to enhance lives today and accelerate a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow.

AUTISM SPEAKS WALK

Powered by the love of parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, relatives and supporters, the 2017 Autism Speaks Walk program was held in cities across North America, **raising \$17.9 million**. The **Autism Speaks Walk is the world's largest fundraising event** to support the diverse needs of the autism community. With every step taken and every dollar raised, the Autism Speaks Walk is enhancing lives today and accelerating a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow.

2017 top Walk fundraiser Michael Lindsay with son Michael, Jr.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Autism Speaks' major fundraising events brought in **nearly \$7 million in 2017**. Driving the success of these events: the overwhelming support, dedication and generosity of sponsors, volunteers, in-kind donors and celebrity friends who gave their time, resources and energy to our mission.

Autism Speaks President and CEO Angela Geiger, event chair Brian Harper, gala honoree John Ferguson join with world-class chefs at the 2017 Celebrity Chef Gala on Wall Street.



FUNDING OUR MISSION

THE COMMITMENT OF ALPHA XI DELTA

The national sponsor of the Autism Speaks Walk, Alpha Xi Delta Women's Fraternity, inspires women to realize their potential by providing opportunities for sisterhood, leadership, knowledge and service. In 2017, **Alpha Xi Delta donated more than \$1.6 million to Autism Speaks** and, since 2009, more than \$7.3 million. Alpha Xi Delta's 130 college chapters and 175,000 initiated members participate in Autism Speaks Walks nationwide, raise funds at AmaXing Challenges and share heartfelt personal stories of their connections to autism through the Letters of Love campaign.



THE POWER OF TEAMWORK

In events from Boston to New York to Chicago, coast to coast from Walt Disney World to Disneyland, and ranging in distances from 5K's to marathons, more than 500 people ran on behalf of Autism Speaks through the Team Up program. These dedicated supporters combined their personal fitness challenges and fund-raising goals, **collectively raising more than \$800,000**. Participants included people on the autism spectrum, their families, caregivers and other supporters.



AUTISM SPEAKS U

The 56 Autism Speaks U chapters combined fundraising with awareness events to increase understanding and acceptance. Through chapter-led walk teams, as well as new and perennial campus events, **Autism Speaks U raised more than \$260,000**. Many chapters also volunteered in their local autism communities.





CORPORATE AND ORGANIZATION PARTNERS

In communities across the nation, our partners helped move Autism Speaks' mission forward by educating their employees and constituents about people with autism. They created campaigns, sponsored fundraising events and mobilized volunteers.

ILLUMINATOR: \$1 MILLION OR MORE



T.J. MAXX raised more than **\$3.5 million** in stores nationwide, during its 14th annual World Autism Month campaign.



ALPHA XI DELTA raised more than **\$1.6 million** as the national sponsor of the Autism Speaks Walk and as hosts of AmaXing Challenge events on college campuses.



DOLLAR GENERAL raised more than **\$1.5 million** through its World Autism Month campaign, bringing its total donations since 2010 to over \$10 million.



GAMESTOP raised more than **\$1.1 million** in its second World Autism Month campaign.



TOYS "R" US CANADA contributed more than **\$1 million** through an in-store campaign, employee participation in the Autism Speaks Walk, golf tournaments and payroll deductions.

CHAMPION: \$500,000 - \$999,000



WHITE CASTLE raised more than **\$800,000 in 2017**, breaking the \$5 million mark for total donations since 2009.



SUNTRUST FOUNDATION funded the Autism Speaks Special Needs Financial Planning Tool Kit and app, workshops across the Southeast, an Autism Response Team (ART) member as well as continued underwriting of ART's financial access specialist, with a **grant of \$540,000**.

FOUNDERS CIRCLE: \$100,000 - \$499,000



BIKE TO THE BEACH, INC. combines biking, purpose and fun to inspire people to overcome obstacles through personal challenge and raise funds to support people with autism. In 2017, Bike to the Beach **raised \$400,000**.



ISLANDERS HOCKEY CLUB raised over **\$106,000** for Autism Speaks. With more than 1,000 youth and adult members, the club also attends the Greater Boston Walk.



JOE'S CRAB SHACK delivered **more than \$340,000** to Autism Speaks through an in-store fundraiser during World Autism Month.



SPROUTS FARMERS MARKET Healthy Communities Foundation supported Autism Speaks and the Arizona Autism Speaks Walk with a **\$300,000 donation**.



MODELL'S SPORTING GOODS, an East Coast and Mid-Atlantic retailer, generated over **\$222,000**.

FOUNDERS CIRCLE: \$100,000 - \$499,000



KIEHL'S partnered with Autism Speaks for a global marketing campaign that generated a **\$200,000 donation**.



HOME DEPOT partnered with Philips Lighting to provide blue light bulbs in stores across North America and supported the effort with a **\$150,000 donation**.



MAZDA's 2017 Drive for Good campaign committed **over \$145,000** to Autism Speaks.



ARIZONA MULTIHOUSING ASSOCIATION and MC COMPANIES are dedicated to their partnership with Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center and committed to fundraising for Autism Speaks, **raising more than \$138,000**.



HHM and its 130-plus hotels generated **nearly \$130,000** for Autism Speaks during World Autism Month.



NEST FRAGRANCES donated proceeds from sales of its Blue Garden candles to Autism Speaks, generating **over \$130,000**.



BOB'S DISCOUNT FURNITURE contributed **more than \$125,000** as a multi-location sponsor of Autism Speaks Walk and featured Autism Speaks as its second-quarter Café Collections in-store partner.



THE SHAPE OF BEHAVIOR partnered with Autism Speaks Texas Chapter to sponsor five walks across the state and the Houston 8K with a **gift of \$125,000**, as part of its continuing efforts to raise awareness and increase understanding and acceptance.



TEAMSTERS LOCAL 25 made a significant impact on the autism community in New England **donating \$125,000** to the Autism Speaks New England Chapter.



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION raised **more than \$102,000** in the New York Metro market through grassroots fundraising efforts including an annual holiday raffle, World Autism Month puzzle piece campaigns and Autism Speaks Walk teams.



DUNNE MANNING INC.'s annual in-store puzzle piece campaign brings together customers, site level employees and corporate level employees to raise awareness and funds for Autism Speaks. In 2017, Dunne Manning generated a donation of **more than \$100,000**.



SOLGAR HERBS & VITAMINS continued its support of Autism Speaks with a **\$100,000 donation**.



FRENCH'S FOOD SERVICE **donated \$100,000** and will reintroduce its limited edition 12-ounce French's Classic Mustard blue bottles in restaurants nationwide for World Autism Month in 2018.



SCENTSY generated a donation of **over \$100,000** by designating proceeds from sales of its Limited Edition Charitable Cause Scentsy Buddy.

 **AUTISM SPEAKS®****WALK**

SPONSORED BY ALPHA XI DELTA

powered by love™

2017 TOP WALK FUNDRAISERS

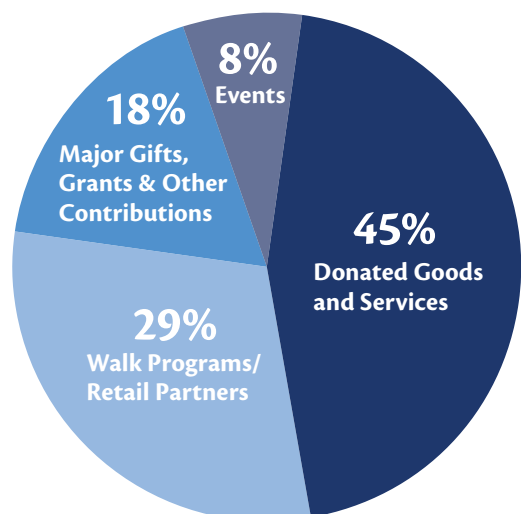
TOP INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISERS

1	Michael Lindsay	Washington, DC	\$ 144,384
2	Lisa Katz	Los Angeles	\$ 118,267
3	Marla Garchik	Palm Beach	\$ 81,531
4	John DiSchiavi	Staten Island	\$ 80,000
5	Laura Slatkin	Westchester/Fairfield	\$ 60,627
6	Neil Balter	Arizona	\$ 51,846
7	Liane Carter	Westchester/Fairfield	\$ 50,025
8	Bob Wright	Palm Beach/Nantucket	\$ 49,320
9	Spencer Savitz	North Shore, Illinois	\$ 49,286
10	Gabrielle Wittels	Long Island	\$ 43,082

TOP TEAM FUNDRAISERS

1	Teamsters Local 25	Greater Boston	\$ 125,025
2	Team Katz	Los Angeles	\$ 119,808
3	Christian's Crusaders	Palm Beach/Nantucket	\$ 116,025
4	Team Tyler	North Shore, Illinois	\$ 106,461
5	MC Life	Arizona	\$ 105,798
6	Jack Garchik's Crew	Palm Beach	\$ 81,556
7	Walking for Mikey Boy	Staten Island	\$ 80,910
8	NYC Dept of Sanitation	New York City	\$ 75,974
9	The Slatkin Family Team	Westchester/Fairfield	\$ 60,627
10	Tyler W	Long Island	\$ 52,917

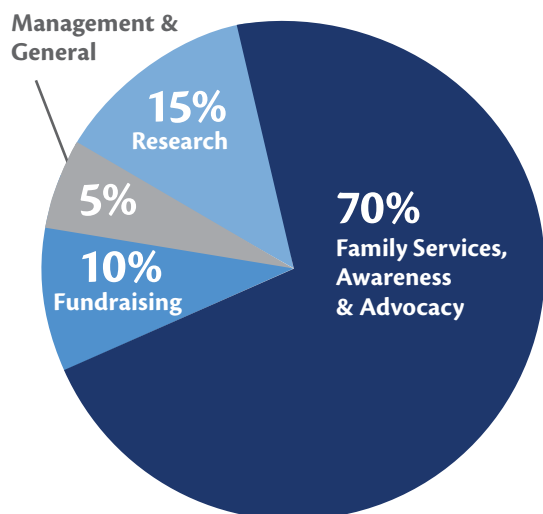
2017 FINANCIALS



FUNDING SOURCES

Donated and In-kind Goods and Services	\$ 43.1 M
Walk Program/Retail Partners	\$ 28.4 M
Major Gifts, Grants and Other Contributions	\$ 17.9 M
Events	\$ 7.4 M
Total	\$ 96.8 M

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK



PROGRAM SERVICES

Family Services, Awareness and Advocacy	\$ 62.5 M
Research	\$ 13.6 M
	\$ 76.1 M

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Management and General	\$ 4.3 M
Fundraising	\$ 9.0 M
	\$ 13.3 M

NET ASSETS

TOTAL NET ASSETS

at December 31, 2017	\$ 18.0 M
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To view Autism Speaks' complete audited financial statements please refer to our website 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 \$43.1M, primarily related to media and related services, \$42M supporting autism awareness and research, and \$1.1M relating to fundraising efforts.

AUTISM SPEAKS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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