

*Awareness
makes the world
a more
compassionate
place.*



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.



*"Each day we
gain courage from our children
and learn to accept the lesson
from this struggle."*

Letter from the Founders



Suzanne and Bob Wright

Dear Friends,



It's hard to believe that 2009 marks Autism Speaks' four-year anniversary. In 2005, we had just two employees in a small room at 30 Rockefeller Center. From those bare-bones beginnings we have grown into an organization with nearly 200 employees in the U.S. and Canada and we have established affiliate chapters in the United Kingdom and the Middle East. We have become the largest autism science and advocacy organization in the world and are humbled and awed by all that has been accomplished in such a short time.

In the past 48 months alone, thanks to the tireless commitment of our employees, volunteers, and supporters, we have made tremendous strides both nationally and abroad. In 2008, national autism awareness rose an unprecedented 43 percentage points as a result of our Ad Council campaign and volunteer efforts; our 100 Day Kit was launched and has been translated into Spanish, bringing much needed support and resources to an underserved community; our science team has embarked on global research collaborations that are building bridges of knowledge and education that will one day yield the answers that are so desperately needed; and we have celebrated the groundbreaking passing of autism insurance reform legislation in eight states that is changing the lives of families once crippled by out-of-pocket autism treatment expenses. These important advancements and many more will be highlighted in the following pages.

Last year Autism Speaks expanded its outreach in the international autism community with a call to action sent around the world. In February we saw the beginning of an exciting partnership with the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs, in Doha, Qatar. On April 2 we celebrated the inaugural World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) in 40 countries on six continents. Our global efforts ramped up in September when over 100 of the world's first ladies, ambassadors' spouses, and UN dignitaries attended our first ever "United Nations World Focus on Autism" at the opening of the 63rd UN General Assembly. It was thrilling to listen to Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, wife of the UN Secretary General, speak to the importance of an immediate, worldwide reaction to this global public health crisis. The response from the assembled dignitaries was inspiring as they each took home with them a new understanding of autism and a dedication to changing the lives of families in their own countries who struggle with the disorder.

We hope to expand our international relations around the world while continuing our efforts here at home. It is only through global collaboration that we will find the answers for which we yearn. Our organization was founded around the simple but powerful statement that "autism speaks" and that its voice needed to be heard. We remain committed to speaking louder than ever, empowered with a voice filled with hope, compassion and determination, which will continue until all families and individuals with autism are heard.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Wright".



Letter from the President



Mark Roithmayr

Dear Friends,



Each year that I have the privilege of serving as President of Autism Speaks, I am increasingly inspired and humbled by our organization's remarkable accomplishments. In just a few short years, we've been able to make autism part of the national, and now global, dialogue.

As in previous years, the cornerstone to our fundraising efforts in 2008 was the Autism Speaks Walk Now for Autism program. With over 350,000 volunteers participating in 70 walks across the U.S., the U.K. and Canada, the Walks raised an impressive \$29 million. In addition to generating much needed funds to support our mission, the Walks united our communities for a day of celebration in an environment of compassion and inclusion. And our Family Services department, just one year old, began providing immediate, critical relief to individuals and families with autism by awarding 42 grants to programs across the country through the Community Grants initiative. On the advocacy front, we saw unprecedented momentum in 2008. For the first-time ever, autism was highlighted in remarks made by candidates from both parties at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, underscoring the impact of our grassroots efforts on the national political agenda.

Most notably, Autism Speaks raised over \$70 million in 2008, allowing us to commit \$36.6 million to new research funding. This commitment makes Autism Speaks the nation's top private funder of autism research. As you will see in the following pages, our funded projects have yielded extraordinary progress in the field of autism, from the potential identification of autism susceptibility genes to the initiation of our first industry-sponsored trial using the Autism Clinical Trials Network.

The tremendous breakthroughs we have witnessed over the course of the year, particularly amidst this challenging economic climate, serve as proof that our families, volunteers, scientists, and political leaders are committed more than ever to preventing, treating, and ultimately finding a cure for autism. I've experienced the resilience of our community and it is an honor to stand shoulder to shoulder with you on the frontlines in the fight against autism.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Autism Speaks, I am pleased to present to you our annual report for the fiscal year 2008, and I look forward to your unwavering support as we move one step closer to finding a cure for autism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Roithmayr". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.



About Autism

- Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that impacts communication, behavior and social relationships
- 1 in 150 children is diagnosed with autism
- More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, pediatric cancer and diabetes combined
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- Autism costs the nation over \$35 billion per year, a figure expected to increase significantly in the next decade
- Boys are four times more likely than girls to have autism
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism



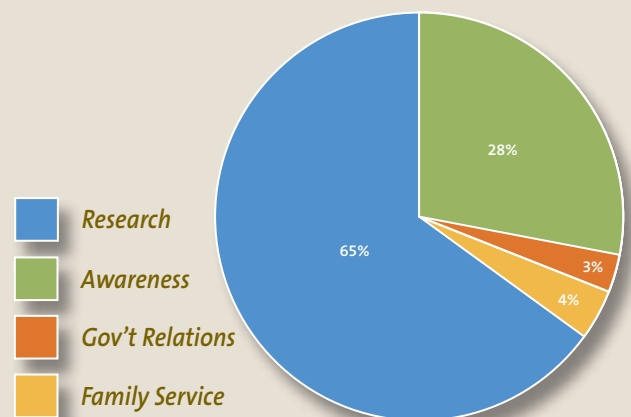
Our Mission

At Autism Speaks, our goal is to change the future for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorders.

We are dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder. We are committed to raising the funds necessary to support these goals.

Autism Speaks aims to bring the autism community together as one strong voice to urge the government and private sector to listen to our concerns and take action to address this urgent global health crisis. It is our firm belief that, working together, we will find the missing pieces of the puzzle.

Autism Speaks. It's time to listen.



Science and Research

2008 In Review

In 2008 Autism Speaks provided nearly \$36.6 million to support research grants, build scientific resources and sponsor workshops and scientific conferences. Some of last year's activities and accomplishments are described here.

Scientific Discoveries

The following are highlights from some of the 2008 published studies that relied on Autism Speaks-funded grants or scientific resources, such as the Autism Genetic Resource Exchange (AGRE) or the Autism Tissue Program.

- Two teams of researchers, making use of Autism Speaks funding and resources, reported that DNA deletions and duplications on chromosome 16 help explain approximately 1-2 percent of cases of autism. Individuals who have deletions in this chromosomal region have a high likelihood of developing autism. There are about 25 genes in this region of chromosome 16 that are related to brain function. The search is now on for which of those genes might contribute to autism. Some hospitals are now regularly screening for these types of deletions and duplications as part of their standard diagnostic workup of a child suspected of having autism.
- A collaboration with families from the Middle East and Autism Speaks-funded researchers from Harvard led to the discovery of several new autism risk genes that are involved in the formation of synapses (connections between nerve cells) that are important for learning and memory.
- New research using Autism Speaks resources, pointed to a gene called Contactin Associated Protein-Like 2 (CNTNAP2) as a risk gene for autism, most likely influencing the development of neural circuitry for language development in males. Previous research had shown that a rare mutation in CNTNAP2 is associated with seizures, language delay and autism. Children with this rare mutation typically have onset of seizures between 14 and 20 months of age, followed by regression in language, learning ability and social skills.
- Building on previous research that had demonstrated that the REELN gene is associated with risk for autism, Autism Speaks-funded researchers in Rome, Italy demonstrated that animals with an alteration in the REELN gene are more susceptible to the adverse effects of a commonly used pesticide, chlorpyrifos.
- In separate studies, members of the Autism Speaks-funded Baby Siblings Research Consortium (BSRC) published that infant siblings who go on to develop autism are more likely to have accelerated head growth in the first year of life, exhibit early signs of differences in temperament and stereotyped behavior, and have an unusual gait after learning to walk. In addition, BSRC scientists unveiled new tools to screen for a diagnosis of autism in toddlers. One goal of the BSRC is to develop reliable early markers of risk for autism that pediatricians and other health care providers can use to identify at-risk infants so that early intervention can begin as soon as possible.
- Autism Speaks-funded scientists from John Hopkins University replicated previous findings of a potential early biomarker for autism. These scientists found that mothers whose children developed autism had higher levels of autoantibodies. Autism Speaks continues to fund a wide range of research on early detection of autism based on both behavioral and biological markers, including how these immune markers interact with genes identified as risk factors.



- Anxiety symptoms are commonly experienced by individuals with autism. Such symptoms can affect an individual's ability to function both socially and academically. An Autism Speaks-funded treatment intervention study successfully reduced anxiety symptoms in a group of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The researchers from UCLA modified a cognitive behavioral treatment so that it could address the special needs of children with autism. This study is one of the first successful adaptations of an evidence-based treatment previously used for typically developing children and adolescents.
- Results from an Autism Speaks-funded study suggested that individuals receiving neurofeedback training on a specific type of brain wave show mild behavioral improvements along with changes in patterns of electrophysiological (brain wave) activity. The first controlled study of the efficacy of neurofeedback therapy in autism, a type of treatment used by some families for their affected children, was inspired by anecdotal reports of successful outcomes.
- Individuals with autism often suffer from sleep problems, such as difficulty falling asleep and nighttime waking. Such sleep problems can affect daytime behavior, including cognitive and emotional functioning, and represent a serious challenge to families. Autism Speaks-funded researchers published a treatment study demonstrating the effectiveness of melatonin in treating sleep problems in children with autism.
- A rare genetic neurodevelopmental disorder called tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC), which is often associated with autism, yielded insight into possible drug treatment for other disorders like autism. In two different Autism Speaks-funded studies with important therapeutic implications, an FDA-approved drug, Rapamycin, reversed the hallmark signs of TSC in a mouse model. Clinical trials for individuals with TSC are now ongoing. Because over half of the TSC-affected individuals also have autism, these stunning results continue to give hope that novel drug therapies will expand the treatment options for autism.

Autism Speaks' Science Program focuses on four areas:

Etiology

The goal of etiology research is to understand the causes of autism. A wide range of studies are funded in the areas of genetics, environmental sciences and epidemiology.

Biology

The goal of the biological research portfolio is to understand the underlying biological mechanisms of autism. Research is funded in the areas of neurosciences, physiology and molecular biology.

Diagnosis

The primary goal of research in the diagnosis portfolio is to develop and refine screening and diagnostic tools across the lifespan. An additional goal is to identify and characterize subtypes of autism. Studies include behavioral and biological approaches to screening, diagnosis and classification.

Treatment

The goal of treatment research is to identify effective treatment methods during all phases of life for a person with autism. A wide range of treatment methods are studied, including behavioral, psychosocial, pharmacological, medical and technology-based approaches.



Highlights from Other 2008 Science-Related Activities Funded by Autism Speaks

Besides stimulating research by soliciting investigator-initiated proposals, every year Autism Speaks undertakes a variety of projects, including funding targeted research, facilitating collaborations, and funding think tanks, workshops and conferences. Below are some examples from last year.



International Autism Epidemiology Awards

Stemming from the efforts of the International Autism Epidemiology Network (www.autismepidemiology.net), a collaboration led by Autism Speaks and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Autism Speaks awarded \$1.4 million in funding over three years for international epidemiological studies, which include a large-scale collaborative study among seven countries (Australia, Denmark, Finland, Israel, Norway, Sweden and the U.S.) focusing on the discovery of environmental risk factors for autism. In addition, grants for epidemiological research awarded to investigators in developing countries, such as South Africa, are setting the stage for future studies focused on genetic and environmental risk factors in these countries.

Environmental Sciences Initiative

Autism Speaks furthered its commitment to funding projects that focus on potential environmental contributions to autism by soliciting proposals to study environmental factors, with a particular focus on gene-environment interaction. In response to the 60 applications received, Autism Speaks funded 13 outstanding studies that will explore a wide range of environmental factors. The 2008 awards total \$1.5 million with a three-year commitment of more than \$3.3 million. The projects range in approach and scope, but include areas of toxicology, immunology, epigenetics and animal models.

High Risk-High Impact Initiative

Autism Speaks launched a new High Risk-High Impact Initiative to support unusual or higher-risk efforts that have the potential to change the way autism is understood and treated. The initiative aims to support cutting-edge research in areas that are under-investigated or which could benefit from bringing outside experts into the autism field. In 2008, Autism Speaks awarded \$2.0 million to five projects that will investigate the poorly understood cognitive abilities of individuals with ASD who do not use spoken language, the nature and prevalence of mitochondrial disorders in ASD, new methods for acquisition of brain imaging data, and the development of novel means for large-scale biomaterial collection. The awards total more than \$4.3 million over a three-year period.

Focus on Oxidative Stress

Although metabolic processes have been implicated in the pathogenesis of other neurological disorders, far less attention has been given to the investigation of potential metabolic dysfunction in autism. Autism Speaks sponsored a colloquium focusing on oxidative stress in autism at the annual American Society for Neurochemistry conference. A special issue of *American Journal of Biochemistry and Biotechnology* was published containing 16 articles exclusively focused on the role of oxidative stress in autism. Many of the studies selected for publication were funded by Autism Speaks or utilized research resources that are only available through programs such as Autism Speaks' Autism Tissue Program.

Interactive Autism Network (IAN)

Spearheaded by the Kennedy Krieger Institute, IAN is an innovative online project designed to accelerate the pace of autism research by allowing families to share information online to become part of the nation's largest autism parent report research effort. IAN, sponsored by Autism Speaks, builds a critical bridge between those affected by ASD and researchers in the field. The data collected facilitates scientific research and empowers community leaders to advocate for improved services and resources. Over 28,500 families are currently registered.



Animal Models Workshop

Autism Speaks organized a Mouse Behavior Workshop that focused on future needs and group recommendations towards facilitating the development of animal models for autism. Animal models offer a means to assess the function of genes and their interactions with environmental influences and, most importantly, to screen for potential new drug therapies. The behaviors associated with autism are so fundamentally human in nature that it has been difficult for researchers to decide which mouse behaviors are optimal for assessing autism-like traits. This meeting began the much-needed discussions of this topic.

Calcium Signaling Symposium

While calcium signaling is an intensely studied phenomenon that plays a central role in many aspects of normal cell biology, its role in disease processes is only beginning to emerge. Many disparate clues have recently suggested that abnormal nerve cell calcium signaling may be involved in autism. In 2008, Autism Speaks sponsored the first U.S. meeting focused exclusively on the disruption of calcium signaling and its potential role in autism.



Science and Research



Highlights (continued)

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Presentation

Autism was featured prominently at the annual AAP Convention in October. Among the presentations delivered, Geri Dawson, Ph.D., Autism Speaks' Chief Science Officer, gave a keynote presentation that focused on methods for early diagnosis. Dr. Dawson unveiled new results about potential genetic testing tools that may help pediatricians and other health care providers identify infants at risk for autism, thus allowing treatment and intervention options as early as possible.

Toddler Treatment Network (TTN)

The TTN, representing eight Autism Speaks-funded early intervention clinical trials, was created in 2007 to share ideas and methods for developing interventions for infants and toddlers. This year, TTN investigators published an article in *The Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* that discussed the needs, challenges, and potential impact of infant interventions.

Innovative Technology for Autism (ITA) Initiative

The ITA Initiative announced funding of new projects that include computer-assisted scheduling for improved daily structure and enhanced technology for social interaction and communication. Members of the ITA Initiative also presented on autism at the 7th Annual Conference of Interactive Design for Children in Chicago to facilitate interest in autism among technology researchers. The uniqueness of the ITA Initiative was itself highlighted in an issue of *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*.

Pan American Autism Awareness and Training Initiative (PAAATI)

In the spring, Autism Speaks announced an international collaboration designed to help raise awareness, develop research expertise, and enhance service delivery for individuals with autism across North, South, and Central America. PAAATI represents an international partnership initiated by Autism Speaks that includes the National Institutes of Health, CARSO Health Institute in Mexico, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research with participation and contribution by the American Academy of Pediatrics, CDC and Clinica Mexicana de Autismo (CLIMA). In addition to raising awareness, PAAATI aims to encourage scientific collaboration and build research and service capacity among participating countries.

The Global Autism Public Health (GAPH) Initiative

In September, Autism Speaks introduced the GAPH Initiative at the United Nations. GAPH leverages the foundations laid by Autism Speaks' scientific and advocacy efforts in the Middle East, Latin America and other parts of the world. GAPH will foster global collaborations among governments, communities, and scientists, as well as help to support the development of self-sustaining public health infrastructure for children and families in need around the world.



Wellcome Trust

In January, Autism Speaks and its affiliate in the United Kingdom conducted a joint workshop with the Wellcome Trust to highlight the many recent advances in the biology of autism. The Wellcome Trust, based in the U.K., is one of the world's largest medical research charities. The goals of the workshop were to identify the key scientific questions and roadblocks in autism research and to attract new Wellcome Trust-funded neuroscientists to the field. In the long term, Autism Speaks hopes to continue discussions with the trustees of the Wellcome Trust and the other funding agencies in attendance to identify potential areas for partnerships.

Allen Institute for Brain Science

Autism Speaks forged a novel collaboration with the Allen Institute for Brain Science in Seattle, Wash. that will allow researchers to join forces with the Allen Institute to examine molecular markers of genetic activity in the brains of patients with autism, providing insight into the biological mechanisms that underlie the disorder. The collaboration represents the first time the Allen Institute will apply its well-known high-throughput methodology to characterize human tissue from any disorder.

United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation (UMDF)

Autism Speaks joined the UMDF in their meeting on the potential of mitochondrial disorders in autism. Symptoms of mitochondrial dysfunction are mild and may go undetected for years. Experts in the field discussed the issues of testing, severity of symptoms and potential overlap between autism and mitochondrial dysfunctions. This was the first such discussion between these two organizations, and it will lead to future projects with the goal of identifying research that would provide insight on how to diagnose mitochondrial disorders in autism.

Rett Syndrome Research Trust and the U.K. Medical Research Council

In September, Autism Speaks, the U.K.'s Medical Research Council, and the Rett Syndrome Research Trust announced an exciting partnership to fund research on the reversibility of Rett Syndrome, a developmental disorder related to autism. Adrian Bird, Ph.D., at the University of Edinburgh will build on his recent seminal demonstration of recovery in Rett Syndrome animal models. This research will hopefully shed light on future autism research aimed at reducing or reversing symptoms of autism, even among older patients.



*“There may be no exchange of words,
but there is communication.”*



2008 Investigator-Initiated Basic, Treatment, Pilot and Fellowship Grants

Autism Speaks reviewed and funded a wide range of investigator-initiated research proposals that target critical areas of autism research. Two studies with potential immediate impact for families will explore new methods for detecting seizures and factors that lead to bullying in adolescents with ASD. Other studies will focus on understanding the complex interplay between genes and environmental factors, on the examination of the role the immune system may play in autism, and exploration of the intellectual capabilities of people with autism.

Pilot Research Grants stimulate innovation in the field. Autism Speaks supports two years of funding for pilot studies aimed at rapidly testing novel ideas related to autism. These grants draw new investigators into the field and allow researchers to collect preliminary data, which can permit them to compete for larger grants. In two rounds of review, Autism Speaks received 169 proposals for pilot studies, of which 26 were selected for funding, for a 2008 commitment of \$1.5 million and a total of \$2.8 million over two years.

Basic and Clinical Research Grants are three-year grants that build upon established research in a broad range of autism-related areas. They provide researchers with larger awards in order to pursue leads that have already shown promise in pilot studies. Of the 173 basic and clinical grant applications that were submitted, 12 were funded, with a commitment of \$1.5 million for 2008 and a total three-year commitment of \$4 million.

Treatment Research Grants address the urgent need to develop effective therapies to treat those living with the disorder today by supporting research focused on all aspects of treatment, including behavioral, psychosocial, biomedical and technological interventions. As part of its commitment to treatment research, 2008 marked the first year Autism Speaks convened a grant review focused solely on treatment research, including a review panel devoted to studies of complementary and alternative medicine approaches. Of the 122 treatment grant applications that were submitted, 12 were selected for funding, with a 2008 commitment of \$1.6 million and a total three-year commitment of \$3.3 million.

Fellowships are two-year grants awarded to support select up-and-coming researchers through their training years. Fellowships not only fund a diverse group of projects but, most importantly, encourage the development of promising young scientists who wish to devote their careers to autism research. Of the 71 pre-doctoral fellowship and 60 post-doctoral fellowship applications submitted, 17 were selected for funding. These fellowship grants totaled \$615,000 in 2008, for a total commitment of \$1.2 million over the next two years.



Scientific Advisory Committee

Geraldine Dawson, Ph.D., Chair
Chief Science Officer, Autism Speaks

David Baskin, M.D., FACS
Methodist Neurological Institute

Joseph Coyle, M.D.
Harvard Medical School, McLean Hospital

Daniel Geschwind, M.D., Ph.D.
UCLA School of Medicine

Gary Goldstein, M.D.
Kennedy Krieger Institute

Martha Herbert, M.D., Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School
Massachusetts General Hospital

Eric London, M.D.
Institute for Basic Research in
Developmental Disabilities

Craig Newschaffer, Ph.D.
Drexel University

Martin Raff, M.D.
University College London

Glenn Rall, Ph.D.
Fox Chase Cancer Center

Steve Scherer, Ph.D.
The Hospital for Sick Children
University of Toronto

Ezra S. Susser, M.D., Dr. P.H.
College of Physicians and Surgeons
Columbia University

Roberto Tuchman, M.D., FAAN, FAAP
Miami Children's Hospital
University of Miami

Stephen T. Warren, Ph.D.
Emory University



Science and Research

Resources for Scientific Discovery Funded by Autism Speaks

Autism Speaks funds critical scientific resources and clinical programs that facilitate autism research. Visit www.AutismSpeaks.org to see complete lists of Steering Committees.



Autism Genetic Resource Exchange (AGRE): The AGRE collection of genetic samples continues to be the largest private source of genetic and clinical information for autism research available to scientists worldwide. AGRE currently supports five federal grants including a recent award from the NIH in 2008 for close to \$1 million over the next five years. For this award, AGRE will serve as the Data Coordinating Center for a genetics network. AGRE continues to recruit an unprecedented number of dedicated families with autism who have contributed to the development of AGRE. To date, over 134 scientific publications on autism have based their discoveries on this resource. With more families and researchers expressing interest in the resource every day, AGRE remains a vital force in the scientific community.



Autism Tissue Program (ATP): The ATP is the only privately funded program dedicated to increasing and enhancing the availability of post-mortem brain tissue for basic research in autism. Overall, due to the dedication and generosity of families, the ATP has supported the collection of 125 brain specimens, with 20 brains acquired in 2008. Publications in 2008 using this most precious resource include ones focusing on the impact of mitochondrial dysfunction in autism and the role of synapses in autism, among others. We are pleased to announce that, in 2008, the ATP hired a new Program Director, Daniel Lightfoot, Ph.D., a molecular biologist who trained at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, to provide leadership for the program. Many of the recent advances in the biology of autism stem from work that used the ATP as their source for brain tissue and clinical information.

Autism Genetic Resource Exchange Steering Committee

Maja Bucan, Ph.D., Chair
University of Pennsylvania

Daniel Geschwind, M.D., Ph.D.
AGRE Chief Scientific Officer
UCLA School of Medicine

W. Ted Brown, M.D., Ph.D.
Institute for Basic Research
in Developmental Disabilities

Rita M. Cantor, Ph.D.
UCLA School of Medicine

John N. Constantino, M.D.
Washington University School
of Medicine

Curtis K. Deutsch, Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School,
McLean Hospital

T. Conrad Gilliam, Ph.D.
University of Chicago

Joachim Hallmayer, M.D.
Stanford University

Martha Herbert, M.D., Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School,
Massachusetts General Hospital

David H. Ledbetter, Ph.D.
Emory University

Stanley F. Nelson, M.D.
UCLA School of Medicine

Carole A. Samango-Sprouse, Ed. D.
George Washington University

Gerard D. Schellenberg, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania

Jonathan Shestack
Board Member, Autism Speaks

Matthew State, M.D., Ph.D.
Yale University School of Medicine

Rudolph E. Tanzi, Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School
Massachusetts General Hospital



Autism Treatment Network (ATN): The ATN is a network of 15 major academic medical centers working together to provide medical care and establish standards of medical care for autism and related disorders based on research and shared clinical practice. In 2008, the ATN hired a new medical director, Dan Coury, M.D., a pediatrician and leader in the field of developmental behavioral pediatrics, to provide leadership for the network. The ATN was also the recipient of a \$12 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to conduct research targeting nutrition and sleep, two areas of critical interest to individuals with autism, and expand the development of practice and training guidelines.



Autism Clinical Trials Network (ACTN): The ACTN is a network of research centers collaborating on multi-center clinical trials of autism treatments, making it possible to accelerate the pace of research and to involve more researchers and companies in autism treatment trials. The Study of Fluoxetine in Autism (SOFIA), the first industry-sponsored trial for the ACTN, reached a major milestone by completing enrollment in the fall. Neuropharm Group, sponsor of SOFIA, received “Fast Track” designation by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in April, affirming the urgent need for medicines that target autism.

Autism Treatment Network Locations

University of Arkansas and Arkansas Children's Hospital (Little Rock, AR)
Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program Northern California (San Jose, CA)
University of Colorado Denver, School of Medicine and The Children's Hospital (Denver, CO)
Kennedy Krieger Institute (Baltimore, MD)
LADDERS/Mass General Hospital (Boston, MA)
University of Missouri (Columbia, MO)
Columbia University Medical Center (New York, NY)
University of Rochester (Rochester, NY)
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (Cincinnati, OH)
Bloorview Kids Rehab, Surrey Place Centre and The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, ON, Canada)
Oregon Health & Science University (Portland, OR)
University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA)
Vanderbilt University Medical School (Nashville, TN)
Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX)
University of Washington (Seattle, WA)

“There is so much more we need to accomplish—but we have come a long way in a few short years.”



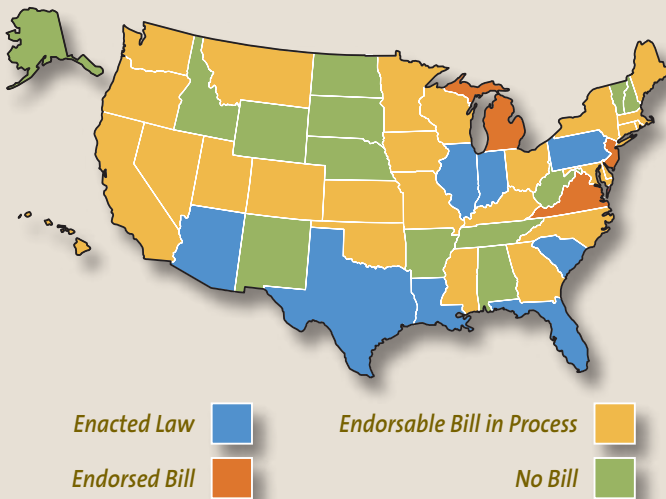
Government Relations

Autism Speaks conducted a multifaceted government relations program, capitalizing on the successes of 2007. 2008 saw insurance reform, presidential candidate acknowledgement of autism, allocation of funds and increased public participation in advocacy. A new day is dawning for governmental support of autism as President Obama takes office in 2009.

Advocacy Communication

We officially launched AutismVotes.org, our website dedicated to advocacy for autism legislation. The site houses a page for each federal bill we have endorsed, as well as a page for every state. AutismVotes.org is our lifeline to the grassroots community and provides a home base for updated information and “take action” opportunities that engage the community in the political process.

Our network of Chapter Advocacy Chairs serves as our eyes and ears in each state, ensuring that we have a presence at local meetings, rallies, and hearings, thereby keeping the lines of communication clear between Autism Speaks and the grassroots community.



State Initiatives

Last year, Autism Speaks launched a state lobbying campaign focused on mandating private health insurance coverage for essential autism services. In 2008, we were able to push bills in five different states through the legislatures to become laws. Arizona’s bill (Steven’s Law) became law on March 21; Florida’s bill was signed into law on May 2; the Louisiana Governor signed the bill into law on July 2; Pennsylvania had its bill signed into law on July 9 and Illinois passed a bill on December 13. These five states join three others across the country (Indiana, South Carolina and Texas) with comprehensive private autism insurance coverage.

Federal Initiatives

This year, we focused our federal agenda on Senator Christopher Dodd’s (D-CT) introduction of the Disability Savings Act of 2008 (S. 2741). This legislation, which was introduced at a March press conference as the main event for Autism Speaks’ Hill Day, is designed to encourage individuals with autism and other disabilities and their families to save for disability-related expenses, effectively creating disability savings accounts that are exempt from federal taxation if certain criteria are met.

In addition to the Dodd bill, Autism Speaks worked to continue funding for Fiscal Year 2008 for the Combating Autism Act (\$162 million) and the Department of Defense Autism Research Program (\$6 million).

Family Services

Autism Speaks' Family Services department is dedicated to connecting families with resources and empowering them so that they may make informed decisions that will result in improved outcomes for their loved ones with autism.

Major accomplishments from 2008 include:

100 Day Kit

In February, Autism Speaks launched the 100 Day Kit to help families get through the challenging period following the diagnosis of autism. The kit contains information and advice collected from trusted and respected experts on autism as well as from parents of children with autism. There is a week-by-week plan for the first 100 days, as well as organizational suggestions and forms that parents/caregivers can use to help with the paperwork and phone calls as they begin to find services for their child. To date, Autism Speaks has provided over 3,100 personalized kits free of charge and the kit has been downloaded more than 40,000 times since the launch. In September, Autism Speaks released the kit in Spanish – *Manual de los 100 Dias*. This publication was made possible by a generous grant from the Karma Foundation, which funded its translation.



Community Grants

Autism Speaks implemented two new rounds of Family Services Community Grants resulting in 42 awards totaling \$837,000 to expand services for people with autism. More specifically, \$341,000 will expand recreational opportunities to individuals of all ages and functioning levels; \$297,000 in educational grants will provide training and expand the field of service providers; \$162,000 specifically to young adult/adult services will provide opportunities for employment, recreation and college experiences, and \$37,000 for equipment and supportive technology will provide augmentative communication libraries to several communities.

Resource Guide

The Autism Speaks online Resource Guide has quickly become one of the largest databases of autism resources in the country with over 25,000 entries and resources from all 50 states. The Resource Guide is searchable by state or by zip code and is categorized by age range in order to better meet the needs of our families.



Resource Library

Our Resource Library, which can be found on the Autism Speaks website, provides a variety of autism information and reference materials under the headings of: books, blogs, catalogs, informational DVDs and CDs, educational toys, magazines, national websites, manuals and tool kits, resources for Spanish-speaking families, resources for individuals with autism, and resources for families in need.

School Community Tool Kit

The School Community Tool Kit was launched in August to assist all members of the school community to better understand and support students with autism. The kit provides information about autism – the features, challenges and strengths – as well as tools and strategies that may result in more positive interactions for all members of the school community. The School Community Tool Kit is available on the Autism Speaks website and has been downloaded over 34,000 times since its launch.



“I promise that we will prepare the world for you while we are preparing you for the world.”

Family Services



AutismCares

AutismCares is a consortium of organizations, including Autism Speaks, that has united to support individuals with autism and their families during natural disasters and other catastrophic life events. Autism Speaks facilitates this program for the consortium. In 2008, AutismCares distributed 132 family support awards to families in crisis to help with food, clothing and housing needs. In addition, a total of 103 families affected by natural disasters – Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, Midwest floods, and wildfires in Southern California – were awarded support for evacuation and housing costs.

Autism Response Team

Our Autism Response Team (ART) coordinators are specially trained parents of children with autism who connect families with information, resources and opportunities. In 2008, hundreds of families each month contacted the coordinators through a toll-free number, 888-AUTISM2 (288-4762), or by email at familyservices@autismspeaks.org.

Adult Services

In order to better meet the needs of families requesting information on adult issues, Autism Speaks recorded and released a DVD series from the “Aging with Autism: Defining the Future” conference presented by the Developmental Disabilities Institute, Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism, and The Eden II Programs. The DVDs provide information on topics ranging from housing and transition issues to sexuality and employment. The reproduction of the DVDs is being handled by students and clients from Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism and The Martin C. Barell School in Commack, N.Y. as part of an employment training effort.



Awareness and Fundraising

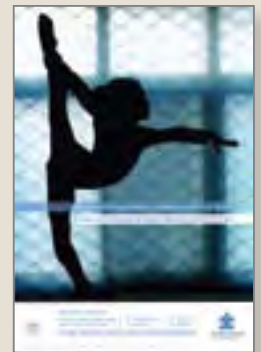
Awareness

Raising awareness is a cornerstone of Autism Speaks' mission, based on the knowledge that increasing autism awareness is essential to raising funds for research and services. 2008 was a great year for awareness with a nationwide 43 percentage point increase in autism awareness.

Ad Council Campaign

Autism Speaks' public service announcement (PSA) campaign entered its third year in 2008. Produced in partnership with the Ad Council and BBDO, the campaign has garnered over \$160 million in donated media since its inception in 2005 and led to a nationwide 43 percentage point increase in autism awareness by the general public during 2008.

The award-winning "odds" campaign took a different direction in 2008. The new PSAs feature a known person or entity and compare the odds of reaching the pinnacle of a career with the odds of having a child diagnosed with autism. During the Beijing Summer Olympics, Autism Speaks released a print ad about the odds of a gymnast reaching the Olympics and medaling, while another PSA featured Toni Braxton, recording artist and mother to a son with autism. The Braxton television spot opened to much critical acclaim, garnering over 10 million impressions on the first day it launched.



World Autism Awareness Day

At the end of 2007, Autism Speaks provided critical support to the State of Qatar in the creation of the first ever World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), sanctioned by the United Nations and to be celebrated on April 2 in perpetuity. This sanctioning established WAAD as one of only three official disease-specific United Nations Days, with the goal of bringing the world's attention to autism. The inaugural WAAD was celebrated in 2008 in over 40 countries on six continents and helped to increase and develop world knowledge of the autism crisis and impart information regarding the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention. Additionally, WAAD celebrated the unique talents and skills of people with autism, bringing a message of awareness and compassion to millions of people.

AutismSpeaks.org

The Autism Speaks website continued to be the top visited site on the topic of autism, attracting more than 100,000 visitors each month. The site received its first national award when E-Healthcare bestowed its highest honor, the Platinum award, in the "Best Health Content: Consumer Disease Focused Site" category for the value of its content.

The Autism Speaks website debuted a new social networking site on the Ning platform. Nearly 5000 members have registered to participate in a wide range of autism-related topics sharing information, personal experiences and support.



Awareness and Fundraising



Media Appearances

2008 saw continued high-profile coverage of Autism Speaks in the media, bringing awareness of autism and its challenges to millions of people worldwide.

Highlights include:

- On April 2, 2008, the first World Autism Awareness Day, CNN partnered with Autism Speaks to provide all-day coverage of autism and the day's events and featured interviews with Autism Speaks Co-founder Suzanne Wright.
- As part of its efforts to create a compassionate community for all those affected by autism, Autism Speaks collaborated with writers from television shows "The Guiding Light," "Days of Our Lives" and "General Hospital: Night Shift" to develop story lines focusing on the challenges facing individuals and families with autism.
- Autism Speaks' recognizable puzzle piece logo made appearances in TV shows like "Grey's Anatomy," "Lipstick Jungle" and "Dancing with the Stars."
- Pop music stars Jordin Sparks and The Jonas Brothers were just some of the celebrities who spoke out in support of Autism Speaks in the 2008 *Walk Now for Autism PSAs*.



**World Autism
Awareness Day**





- Autism Speaks was awarded the Bronze Effie in the PSA category for increasing awareness of autism in the general public by 43 percentage points via the Ad Council campaign. The Effies are awards bestowed upon advertisements and creative strategies that achieve quantifiable results.
- *Time* magazine recognized autism by naming Autism Speaks Co-founders Bob and Suzanne Wright to its 2008 list of the 100 most influential people in the world. The Wrights were featured in the “Heroes and Pioneers” category, alongside such figures as Tony Blair, Oprah Winfrey, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, and Lance Armstrong, in recognition of their commitment to autism advocacy. As number 27 on the list, they were lauded by Tom Brokaw for their devotion to raising awareness about autism and greatly expanding the research into its causes and treatment.
- National *Walk* media sponsor, *Parade* Magazine, ran Autism Speaks *Walk Now for Autism* ads to promote *Walks* throughout the country and also published a story on the challenges families with autism face, featuring Autism Speaks’ own Lisa Goring, director of family services.



“These children and adults show us the value of embracing differences and celebrating their individuality.”

Awareness and Fundraising



Retail Partnerships

Autism Speaks works with some of the nation's leading corporations to increase awareness and raise funds. This year, over \$3.9 million was raised through such partnerships.

- **Toys "R" Us** and the Toys "R" Us Children's Fund raised nearly \$1.8 million in their nationwide campaign to support Autism Speaks. For seven weeks, as part of Autism Awareness Month, all Toys "R" Us stores across the country, along with the Toys "R" Us website, collected cash donations in an effort to help solve the puzzle of autism. Geoffrey, the company mascot, appeared at *Walks* around the country and store employees formed teams.
- In 2008, **General Motors** created a highly innovative and phenomenally successful promotion to raise awareness and funds for Autism Speaks during April's Autism Awareness Month. The "Help Chevy Help Autism" program raised \$1 million through a virtual test drive program of the 2008 Chevy Malibu, the North American Car of the Year.
- Autism Speaks and national fashion retailer **TJ Maxx** partnered for the fifth year on a month-long fundraising and awareness program at 800 TJ Maxx stores nationwide. Customers were invited to purchase an Autism Speaks puzzle piece at checkout, raising over \$1 million.



- **Build-a-Bear Workshop** and Autism Speaks teamed up for the fourth year in a row to raise funds for autism research and awareness. During the month of April, the sale of purple satin hearts raised nearly \$50,000.
- Fashion retailer **Lord & Taylor** ran an in-store and online fall promotion donating money to Autism Speaks for every purchase of regular-priced ladies' jeans. The promotion also appeared in more than 1,000,000 catalogs.
- **The Bachman Company** created a new snack designed to increase awareness about autism – a pretzel in the shape of the Autism Speaks puzzle piece. The Puzzle Pretzel created “edible awareness” and was launched in April to coincide with Autism Awareness Month.
- For the fourth year, **Modell's Sporting Goods'** 128 store locations throughout the Northeast held a four-week “Dollar Donation Days” promotion to benefit Autism Speaks. Customers purchased Autism Speaks puzzle pieces at checkout, raising over \$100,000 to be directed toward autism research.
- **Limited Brands Bath & Body Works** featured a unique Zippo/Slatkin blue candle lighter in stores with all proceeds benefiting Autism Speaks. The popular item sold out and \$100,000 was donated to the organization.



Awareness and Fundraising

Special Events

Special events continue to be an important component of Autism Speaks' fundraising efforts with events in 2008 bringing in over \$8 million to fund research and programs for families. Events range from small community events to national telethons and celebrity events. None of these great fundraisers could be possible without the support and dedication of our volunteers. A few of the top events are listed here.

Autism Speaks Week with Lionel Richie

"Autism Speaks Week," a series of events in South Florida, kicked off April's Autism Awareness Month, raising more than \$2 million and generating unprecedented awareness. Events included a multi-part news series, live telethon broadcast in primetime on NBC stations WPTV and WTVJ and Miami's Telemundo 51, ING DIRECT Ride Now South Florida, an online auction and a gala Concert for Autism Speaks featuring Lionel Richie at Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club.

Dover 400 NASCAR Race Sponsorship

For the second year in a row, Autism Speaks was named the charitable sponsor for the Dover 400. The "Best Buy 400 benefiting Student Clubs for Autism Speaks" was held in June at Dover International Speedway in Delaware. The race not only raised funds from ticket sales and fan donations, but it also generated tremendous awareness for autism and the new Student Clubs for Autism Speaks program. Driver Elliott Sadler spent time with the students before the race.

Celebrity Golf Events

Golf tournaments across the country not only brought in over \$2.1 million, but also great publicity from celebrity and our Athletes Against Autism participation. Well-known sports, television and film stars attended the events, wore our pin and spoke about autism, including Joe Mantegna, Ron Perlman, Richard Schiff, John Schneider, Bruce Jenner, Drew and Nick Lachey, Ken O'Brien and Jason Sehorn, among many others. Volunteer leadership made the events possible.





Autism Speaks to Wall Street: A Celebrity Chef Gala

The second annual Celebrity Chef Gala, held in the heart of New York City's Financial District, featured over 80 chefs preparing four-course meals and dessert tableside. A performance by jazz great Harry Connick, Jr. highlighted the evening, which raised \$813,000 for autism.



Acts of Love

The Sixth Annual Acts of Love: Miracle Workers was a literary and musical celebration of the people who work to make seemingly impossible things happen. Presented by Cadillac, the star-studded event raised nearly \$110,000.



World Autism Awareness Day Events

In honor of World Autism Awareness Day and Autism Awareness Month, both Barnes & Noble and Feld Entertainment's Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus presented special events for families with autism. Barnes & Noble hosted celebrity readings for families with autism throughout the country and Ringling Brothers held autism awareness nights with guest ringmasters.



UN World Focus on Autism

Autism Speaks organized the first ever UN World Focus on Autism hosted by Co-founder Suzanne Wright. The event was moderated by CNN International's Christiane Amanpour and chaired by Ban Soon-taek, wife of the UN Secretary General. Over 150 first ladies from around the world gathered to learn about the global autism crisis, including Sarah Brown, wife of the British Prime Minister, Vivian Fernández de Torrijos, First Lady of Panama, and Dorrit Moussaieff, First Lady of Iceland.



Awareness and Fundraising



Walk Now for Autism

In 2008, Autism Speaks' *Walk Now for Autism* program held 70 events raising over \$29 million, a seven percent increase over last year's record-breaking number. Over 350,000 people participated in the *Walks*, which took place in communities across the United States as well as in Canada and the United Kingdom. Inaugural events in 2008 were held in 12 locations: Edmonton Capital Region, Canada; Tennessee; Terre Haute, Ind.; Greater Hudson Valley, N.Y.; Sacramento, Calif.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; Columbus, Ohio; Central Valley, Calif.; British Columbia; Kansas City, Kan.; Cincinnati, Ohio, and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Powered by volunteers and families with loved ones on the autism spectrum, this successful grassroots fundraising effort, with national *Walk* sponsor Toys"R"Us, not only generates vital funds for autism research but also raises crucial awareness about autism on the local level. Many other sponsors, including *Parade Magazine*, provide significant funding, resources and publicity. Bringing together friends, families, local political figures, and celebrity guests for a day of fun and festivities in the service of a common goal, the *Walks* are an excellent example of what collaborative efforts on behalf of the autism community can achieve and could not be successful without the tireless dedication of the volunteers who lead these events.



Major Gifts

Autism Speaks' Major Gifts Program is directed toward individuals, foundations, and corporations that make gifts of \$5,000 or more unrelated to a *Walk* or special event. They can be applied to general operating needs or restricted to specific initiatives. In 2008, donors contributed more than \$20 million through major gifts, up nearly 25% from 2007. This included an anonymous gift of \$5 million in support of research and a gift of \$3.75 million from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to establish The Dennis Weatherstone Pre-doctoral Fellowship Program. In all, 71 donors participated in the Major Gifts program.



Donor Listings

Autism Speaks is grateful to all the individuals and sponsors who generously supported our mission in 2008 through major gifts, *Walks* or special events. Because of space limitations, the following list is limited to the \$10,000+ category.

\$1,000,000 +

Allerton Foundation
Anonymous*
Anonymous*
Dan Doherty*
Phil Geier*
General Motors
Mel Karmazin*
Marcus Foundation
Stavros Niarchos Foundation*
T.J. Maxx
Toys "R" Us
Bob and Suzanne Wright*

\$100,000+

Autism Speaks Evening of Purpose
Sallie and Tom Bernard
Boler Family Foundation
Cantor Fitzgerald
Irwin Chafetz Family Foundation*
Yves and Connie de Balmann*
Bernard Gassin Family Foundation
Gudelsky Family Foundation*
Higgins Family Charitable Foundation
ING Direct
Ralph Ianelli*
Gregg and Lori Ireland
Jewelers for Children Foundation
JPMorganChase
Brian and Trish Kelly
Kessler Family Foundation
David Koch*
Lauder Foundation*
Limited Brands
Modell's Sporting Goods
New England Teamsters Federal Credit Union
New York Center for Autism
Siff Charitable Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. James Simons

\$50,000+

Alcoa
Solomon and Rebecca Baker Foundation
Bank of America
Barclays Capital
BMO Nesbitt Burns
John Spencer Bradley Collection Foundation
Chloe Productions
Citigroup
Steven A. and Alexandra M. Cohen Foundation
James Cramer
Cravath, Swaine and Moore
Cummins
DCU for Kids
FedEx Corporation
FelCor Lodging Trust
For Autistic Kids Foundation
Goldman, Sachs and Co.
Hearst Corporation
Betty and Sam Higgins
Karma Foundation
Knight Equity Markets
Lehman Brothers
MKP Capital Management
Morgan Stanley
Nikken International
North Shore Autism Circle
NYSE Foundation
Paulson and Co.
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Renco Group
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schacht
Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family Foundation
Simons Foundation
Simpson Thacher and Bartlett
Sumner Redstone Foundation
Tishman Speyer Properties
Tudor Investment Corporation

Village of Bethalto
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen and Katz

\$25,000 +

Irma Alejandra
AM Investment Partners
Anonymous
Edward Antoian
Robert Beer, Trustee
Build-a-Bear Workshop® Foundation
John W. Burrell III
California Community Foundation
Calvin Klein
Capital One Services
Casey Cowell
John K. Castle
CBS Corporation
CDW Corporation
Chilton Investment Co.
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Chiusano
CIBC World Markets
Citadel Broadcasting Company
Cleveland Browns Football Company
Columbus Community Foundation
Janice Creed
Donald Deutsch
Anthony Della Salla
Deutsche Bank
Dover Motorsports, Inc.
Wesley Edens
Marlene Embry
Peter Emch and Merope Pavlides
David and Joannie Fischer
Freddie Mac
Dale and Betty Ann Frey
Frozen Ropes of Long Island
Kurt and Cindy Funderberg
Garchik Family Foundation

*contributions represent multi-year pledges (as of 12/31/08)

\$25,000 + Continued

Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos
Marc Haas Foundation
C. Hager and Sons Hinge Manufacturing Co.
James and Laura Heneghan
Ion Media Networks
Islanders Children's Foundation
JP Morgan Chase
Albert and Diane Kaneb
Kaye Family Foundation
Keum
Knight Equity Markets
Elyse Kroll
Jesse and Joan Kupferb Family Foundation
Landy Family Foundation
Lazard Capital Markets
Lerner Foundation
Daniel Levinson
Lucent Foundation
Jeffrey Lumby
Bernard A. and Chris Marden Foundation
McCarton Foundation for Developmental Disabilities
Modestus Bauer Foundation
Mike and Cindy Moran
Kevin and Susan Murray
National Basketball Association
New Country Audi of Greenwich
New York Stock Exchange Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Niederauer
Palm Beach School for Autism
PMI Mortgage Insurance Co.
Burton X. and Sheli Z. Rosenberg
Eric Schwartz
Seinfeld Family Foundation
Seven Oaks Foundation
Severstal Sparrows Point
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Smith Production
Speyer Family Foundation
Sprint Nextel Corporation
Laurie Srebniak
Sternlicht Family Foundation
T Off 4 Autism
Thomas H. Lee and Ann Tenenbaum
Tudor Investment Corporation
UBS
Virgin Mobile USA
Vranos Family Foundation
Wachovia Capital Markets
Andrew and Elizabeth Ward
Warmenhoven Family Foundation
Washington Capitals Charities
Wasily Family Foundation
White Castle Management Co.
Thomas Whitesell

\$10,000+

Alcoa Foundation
Joseph Alexander Foundation
Robert Allen
Alson Capital
Alson Foundation
American Express Philanthropic Program
Anonymous
Peter Antico
Frank J. Antun Foundation
Aon Foundation
Elizabeth Arden, Inc.
Michael Armstrong
ASA Delaware
Autism Puzzle Foundation
Avaya
Arlene and Sandy Baklor
Beth Berke and Seth Weisbord
Lawrence Beyer
Anthony Blenk
Linnea Bristol
Bowen Foundation for Autism
Richard Boyle
Broadridge Financial Solutions
James and Shannon Broder
Heather Brown
BT Americas
BTIG
Buffalo Bills Road House
Burger King Brands
Brandon Burgess
Jim and Pat Calhoun
Can Manufacturers Institute
Cantor Fitzgerald
Caterpillar
CIBC World Markets Corporation
CIT Group
Coakley Williams Construction
Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties
Constellation Energy
Amanda Covington
Covington and Burling
Cox Enterprises
Cranberry Cup Charitable Association
Charles and Kerry Crew Foundation
Bill and Tammy Crown
CT Partners Executive Search
De Novo Legal
DFJ Gotham Ventures
James and Judith Dimon Foundation
Direct TV
Disney Worldwide Services
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Dor
Dow Chemical Company
Downers Grove Professional Firefighters I.A.F.F. Local #3234

Kevin Doyle
Jeffrey Duban
Neal Duncan
DuPont
JC Earle Family Foundation
James D. Edgeworth, Jr. and Associates
Embry Companies, Inc.
Engelberg Foundation
Susan and Peter Evensen
Fannie Mae
Vincent Farrell
Dawn and Brad Fire
Lester Fisher
Ken and Ellen Forrest
Founders Federal Credit Union
Fournier Family Foundation
Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen and Loewy
Carl M. Freeman Foundation
Robert Fromer
Thomas Galloway
Vic Garvey
General Atlantic
Lisa Beth Gerstman Foundation
Mike Gibeault
GoldenTree Asset Management
Niki and Joe Gregory Charitable Foundation
Guggenheim Capital Partners
Guys with Ties
Hall Communications
Hauber Family Foundation
Heidrick and Struggles
John and Vicki Hennelly
Lisa Higgins Hussman
Byron Holden
Indianapolis Colts
Ionic Capital Management
Myrtle Isenee Trust
J. and W. Seligman and Co.
JB Charitable Lead Trust
Johnson and Johnson Family of Companies Contribution Fund
Adrian Jones
Thomas Joyce
Morris Jurkowitz
K-2 Capital Partners
Karp Family Foundation
Katherine's Team to Fight Autism
Kellogg Specialist Group
Donna and Hugh Kelly
Richard Kelson
Kids Foundation for Developmental Disabilities
Kupferberg Foundation
Bernard and Muriel Lauren Foundation
John LeClaire and Ruth Hodges
Lehman Brothers
Lawrence Leibowitz
Liebowitz and Greenway Family Foundation

Steve Leuthold Family Foundation
Limited Brands Foundation
Lindsay Automotive Group
Lord & Taylor
Love Ride Foundation
Jim Loveman
Mario and Jennifer Loya
Ricci Lupo Charitable Trust
Lydian Asset Management
Magellan Health Service
James and Barbara Majeski
Make It Possible Foundation
Manatt, Phelps and Phillips
Julia, Sara, Peter Mancuso
Mr. and Mrs. William Mangan
Mr. and Mrs. Willam Mann
David Markin
Mastercard International
Mattel
McKenzie Corp/Don Vivrette
McKinsey and Company
Mercedes-Benz USA
Merrill Lynch
Ron Meyer
Marian Moore Foundation
Morrow Surveying
Mountain America Federal Credit Union
MRB Foundation
Mary and Gene Murphy
David Nadler
National Football League
NBC Universal
Thomas Neff
Bruce and LaVaun Nelson
New England Patriots Foundation
New York Football Giants
New York Times Company
Newman's Own Foundation
NFL Charities

Old Westbury Golf and Country Club
Robert O'Leary
Palm Beach Kennel Club
Palmetto Partners, Ltd.
James Parsons
Pegasus Capital Advisors
Jim Pettus
John and Amy Phelan
Philadelphia Eagles
Charles Pieper
Pitt Ohio Express
Plumbing Council of Chicagoland
Kim Powell
Prudential Financial
Raiders Run for Autism
David Reale
Rescar
Reservoir Capital Foundation
Ride for Autism
RJM Acquisitions
Rosen Fromson Philanthropic Fund
Angela Ross
Darrell and Susan Ross Charitable Foundation
Royalty Trust
Rubenstein Associates
Russert Family Foundation
Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Foundation
Ron and Carin Sanders
Schering-Plough Corporation
Courtney Schneider
Rebecca Schwartz
Julius Schwarz
Jane Bell Scott and Ray Scott
Scott -Motorsports Charity
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom
Sandra Slomin
Joel and Joan Smilow
Jon Sons
Sony Corporation of America

Thomas Stenberg
Adam Stern
Frank Strick Foundation
St. Andrew's Women's Philoptochos Society
St. Louis Magazine
Spencer Stuart
STW Fixed Income Management Ltd.
Subaru Distributors Corp.
Surfer's Environmental Alliance
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tagliabue
George and Judith Tappert
US Steel
David and Bridget VanEekeren
Verizon Foundation
Waldron Family Foundation
Eugene and Renee Waldron
Jeffrey Waldron
Weatherstone Family Foundation
Wegmans Food Markets
Jerry Weinstein
Wellington Management Company
Westchester BMW
Western Asset Management Company
Charitable Foundation
Thomas and Deborah Whitesell
Wilf Family Foundation
John and Leslie Wilson
Evan Winkler
Wireless Foundation
Cindy and David Wittels
Kim and Randy Wolf
William Woodburn
World Trade Association
Carl E. Wynn Foundation
Xerox Corporation USA
Joe and Jennifer Zarrilli
Jonah and Ellen Zimiles





March 20, 2009

Board of Directors

Autism Speaks, Inc.

New York, New York

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position of Autism Speaks, Inc. and Subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of Autism Speaks, Inc.'s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We did not audit the financial statements of Cure Autism Now, a subsidiary, which statements reflect total assets of \$4,554,004 and net assets of \$1,571,745 as of December 31, 2007, and total public support and revenues of \$14,364,955 for the year then ended. Those statements were audited by other auditors whose report has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for Cure Autism Now, is based solely on the report of the other auditors.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall consolidated financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits and the report of the other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, based on our audits and the report of other auditors, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Autism Speaks, Inc. and Subsidiaries as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the changes in its consolidated net assets and its consolidated cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Elliot Horowitz & Company, LLP

New York, New York

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION – DECEMBER 31, 2008 and 2007

ASSETS	2008	2007
Cash and cash equivalents	\$13,531,189	\$13,773,348
Marketable investment securities	3,344,812	7,100,513
Accounts receivable, net	1,013,010	480,089
Pledges receivable, net	9,487,651	5,782,122
Prepaid expenses	74,361	67,496
Restricted cash	1,000,000	
Other assets	272,731	323,128
Computer software (net of accumulated amortization of \$439,442 in 2008 and \$517,464 in 2007)	295,442	427,820
Equipment and property, net	592,320	971,698
TOTAL ASSETS	\$29,611,516	\$28,926,214
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Grants payable	\$16,062,648	\$11,227,807
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	3,421,267	3,378,851
Deferred revenue	400,000	50,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	19,883,915	14,656,658
COMMITMENTS (NOTES 7, 8 AND 13)		
Net assets		
Unrestricted	(1,910,050)	6,425,172
Temporarily restricted	11,637,651	7,844,384
TOTAL NET ASSETS	9,727,601	14,269,556
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$29,611,516	\$28,926,214

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES – YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 and 2007

	2008			2007		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE						
Walk program/Retail partners	\$34,017,852		\$34,017,852	\$29,600,116	\$715,000	\$30,315,116
Major gifts and other contributions	14,807,880	\$11,004,745	25,812,625	13,831,244	7,441,939	21,273,183
Special and community events	8,106,054	93,000	8,199,054	6,266,297	1,890,756	8,157,053
Government grants		1,754,364	1,754,364		1,105,993	1,105,993
Interest income and other	318,038		318,038	828,980		828,980
Total public support and revenue before release of restrictions	57,249,824	12,852,109	70,101,933	50,526,637	11,153,688	61,680,325
Net assets released from restrictions	9,058,842	(9,058,842)		6,866,405	(6,866,405)	
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE	66,308,666	3,793,267	70,101,933	57,393,042	4,287,283	61,680,325
EXPENSES						
Program services	55,950,417		55,950,417	46,674,879		46,674,879
Supporting services						
Management and general	2,960,474		2,960,474	3,109,379		3,109,379
Fund-raising	15,732,997		15,732,997	12,448,459		12,448,459
Total supporting services	18,693,471		18,693,471	15,557,838		15,557,838
TOTAL EXPENSES	74,643,888		74,643,888	62,232,717		62,232,717
(DECREASE) INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	(8,335,222)	3,793,267	(4,541,955)	(4,839,675)	4,287,283	(552,392)
NET ASSETS – JANUARY 1	6,425,172	7,844,384	14,269,556	11,264,847	3,557,101	14,821,948
NET ASSETS – DECEMBER 31	\$(1,910,050)	\$11,637,651	\$9,727,601	\$6,425,172	\$7,844,384	\$14,269,556

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES – YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 and 2007

	Program Services			Supporting Services			2008 Total Expenses	2007 Total Expenses
	Awareness & Other Services	Research	Total	Management and General	Fund-raising	Total		
Salaries	\$5,386,941	\$3,243,501	\$8,630,442	\$1,110,576	\$4,666,246	\$5,776,822	\$14,407,264	\$9,818,818
Benefits	718,331	450,289	1,168,620	173,289	647,778	821,067	1,989,687	1,131,610
Payroll taxes	407,664	233,960	641,624	79,158	366,854	446,012	1,087,636	733,088
Recruiting expenses	70,787	33,810	104,597	1,738	79,831	81,569	186,166	395,060
Grants and awards	905,513	27,429,750	28,335,263				28,335,263	24,426,956
Cost of biomaterial & products sold	83,180	586,891	670,071		84,496	84,496	754,567	107,466
Travel, meals, lodging & transport.	1,112,006	869,412	1,981,418	35,599	820,881	856,480	2,837,898	2,714,750
Professional services	1,037,623	1,304,853	2,342,476	48,733	409,115	457,848	2,800,324	4,873,024
Supplies and equipment	903,016	235,957	1,138,973	243,737	1,019,075	1,262,812	2,401,785	1,358,498
Printing	1,260,409	74,399	1,334,808	50,412	1,005,199	1,055,611	2,390,419	1,969,156
Advertising	2,185,628	20,987	2,206,615	751	165,351	166,102	2,372,717	1,861,750
Special events – venues & awareness	585,220		585,220	885	1,330,168	1,331,053	1,916,273	1,307,798
Rent	573,445	227,689	801,134	284,611	529,451	814,062	1,615,196	1,178,340
Conferences, meetings & sponsorships	619,734	550,133	1,169,867	13,614	416,629	430,243	1,600,110	2,310,971
Temporary services	473,966	338,321	812,287	314,554	358,730	673,284	1,485,571	487,419
Premium/recognition	677,393	5,798	683,191	543	797,523	798,066	1,481,257	621,332
Postage	560,933	91,536	652,469	76,560	479,752	556,312	1,208,781	1,123,915
Credit card/ bank fees	49,871	10,730	60,601	33,561	936,083	969,644	1,030,245	1,033,038
Depreciation	280,665	187,110	467,775	233,887	233,887	467,774	935,549	546,550
Catering	261,877	13,944	275,821	89	416,481	416,570	692,391	468,077
Telephone and internet	233,766	126,851	360,617	60,679	216,128	276,807	637,424	401,553
Legal fees	275,147	77,728	352,875	57,401	62,707	120,108	472,983	980,702
Photography/videography	286,554	1,892	288,446	1,400	174,270	175,670	464,116	373,016
Site, audit, licensing and filing fees	156,619	16,896	173,515	71,212	186,061	257,273	430,788	352,269
Marketing	144,198	19,528	163,726	315	164,719	165,034	328,760	892,182
Insurance	47,444	29,736	77,180	36,720	44,109	80,829	158,009	111,717
Other	65,987	404,799	470,786	30,450	121,473	151,923	622,709	653,662
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$19,363,917	\$36,586,500	\$55,950,417	\$2,960,474	\$15,732,997	\$18,693,471	\$74,643,888	\$62,232,717

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS – YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 and 2007

	2008	2007
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Decrease in net assets	\$(4,541,955)	\$(552,392)
Adjustments to reconcile decrease in net assets to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	935,549	546,550
Unrealized (gain) loss on marketable investment securities	(8,359)	9,056
Donated securities		(12,827)
Increase (decrease) in cash flow from:		
Accounts receivable, net	(532,921)	(94,347)
Pledges receivable, net	(3,705,529)	(2,550,548)
Prepaid expenses	(6,865)	189,887
Restricted cash	(1,000,000)	
Other assets	50,397	(267,712)
Grants payable	4,834,841	3,450,093
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	42,416	885,968
Deferred revenue	350,000	50,000
NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(3,582,426)	1,653,728
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Redemptions of investments	7,038,060	1,424,566
Purchases of certificates of deposits	(3,274,000)	(6,446,742)
Purchases of equipment and property	(316,440)	(677,172)
Purchases of computer software	(107,353)	(105,439)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	3,340,267	(5,804,787)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Payments on term loans		(119,708)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES		(119,708)
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(242,159)	(4,270,767)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – JANUARY 1	13,773,348	18,044,115
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – DECEMBER 31	\$13,531,189	\$13,773,348

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. NATURE OF ORGANIZATION

Autism Speaks, Inc. (AS) is a not-for-profit corporation formed in 2005 that is dedicated to increasing awareness about the growing autism health crisis and raising funds for critical autism research. AS is committed to aggressively funding global biomedical research into causes, prevention, treatments and cure for autism; raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families and society; and bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of the disorder. AS obtains financial support from the public via walks, special/community events and general contributions and government grants.

On February 5, 2007, a merger of AS and Cure Autism Now (CAN) was consummated. The merger was accounted for as a pooling of interest, and as such, the accompanying consolidated financial statements include CAN's financial results as if CAN had always been a part of AS. Expenses relating to the merger were expensed as incurred.

Canadian operations are incorporated under Canadian law as a separate entity (Autism Speaks Canada), which is controlled by AS. The financial statements of this separate entity have been included in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

All interorganizational transactions have been eliminated.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applicable to not-for-profit organizations.

Net Assets

The classification of AS's net assets and its public support and revenue and expenses is based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Unrestricted

Net assets that are either not subject to donor-imposed stipulations, or have been reclassified from temporarily restricted net assets because donor restrictions have either expired or been met.

Temporarily Restricted

Net assets that carry donor-imposed restrictions that expire upon the passage of time or upon occurrence of a stated event as specified by the donor. Net assets released from restrictions represent the satisfaction of the restricted purpose.

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The cost of providing AS's programs and supporting services has been summarized on an individual basis in the consolidated statement of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited in ratios determined by management.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For financial reporting purposes, AS considers all money market funds and highly liquid investments, with maturities of three months or less when purchased, to be cash equivalents.

Marketable Investment Securities

Donated securities are initially recorded at their market value at the date of gift. It is management's policy to sell donated securities upon receipt. As of December 31, 2007, marketable investment securities included donated marketable equity securities with a market value of \$12,827. These securities were received in the last few days of December 2007 and were sold as soon as possible in January 2008. As of December 31, 2008, marketable investment securities consisted of

certificates of deposits of \$1,744,812 with a maturity of 1 year or less, and \$1,250,000 in municipal auction rate securities and \$350,000 in auction rate preferred stock.

As of December 31, 2007, marketable investment securities also consisted of certificates of deposits of \$3,737,686 with a maturity of 1 year or less, \$1,250,000 in municipal auction rate securities and \$2,100,000 in auction rate preferred stock. A portion of the \$3,350,000 in auction rate instruments were redeemed at full value during 2008 with the balance redeemed at full value on January 5, 2009.

Pledges Receivable

Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected within one year are recorded at estimated net realizable value. Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected beyond one year are recorded at the present value of estimated future cash flows. The discounts on those amounts are computed using applicable risk-free interest rates. Amortization of the discounts is included in contribution revenue. Conditional promises to give are not included as support until the conditions are met. Payments received on fulfilled conditional promises are recognized as unrestricted net assets. AS uses the allowance method for uncollectible unconditional pledges receivable. The allowance is based on management's analysis and evaluation of specific promises made. While management uses the best information available to make its evaluation, future adjustments to the allowance may be necessary if there are significant changes in economic conditions.

Accounts Receivable

Receivables are recorded when billed or accrued and represent claims against third parties that will be settled in cash. The carrying value of receivables, net of the allowance for doubtful accounts, represents their estimated net realizable value. The allowance for doubtful accounts is estimated based on historical collection trends, type of customer, the age of outstanding receivables and existing economic conditions. If events or changes in circumstances indicate that specific receivable balances may be impaired, further consideration is given to the collectability of those balances and the allowance is adjusted accordingly. Past due receivable balances are written-off when internal collection efforts have been unsuccessful. As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, no allowance for doubtful accounts has been established.

Restricted Cash

Restricted cash represents funds received for certain grants to be awarded through 2018.

Computer Software

Computer software costs have been capitalized and are being amortized over the estimated useful lives of the assets of three to five years.

Equipment and Property

Equipment and property are stated at their costs at the dates of acquisition for purchases of \$1,000 or greater. Computer hardware and equipment, and furniture and fixtures are being depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets of three years and five years, respectively. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the term of the lease or the useful life of the improvement, whichever is less. During the year ended December 31, 2008, AS changed the estimated useful lives of certain equipment and property which resulted in a decrease in net assets of \$248,523. Maintenance and repair costs are charged to expense as incurred.

Grants Payable

Research grants and awards are recorded as an expense and liability subsequent to reviews by AS's Scientific Review Panel and final approval by the Board of Directors. Grants and awards generally cover a period of one year, subject to renewal for additional years after certain conditions are met.

Deferred Revenue

Amounts received in support of a fundraising event not yet held are accounted for as deferred revenue, if the gift is refundable, until the event is held.



Revenue Recognition

Contributions are recorded as revenue upon the receipt of cash, securities, gift or unconditional pledge. Contributions received are recorded as available for unrestricted use, unless specifically restricted by the donor in which case they are classified as temporarily restricted. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the consolidated statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

AS splits revenue and expenses with partners on the fund-raising events listed below. Revenue and expenses shown in the consolidated financial statements reflect AS's share.

Event	Partner	AS's Share of Revenue and Expenses
Kickoff for a Cure	The Gillen Brewer School	50% of revenue and expenses in 2008 and 2007
Chef's Gala	The McCarton Foundation	90% of revenue and expenses in 2008
Chef's Gala	Nordoff-Robbins Center	66% of revenue, 100% expenses in 2007
Atlanta Walk	The Marcus Institute	50% of revenue and expenses in 2008 and 2007
Phoenix Walk	The Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC)	SARRC receives first \$150,000 of revenue in 2008 and 2007, then 50% of revenue and expenses in 2008 and 2007
Colorado Walk	Autism Society of Colorado	50% of first \$100,000 in net proceeds, then 90% of additional net proceeds in 2007

The Atlanta Walk had net proceeds of \$893,000 in 2008 and \$1,152,000 in 2007, 50% of which were shared with The Marcus Institute, the co-founder of which is an AS Board member. Additionally, AS contributed \$10,000 to The Marcus Institute in 2008 and 2007. Ten percent of net proceeds from the 2008 Chef's Gala of \$475,000 were shared with The McCarton Foundation, which provided services to a relative of a Board member. Additionally, AS contributed \$15,000 to The McCarton Foundation in 2008 and \$27,500 in 2007.

Donated Goods and Services

Donated goods and services that meet the requirements for recognition are recorded as revenue and expenses in the accompanying consolidated statement of activities. For the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, the value of contributed services meeting the requirements for recognition in the consolidated financial statements was \$874,478 and \$989,572, respectively. In 2008, \$759,478 of these services were directly related to AS's awareness campaign and family services efforts, and as such are included in program services in the statement of functional expenses, with the balance of \$115,000 for fundraising. All donated services in 2007 were directly related to AS's awareness campaign and family service efforts and as such are included in program services in the statement of functional expenses. Many volunteers have made significant contributions of time to AS's program and supporting functions. The value of these contributed services do not meet the criteria for recognition and, accordingly, are not recognized in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

Income Taxes

AS and CAN are exempt from Federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and from state income taxes under comparable laws. The Canadian entity, exempt from Canadian income taxes, is organized without share capital under the Canadian Corporations Act.

Advertising

Advertising expenses have been charged to operations as incurred.

Rent

Minimum rents are being recognized on the straight-line method over the terms of the respective leases.

Foreign Currency Translation

Public support, revenue and expenses of Autism Speaks Canada are translated at the average exchange rates during the year. Gains and losses from foreign currency translation are included in interest income

and other on the consolidated statement of activities. For the year ended December 31, 2008, the unrealized foreign currency loss was \$148,769.

3. CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments which potentially subject AS to concentration of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, certificates of deposits, municipal auction rate securities, auction rate preferred stock, accounts receivables and pledges receivables.

AS has cash deposits at financial institutions which exceed the Federal insurance limits, however, management does not believe there is any significant risk of loss on any uninsured amounts. All certificates of deposit are within Federal insurance limits. Additionally, AS places short-term cash in money market funds, which are secured by the underlying assets of the fund, and floating municipal bond securities. The auction rate preferred stock is collateralized by mutual fund assets. AS's management has assessed the credit risk with money market funds and investments held at December 31, 2008 and 2007 and has determined that an allowance for the potential loss due to credit risk is not necessary.

Accounts and pledges receivables at December 31, 2008 and 2007 are due from various individuals, corporations, institutions and foundations well-known to AS with favorable past payment histories. Two of these foundations account for approximately two-thirds of the pledge receivable balance at December 31, 2008. AS's management has assessed the credit risk associated with these receivable balances at December 31, 2008 and 2007 and has determined that only a modest allowance for potential loss due to credit risk is necessary (See Note 4).

4. PLEDGES RECEIVABLE, NET

As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, unconditional promises to give consisted of the following:

Gross amount due in	Dec. 31, 2008	Dec. 31, 2007
Less than one year	\$3,284,000	\$4,273,718
One to ten years	6,631,453	1,754,333
	9,915,453	6,028,051
Less: allowances for doubtful pledges receivable	15,000	15,000
	9,900,453	6,013,051
Less: discounts to net present value	412,802	230,929
Net unconditional promises to give	\$9,487,651	\$5,782,122

The discount rate used on long-term promises to give was 2.5% in 2008 and 5% in 2007.

5. EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY

As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, equipment and property consisted of the following:

	Dec. 31, 2008	Dec. 31, 2007
Computer hardware and equipment	\$854,226	\$820,061
Furniture and fixtures	647,263	560,514
Leasehold improvements	227,185	220,403
	1,728,674	1,600,978
Less accumulated depreciation	1,136,354	629,280
	\$592,320	\$971,698

6. TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

As of December 31, 2008 and 2007, temporarily restricted net assets consisted of the following:

	Dec. 31, 2008	Dec. 31, 2007
Time Restricted	\$9,487,651	\$5,782,122
Program Restricted	2,150,000	2,062,262
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$11,637,651	\$7,844,384

As of December 31, 2008, \$7,002,401 of time restricted net assets is also program restricted. As of December 31, 2007, \$230,000 of time restricted net assets is also program restricted.

During 2008 and 2007, net assets were released from restrictions as follows:

	2008	2007
Time Restricted	\$3,584,471	\$3,997,487
Program Restricted	5,474,371	2,868,918
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$9,058,842	\$6,866,405

7. GRANTS

Obligations for research grants and awards were \$16,062,648 and \$11,227,807 as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The grants and awards are generally payable within one year. In addition, at December 31, 2008, research grants and awards of approximately \$30,696,000 are subject to discretionary renewal as described in Note 2 (Grants Payable), pending the satisfactory progress of research and the availability of funds. If satisfactory progress is achieved and funds are available, payments, including grants payable at December 31, 2008, are scheduled as follows: \$23,707,000 in 2009, \$17,896,000 in 2010, \$3,396,000 in 2011, \$880,000 in 2012 and \$880,000 in 2013.

Three members of the Board of Directors of AS and one management employee also hold positions at institutions which received funding from AS. At December 31, 2008, AS had grants payable and commitments to these institutions totaling \$10,088,399. During the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, AS's expenses included \$5,411,597 and \$2,595,176, respectively, related to research awards granted to institutions in which a Board member or management employee held positions. One Board member received \$2,000 for participation in evaluating various research proposals in 2007. Certain members of AS's Scientific Advisory Committee, Scientific Review Panel and Scientific Advisory Board, which are all involved in the grant appropriation process, are also associated with institutions that receive funding from AS.

8. OPERATING COMMITMENTS

Leasing Commitments

AS entered into a sublease for office space in New York City through August 30, 2010 for minimum annual rent of \$206,700, per annum, plus additional rent for operating expenses. The Chairman of the Board of AS was chairman of the sublessor at the time the lease was consummated. Either party, upon six months' notice, may terminate the sublease at any time after July 1, 2007. AS obtained an independent appraisal validating that the minimum annual rent was at market value. AS also leases office space in various cities across the United States requiring minimum annual rents plus additional rent for operating expenses.

In addition, AS has equipment and automobile leases, and service agreements expiring through December 2013.

As of December 31, 2008, future minimum rental payments required under operating leases that have initial or remaining noncancellable lease terms in excess of one year are as follows:

Years ending December 31	
2009	\$1,279,464
2010	1,127,884
2011	806,232
2012	384,970
2013	105,844
	\$3,704,394

For the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, rent expense was \$1,615,196 and \$1,178,340.

Employment Agreements

AS entered into employment agreements with two officers both for a term of five years which expire on June 30, 2010 and December 31, 2012, respectively.

Under the terms of the first officer's agreement, the officer will receive a base salary of \$300,000 per annum or at such greater rate as shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The officer is also eligible for an annual bonus up to \$50,000 to be determined by the Board. The officer will also receive customary health, life and disability insurance. The officer is entitled to one year severance if the agreement is terminated without cause by AS or with good reason by the officer.

Under the terms of the second officer's agreement, the officer will receive a base salary of \$375,000 in the first year and, for each succeeding year, an amount equal to the preceding year's salary increased by the same cost-of-living index as is used by AS in increasing the compensation of its employees. The officer is also eligible for an annual bonus up to \$50,000 to be determined by the Board. The officer will also receive customary health, life and disability insurance. If the agreement is terminated without cause by AS or with good reason by the officer, the officer is entitled to the lesser of eighteen months severance, or the amount of salary due over the remaining term of the agreement.

Clinical Trials Network

As a sponsor of the Clinical Trials Network (CTN), AS has been engaged by a pharmaceutical company to coordinate sponsored studies with various research institutions. The term of the contract is until the study is complete. AS is reimbursed for certain expenditures incurred and received a quarterly service fee of \$21,458 for the last three quarters of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008, and \$36,247 for the last three quarters of 2008. Included in cash and cash equivalents and accounts payable at December 31, 2007 is \$72,189 of cash advances received from the pharmaceutical company.

9. ALLOCATION OF JOINT COSTS

In 2008, AS incurred joint costs of \$16,866,891 to expand autism awareness, to inform the public of the autism health crisis and other activities that included fund-raising appeals. Of those costs, \$9,631,538 was allocated to fund-raising expenses and \$7,235,353 was allocated to program expenses.

In 2007, AS incurred joint costs of \$12,686,814. Of those costs, \$7,481,603 was allocated to fund-raising expenses and \$5,205,211 was allocated to program expenses.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007, AS had the following related party transactions:

- AS incurred expenses for services provided by The Advertising Council of \$872,605 in 2008 and \$1,046,129 in 2007 related to AS's awareness campaign. A Board member of AS is also on The Advertising Council's Board. As of December 31, 2008, \$316,557 was included in accounts payable as owed to The Advertising Council.
- AS incurred expenses for services rendered by an outside lobbying firm, in which a Board member serves as a partner, of \$476,115 in 2008 and \$282,079 in 2007.
- In the form of a grant or sponsorship, AS incurred expenses totaling \$62,807 in 2008 to four separate autism-related organizations which provided services to relatives of Board members. In 2007 expenses totaling \$19,285 were incurred to two separate autism-related organizations.

11. AFFILIATES

To expand AS's presence internationally, AS has an affiliate relationship with Autism Speaks U.K., a not-for-profit entity under the United Kingdom's Charity Commission. In 2007, AS provided funding of \$55,677 to Autism Speaks U.K. No funding was provided in 2008.

12. RETIREMENT PLAN

AS implemented its "Autism Speaks 401 (k) Plan" effective January 1, 2007. Under the AS 401(k) Plan, AS will make annual contributions ranging from 3% to 8% of an employee's salary to individual employee accounts for eligible employees, subject to Internal Revenue Service rules and limitations. Eligibility and the percentage contribution are based on years of service. Additionally, employee contributions to the Plan are matched up to 1% of salary, subject to Internal Revenue Service rules and limitations. Employer contributions for 2008 and 2007 were \$476,000 and \$207,000, respectively.

13. MERGER OF AS AND CAN

As part of the merger AS agreed to fund CAN's existing obligations and committed to fund certain research projects and other programs over the 2007-2011 period totaling \$37 million. As of December 31, 2008, \$18 million of the \$37 million remains to be funded.

14. RECLASSIFICATIONS

Certain of the 2007 amounts have been reclassified for comparison purposes.



2008 Board of Directors

Bob Wright** – Chairman of the Board and Co-founder, Autism Speaks; Vice Chairman & Executive Officer, General Electric Company

Suzanne Wright** – Vice Chair of the Board and Co-founder, Autism Speaks

Peter Bell* – Executive V.P., Programs and Services, Autism Speaks

Sallie Bernard

Andrew J. Conrad, Ph.D.† – Chief Scientific Officer, National Genetics Institute

Emanuel DiCicco-Bloom, M.D.† – Professor Neuroscience & Cell Biology/Pediatrics (Neurology), UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Philip H. Geier, Jr.**° – Chairman, The Geier Group, Ltd.

T. Michael Glenn – Executive V.P., Market Development & Corporate Communications, FedEx Corporation

Gary Goldstein, M.D. – President, Kennedy Krieger Institute

Tom Hetzel* – Chief Financial Officer, Autism Speaks

Adrian Jones – Managing Director, Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Mel Karmazin** – Chief Executive Officer, Sirius Satellite Radio

Brian Kelly** – Principal, Eastern Development

Mark LaNeve – GM North America Vice President, Vehicle Sales, Service and Marketing

Eric London, M.D.**† – Psychiatrist

Bernie Marcus** – Chairman, The Marcus Foundation

Gary S. Mayerson – Founding Attorney, Mayerson & Associates

Kevin Murray** – Chief Operating Officer, Rock Ridge Advisors

Alison Niederauer – Attorney

Andrew Robertson – President & Chief Executive Officer, BBDO Worldwide

Mark Roithmayr* – President, Autism Speaks

Dan Schulman – Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Mobile USA

Jon Shestack** – Jon Shestack Productions

Alison Singer*† – Executive V.P., Awareness and Communications, Autism Speaks

Laura Slatkin – Founder & President, Candela Group

Craig Snyder – Managing Partner, IKON Public Affairs

Lilly Tartikoff – Philanthropist

Glenn R. Tringali*† – Executive V.P., Fundraising and Operations, Autism Speaks

John Wilson – President, Hyannis Port Capital, Inc.

*Staff Officers

**Executive Committee

°Treasurer and Secretary

† In 2009 no longer Board Member

2008 Leadership

Mark Roithmayr – President

Peter Bell – Executive V.P., Programs and Services

Leslie Chambers – Executive V.P., Field Operations & Chapter Development

Alison Singer – Executive V.P., Communications and Awareness

Glenn R. Tringali – Executive V.P., Fundraising and Operations

Geraldine Dawson, Ph.D. – Chief Science Officer

Tom Hetzel – Chief Financial Officer

Sophia Colamarino, Ph.D. – Vice President, Research

Elizabeth Emken – Vice President, Government Relations

Clara Lajonchere, Ph.D. – Vice President, Clinical Programs

Anita Miller Sostek, Ph.D. – Vice President, Scientific Review and Operations

Andy Shih, Ph.D. – Vice President, Scientific Affairs

Jennifer Bizub – National Director, Human Resources

Richard Brown – National Director, Leadership Giving

Lisa Gallipoli – National Director, Field Operations

Susan Gloor – National Walk Director

Scott Leibowitz – National Director, Corporate Relations

Tracey MacDonald – National Director, Community Development

Dana Marnane – National Director, Communications and Marketing

Eileen McDonough – National Events Project Director

Kristen Pressler – National Events Project Director

Bill Shea – National Director, Creative Services

Kevin Berk – Director, Interactive Services

Marie Cavallo – Controller

Ben Engel – Director, Data Services

Jamitha Fields – Managing Director, Co-founders' Office

Lisa Goring – Director, Family Services

Dan Merriman – Director, Information Technology

Stuart Spielman – Senior Policy Advisor and Counsel

Patty Tapia – Director, Field Services

Lorri Unumb – Senior Policy Advisor and Counsel





*Pinning our hopes...
on today,
tomorrow,
and a cure.*



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.

Main Offices

New York

2 Park Avenue, 4th and 11th Floors
New York, NY 10016
Phone: 212-252-8584
Fax: 212-252-8676

Princeton

1060 State Road, 2nd Floor
Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone: 609-228-7310
Toll Free: 888-777-6227
Fax #1: 609-430-9163
Fax #2: 609-430-9505

Los Angeles

5455 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 2250
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Phone: 323-549-0500
Fax: 323-549-0547

Field Offices

Canada

1243 Islington Avenue
Suite 504
Toronto, ON M8X 1Y9
Phone: 416-362-6227
Fax: 416-362-6228

Carolinas

4530 Park Road
Suite 320
Charlotte, NC 28209
Phone: 704-561-0003
Fax: 704-561-0010

Chicago

Regency Office Plaza
2700 S. River Road
Suite 203
Des Plaines, IL 60018
Phone: 224-567-8573
Fax: 312-832-1990

Georgia Regional

3301 Buckeye Road
Suite 102
Atlanta, GA 30341
Phone: 770-451-0570
Fax: 770-451-0580

Greater Delaware Valley

216 Haddon Avenue
Suite 403
Westmont, NJ 08108
Phone: 856-858-5400
Fax: 856-858-5444

Ohio

4700 Rockside Road #408
Independence, OH 44131
Phone: 216-573-0877

Long Island

380 Oakwood Road
Huntington Station, NY 11746
Phone: 631-521-7853
Fax: 631-424-3404

Los Angeles Chapter

5455 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 2250
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Phone: 323-549-0500
Fax: 323-549-0547

New England Chapter

85 School Street, Suite 100
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-924-3300
Fax: 617-924-3311

New York/N. New Jersey

2 Park Avenue, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10016
Phone: 212-252-8584
Fax: 212-252-8676

Orlando

557 Wymore Road, Suite 101
Maitland, FL 32751
Phone: 407-478-6330
Fax: 407-478-6336

Phoenix

1930 S. Alma School Road
Suite B-202
Mesa, AZ 85210
Phone: 480-293-4373
Fax: 480-491-0091

Pittsburgh

8035 McKnight Road
Suite 301
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Phone: 412-367-4571
Fax: 412-367-4574

New Jersey

1060 State Road, 2nd Floor
Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone: 609-228-7310
Fax #1: 609-430-9163
Fax #2: 609-430-9505

Seattle

159 Western Avenue W
Suite 484A
Seattle, WA 98119
Phone: 206-464-5182
Fax: 206-622-2970

South Florida Regional

1166 West Newport Center Drive
Suite 314
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
Phone: 800-610-6227
Fax: 954-421-1054

St. Louis

1121 Olivette Executive Parkway
Suite 220
St. Louis, MO 63132
Phone: 314-989-1003
Fax: 314-989-1022

Central/West Florida

13575 58th Street N
Suite 162
Clearwater, FL 33760
Phone: 813-407-1704
Fax: 727-538-7717

Texas Regional

6380 LBJ Freeway
Suite 285
Dallas, TX 75240
Phone: 972-960-6227
Fax: 972-960-6228

Washington, DC

1990 K Street, N.W., 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: 202-955-3112
Fax: 202-955-3115

Westchester/Fairfield

168 Irving Avenue
Suite 203A
Port Chester, NY 10573
Phone: 914-934-5138
Fax: 914-934-7867

International Affiliates

Autism Speaks in the U.K.

North Lea House
66 Northfield End
Henley-on-Thames
United Kingdom RG9 2BE
Phone: 44(0)1491-412311
Fax: 44(0)1491-571921

Canada

1243 Islington Avenue
Suite 504
Toronto, ON M8X 1Y9
Phone: 416-362-6227
Toll free: 888-362-6227
Fax: 416-362-6228

MidEast: Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs

69 Lusail Street, West Bay Area
P.O. Box 4251, Doha, Qatar
Phone: (00974)495-6666
Fax: (00974)495-6699
info@shafallah.org.qa



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.

www.AutismSpeaks.org

2 Park Avenue | 11th Floor | New York, NY 10016 | Phone: 212 252 8584