

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Anderson Center for Autism



Optimizing the
quality of life
for individuals
with autism.

Dear Friends,

We are so pleased to share with you our inaugural annual report. May you enjoy learning more about our growth and myriad accomplishments over the past year - and, at the heart of it all, an unwavering commitment to a cause that extends well beyond our organization.

The sense that each of us at Anderson Center for Autism is part of something much bigger than ourselves was especially palpable over the past few years. The challenges of the global health crisis were unprecedented; but crisis, of course, is always accompanied by opportunity. The pandemic revealed pockets of underserved communities, and we felt compelled to respond. Our team planned strategically, invested wisely, and expanded confidently, ultimately bridging gaps by making our evidence-based programs and services available to several new communities in our region.

As examples, Anderson opened Anderson Early Learning Academy (AELA) preschool programs at Cold Spring Elementary in Pine Plains, NY and, additionally, in Latham, NY - where we also opened The Anderson Center Clinic for the Capital Region. These initiatives maximize potential for individuals with autism while expanding employment opportunities, building awareness, and cultivating a spirit of inclusivity among these communities.

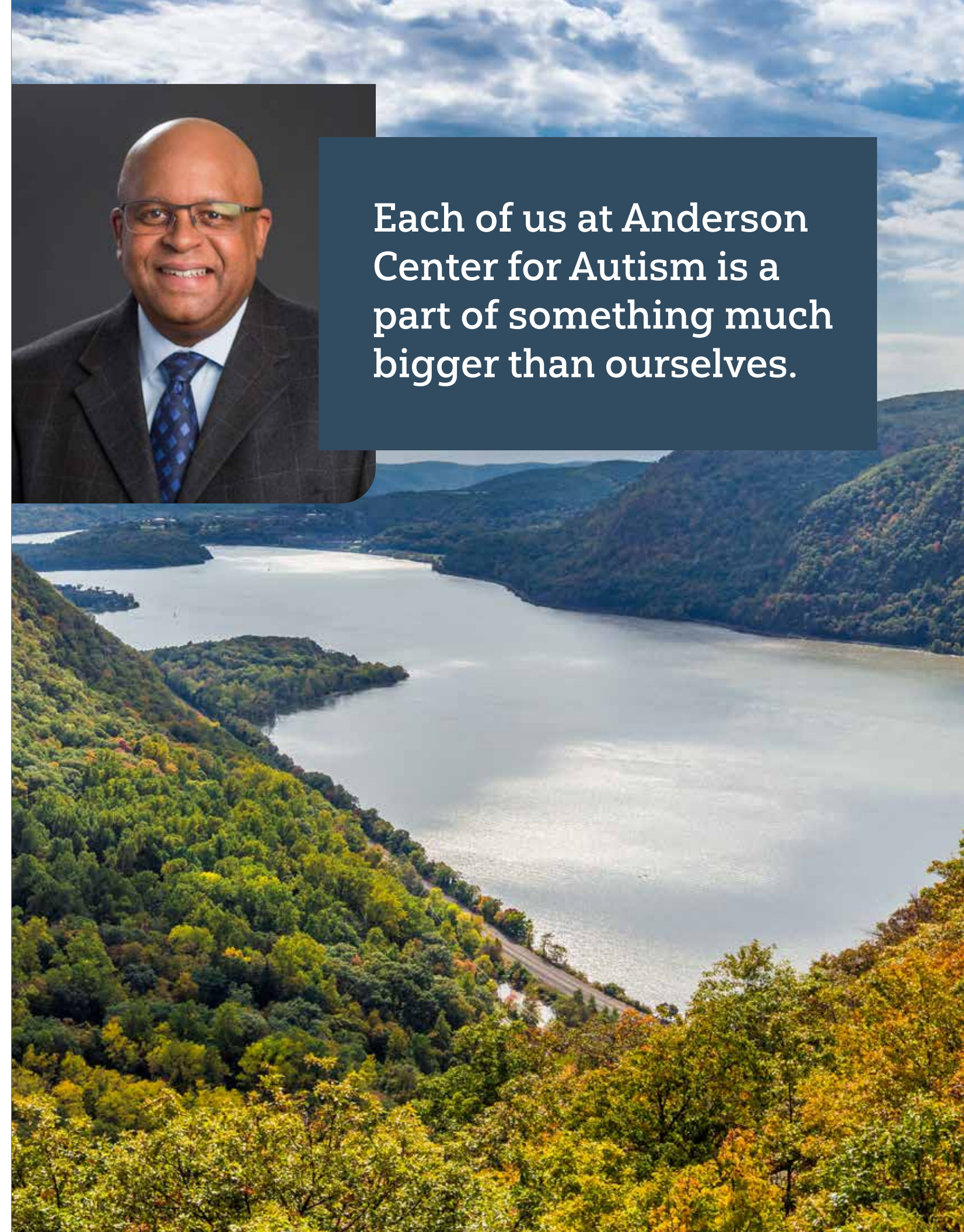
In addition to the aforementioned bricks and mortar locations, Anderson Center for Autism launched Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO®) Autism Anderson. Through a virtual learning model, we now proactively share our expertise with school faculty and staff from all over the United States, empowering them with tools and knowledge to help them better educate and support students with autism.

And all of our other programs likewise continue to gain momentum. Anderson Center Consulting & Training continuously adds to its roster of businesses, schools, organizations, and municipalities who have gained designation as "Autism Supportive". Anderson Center International enlightens more and more scholars each year - from all corners of the globe - who, upon returning to their home countries, establish desperately-needed programs for individuals with autism. And our Staatsburg campus is home to a growing number of success stories for students and residents in our educational, vocational, and residential programs. All of this is possible because of the collective dedication, insight, intelligence, and compassion of our team, families, caregivers, supporters, and volunteers.

It is a great honor and privilege to help shape Anderson's legacy. Please know that we are ever grateful to all of you who invest time, talent, and treasure in this meaningful work of optimizing the Quality of Life for individuals with autism.



Patrick D. Paul
CEO/Executive Director



Each of us at Anderson Center for Autism is a part of something much bigger than ourselves.

Leading up to our 100th birthday,

we reflected on the learning, growth, and discovery that have shaped our success story. We are extremely proud to volunteer as Board Chairs for such a forward-thinking, impactful organization dedicated to enhancing Quality of Life for individuals with autism - and we are incredibly excited and ready for all that lies ahead!

Since our inception in 1924, we have been innovative problem solvers, expanding and evolving along the way - but ever mindful of the needs of those we serve. Today, we are a fiscally strong, highly regarded, award-winning leader in our field. We know how to harness the power of technology and evidence-based programs to achieve results. We transform challenges into opportunities. We confidently bridge gaps and build new initiatives. And - perhaps most importantly - we put compassion into action every single day, leading with a sense of our shared humanity.

All of that is only possible because of the inspiring group of human beings behind Anderson Center for Autism. It begins with children and adults who share a diagnosis of autism; they strive every day to open worlds and achieve milestones. It extends to family members and caregivers who are steadfastly committed to advocacy and collaboration. And our expert, visionary team members at Anderson, who deliver top-notch vocational, educational, consultative, and residential programs and services in a nurturing atmosphere.

Our circle also includes volunteers and our fellow trustees, who share boundless energy and countless hours with students, residents, and families - and community groups who work with us to acquire the knowledge needed to be more accommodating. And then there are our local, regional, and national leaders who champion diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion. And through Anderson Center International, the scholars who come from all over the world to pursue training with us so that they can establish much-needed programs for individuals with autism in their home countries. And of course, the philanthropists, foundations, businesses, and individual donors who invest in our organization and make a lasting, meaningful impact through giving.

We are grateful to all of the aforementioned and many more. In addition to contributing to our success at Anderson Center for Autism, you are all part of a larger movement in our society and the world - a movement rooted in the belief that every person deserves to experience a fulfilling life.

As we make our next trip around the sun, our wish is that we will all continue to learn, grow, and discover so that individuals with autism can enjoy the highest quality of life possible - for centuries to come.

With gratitude,



You are part of
a movement
rooted in the
belief that
every person
deserves
to experience
a fulfilling life.



Philip J. Bronzi
Chair, Anderson Center for Autism
& Anderson Center Services, Inc.



Kevin Kollar
Chair, Anderson Foundation
for Autism

It is our great privilege to share highlights of a recent conversation between two individuals whose lives have been shaped in distinct ways because of their roles with Anderson Center for Autism.



Vance Gage is a direct descendant of the organization's founder, and **Kevin Kollar** is the parent of a young man who thrives as a resident here. Vance and Kevin, who have both served as trustees, bring past, present, and future together in this informative and fascinating exchange.



Kevin: Vance, what is your affiliation with Anderson Center for Autism?

Vance: In 1924, my grandfather - Dr. V.V. Anderson - started a small special needs school in Shrewsbury, New Jersey. Two years later in 1926, he purchased an estate on the Hudson River in Staatsburg New York, to which he moved the entire operation and officially established The Anderson School. I grew up on the campus and returned as a teacher in 1963. In 1975, the Anderson-Gage family sold the school, but the good work went on. By 1978, I came back to continue my teaching career there. Incidentally, in my last year of teaching at Anderson, I taught one of the original seven students with autism, Greg C. I relocated to Washington, D.C. to begin the next chapter of my professional journey at Maret, a private college preparatory school. By 2002, Anderson Center for Autism had really solidified its specialty in autism, and then-CEO Neil J. Pollack invited my mother and I back for a visit. It had been many years since we had seen the campus, and we were incredibly impressed by the evolution and expansion of the program. A few years later, I returned for another tour with my niece, a private school librarian in D.C. It was once again a very positive experience; we saw improvements had been made to the campus and toured several IRAs. Neil extended an invitation to me to serve on Anderson's Board of Trustees, and the answer was a resounding 'yes.' I have remained actively involved with the agency ever since.

Vance: Kevin, can you describe your relationship with Anderson as well?

Kevin: Thank you for asking, Vance. Our relationship with Anderson Center for Autism

started about 10 years ago when we made what was - at that time - the very painful choice to place our son Owen in full-time residential care here. It turned out to be one of the best decisions we ever made for him and for our family. We all quickly felt right at home. And in the years since, in addition to the programs, services, and people who have helped Owen make tremendous strides, our entire family has had the chance to build relationships with a community that's been so supportive of us every step of the way. We have been involved with Anderson Family Partners, I have been a Trustee for Anderson Center International, and I currently serve as Chair of Anderson Foundation for Autism's Board of Trustees. We are so grateful to have found an organization who has done so much for our son, and with whom we have been able to build a real partnership.

Kevin: Vance, imagine for a moment that you could give Dr. Anderson a tour of Anderson Center for Autism today. What do you think would most surprise and delight him?

Vance: There's an easy answer for that: the physical plant. In 1926, there were just a few buildings on campus - a riverfront mansion called Mansewood, the burned-out ruins of a house just to the south of it formerly called Inwood, and a few farm outbuildings. By the mid-1940's there were ten buildings on campus: four dorms, a classroom, an administration building, a gymnasium, a dining hall, and faculty housing. My grandfather oversaw the construction and financing of all of these buildings and took great pride in seeing Anderson grow in physical size. This also included the building of a new residence (in the 1950's) for he and my grandmother on the site of Inwood (which later became Dellinwood). I think he would be very impressed by the sheer number of new buildings that exist on campus now that house so many programs and services for individuals with autism. And what would likely please him the most is the impressive administration building, formerly South Hall, which was Malcolm Hall before being renamed The Spruces. It is the epicenter of Anderson's work, and is partially constructed from stones quarried right on the campus.

Vance: Kevin, from a parent perspective, what would you say have been the cornerstones of Anderson's success with students and residents?

Kevin: There are a few things I would mention - one of which is a point you made which I will echo - which is that the campus and facilities are truly extraordinary. Our own journey took us to other schools and residences for individuals with autism, but - bar none - Anderson is the place where families can immediately feel comfortable. And not just with the physical space - but with our model, which is very unique. We focus on LifeLong LearningSM and providing a tailored plan to service the needs of every individual at every stage; definitely a cornerstone of our work toward optimizing the quality of life for individuals with autism. But none of that would happen without our team. Everything else pales in comparison to them. It makes me emotional and grateful when I consider the dedication and care they bring to their work every single day. I am truly astounded by the selflessness and expertise of this group of people; they are really the cornerstones of Anderson's success - and, ultimately, the reason behind the quality of life for Anderson Center students and residents like our son.

Kevin: Vance, in what ways do you think Anderson's mission has aligned with Dr. Anderson's initial vision?

Vance: My grandfather's vision of developing programs for people with special needs began when he was Director of Research for R.H. Macy's in the early 1920's. He traced what was termed as "job failures" there to dysfunctional family units. A possible solution, he thought, would be to deal with those employees in a private school setting. He viewed those early students as "emotionally disturbed" but with high academic potential that could be unleashed in a supportive psychiatric environment. This vision gained momentum when Anderson received New York State Regents Accreditation in the late 1930's. Thus, the school essentially became a "special needs" psychiatrically-oriented institution that prepared students for college. This unique vision was the school's focus from inception until it changed ownership in the 1980's and eventually became Anderson Center for Autism in the early 2000's. Although the focus shifted from "emotionally disturbed" to autism, the mission today is very much aligned with all that the organization has focused on since 1924.

Vance: Kevin, can you comment on the impact that Anderson Center for Autism has had on your life?

Kevin: It's a great question and the impact has been immeasurable. I think about the success that we've seen with our son who's been cared for and developed thanks to the incredible work of the folks at Anderson - it has been truly remarkable and makes me emotional. Things we never thought he could do or achieve, he is now doing and achieving. For us as parents, our goal is for him to live a happy, fulfilled life - and I can honestly say that he has been able to do that to the best of his abilities, thanks to Anderson. We have not only been given the joy of an even stronger relationship with Owen, but have also been able to reexamine and strengthen the other relationships within our family. As you can imagine for families of children with severe autism, for years we had focused all of our time and energy on meeting Owen's needs - and now we have a partner to help us do that, which has made all the difference in our lives.

Kevin: Vance, when you think about your ongoing role with Anderson and the organization's significance in a larger societal movement, for what are you most grateful?

Vance: I am very grateful that the organization carries my grandfather's namesake. Dr. V.V. Anderson was truly a pioneer in the field of psychiatry - and that has been attested to by the many accolades he received from his peers throughout his life. Anderson School became a leader in the field early on, in large part because of my grandfather's sterling reputation and his commitment to people with special needs. I am so grateful that the organization has honored his work by continuing to bear his name. In addition, I am thankful that the leadership and staff of Anderson Center for Autism today are likewise deeply devoted to the important cause at the heart of my grandfather's legacy.

Vance: Kevin, what is the single most important message you want people to hear when you talk about the significance of Anderson Center for Autism - not only in the lives of individuals with autism, but also in our greater society?

Kevin: Even as recently as just 30 years ago, services like this didn't exist. So, children in families just like ours who needed intense focus and effort were often left to - in many ways - some rather dire and/or difficult circumstances. And the organizations that supported them were put under tremendous stress, and families were put into tough situations, and

from a larger societal standpoint, these individuals with autism were tucked away and could not possibly realize their potential. We've created a model that supports those impacted by autism and their families, even helping them integrate within their own society in collaboration with local neighborhoods and towns. We've been a beneficiary of that kind of community integration right here in the Hudson Valley. For example, many people who live in our town of Rhinebeck know Owen well, understand how to be accommodating, and embrace our entire family in a special way. It's been a great gift for all of us, and demonstrates the power of this model that Anderson has put in place.

Vance: And Kevin, as president of our Foundation Board, can you provide an example of impactful ways to support Anderson?

Kevin: One example is through restricted, purpose-driven donations; we have had many donors make gifts that are earmarked for specific needs identified by Anderson - such as improvements to group homes, community outreach efforts, recreational equipment, and other areas of donor interest. Our circle of support is incredibly generous, and every donation makes an impact on the lives of the members of our Anderson family.

Vance Gage will be honored at Anderson's Centennial Celebration Gala on Saturday, September 28, 2024. To reserve tickets or sponsorships, visit: andersoncenterforautism.org/gala.



Our circle of support is incredibly generous, and every donation makes an impact on the lives of the members of our Anderson family.

Eliza Bozenski

Chief Development Officer at Anderson Foundation for Autism, on Giving Opportunities



Anderson Foundation for Autism (AFA) was developed initially to support un-funded or under-funded initiatives of Anderson Center for Autism (ACA).

AFA's mission is the same as ACA's: to optimize the quality of life for individuals with autism. How AFA fulfills this mission, however, differs. ACA does so through direct service provision. AFA raises funds through grants, events, and direct donations to help ACA develop and maintain programs and opportunities for the individuals we serve.

If you consider what it means to "optimize" someone's quality of life, which, of course, is going to be unique to every person, you can easily see that this takes creativity, care, and expertise. It also requires the ability to pursue myriad opportunities that cater to each unique individual and what comes together for them as a life of quality. AFA exists so that ACA can seize opportunities for which they do not have resources.

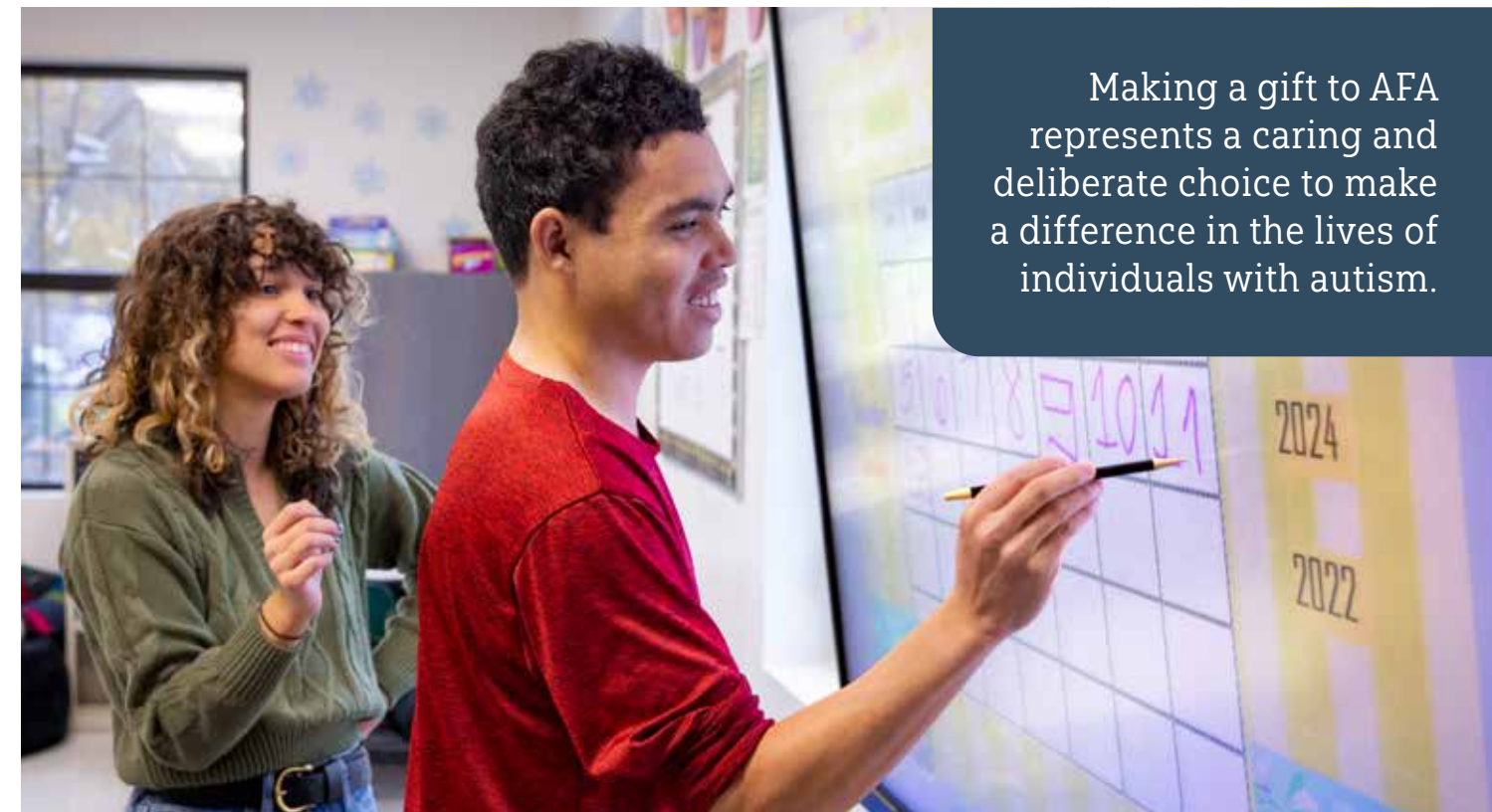
One example is AFA's campaign to pay our Direct Support Professionals a living wage, which has helped ACA attract and retain employees in a field that typically deals with high turnover. AFA also supports creative, un-funded endeavors, such as our LifeLong LearningSM programs, by providing grants to Anderson's adult services department to support the Adaptive Design program and our

latest (and possibly cutest) initiative called Belly Grub. Through the Belly Grub program, adults spend several hours each week making and packaging dog treats at a local facility, which are then donated to local animal shelters. These community integration opportunities expand awareness while cultivating a culture that embraces acceptance. In addition, the individuals who participate enjoy increased independence and skill development.

Making a gift to AFA represents a caring and deliberate choice to impact the lives of individuals with autism. AFA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Whether you make a restricted gift earmarked for a specific program, location, or purpose - or you choose to keep your donation unrestricted - your funds will be appreciated, utilized responsibly, and carry with them the same sense of purpose and meaning as you intended. ACA is the largest service provider in New York, specifically focusing on working with autistic people. AFA, as we exist to support ACA and the autism community, takes stewardship, communication, fiscal responsibility, and follow-through seriously. As you consider a donation and, in the months and years that follow, we will be in touch, asking and clarifying questions as needed - and answering any of your questions as they arise. Each donation makes a difference, and we want you to feel confident about your decision to give to Anderson and enjoy every step of the charitable giving experience.

Since how this can be done varies, we encourage interested donors to reach out to our team in Anderson's Development department or consult with your attorney or financial advisor. These gifts - along with every donation - will help us optimize the quality of life for individuals with autism for decades to come.

Learn more about giving opportunities at Anderson Center for Autism / Anderson Foundation for Autism at andersoncenterforautism.org/giving.



Making a gift to AFA represents a caring and deliberate choice to make a difference in the lives of individuals with autism.

Jeffrey and Tondra Lynford

Harnessing the Power of Philanthropy



At the time Tondra Lynford's daughter, Dylan, was a young child (early 80's), there was very little knowledge about or awareness of autism in the professional world of mental health or education.

Explained Tondra: "Those individuals and organizations providing services worked with two major concepts of Learning Disability - mental retardation and emotional disturbance. For myself and other parents of kids with special needs, this meant reinventing the wheel. In 2008, a New York City psychiatrist, who also had a practice in Kingston, introduced us to Anderson Center for Autism. Only then did Dylan's future begin to take shape. We were warmly welcomed and guided through the admission process by then Executive Director, Neil Pollack. The door was finally opened to knowledgeable, well-trained professionals - and, of course, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)."

Jeff continued by saying: "It is so important to add that we had a real basis of comparison to conclude how strong Anderson's program was. Anderson had long been delivering evidence-based programs designed to meet the specific needs of individual residents. We believed that Dylan would be safe, compassionately cared for, and belong to a real community. We have not been disappointed."

Tondra went on to share that in the years since Dylan moved to Anderson: "There has been an upward trajectory in quality and delivery of services. Anderson staff are hard at work exploring both new successful practices in the field and expanding a national and international leadership role. Their reputation for innovation and excellence has solidified. It is all done with true commitment and compassion for those in their care."

The joy that has come from watching Dylan grow and flourish at Anderson has catalyzed a personal quest for the pair: to use their time, talent, and treasure in ways that will secure a strong future for the organization.

Jeff stated: "We want to do our part to help ensure that Anderson is well-positioned to

continue carrying out its mission for decades to come. Anderson has provided our family with comfort while giving Dylan safety and boundaries. They have helped her understand and build the concept of "Good Will" into her life. Tondra and I continually explain what it means for her to build good will, to care and respond to others. Although Dylan will never live independently, she is living a full life now and continues, with the help of staff, to understand the importance of connecting with others."

In addition to having experienced Dylan's previous schools and programs, Jeff and Tondra also had professional backgrounds that gave them the insight needed to see what they had discovered at Anderson. Tondra, a Clinical Social Worker, is a Co-Founder of IncludeNYC (formerly Resources for Children with Special Needs). Jeff is CEO of Educational Housing Services (EHS) and Vice Chairman of the NY Port Authority. For many years, Jeff and Tondra, residents of New York City and Hyde Park, have dedicated themselves to improving the lives of others, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

And speaking of Good Will, the infectious spirit of generosity that the Lynfords exude has manifested in all kinds of contributions to Anderson. They have actively supported a multitude of fundraisers and events. Additionally, Tondra has served as Trustee for Anderson Foundation for Autism, Anderson Center for Autism, and Anderson Center International. Along with other parents and Anderson Trustees, Kevin Kollar, Susan Angeles, Jeanne Raichle, and Jackie Glover, Tondra worked to launch Anderson Family Partners (AFP). In addition to providing resources and support for families of Anderson students and residents, the group raises funds and awareness.

Jeff noted: "When you think about any movement, you realize that it begins by building community. That is exactly what this group did when they developed AFP. They created a structure where families could work together to raise money, advocate for expanded government support, and develop valuable relationships. Among their efforts, Tondra and other AFP members have traveled to Albany and Washington, DC to meet with many elected officials to explain why the wider autism community needs their help."

Tondra continued: "AFP has also provided families sharing a very unique life experience to express concerns freely, talk about challenges, share victories, and 'roll up their sleeves' to get things done that will benefit our kids. It was from the beginning –and continues to be –a strong, cohesive group. I believe that all Anderson parents want passionately to do whatever possible to improve the lives of their children."

AFP is just one of many initiatives that the Lynfords have helped develop and sustain. One trip overseas, to Bhutan, led the couple to a substantial investment in the success of Anderson Center International (ACI), a program which attracts Scholars from around the world who receive on-site Anderson training needed to support the launch of programs for autism in their countries of origin.

Tondra describes: "In Bhutan, we were invited to visit several schools. We witnessed heartbreaking scenes of children with autism 'stimming' in corners for hours on end. Teachers had no idea how to penetrate the silence. The staff focus was on containment and control.



The Anderson staff value our children, they keep them safe and healthy. They do everything possible to help them reach their potential.



I knew this could be better. Jeff and I connected one of the teachers to Anderson, knowing that if the country was willing to take on a leadership role by investing in the ACI concept, the return would be immeasurable. The Bhutan Foundation embraced the idea and sponsored a Scholar to travel to the US and join the ACI program. Within two years after her return, this ACI Scholar had taught several additional regional teachers and established two autism-focused programs in Bhutan. We have had Bhutanese students every year since that time. ACI, itself, has grown enormously and has proven to be a healthy and fruitful addition to the Anderson community.”

The Lynfords say that Dylan’s experience at Anderson greatly inspires this kind of philanthropic and humanitarian work. They seem to feel a deep sense that they are “carrying it forward.”

Tondra reflects: “For the first 30 years of Dylan’s life, we received nothing but negative feedback about her behaviors. Since Anderson that has all changed. It’s a new movie! She is now purposeful, happy, and even social. Now people smile and ask if I am ‘Dylan’s mom.’ Then they tell me how they enjoy her good humor and personality. I cannot describe the pride this brings to me. I often think about the fact that nobody receives a bill for this precious gift. We will never take that for granted.”

Jeff adds: “Although many families cannot afford to make a financial gift, they might have friends and extended family who can. Almost everyone can give time, talent, or find ways to raise funds indirectly. For example, we organized a ‘Campaign for Dylan’s Porch’, which secured over \$15,000 for Anderson with modest contributions from many individuals toward the repair of a porch at Dylan’s residence. A significant portion of that total came from people who had never donated to Anderson before. We made more than enough to restore the porch which Dylan and her housemates love.”

For the Lynfords, harnessing the power of philanthropy for Anderson is about making life better for individuals and families touched by autism. The Lynford Family Charitable Trust has other areas of giving as well. One read-through of their website is a reminder that Jeff and Tondra lead by example, deeply committed to building a legacy rooted in a shared sense of humanity.

Tondra reflected: “There is a quote I love that beautifully describes how, when your child is born, a piece of your heart goes out into the world.”

The Lynfords have certainly shared their hearts in boundless ways, in honor of their boundless love for Dylan.

Tondra concluded: “Anderson is an extended family for all of us who have loved ones benefiting from their care and services. The Anderson staff value our children, they keep them safe and healthy. They do everything possible to help them reach their potential. They give the opportunity for a meaningful life and create a space for personal dignity. This is all priceless—and each of us can do something to honor it. Every parent can do a fundraiser, and online platforms make it very easy. Every one of us can give back –and it feels wonderful to do so.”

The Penas Family

Learning, Growth, and Discovery



Matteo Penas was just a toddler when his parents, Christine and Marcelo, noticed that he wasn't meeting typical developmental milestones. Although they first believed that their son might be deaf, they had heard the term "autism" and decided to research what had long been a bit of an enigma to most.

Matteo's characteristics aligned with what they were reading about autism, and within a few months, his pediatrician diagnosed him with PDD-NOS (and later, autism).

Since that time, the family has traversed countless metaphorical miles of learning, growth, and discovery - a journey which eventually brought them home to Anderson Center for Autism and the mid-Hudson Valley.

"Although many programs were certainly helpful to Matteo in the earlier years, we always felt that something was missing; it never seemed like his needs were fully being met in the various programs we tried. And once the pandemic started, Matteo's self-injurious behaviors and sleep patterns got exponentially worse. He was clearly struggling with his school and programs shut down - and our entire family struggled along with him. It felt like total chaos in our home, and we knew it was time to explore other options."

While the Penas family felt some sense of relief when Anderson Center for Autism extended the full-time residential/educational placement opportunity for Matteo, the choice to move forward was certainly not without profound pain.

"Enrolling Matteo full-time at Anderson at age 14 will remain one of the most difficult decisions that my husband and I have ever made. I felt so incredibly conflicted, like I was failing as a mom because I couldn't care for him myself. But I also knew that he needed more structure and highly customized programs and services. I also knew that our family needed relief from the chaos; it was simply not sustainable for anyone."

"This is a choice that many parents like us face - and it is especially difficult when you have a child who cannot speak at all. You have to feel total trust in the people and organization who will be caring for this person who you love with all your heart. You are relying on their eyes and ears completely, because someone like Matteo cannot vocalize how he is feeling or what he is experiencing. But we immediately knew that Anderson Center for Autism was the right fit and that we needed to take that step."

"After we dropped Matteo off that first day, we drove to Eveready Diner and just cried and cried. The tears reflected a mix of complex emotions - the deep sadness of not bringing him home with us and the worry and anxiety about how he would do - but also gratitude for finally having the right support after years of living in a state of total hyper-vigilance and sleep deprivation."

Matteo quickly settled into life at Anderson and his team members quickly became an extension of the Penas family, allowing them to find some peace with their choice. Today he attends classes at Anderson Education Center, where he participates in a daily meeting to learn about weather patterns and current events before learning about money, letters, words, and more. Christine noted that Matteo is even learning how to communicate with his device, which will open worlds for all of them.

In his house on Anderson's beautiful campus, Matteo works on hygiene routines and household chores like laundry and meal cleanup. He often has dinner with his family on Wednesday evenings and spends time on the weekends with them as well; in addition to that, he enjoys playing basketball and doing yoga at Anderson's Recreation Center or going on excursions with his peers out into the community to see baseball games or go bowling, among other activities.

Christine, Marcelo, and Matteo's siblings (Eva, Cassandra, and Robert) celebrate Matteo's progress and their own newfound sense of well-being too.

Said Christine: "Life is so different for us now; there is so much less stress. I can be more present than before to our other kids, and we have been able to more fully enjoy our marriage because we have so much more energy. It is still hard, of course, but we know that Matteo is happy and deeply cared for. Now all of us can really thrive."

Although the new chapter in their life story was first marked by Matteo finding a sense of place at Anderson, they too have come home to the Hudson Valley. After living in West Babylon, NY, for over five decades, Christine and Marcelo relocated to Poughkeepsie to be close to Matteo.

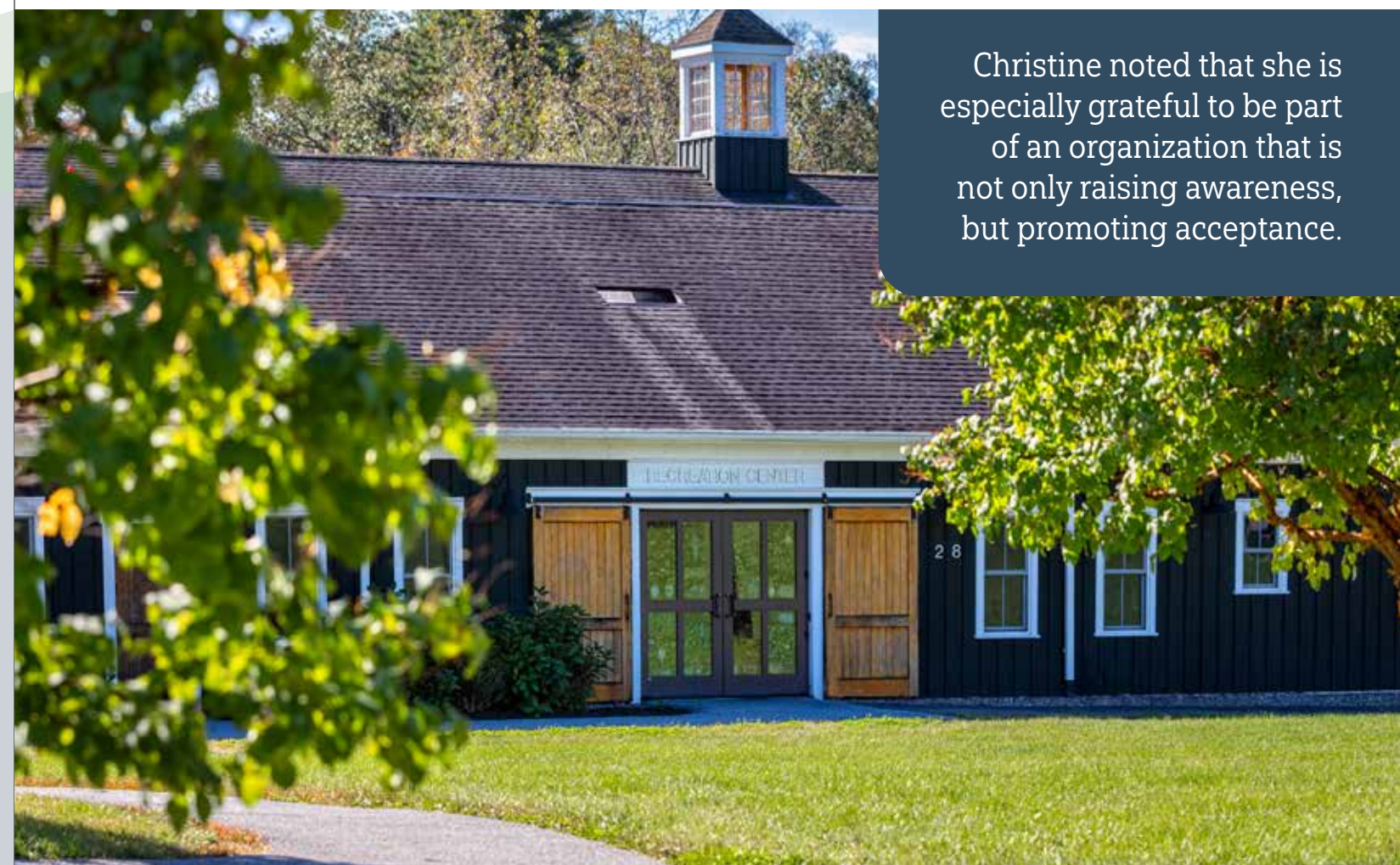
They love the proximity to their son, and what's more, they have built a sense of community in the few years since they arrived in the region. Christine quickly embraced the chance to get involved with Anderson Family Partners (AFP), a network of parents, caregivers, and siblings of Anderson Center residents and students. She has served as Vice President, and is currently AFP's President.

"It is one way for me to feel like I can personally do something that benefits my son and gives back to Anderson Center for Autism too. And it makes me feel connected to a great community; I've gotten to know so many other parents who really understand our journey. Everyone who is involved and all who have paved the way are nothing short of amazing - so many supportive, kind, caring people who have contributed so much. And the staff are incredible too - they help us get engaged with advocacy efforts and provide resources every time we want to raise funds or host an event."

Christine noted that she is especially grateful to be part of an organization that is not only raising awareness, but promoting acceptance.

"Awareness has been growing, but acceptance has been slower to come along. However, there is so much understanding among community members here in Dutchess County about autism, and Anderson helped make that happen. It truly makes a difference for families like ours. I am glad to be advocating for the I/DD community and serving on the Anderson Family Partners Board. My energy is still focused on the betterment of my son's life, and this all helps me feel connected to his world and empowered."

And, with the Penas family as part of our extended family at Anderson, no doubt there will be many milestones ahead - not just for Matteo, but for all who are impacted by autism.



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Anderson Programs

Award-Winning & Evidence-Based

Adult/Children's Programs at Anderson Center for Autism

As the need for services grows, we enthusiastically continue to expand our Adult and Children's offerings at Anderson Center for Autism.

- Rooted in Applied Behavior Analysis, our educational, vocational, and residential programs have always been customized to maximize potential for each individual
- All are carried out in nurturing environments that cultivate confidence, well-being, and connection

In addition to our steadfast commitment to optimizing the quality of life for individuals with autism, we are dedicated to optimizing the quality of life for Anderson team members as well. They are at the heart of our success, and we have recently launched new initiatives to retain, reward, and attract top-notch professionals, including a generous, robust benefits package, mentorship and career pathway programs, and a wellness initiative.

Anderson Center International

When it comes to building capacity, we think locally, we think regionally, and we think GLOBALLY - now working to train people from countries all over the world.



For more than a decade, Anderson Center International (ACI) has been training professionals and students pursuing work in the autism field. As part of ACI's stipend-based program, these scholars can experience a unique learning opportunity at our Staatsburg, NY campus over a 12-18 month period.

During their stay, ACI scholars:

- Acquire the skills and confidence needed to develop and operate premier programs for individuals with autism when they return home
- Gain depth and breadth of knowledge in topics such as Applied Behavior Analysis, Positive Behavioral Outcomes, Instructional Support in the Classroom, Behavior Management Techniques, Strategies to Promote Communication, Communicating with Family Members, and Reporting and Data Management

As part of our commitment to bring our Quality of Life movement to all corners of the globe, we have been working to promote ACI's program to officials of countries for whom autism care and education have not previously existed. By garnering their support, we can train more scholars and build bridges all over the world.

Anderson Center Consulting & Training

Through Anderson Center Consulting & Training (ACCT), we endeavor to provide a wide range of people and groups with the knowledge and training needed to support autistic and neurodivergent individuals.



ACCT offers:

- Consulting and training to parents and caregivers
- Behavioral and educational consultation to school districts, service providers, agencies, private schools, businesses, and others that serve individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other neurodiversities
- Training for corporations, municipalities, organizations, and community groups who wish to gain designation as “Autism Supportive”
- ACCT has empowered hundreds of trainees with the tools and strategies over the years, and we are just getting started.

ECHO Autism Anderson

ECHO Autism Anderson is a case-based learning platform focused specifically on school personnel from all over the country and world. The collaborative professional development experience provides participants with an opportunity to connect and learn from experts in the autism field; it is conducted virtually and led by a team of experts called a HUB. Using specific case studies, HUB experts lead discussions that shed light on the strategies deemed most effective in promoting success for autistic and neurodivergent students.

The concept is especially important given the fact that some schools cannot afford to hire specialists who understand evidence-based teaching practices and how to manage behavior across disciplines. Through ECHO Autism Anderson, therapists and teachers from those underserved communities can learn from highly qualified, experienced professionals and gain the tools to unlock potential for their students with autism.

The Anderson Center Clinic and Early Learning Academy

One of our proudest achievements over the past few years is the fact that we have taken dramatic steps toward developing a continuum of care for individuals with autism throughout their life cycles.

- We recently opened The Anderson Center Clinic and Anderson Early Learning Academy in Latham, providing long-awaited services to the Capital District region
- We have continued to develop Anderson Early Learning Academy at Cold Spring Elementary in Pine Plains
- We are building a workforce of specialists through a recently-formed collaboration with Empire State University, which allows students to gain hands-on work and internship experiences as they pursue their degrees

We aspire to provide the support, resources, and experiences needed to optimize the quality of life for individuals with autism at every age and stage of life.



From early childhood through all stages of adulthood, we offer the support, resources, and experiences needed to optimize the quality of life for individuals with autism.



Financial Statements

2023 Overview

At Anderson Center for Autism, we deeply value fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency - and our team is dedicated to ensuring that we strike the perfect balance between income, expenditures, investments, and savings.

Fiscal Year Ended 2023 (Unaudited)

ASSETS	Anderson Foundation for Autism	Anderson Center for Autism
Cash & Cash Equivalents	611,563	6,220,189
Investments	8,338,619	23,202,396
Accounts Receivable		15,641,095
Pledges Receivable	43,295	
Prepaid Expenses & Other Assets	13,765	1,577,122
Retirement Plan Investments		1,076,897
Property & Equipment, Net		39,576,512
Operating Lease, Right-of-Use Assets		2,469,462
Total Assests	9,007,242	89,763,673

Liabilities and Net Assets

LIABILITIES	Anderson Foundation for Autism	Anderson Center for Autism
Accounts Payable & Other Liabilities	128,687	2,631,270
Benefits Payable		13,790,457
Mortgages/Bonds Payable		26,272,322
Operating Lease		2,707,430
Total Liabilities	128,687	45,401,479

NET ASSETS	Anderson Foundation for Autism	Anderson Center for Autism
Without Donor Restrictions	8,205,231	28,621,347
Without Donor Restrictions Board Designated		14,324,063
With Donor Restrictions	673,325	1,416,784
Total Net Assets	8,878,556	44,362,194
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	9,007,243	89,763,673

Grants

Our team members at Anderson Center for Autism have worked to secure many impressive grants this year. We are incredibly grateful to the wide range of foundations who have supported us, and look forward to building relationships with other grantors as well in the years ahead.

Grantors

- Arts Mid-Hudson
- Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, Inc.
- Dutchess County
- Eastern NY Chapter Air/Waste Management Association
- Empire State Development
- Florence V. Burden Foundation
- The J.M. Kaplan Fund, Inc.
- J.M. McDonald Foundation, Inc.
- The Jacob and Eugenie Bucky Memorial Foundation, Inc.
- Miles Hodsdon Vernon Foundation
- NYS Department of Labor
- PCSB Community Foundation
- State and Municipal Funding
- Stewart’s Shops

- ## Program Support

\$39,310

 - Adaptive Design Expansion for Day Habs Outside Grant
 - Children’s Program
 - Pine Plains PS
 - Tik Talk Social Skills Consulting
 - Violet Avenue Day Hab
- ## Capital Contributions

\$569,209

 - General Operating
 - Dellinwood Building Project
 - Dental Desensitization
 - Latham Live Learn Laugh Grant
 - Latham Sound Baffling
 - SAMS - AEC
 - Bathroom Renovations
- ## Workforce Development

\$126,474

 - Adults DSP Training for Aging
 - NYS DOL Existing Employee Training



Over the past year, Anderson Foundation for Autism raised \$3.6 million to further our mission. This list encompasses those who made monetary or in-kind contributions between January 1 - December 31, 2023. The majority of donors are Anderson family members and Anderson team members, while others are generous members of our community, trustees of our boards, philanthropists, foundations, or corporations. All support our continued development and sustainability - and for that we are deeply grateful.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

* Due to the nature of grant funding, some awards are reflected on the Anderson Foundation for Autism balance sheet; others on the Anderson Center for Autism balance sheet.

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