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The Autism Society of America continues to be the largest national grassroots organization serving all affected by autism within the United States. Founded in 1965 by courageous parents who said no to placing their children in state institutions, today, over 100 local and state affiliates are serving families and individuals impacted by autism within their own home community.

The Autism Society of America also continues to be a highly efficient and effective organization in helping individuals with autism maximize their quality of life each and every day. From helping a family secure needed early intervention programs for their child with autism so he or she can be ready for school to helping a graduating high school student with autism find his or her first job, the Autism Society is there.

This report highlights some of the numerous accomplishments of both the Autism Society of America and our local and state affiliates that occurred in 2015.

Sincerely,

Scott Badesch, President & CEO
OUR MISSION AND VISION

Our Mission
Improving the lives of all affected by autism

Our Vision
The Autism Society envisions individuals and families living with autism are able to maximize their quality of life, are treated with the highest level of dignity, and live in a society in which their talents and skills are appreciated and valued.
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Autism Society and its affiliates are committed to these core principles:

➤ We provide services without regard to a person's age, race, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, income level or level of need on the autism spectrum

➤ We strongly encourage and welcome families, professionals and individuals living with autism with opportunities to participate in our governance, on our committees, and as staff members

➤ We partner with others to advance the well-being of all living with autism

➤ We promote individual choice and self-determination of individuals living with autism, aided by parental and guardian advocacy

➤ We recognize a person living with autism can and should be able to maximize his/her quality of life and oppose any denial of their opportunities

➤ We oppose any discrimination and harm directed towards individuals living with autism and their families

➤ We are transparent, responsible and accountable to those we serve, those who support us, and the general community in our stewardship of funds

➤ We assure the confidentiality of our services – and adhere to required confidentiality laws, and regulations pertaining to such services

➤ We strive to ensure our programs, services, and decisions are outcome-driven

➤ We maintain independence from political partisanship and commercial interests

➤ We respect the work of our affiliates and do not engage in actions that enhance one organization at the expense of others

➤ We support data and evidence-based analyses of options informed by broad knowledge of educational, research, clinical, government, business and program services experience

➤ We support an options policy and provide information on all options so individuals can exercise freedom of choice in their decision-making
The Autism Society’s vision is to increase the quality of life of everyone living with autism. When we say “quality of life,” we’re talking about basic human rights that allow people to interact with one another and the world on their own terms. Quality of life indicators such as the ability to communicate, the freedom to choose a career and opportunities for community involvement are essential aspects of the human experience, and we promote treatments, accommodations and acceptance with them in mind.
AUTISM SOCIETY’S STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2014, one year from its 50th anniversary, the Autism Society began strategic planning; a very thorough process was initiated to examine how best the organization could continue to meet the needs of the rapidly growing number of individuals and families impacted by autism throughout the nation. In July 2015, the year-long effort culminated with a very comprehensive strategic plan approved by the Autism Society’s Board of Directors.

The 2015 Strategic Plan was developed with one goal in mind – how can the Autism Society best help the over three million individuals with an autism diagnosis maximize their quality of life throughout their lifespan. Per the Autism Society’s goal of helping a person throughout their life, the plan was developed to identify lifespan milestones that enable all with an autism diagnosis to progress to achieving the highest quality of life possible throughout the individual’s life. Additionally, to assure responsiveness to individuals and families as well as donors, the Autism Society will begin measuring our success by assessing lifespan outcomes being achieved.

The Autism Society, in partnership with volunteers and staff from the over 100 local and state affiliates, has established a strong strategic plan which advances the well being of all with an autism diagnosis to always maximize their quality of life. As part of the plan’s implementation, the Autism Society is making sure that measurable outcomes are defined and assessed to best help individuals.

The new strategic plan was designed around 5 core services: Information & Referral, Support, Community, Advocacy, and Education.

To learn more about these 5 core services, and to read about the 15 outcome measures, please click on the links below:


The Autism Society of America continued to advocate and represent the needs of all impacted by autism. To this end, in 2015, the priority advocacy efforts of the organization were:

➤ Support improved implementation of the Workplace Improvement Opportunity Act (WIOA) to maximize employment outcomes, including refinements to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

➤ Support "employment first" policies as a strategy to increase opportunities for competitive, integrated employment of individuals with autism.

➤ Build infrastructure and create incentives for employers, as well as other solutions that will expand work opportunities for individuals with autism in integrated employment at competitive wages.
Program Service Accomplishments:

➤ Reauthorize IDEA and reject any legislation that results in diminution of the guarantee of a free, appropriate, public education.

➤ Change the age for transition planning back to Age 14 for all states.

➤ Fully fund all components of IDEA and provide increased funding for Head Start, and other early intervention programs.
Raising awareness of autism is part of everything we do. The Autism Society founded National Autism Awareness Month, which helps focus attention on autism in April every year. The United States recognizes April as a special opportunity for everyone to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community and foster acceptance and appreciation of individuals on the autism spectrum as the valued members of our community that they are. The Autism Society is also the home of the Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon, one of the most recognizable cause-related symbols.

In 2015, the Autism Society launched the #AutismUniquelyYou campaign, which focused on appreciating the differences and uniqueness of every individual on the autism spectrum representing all support needs.
In 2015, the Autism Society of America continued the ongoing efforts of making sure that individuals and families impacted by autism were informed about issues impacting their well being.

**Autism Advocate**

In 2015, the Autism Society continued to publish editions of the *Autism Advocate*: our flagship digital magazine reaching Autism Society members, supporters and professionals. The magazine offered a diverse collection of the latest issues in autism (e.g., employment, education, environmental health, therapies/interventions, adult issues, caregiving, etc.), Autism Society news, personal perspectives of families and individuals living with autism, and tips from parents and professionals.

**Communications and Website**

- Facebook fans: 633,000+
- Twitter followers: 82,000+
- Listing of resources maintained on www.autism-society.org: 35,000+
- Autism Society monthly email newsletter subscribers: 100,000+
In 2015, the Autism Society hosted its 46th National Conference and Exposition in Denver, Colorado. The conference uniquely addresses autism and its comprehensive issues, which include early intervention, education, employment, communication, social skills, and other issues across the lifespan. With over 1,000 in attendance, our three-day conference provided individuals, families and professionals an opportunity to hear keynote speakers such as Jane McGonigal, Michelle Garcia Winner, Lucy Jane Miller, Margaret Bauman, Temple Grandin and more. Attendees could choose from 100 breakout sessions on topics of interest to those impacted by autism. Over 80 companies and organizations that provide autism-related supports and services participated in our Exposition. Bringing together the expertise and experiences of family members, professionals and individuals on the autism spectrum, attendees are able to learn how to effectively advocate and obtain supports for the individual with autism.

The evaluations from those attending the conference once again showed that this conference, the oldest and longest running national conference is highly valued in terms of networking, information gathering and learning.
In 2015, the Autism Society of America’s National Contact Center, which operates from 9 am to 9 pm Eastern Standard Time, five days a week and AutismSource™, our national resource database accomplished the following:

➤ Answered calls live 81% of the time.

➤ Maintained a less than one day response for calls and emails.

➤ 10% increase in email inquiry volume

➤ Comprehensive quality assurance surveys - average ratings of 4.91 out of 5 for all established criteria

➤ 80 affiliates nationwide set up on our inquiry and resource database to serve their local communities.
The Autism Society relies upon the tremendous work and support of our local and state affiliates. Local and state affiliates are the primary approach through which the Autism Society helps individuals and families throughout the United States.

The Autism Society has local affiliates, state affiliates or a combination of both in almost every state. Our local affiliates serve various cities, towns and counties through the United States. State affiliates may serve the entire state or the communities not served by the local affiliates. If a local community does not have an affiliate serving its residents, the Autism Society National office supports the needs of individuals and families by providing Information and Referral services, advocacy and education.

To find your local or state affiliate, please visit: http://www.autism-society.org/about-the-autism-society/affiliate-network/
2015 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Revenue

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$1,676,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Conference</td>
<td>$298,801</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>$233,780</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$243,262</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Support</td>
<td>$173,602</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$44,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,669,648</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses

Program Expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Services</td>
<td>$1,157,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Awareness</td>
<td>$793,029</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Policy &amp; Advocacy</td>
<td>$529,531</td>
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Support Services:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$555,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$84,596</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenses:** $3,120,689

Change in net assets: $(451,041)*

*Includes $400,000 Board approved one-time investments in the National - Affiliate network.
The Autism Society’s Board of Directors is composed of dedicated volunteer representatives, many of whom are parents of persons with autism. The Board, chaired by James Ball, Ed.D., BCBA-D, serves as the governing body of the organization and sets the vision for the Society’s future. Through active use of standing and ad hoc committees, the national Board carries out its goal of fulfilling the Autism Society’s mission while also being responsive to the needs of its members and the autism community.

Joseph P. Joyce, CPCU, CWCA, Executive Chair
Lori A. Ireland, Vice Chair
Sergio Mariaca, Secretary
Tracey Staley, Treasurer
James Ball, Ed.D., BCBA-D, Immediate Past Chair
Scott Badesch, President/CEO
Donna G. Andrus, P.E.
Jon Basinger
Andrew Bauman
Richard Bohne
Michael J. Brown, Esq.
Catherine Purple Cherry, AIA, LEED AP
Barbara Becker Cottrill
Kevin Custer
Andres Filippi
John Hussman, Ph.D.
Terry Murphy
Kate Palmer
Lars Perner, Ph.D., PSA Chair
Vicki Regan
Richard Wolf

Honorary Board Members:
Temple Grandin, Ph.D.
Ruth Christ Sullivan, Ph.D.

Copies of board of directors meeting minutes are available upon request.

Information about each board member, including their bio, can be found at: http://www.autism-society.org/about-the-autism-society/boardadvisors/board-of-directors/
Better Business Bureau Designation

The Autism Society and its affiliates meets all 20 Better Business Bureau (BBB) Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability. The BBB Wise Giving Alliance is a national charity monitoring organization affiliated with the Better Business Bureau system.
The Autism Society appreciates its many donors and volunteers who help us fulfill our mission of improving the lives of all affected by autism. Together, we are stronger.

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www.autism-society.org