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YEAR ROUND PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS

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



WALK WITH US

SUSTAINING

CHAMPION

COMPANION

FRIEND



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 to 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



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.



TEEN MEETUPS WITH PLAYFORMANCE

To help teens at home stay active, we offer online meet ups facilitated by coaches at Playformance. During the meetup, our coaches offer virtual experiences aimed to develop the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social development for participants.

ADULT SOCIAL CLUB

Our Adult Social Club transitioned to virtual meetings where connections were still maintained every third Friday of the month. A member of the ASSA board and self-advocate, Eric Stark joined a monthly session to discuss self-advocacy and his own personal experiences navigating the world with an autism diagnosis. Participants enjoyed hearing from him and relating to his experiences.



STEPPING STONES TRIPLE P

This evidence-based virtual series focuses on communication, troubleshooting, self-regulation and self-care for parents who have children with autism. The class meets weekly through the guidance of a certified facilitator. The twelve-week curriculum-based program includes 2 phone consultations with the instructor. As a result of long wait lists, we offered additional sessions in the fall of 2020.

SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES

We partnered with Jenny's Speech & Learning Clinic to provide children and teens the opportunity to interact with one another and build friendships through this virtual program. This four-week program taught children with autism how to connect with peers by learning key communication techniques with the supervision of expert facilitators.





WALK WITH US

Year-Round Program Partnerships

In this unprecedented year, the Autism Society has worked tirelessly to support and protect individuals with autism. Your investment will allow us to continue to respond to the autism communities request for online support and relief services during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Since pandemic's onset, the Autism Society has provided virtual parent trainings, support groups, social skills classes, and play groups with Playformance. We also provide individualized assistance for families as they navigate finding services. With 1 in 63 children in Arizona receiving a diagnosis, autism affects thousands of families in our Southern Arizona community. We hope you will consider walking with us in 2021 so we can continue to further our mission to improve the lives of those affected by autism.

Your support will...

- Provide individualized assistance for families through our Navigating Autism Program
- Provide virtual trainings through the Triple P Stepping Stones program for parents who have children with autism
- Give teens virtual activity meetups through the Playformance program
- Create friendships for teens and children through our Social Butterflies Program
- Support Adult Social Club virtual meetups
- Provide school, organizational, and community trainings as requested

Signature Supporter: \$15,000+

Will receive customized organizational support and trainings. Plus, premium participation in TV/Radio Interviews, media advertisements, ASSA virtual programming, recognition on website, social media, flyers, and events.

Sustaining Supporter: \$10,000+

Receives premium participation in TV/Radio Interviews, media advertisements, ASSA virtual programming, recognition on website, social media, flyers, emails and events.

Champion: \$5,000+

Receives media advertisement and recognition on website, social media, flyers and emails.

Companion: \$2,500+

Recognition on website, social media, flyers and emails.

Friend: \$1,000+

Recognition in social media and emails.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

"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