

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

 **AUTISM SOCIETY**
*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Southern Arizona*



ANNUAL
OVERVIEW

FINANCIAL
POSITION

PROGRAMS
& SUPPORT



AUTISM SOCIETY
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 Southern Arizona

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As the leading voice and resource for our local autism community, when transitions and challenges arise, we embrace them as new opportunities to build toward a greater future.

Our Autism Society of Southern Arizona Board of Directors play a key role in setting our vision. Their experience in healthcare, education, professional management, law, self-advocacy and engineering will be critical to our continued commitment to addressing the growing needs of our community.

Knowing that the families we serve need our help more than ever, we jumped into action immediately when COVID-19 hit our area. Since March we have successfully transitioned our programs to the virtual setting. We also invested \$8,000 in a new website to turn our annual fundraiser Autism Walk and Resource from an in-person event to a virtual event with live webinars and an interactive resource fair.

During this period of uncertainty, we have continued our core mission of helping our local families navigate autism. We offer customized resources including what do after an autism diagnosis, therapy options, legal considerations, adult resources, IEP's, providers and more.

We are very grateful for the outstanding support we have received from our many community partners, sponsors and media outlets.

Your support has been a lifeline to us and to the community we serve. We are indebted to your generosity, and we offer our deepest gratitude for your time and commitment in selecting us. To those just getting to know us, we invite you to learn more about our impact and how you can partner with us to continue our arduous and fruitful work. May you and your family be safe and continue to wear your masks in public, practice social distancing, and wash your hands as often as possible.

Ray Frieders
Board President, Autism Society of Southern Arizona



2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE TEAM:

Ray Frieders

Board President
Production Manager, Cox Media

Jared Perkins

Past President
CEO, Children's Clinics

Kyle Lininger

Co-Vice President
Divisional Director of Integrated Care at Intermountain Centers

Terry Randolph

Co-Vice President
Children's Healthcare Administrator at Arizona Complete Health

Gina Khawam

Treasurer
Senior Tax Advisor at BeachFleischman

Josh Anbar

Secretary
Public Health Doctoral Candidate

BOARD MEMBERS:

Catherine Riley, MD

Professional Advisory Committee Chair
Developmental Pediatrician, University of Arizona Clinical Associate
Professor, Pediatrics

Lynda Weigel-Firor

Family Advisory Committee Chair
Independent Grant Writer

Hattie Groskind

Self-Advocate Committee Chair
Self-Advocate and Social Ventures Associate

Jonathan William Reich

Elder Law Attorney

June Wood, PhD

Education Consultant

Amy Figliolino

Branch Manager for Tucson Federal Credit Union

Laura Valenzuela

Speech Language Pathologist

Sal Hernandez

CPA-Managing Member at ESSENTAGE

Ray Frieders

Production Manager, Cox Media

HONORARY CHAIRS:

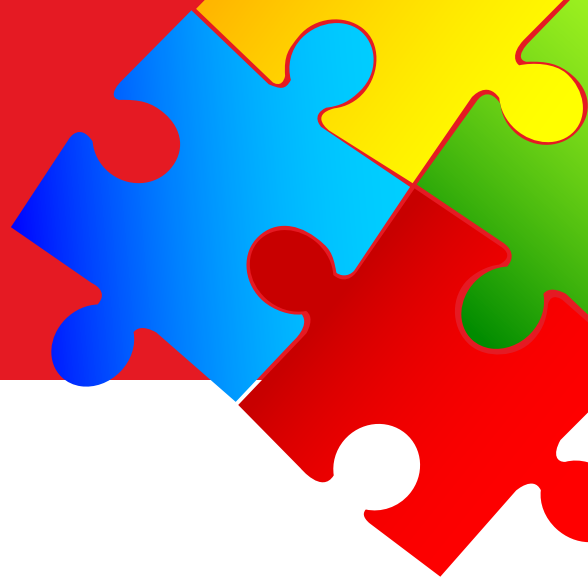
Courtney Henson

Attorney at Snell & Wilmer

Pete Schwarz

Sr. Project Manager, Engineer at GHD

MEET OUR 2019 STAFF



Brie Seward

Executive Director

Brie was appointed Executive Director in January 2020. Since 2017, she has lead the organization in the Annual Autism Walk & Resource Fair fundraiser, facilitating community programs, and implementing the Navigating Autism Program.



Maxine Mathews

Information & Referral Specialist

A mother of a teenager diagnosed with autism at age 4 and of an 11-year-old diagnosed with autism at age 10, Maxine understands the autism journey from a parent perspective. She provides resources and support through our Navigating Autism Program in both English and Spanish.

"I received immediate and excellent service. They asked all of the right questions and I was able to pass on the helpful information to a family in need. Thanks so much!"

Survey participant



OUR PROGRAMS

NAVIGATING AUTISM PROGRAM

The Autism Society provides Information & Referral as one of our most important core services. We are typically the 'first call' parents or individuals with autism make upon hearing of a diagnosis of autism. We offer support, information on programs, services and educational resources. When needed, we provide referrals to other organizations that can assist those in need. In 2019, we hired our Information & Referral Bilingual Specialist. This expanded our resources to continue to further our mission and increase our capacity.



PLAYFORMANCE YOUTH AND TEAM MEETUPS

The Playformance Teen and Youth meetups are an opportunity for children with autism to connect with their peers and stay active once a month. Playformance serves the whole person and supports our students as they develop the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social skills needed for a unified community. The group has increased in size month to month and serves 25-30 individuals per month.





SENSORY FRIENDLY FILMS

AMC Theatre Foothills Mall and ASSA partnered together to provide a more accepting and comfortable setting for individuals on the autism spectrum to enjoy films. ASSA provided 50-75 complimentary tickets prior to the show in front of the movie theater entrance. Through our community relationship, we partnered with Comcast to expand our Sensory Friendly film experiences to offer more sensory friendly entertainment options for families at their Tucson headquarters.



ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

Adults with autism come together and build relationships through Tucson's social meet ups. The group holds meetings every third Friday of the month from 5:30 – 8:30 pm at 630 N. Craycroft Road. The discussions in the group range from living independently to navigating college life.

STEAM CAMP

The half day camps are geared towards 8-16-year-olds who enjoy building, exploring and learning. We partnered with the University of Arizona Biomedical Engineering Club to provide an annual STEAM! (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) camp on the University campus.





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EQUINE THERAPY

Studies show that therapeutic riding can assist in improving communication, motor skills, ability to focus, social and behavioral interactions, while building strength and balance. TROT (Therapeutic Riding of Tucson) provides equine-assisted activities and therapies for children with physical and developmental disabilities. ASSA provided 5 equine therapy scholarships for children and teens with autism.



SONORAN DOLPHINS SWIM CLUB

This swim club provides a unique water safety and swimming lesson program that allows children with autism to feel at ease and successful in the water. We have a collaborative partnership with Saguaro Aquatics that provides swimming lessons for children with special needs. This program has been designed by Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA's) and the swim instructors are trained how to safely and effectively conduct swimming lessons with children on the autism spectrum.



13TH ANNUAL WALK AND RESOURCE FAIR

OUR SUPPORTERS

SUSTAINING SUPPORTER

Arizona Complete Health

TITLE SPONSOR

Premiere Retirement Planning & Wealth Management

GOLD SPONSORS

Arizona Elks Major Projects
Tucson Electric Power

SILVER SPONSOR

Happy Saguario

BRONZE SPONSORS

Intermountain Centers
Absolute HCBS
Autism Academy for Education & Development LLC
BeachFleischman
Center for Neurosciences
Cox

Hope Group
FABAS
Pathways of Arizona
Tucson Federal Credit Union
Truly Nolen
Trumpet Behavioral Health
Guild Mortgage
Intuit
Southwest Gas
Snell & Wilmer
CarMax Foundation
Clindren's Clinics

EVENT SPONSORS

Chapel Haven West
Direct Center of Independence
Illegal Pete's LLC
Autism Spectrum Therapies
Truly Nolen
Absolute
Banner Family Health Plans



13TH ANNUAL WALK AND RESOURCE FAIR HIGHLIGHTS

1,709
Walk Registrants



Largest Resource Fair
80 Vendors



Highest Sponsor
Total To-Date
\$40,000

Reached Over
\$110,000
in Revenue





FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

OPERATING REVENUE

Contributions and Grants	\$54,238	(31%)
Special Events	\$119,867	(69%)
Other Revenue	\$ - - - -	(0%)
Total	\$174,104	100%

OPERATING EXPENSES

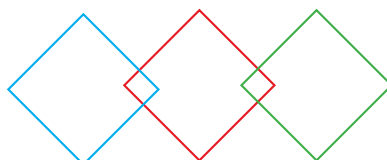
Program Expenses	\$67,054	(47%)
Administration Expenses	\$30,206	(21%)
Fundraising Expenses	\$44,801	(32%)
Total	\$142,062	100%

ASSETS

Cash	\$119,950	(100%)
Total	\$119,950	100%

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$498	(0%)
Net Assets	\$119,452	(100%)
Total	\$119,950	100%





"I am eternally grateful for the people I have had the opportunity to meet. I have benefitted from the input and advice from others who are either experienced professionals working with autism or have experienced a personal impact with autism in their lives as well. Establishing these relationships has not only been fun, but incredibly rewarding for this father who had no idea what to expect. I feel much more confident now being able to navigate the world of resources that are available for my son with a team of supporters who genuinely care about providing insight and advice."

Brandon Lowery, Parent



"You have listened to your community and are offering the parents something they can use right now with their family. WELL DONE!!!

Kathy Gray-Mangerson, Education System Administrator
for Raising Special Kids



"I am so thankful that the Autism Society of Southern Arizona has put on a free Stepping Stones Training class for our community. Before getting a diagnosis parents are often in the dark with how to cope with problem behaviors and this class was so helpful in filling that gap. I loved how interactive the program is and how it has helped me address behaviors I am seeing in my child right now."

Michele Thorne