



The Center for Autism

Changing Seasons, Changing Lives



OUR MISSION is to improve the quality of life for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families. We continually strive to be the premier resource for specialized autism services in the Philadelphia region by providing programs that meet the needs of each person affected by autism.



ARIANA

My name is Ariana. I am 10 years old. I have been attending the Outpatient Program at the Center since August 2013. My favorite activities are coloring, drawing, blowing bubbles, listening to Ariana Grande and anything that has to do with fashion. When I first started at the Center, I used to get upset when I heard loud noises or when my siblings would cry. Now I do relaxation exercises daily and take a break when my siblings or classmates are making a lot of noise. I used to have trouble expressing myself verbally. Now I use my words to express my wants and needs and comment on my surroundings. I really like my therapist and I enjoy attending the Center. I can't wait to make more progress!

Message from the Chief Executive Officer



This year, as the nation saw the number of individuals affected by autism rise to 1 in 68, the Center for Autism experienced an unprecedented increase in the need for evaluation and treatment services. Thanks to our supporters, staff and Board of Directors, the Center made significant progress in a number of areas.

First, we were able to increase the number of children and families we serve. The Pre-K Program opened a new treatment room at the Grant Avenue location, growing its capacity from 96 to 104 children. Additionally, due to the need for services for adolescents and young adults, we increased the capacity of the Saturday Program from 12 to 24 individuals. We make every effort to grow our programs to help as many families as possible, and recognize that there are more people affected by autism every day. Our goal for the future is to reach these families through an array of services at locations extending beyond Philadelphia.

The Center also gained new leadership. The Board of Directors welcomed John Bickel, President of Devon Construction Services, to the position of Vice Chair, and Michael D. O'Mara Esq., Partner at Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, as a member. We were also pleased to welcome Patricia M. White as our Chief Administrative Officer. The expertise that John, Michael and Patricia bring to the Center is invaluable to our future growth.

In the areas of special events and fundraising, we had another successful year. The Center again hosted its Winter Classic Charity Hockey Game and Annual Golf Classic, both of which helped us garner new friends, donors and funds that will support our services for the community. The Center was also approved as an Educational Improvement Organization under Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. Our sincere gratitude is extended to the numerous individuals, groups, businesses and foundations that made contributions to our organization this year. You have certainly made an impact and have empowered our success.

As I look to the Center's future and the upcoming 60th Anniversary in 2015, I am confident that we will serve more individuals and their families in innovative ways. Our dedicated employees bring a unique passion to their work, and our loyal donors continue to make our mission possible. I thank you for your continued support of this outstanding organization and for your shared commitment to creating better outcomes for the many individuals and families impacted by autism.

David M. Maola, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer

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The Center for Autism sincerely appreciates the generous contributions that help us continue to provide better outcomes for life. Each donor is extremely important to us and we apologize for any errors or omissions on this list.

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DONORS Annual Fund



Caffe Aldo Lamberti in Cherry Hill, NJ donated \$6,500 to the Center as a result of raffle tickets sold during the holidays for a chance to win a Balthazar bottle (12 liters) of Tommasi Winery's American Vintage 2009. David Maola, CEO (left), accepts the donation from Aldo Lamberti, Founder of Caffe Aldo Lamberti (center), and Karen Dempsey, raffle winner, from The Crowley Maritime Corporation (right).



On May 14, 2014, Janssen Biotech, Inc., a Johnson & Johnson Company located in Malvern, PA, donated 16 bikes that were graciously built for the Center during a team building activity. The bikes found new homes with children in our programs who were very excited to receive them.



CHRISTIAN

My name is Christian. I am 6 years old and attend the Outpatient Program at the Ford Road location. This is not my first time at the Center. I attended the Pre-K Program last year. Everyone at the Center knows me because

I'm really friendly and love engaging with others. Some grown-ups call me the "Mayor of the Center!" I thought this was really cool. Since I started here, I've gained a lot of skills. I now have a communication system and independently speak in full sentences. I remember when I first started I did not have a good way of communicating my wants and needs. My vocabulary has grown a lot! I have also learned how to make friends my age and I am able to play nicely with the kids in my kindergarten class, which is a big step for me. I do a good job remembering rules and try to follow them. I can't wait to learn more skills and to be the best that I can be!

BRANDON

Hi! My name is Brandon, and I am 5 years old and I have been in the Pre-K Program since 2009. Some of my friends think it is pretty neat that I know how to speak English and Spanish. When I first started coming here, I had a hard time waiting for food and toys. My therapists have helped me learn to say, "I want" when asking for things I would like to have. My favorite things to play are cars, trucks and the toy kitchen. I have also learned to interact more with my therapists when we do things in small groups. My therapists have helped me practice asking my friends to share with me, and I have gotten much better at it. I know that thanks to all of the things I have learned at the Center, I am ready for kindergarten!



DONORS

Annual Fund *continued*

Improving the quality of life for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families since 1955

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder affects each individual differently and to varying degrees. It appears in early childhood, and is marked by impairment in communication and social interaction, as well as repetitive behaviors and/or restricted interests. While there is no known cure, the Center for Autism is focused on improving the quality of life for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder by providing specialized services and treatment programs.

How We Help

The Center for Autism is a non-profit organization that was founded by renowned child psychiatrist Dr. Bertram A. Rutenberg, and is the oldest autism treatment center in the country. As a leading provider of services in the Philadelphia region today, the Center knows that each person with autism is unique and tailors its programs to the needs of each person and family.

Quality of Care

- Comprehensive and continual assessment of needs
- Individualized treatment plans
- Multidisciplinary, relationship-based approach
- Small treatment groups, low child to therapist ratio
- Experienced, dedicated clinicians

Better Outcomes

- Develop and improve communication
- Establish important relationships
- Build meaningful social interaction
- Improve behaviors that interfere with success
- Overcome challenges in sensory processing
- Learn skills to thrive in school and in the community

Family Involvement

- Participate as full partners in the therapeutic process
- Receive support and education
- Learn to navigate systems and advocate for the future
- Collaborate with agencies to ensure a comprehensive approach

Services to Meet Varying Needs

- **Evaluation & Assessment:** offered to people of all ages to determine an initial diagnosis or confirm a previous diagnosis, identify additional conditions/disorders, assess level of functioning, and make appropriate recommendations for services.
- **Pre-K Program:** an intensive, half-day or full-day program for children ages 2-5 years old that improves communication, disruptive behaviors, self-regulation and social interaction.
- **First Friends Program:** a half day treatment program that is focused on improving socialization and communication, particularly with peers, for children up to 6 years old.
- **Social Competency Program:** an afterschool program designed to develop and facilitate social competency skills in children and adolescents ages 5 to 16 years old.
- **Outpatient Program:** individualized one-on-one, family and group therapy for people of all ages.
- **Saturday Program:** a weekly program for teens and young adults that focuses on teaching pre-vocational and independent life skills.

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2nd Annual Winter Classic Hockey Game



Special guest, the Phillie Phanatic, dropped the official puck at the start of the 2nd Annual Winter Classic Hockey Game and the Flyers' very own Lou Nolan was the game announcer. The event also featured a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, Chuck-a-Puck contest, autograph signing and player meet & greet.

The Philadelphia Flyers Alumni and the Center for Autism Puzzlers celebrated the 2nd Annual Winter Classic Hockey Game on February 8, 2014. Over 450 attendees helped raise \$23,000 at this annual event held at IceWorks in Aston, PA. The Flyers Alumni won 6 to 1, and a great time was had by all.



LUIS



Hi! I'm Luis. I am 5 years old and attend the Pre-K Program at the Center's Ford Road location. This was my first year at the Center. When I first started, I did not talk or point at things. Since coming to the Center, I have made a lot of new friends! My therapists have

helped me communicate better by teaching me gestures, how to point independently and most recently I can say the word "more!" I now have a much easier time telling people what I want or need and I have a fun time playing with my therapists and peers.

How Your Donation Helps

- \$50** provides two months of integrated occupational therapy for one child in the First Friends Program.
- \$100** provides 6 months of integrated speech therapy for one child in the Pre-K Program
- \$200** purchases an adaptive communication device used by children in our programs that need assistance in expressing their wants and needs to other people.
- \$200** provides yearly curriculum and program supplies for an individual in the Saturday Program.
- \$475** purchases an occupational therapy swing, which helps children in their sensory integration therapy.
- \$500** hosts a CFA Connect event for our families. These events provide valuable resources and the opportunity to socialize with other families affected by ASD in the community.
- \$1,000** sends the children in our Social Competency Program on a field trip to help practice their new skills in a real-world setting.
- \$2,000** provides a critical diagnostic evaluation for an uninsured child.
- \$2,500** purchases safety mats for our gross motor rooms, which need to be replaced every other year.

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Grants



Thanks to the Boeing Philadelphia Employees Community Fund (ECF), the Center was able to purchase a new gross motor slide and buddy boat swing for the Ford Road location, and a new platform swing for the Grant Avenue location. The new structures are being enjoyed by the children in all of our treatment programs.

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At the 7th Annual Golf Classic, our sponsor Caddick Construction golfed with Flyers Alum, Bernie Parent. The event, held at Whitmarsh Valley Country Club in Lafayette Hill, PA, hosted over 100 golfers and featured silent and live auctions.

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Financial Report

July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014

The Center for Autism had another great fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. The Center had total support and revenue of \$13,971,842, compared to \$12,436,983 for the prior year ending June 30, 2013. The Center's largest expense item was personnel, which is directly related to our low child to therapist ratio within the treatment programs. Most of the Center's support and revenue was from fee-for-service, in addition to grants, donations and fundraising events. The Center for Autism showed an increase in net assets of \$624,254 in 2014 versus an increase in net assets of \$509,876 in 2013. The Center also paid down approximately \$280,000 in bank loans and credit lines.

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Medical assistance and insurance	13,218,258
Services rendered	422,322
Fundraising and donations	163,245
Investment returns	113,061
Grants	54,956
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	13,971,842

EXPENSES	
Personnel expenses, including consultants	9,899,444
Occupancy	890,722
Office supplies and administration	214,414
Communications equipment and repair	253,690
Depreciation and amortization	265,543
Bad debt expense	215,593
Interest expense	69,761
Administration	1,172,654
Fundraising	365,767
TOTAL EXPENSES	13,347,588

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	624,254
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,083,910
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	4,708,164

The unaudited financial information set forth above is preliminary and subject to adjustments and modifications. Adjustments and modifications to the financial statements may be identified during the course of the audit work, which could result in significant differences from this preliminary unaudited financial information.

The Center for Autism is a registered nonprofit organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the Center are tax-deductible as provided to the extent of the law. Official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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- Mr. James Waldron
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- Mr. Francis E. Wellock, Jr.
- Ms. Samantha Yoh



A new initiative aimed at connecting Center families within the community, CFA Connect hosted its first family barbeque event in Fairmount Park.



Center staff hosted a resource table at the Autism Society of America's Autism Awareness Day at the Philadelphia Zoo. This was just one of many events the Center attended throughout April, National Autism Awareness Month.



The entire Center staff gave back to our community partner Cradles to Crayons in August 2013 by volunteering to help inspect, sort and package items for children in need. Cradles to Crayons helps thousands of families, including those at the Center, by providing essential clothing, shoes, books and school supplies throughout the year.

DONORS

Memorial Gifts



In Memory of Rose Cavalli

- Mr. Sheldon Aronson
- Ms. Ardean Cavalli
- Ms. Beverley Coulson
- Mr. Richard Knox
- Ms. Shirley Landis
- Ms. Karen Morris
- Ms. Roseann Schaff
- Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Wellock, Jr.

In Memory of Dominick J. Giordano, Sr.

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- Caddick Construction Co., Inc.
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In Memory of Walter A. Ferris, Jr.

- Mr. and Mrs. David Griscom
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- Mr. and Mrs. Barry Murray
- Mr. and Mrs. John Niewinski
- The D'Elia Law Firm

In Memory of Thomas J. O'Hara

- Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Wellock, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Wellock, Sr.

In Memory of James F. Frawley

- Ms. Lola I. Felsburg
- Mrs. Pauline Flacco
- Mr. Steve Levy
- Mr. and Mrs. Tom & Elizabeth Waller

In Memory of Richard D. Dellheim

- Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Wellock, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Wellock, Sr.

In Memory of Andrew Robert Saputelli

- Ms. Rita Saputelli

In Memory of Anni Algeo

- Mrs. Jeanne E. Ditsche

In Memory of Charles 'Chick' Rhoads

- Ms. Anna Kerasinis

In Honor of Mr. Sho-off of Street Runners Motorcycle Club

- Anonymous

In Honor of Wania Schmitz

- Mr. Peer Schmitz



EMMA

Hello! I have been in the Pre-K Program for three years and I have learned so much. When I first began I had a hard time walking, playing with others and communicating my wants and needs. I often felt sad because I could not tell anyone how I was feeling or what I wanted. Now I enjoy playing silly games like

peek-a-boo. I like to laugh while dancing and jumping on the trampoline with therapists. I also really enjoy playing with foam and often try new things that I did not like in the past. I can now communicate using my Big Mack Button switch, and when I am feeling sad I can be happy again soon. I am so excited when I arrive at the Center every day and am happy to see my therapists and peers. With all that I have learned at the Center, I am ready to go to kindergarten!

Ways to Give

Online

Visit

www.thecenterforautism.org
Click "Donate Now"

Mail

Send your donation to
The Center for Autism
Attn: Development
Department
3905 Ford Road, Suite 6,
Philadelphia, PA 19131

Phone

Call us at 484.567.3307
to make your contribution

United Way Workplace Campaign

The Center for Autism's
Agency Code is 07723

EITC Program


The Center for Autism is a recognized Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) under Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC). For info, visit www.newPA.com.

Combined Federal Campaign

The Center for Autism's
Agency Code is 33306

**For more ways to give, visit
www.thecenterforautism.org/support.**





Our Impact on the Community

- 350** phone calls received each month from people seeking services or resources
- 391** individuals received an evaluation
- 406** clients were seen for an intake appointment
- 104** children ages 2-5 years old were treated in the Pre-K Program
- 36** children under the age of 6 attended the First Friends Program
- 132** older children and teens received treatment in the Social Competency Program
- 24** young adults attended the Saturday Program
- 40** individuals and their families received treatment in the Outpatient Program
- 91** children and families received support after transition from a program
- 120** people received autism-specific training through our Consultation Services
- 117** families attended CFA Connect's family support events
- 70%** of the people we served reported living below the federal poverty level
- 88%** served were male
- 12%** served were female
- 89%** of the population served identified as an ethnic minority
 - 3** was the average age of an individual who received an evaluation
 - 53** was the age of the oldest person who received an evaluation



The Center for Autism
BETTER OUTCOMES FOR LIFE

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and an equal opportunity employer and service provider.*

