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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



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

We entered 2020 not expecting to see a global pandemic on the horizon. Regardless, we were determined to continue to deliver autism resources and support to our community. We pivoted from an in-person event in April to a virtual event in September. Our team created a website dedicated to this event (2020autismwalk.com) where guests could still find the same community resources that would have been present at the Autism Walk. We also delivered online expert presentations from leaders in the field where they discussed topics ranging from promoting positive behaviors, evidence-based behavior therapies, and tips to thrive while at-home remote learning. The Southern Arizona autism community still walked together and represented in their neighborhoods on September 26th for our virtual event day.

The pandemic shifted the way we interacted with the world and how we ran our programs. We quickly transitioned to virtual platforms for our teen and adult meetups and parent support groups, and pivoted to add new programs to meet the needs of our families. We leaned into our families and listened to their struggles. In July 2020, ASSA conducted a needs assessment to examine what programs and support we could offer through the pandemic. During our needs assessment, 81% of the families' surveyed were experiencing an increase in stress while working and managing their households at home during quarantine. Parental stress and behavioral challenges were the main issues families were facing. To address this need, we introduced three parent training programs through our partnership with the U of A Cooperative Extension Family Engagement Program. The 15-week program focused on intervention designed to target discrete problem behaviors or developmental skills (e.g. social skills, communication).

A parent in our focus group voiced concerns over her child's isolation from peers. That prompted us to reach out to Jenny's

Speech & Learning Clinic where we introduced the Social Butterflies program. This online social skills program was designed for children with autism. We received parent feedback from the class that participants scheduled playdates after the program ended. Virtual playdates took place as a direct result of our social skills program.

In 2020, we introduced more programs than we had pre-pandemic as we learned that virtual experiences have no borders. It was more important than ever to find ways to deliver support, resources, and training straight to our families' homes. We were successful through our parent support groups, Zoom with Santa experience, parent trainings, teen/adult meetups, and social skills classes.

In spite of difficult times the pandemic caused, we were fortunate to be selected as the recipient of the Eege's annual coupon card fundraiser and the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona's COVID-19 Relief grant. These moments brought us a silver lining and we are grateful to our supporters for sustaining us through 2020. We could not do this work without the support of our dedicated board members, volunteers, The Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health interns, Information & Referral Specialist, grant writer, donors, sponsors, and families. The Autism Society of Southern Arizona is dedicated to our mission in improving the lives of ALL affected by autism. In 2020, we delivered much needed support and smiles to over 2,000 individuals despite the challenges the pandemic brought. We continue to seek opportunities to further our mission and reimagine how we deliver support to the autism community.

Brie Seward

Executive Director

Autism Society of Southern Arizona



2020 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
Care Coordination at Pyx Health

Eric Peterson

Treasurer
Independent Consultant

Joshua Anbar, DrPH, MPH

Secretary
Research Associate at the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC)

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 Consultant/Grant Writer

Hattie Groskind

Self-Advocate Committee Chair
Social Ventures Associate

June Wood, PhD

Education Consultant

Amy Figliolino

Senior Manager of Member Experience

Laura Valenzuela

Speech Language Pathologist

Sal Hernandez

CPA-Managing Member at ESSENTAGE

Eric Stark

Senior Marketing Coordinator, Banner University Health Plans

Diane Kent

Director of Special Education, Pima County Superintendent's Office

HONORARY CHAIRS:

Courtney Henson

Attorney at Snell & Wilmer

Pete Schwarz

Vice President, Affiliate Relations & National Programs Autism Society of America

MEET OUR 2020 TEAM



Brie Seward

Executive Director

Brie was appointed Executive Director in January 2020. Since 2017, she has led the organization in fundraising efforts, developing community programs, and implementing the Navigating Autism Program. Brie received her master's degree in communications in 2020 and recently completed the Nonprofit Leadership & Management Program with the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona and The University of Arizona's Eller Executive Education. Brie is a member of the Autism Society of America's marketing task force and the Sonoran UCEDD Community Advisory Committee.



Maxine Mathews

Information & Referral Specialist

A mother of a teenager diagnosed with autism at age four 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. ASSA has increased our reach to rural communities with her Bilingual support.

.....
"Brie gave immediate and excellent service. She asked all the right questions, and I was able to pass on the helpful information Brie sent to a family in need. Thanks so much!"

"Maxine was very caring and compassionate, beyond professional."

Survey participants responded to the support they received from our navigators.



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 fifteen-week curriculum-based program includes two 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.





Santa Claus



ZOOM VISIT WITH SANTA

We knew it was important for our families to visit with Santa after a year of social distancing so we brought Santa to them. Santa visited with 22 families virtually and each participant received a souvenir digital postcard of their visit.

This is what one family said about the experience, "Santa was GREAT!!!! Thank you so much for offering this. What a WONDERFUL experience in such a bleak year. In fact, Zoom is better than in person, even when it's not a pandemic! Thank you all so much! Please pass along the compliments to Santa and all the Elves!"

STEAM! CAMP

This half day camp was geared towards 8-16-year old's 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 in February on the University campus.



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). Swim instructors are trained in how to conduct swimming lessons with children on the autism spectrum.



#WEWALK4AUTISM

14TH ANNUAL AUTISM WALK & RESOURCE FAIR
EVENT WENT VIRTUAL ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

THANK YOU TO ALL
OF OUR 2020 SPONSORS

Special acknowledgment to Eegee's and the
Community Foundation of Southern Arizona
for their support in 2020.

SUSTAINING SUPPORTERS (\$10,000+)

Arizona Complete Health
Banner University Health Plans

TITLE SPONSOR (\$7,500)

Premiere Retirement Planning & Wealth Management

PRESENTING SPONSOR (\$7,500)

Tucson ER & Hospital

GOLD SPONSORS (\$5,000)

Helping Hands Behavior Therapy
Tucson Electric Power
Tucson Federal Credit Union

SILVER SPONSORS (\$2,500)

Absolute HCBS
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Happy Saguaro
Hughes Federal Credit Union
Truly Nolen

BRONZE SPONSORS (\$1,000)

Autism Academy for Education & Development LLC
Butterfly Effects

Center For Neurosciences
Guild Mortgage
Arizona Vision Therapy Center
Arizona Autism
FABAS
Encompass Health
Pathways of Arizona
Intermountain
Hopebridge
Trumpet Behavioral Health
Southern Arizona Neuropsychology
Southwest Gas
Snell & Wilmer Law Offices
Children's Clinics
Intuit
CarMax
Cox Media

EVENT SPONSORS (\$250 - \$800)

Beach Fleichman
Chapel Haven West
Illegal Petes
Raising Cane's
Tuller Trophy

MEDIA SPONSORS (In-Kind Donations)

Comcast
Arizona Bilingual
Univision Arizona
Arizona Lotus Corporation



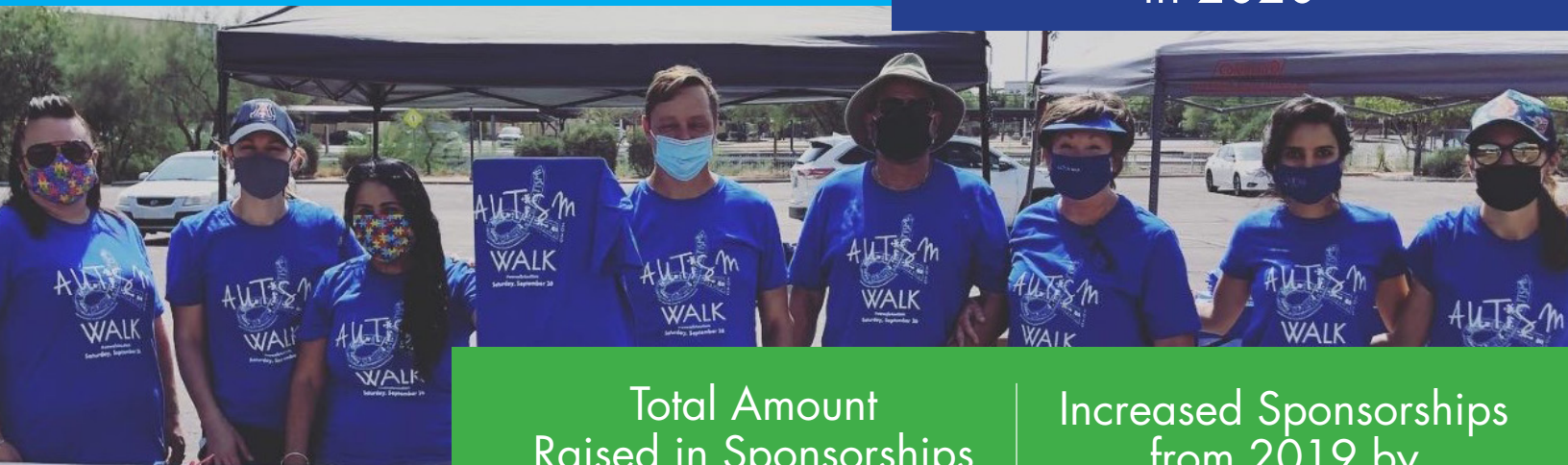
14TH ANNUAL VIRTUAL WALK AND INTERACTIVE RESOURCE FAIR HIGHLIGHTS

On September 26th, event participants were encouraged to walk in their neighborhoods. Event day kicked off with an opening ceremony video hosted by Larry Mac, Operations Manager at Arizona Lotus Corporation. Participants logged onto 2020autismwalk.com to view live autism presentations from leaders in the field. National and local autism providers shared their knowledge with event participants from 9am - 5pm.

Visit 2021walkwithus.com to view recorded panel discussions and find local community resources.



2,067
Individuals Served
in 2020



Total Amount
Raised in Sponsorships
\$65,800

Increased Sponsorships
from 2019 by
70%



FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

OPERATING REVENUE

Contributions and Grants	\$123,457	(58%)
Special Events	\$90,392	(42%)
Other Revenue	\$ - - - -	(0%)
Total	\$213,849	100%

OPERATING EXPENSES

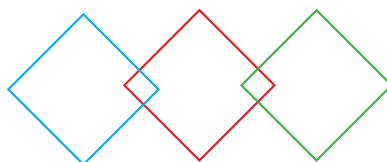
Program Expenses	\$77,114	(45%)
Administration Expenses	\$24,659	(14%)
Fundraising Expenses	\$68,422	(40%)
Total	\$170,195	100%

ASSETS

Cash	\$170,789	(100%)
Total	\$170,789	100%

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$7,684	(4%)
Net Assets	\$163,106	(96%)
Total	\$170,789	100%



OUR 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

"I love how interactive the program is and how it has helped me address the behaviors I am seeing in my child right now." and advice."

Parent

"The Autism Society of Southern Arizona has been a very important component in our development as a family living "spectrum life." It's varied offerings, from the Autism Walk, to sensory friendly movies, to meet-ups for kids, have brought us into the community and helped us access resources and make connections that we otherwise would not have known existed. The educational programs for parents and kiddos alike (e.g., Triple P Parenting and Social Butterflies) have given each of us in our family skills that we incorporate in our everyday lives helping us turn days where we seem like we're just surviving into days where we are thriving."

Dani DuBois, Parent

"I am so thankful that the Autism Society of Southern Arizona has put on a 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, Parent

"My son Jayce had successfully learned a new skill of doing laundry by using the ask-say-do method. He understands how to separate his clothes, bedding, gathering household towels. It was enough to get my six year-old daughter interested in what he was doing so our next step is to have him teach her."

Celinda Garcia, Parent

"My child looks forward to the session each week and it has been amazing to see her growth from those connections."

"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