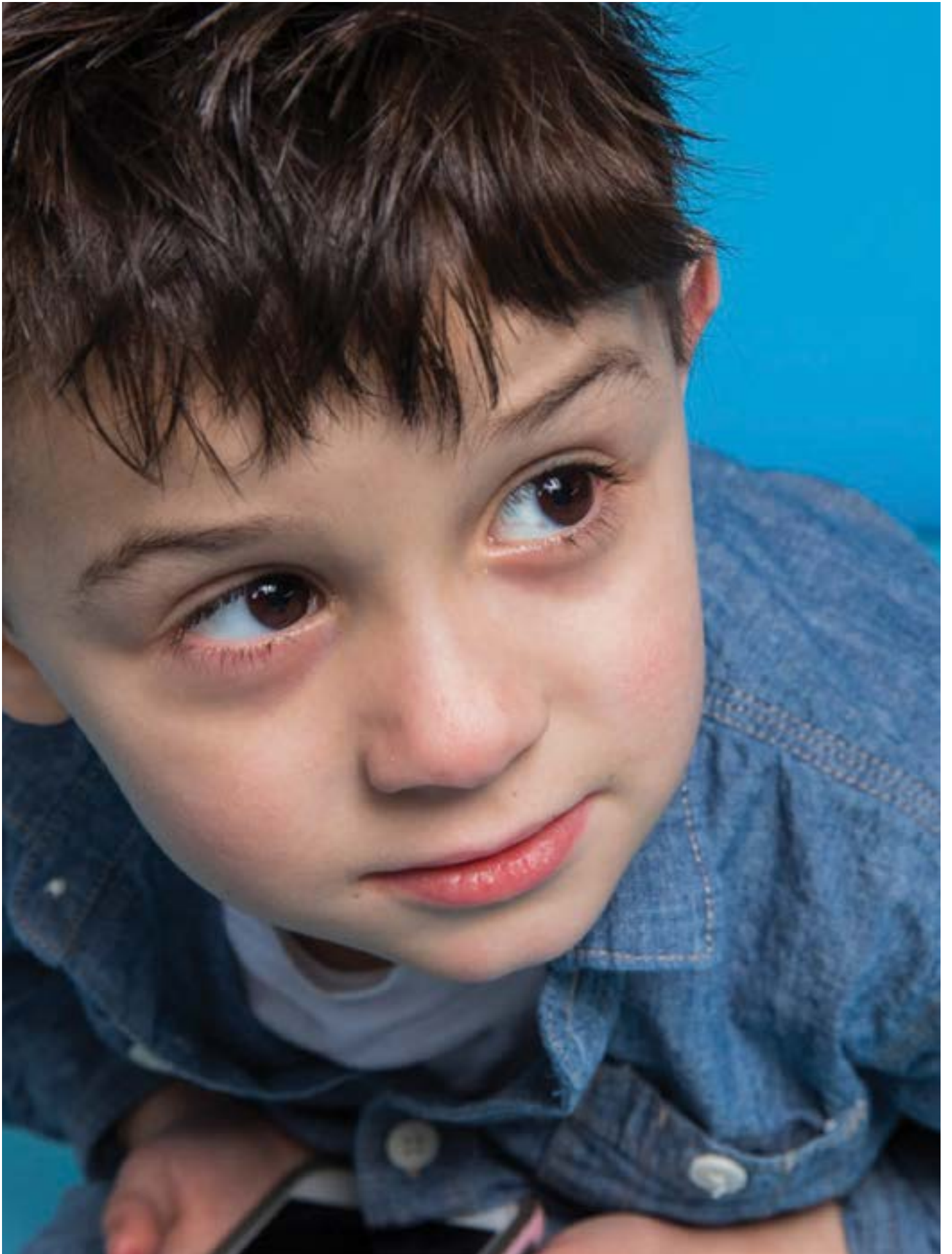




AUTISM  
SPEAKS®

ANNUAL REPORT  
2018

ENHANCING LIVES TODAY AND ACCELERATING A SPECTRUM OF SOLUTIONS FOR TOMORROW.





Dear Friends and Colleagues,

For all of us at Autism Speaks, 2018 was a year marked by remarkable progress toward our mission objectives and 10-year vision. We are proud to share some of the year's most notable accomplishments in our work to promote solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for people with autism and their families.

In our efforts to **increase global understanding and acceptance**, we created an international platform for people with autism to tell their stories in their own words, reaching more than 16 million people in 172 countries during World Autism Month alone. We helped families access thousands of autism-friendly events, engaged a network of hundreds of advocacy ambassadors and facilitated dialogue about autism on six continents.

In striving to be a **catalyst for life-enhancing research breakthroughs**, Autism Speaks contributed to the discovery of a previously hidden genetic influence on autism, which may help facilitate more personalized treatments and therapies. We spearheaded the first scientific leadership conference to guide research into the safety and potential benefits of cannabis-based medicines. We continue to provide vital grant funding to deepen our understanding of autism spectrum disorder and help enhance quality of life for those impacted by it.

**Increasing early screening and timely interventions** remains a key mission objective, and in 2018 we continued to drive awareness through public service campaigns, clinical studies into new treatment methods for under-resourced communities, advocacy efforts to ensure access to insurance coverage and more. Through our partnership with the World Health Organization, we brought **Caregiver Skills Training** to six more countries and U.S. communities in need of support.

With more and more individuals with autism aging out of school-based supports, **improving the transition to adulthood** is an urgent aspect of our work. We've dedicated resources toward increasing employment opportunities, building a pipeline of skilled prospective employees, educating families on how to prepare for transition and ensuring this issue remains a priority for lawmakers.

In working toward our goal to **ensure access to reliable information and services throughout the life span**, we aided more than 1 million people in 2018, including fielding nearly 80,700 direct inquiries through the Autism Speaks Autism Response Team and launching a new AutismSpeaks.org to better support our community's needs.

This work is all made possible thanks to the generosity of our families, donors, volunteers, partners, advocates and the autism community. In 2018, we raised \$94.5 million, allowing us to do more good for more people and set our sights on even greater achievements in the years to come.

We are deeply grateful for our community's commitment to helping Autism Speaks enhance lives today and accelerate a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow.

Sincerely,

**Brian Kelly**  
Chairman, Board of Directors

**Angela Geiger**  
President & Chief Executive Officer





Grandparent's Day 8/13/98 was the beginning of the births...



My son Austin, my world, my light!



Our son has been diagnosed with non-verbal ASD. A few months...



I am writing this to the mom I met while walking on the beach...

April is World Autism Month  
DISCOVER AND SHARE STORIES TO  
INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AND  
ACCEPTANCE



## FEATURED STORIES

MOSAIC POWERED BY  
PictureMosaics.com



Hannah G.



Brandon B.



Noah M.



Owen M.



Bridget L.



Andrew D.

## INCREASING UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE...WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!



The Autism Speaks social media community is a vital part of our mission to promote solutions across the spectrum and throughout the life span, playing a crucial role in increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism. Every day, this dynamic community of more than two million people touched by autism shares stories, insights, resources and support for one another across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

## INCREASING GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE WITH AUTISM

TODAY, AUTISM AFFECTS AT LEAST ONE IN 59 CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES AND MORE THAN 70 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE, AND ITS PREVALENCE IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO RISE. Central to our mission is the relentless effort to increase global understanding and acceptance of people with autism, ultimately creating a more inclusive world free of stigma, judgment and barriers to reaching one's full potential.

**During April, World Autism Month, we asked people with autism from around the world to tell their stories, in their own words, through the #AutismIs campaign.** Supported by pro bono PSAs, this global platform for storytelling became a central hub for nearly 5,000 unique stories, showing the breadth of the autism spectrum and driving deeper understanding.

- *16.3 million people in 172 countries engaged in the #AutismIs storytelling campaign*
- *14 million Autism Speaks website page views*
- *814 million earned media impressions*

**In communities nationwide, Autism Speaks provided more than 40,000 families opportunities for inclusion and access to autism-friendly experiences,** such as sensory-friendly museum tours, movie screenings, visits with Santa and the Easter Bunny, travel simulations and more.

**We worked to educate local communities about autism** – hosting more than 70 community meetings around the country as well as 22 research town halls.

**A network of Advocacy Ambassadors helps drive support for our mission in communities across the country.** In 2018, we grew the program by nearly 155 percent to 191 advocacy volunteers representing 39 states. These volunteers made hundreds of in-person connections with Congressional leaders and participated in more than 200 legislative meetings, town halls and local events to advocate for issues of concern to people with autism.

**As a member of the influential Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health, Autism Speaks contributed to the commission's 2018 decennial report,** a blueprint of action to improve neurodevelopment and promote mental health through targeted policy making and research.

**To drive understanding and acceptance on a global scale, Autism Speaks continued to facilitate and support meetings, activities and research worldwide,** including Caregiver Needs Survey reports from five South American countries and Morocco; a regional research conference in Uruguay; national dissemination conferences in Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Poland; and the 4th Biennial Advocacy Leadership Network Conference with the China Women's Development Foundation.

**We published the findings of the Autism Speaks' Survey of the Autism Community's Research Priorities in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders,** educating autism researchers and their funders on the perspectives of a diverse range of stakeholders that included self-advocates, caregivers and healthcare providers.





 **AUTISM SPEAKS®**  
**MSSNG**  
CHANGING THE FUTURE OF AUTISM WITH OPEN SCIENCE

The MSSNG project is on track to achieve the ultimate goal of 10,000 whole genomes sequenced by early 2019, changing the future of autism through open science.

A forward-thinking supporter challenged Autism Speaks to unlock a match to fund MSSNG, a collaboration with the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids). Our community rose to the occasion – driving \$7 million in new support for one of the world’s largest and vital sources for autism research.

## BEING A CATALYST FOR LIFE-ENHANCING RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGHS

FUNDING RESEARCH HAS BEEN A STRATEGIC MISSION PRIORITY FOR AUTISM SPEAKS SINCE OUR FOUNDING. In 2018, grant-funded research and advocacy efforts led to ground-breaking new genetic discoveries, significant increases in federal autism research appropriation and advances in best-practice clinical care.

**Autism Speaks contributed to the discovery of a previously hidden type of genetic influence on autism.** Reporting in the top-tier journal *Science*, researchers described for the first time how changes in a unique, unexplored area of a person's DNA can increase autism risk. This discovery may allow for more personalized therapies for people with autism.

**In November 2018, Autism Speaks convened the first scientific leadership conference to guide research into the safety and potential benefits of cannabis-based medicines** for autism and its associated medical conditions. The two-day meeting in New York City brought together leading researchers, government regulators and members of the autism community.

**We advocated for the successful passage of FY19 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Bills.** Significant increases in support of autism research and services are anticipated, thanks to budget increases across key programs, including:

- *\$12.4 billion designated for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act special education*
- *\$2 billion increase for National Institutes of Health*
- *\$150 million increase for National Institute of Mental Health*
- *\$23.1 million for autism activities at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- *\$7.5 million for Autism Research Program at Department of Defense*
- *\$1.5 million increase to Health Resources & Services Administration*

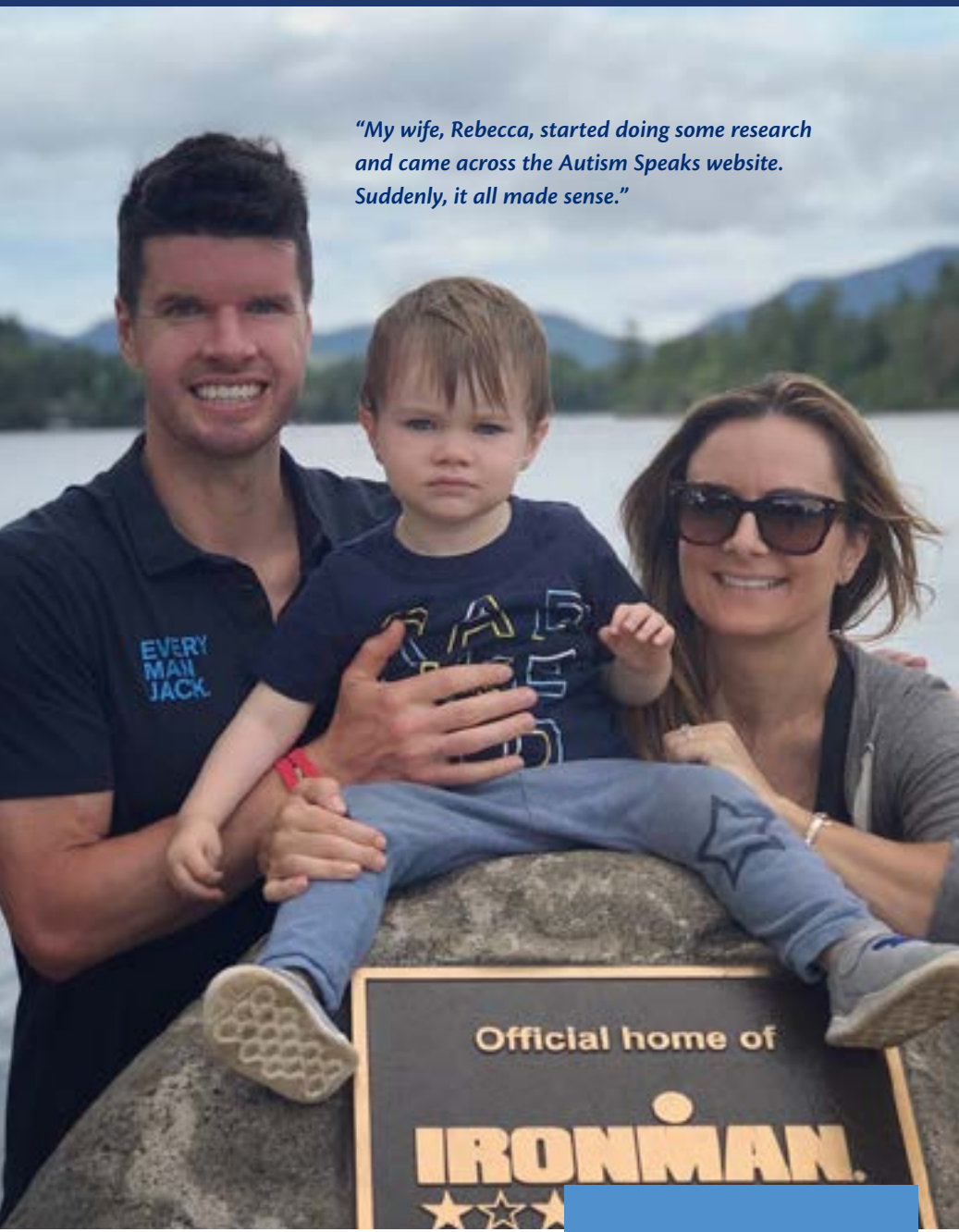
**Autism Speaks funded \$1.5 million for two clinical trials evaluating new medical and behavioral therapies** aimed at improving quality of life and addressing the physical and mental health conditions that frequently accompany autism:

- *Funded a clinical trial of leucovorin (a form of vitamin B9) to ease symptoms among a genetic subset of children with autism*
- *Funded a clinical trial of a personalized intervention program for curbing dangerous wandering among children who have autism*

**We participated in a study on the effectiveness of teleconferencing** for training and supporting primary care physicians caring for children and teens in underserved communities across North America.

**We helped improve the health of people with autism adding seven peer-reviewed research reports** on autism-related medical conditions to the more than 100 authored by providers in the Autism Speaks Autism Treatment Network.

**Autism Speaks supported research resulting in the publication of more than 10 peer-reviewed scientific papers** advancing understanding of autism and treatment and services for people on the spectrum.



*“My wife, Rebecca, started doing some research and came across the Autism Speaks website. Suddenly, it all made sense.”*

When happy, healthy, sweet Huxley (Huck), stopped saying words and phrases he’d previously been saying at 2-and-a-half-years old, his father Greg Binns thought there was more than a delay in speech progression at play. Despite the many people in Huck’s life who said it was “no big deal,” Greg was determined to find answers for his son, who he calls “the highlight of my day, EVERY day.”

“My wife, Rebecca, started doing some research and came across the Autism Speaks website. Suddenly, it all made sense,” says Binns. “She contacted early intervention services and set up an appointment for him to be analyzed and, sure enough, he was diagnosed with ‘moderate’ ASD.”

Like many families, the Binns’ experience with diagnosis was challenging.

“It’s an earth-shattering moment for a parent when you hear those words from a doctor [...]. Suddenly, your silly aspirations for him to be famous, or a professional athlete or whatever else, have gone out the window, and you are now wondering if he will be able to perform simple daily tasks, live on his own, maintain a job. So, we turned to the Autism Speaks website and all its resources, reading about other people’s experiences and learning what steps to take next.”

For Greg Binns, with his son’s diagnosis came a powerful desire to do something to help other families facing similar challenges. So the longtime athlete did what he knew best: he took to racing, but this time, with more than a medal in mind at the finish line.

Over the course of seven weeks, Greg raced in five triathlons, culminating with the Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii. He covered more than 400 miles on behalf of Autism Speaks and raised more than \$4,000 along the way.

With the generosity and dedication of supporters like Greg, Autism Speaks remains unfaltering in our efforts to enhance the lives of all people with autism. We are so thankful to have people like Greg and Rebecca in our community.

  
**SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT**  
*The Binns Family*



## INCREASING EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING AND TIMELY INTERVENTIONS

### RESEARCH SHOWS THAT EARLY INTERVENTION LEADS TO POSITIVE OUTCOMES

**LATER IN LIFE.** Autism Speaks is unwavering in our commitment to increase early childhood screening and timely interventions, so that all people with autism can live up to their full potential. In 2018, we continued our work to educate and inform families, from all socioeconomic populations, on how to identify the earliest signs of autism and how to access support following a diagnosis.

**Over \$12 million in donated media helped educate families about the signs of autism,** through our ongoing partnership with the Ad Council and other pro bono media support. In addition, more than 1.3 million flyers with information on the signs of autism were distributed throughout April, World Autism Month.

**Autism Speaks provided access to the M-CHAT-R,** an online risk assessment screening tool for children 16 to 30 months. The M-CHAT-R page on the Autism Speaks website was visited 300,000 times in 2018, bringing the total views since it was created in 2012 to two million.

**In 2018, Autism Speaks successfully advocated for medical insurance coverage of autism care in two more states,** bringing the total to 48 states that now have insurance coverage for autism treatments – an increase from only one state in 2005.

**Advocacy, education and outreach efforts helped advance the number of self-funded companies offering autism treatment coverage.** Participating companies include Exxon/Mobil, Publix, Gensler, FedEx, Wipco, Humana, BB&T, TECO, AM/NS, Volvo Penta, Citizen's Bank, Spectrum, Charter Communications, FIS and Genentech.

**In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), we expanded the Autism Speaks/WHO Caregiver Skills Training program** to six more countries and U.S. communities – bringing desperately needed services and guidance to potentially tens of thousands of families in communities where access to care and timely interventions may be a challenge.

**Autism Speaks funded a clinical study evaluating the practicality and effectiveness of a novel set of screening and diagnostic methods,** to help expand access to early screening and interventions in underserved communities.



*"I don't think he sees the world as a challenge and I don't see him being challenged by society."  
Reese, Brandon's brother*

Brandon was diagnosed nearly 50 years ago when there was little understanding of autism and few treatments or supports.

His sister, Joy, says Brandon was always smart, but she doesn't ever remember seeing him cry. "Emotions—he just didn't have them," she says. He preferred being alone starting around age 3 and didn't speak until he was 5.

True to his no-nonsense personality, Joy says, once he did speak, he spoke like an adult, "no baby talk." His brother, Reese, adds that Brandon is mission-minded and detailed but not very forthcoming.

"You won't get a lot of chitchat out of him," says Reese.

His family stood behind Brandon, and today he holds down two jobs, one at the Red Cross and the other at the Cooper Hewitt Museum library. He's also the proud Team Captain of an Autism Speaks Walk in his home town.

And then there are his maps.

Brandon's hand-drawn, hand-colored maps – every inch filled with streets, landmarks, rivers, parks and bridges – are entirely fictitious. Every name, twist, turn and bend comes entirely from Brandon's imagination, each map emerging from a blank sheet of paper.

Explaining his love of map-making Brandon says, "Well, it's always interesting because it's like an art of its own. It's the technique – what they used before they used computers."

His talent transfers over to real-life navigation. Says, Reese, "I don't use the GPS when I've got Brandon in the car."

Joy says that no one knew what to expect of Brandon. She says her mother would be so proud to see where he is today and what he's accomplished.



## SELF-ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT

*Brandon B.*

## IMPROVING THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

EVERY YEAR, 50,000 INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AGE OUT OF SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES AS THEY TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD. We are steadfast in our commitment to support people with autism throughout the life span, and it has become increasingly important to recognize the need for financially sustainable supports like housing, employment and community living. Through advocacy and support, we continue to pursue strategies to ensure adolescents with autism and their families have transition plans that result in more independent, meaningful adult lives.

**Autism Speaks President & CEO Angela Geiger testified before Congress at the U.S. House Committee on Small Business hearing** titled, “Ready, Willing, and Able to Work: How Small Businesses Empower People with Developmental Disabilities,” ensuring that people with autism are at the forefront of conversations regarding future legislation.

**We championed the first-ever ABLE Tax-Free Savings Account** for people with disabilities, including autism, reaching \$171 million in tax-advantaged funds in 41 states and District of Columbia.

**Through federal advocacy efforts, Autism Speaks successfully defended the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act** to increase access to employment opportunities for people with autism and other disabilities.

**In partnership with GameStop, we’re helping pave a path toward increased employment opportunities** for people with autism through our NXT GEN Coders Program. The program, part of the Norma and Malcom Baker Recreation Grants, provides grants to organizations that teach digital skills to people across the autism spectrum, training them for careers in computer programming and coding.

**We increased free Autism Speaks online job portal opportunities for job seekers with autism and other disabilities by more than 30 percent**, delivering access to more than 250 employers, including Xerox, Microsoft, GE, Macy’s, Johnson & Johnson, American Express, Hilton Hotels and more.

**Through a collaborative corporate disability consultancy service, Autism Speaks partnered to increase employment opportunities for adults** with ASD, creating more than 500 jobs to date through hiring initiatives at Cintas, Staples, Amazon and Quest Diagnostics.

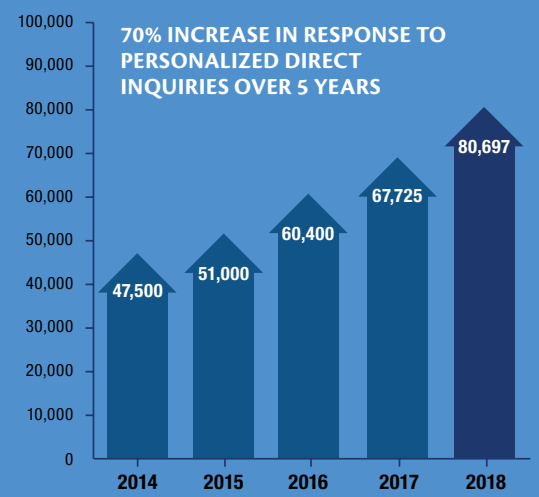
**We provided a suite of free tools and resources to empower people with autism and their families** with the information they need on the journey from adolescence to adulthood, including: Transition Tool Kit, monthly transition telelearning series, Town Halls and Financial Planning Workshops.

**We fostered a community of people with autism and those that support them on LinkedIn**, growing our Employment group by 25 percent and Housing and Community Living group by 22 percent.





*"I have been looking over all of these resources and I just wanted to thank you again. I have had many unanswered questions for many years, but now I feel like I have lots of helpful information to take the first step and I can finally find some answers. Thanks so much."*



*"Thank you very much! This is terrific information, and I really appreciate it! You are so great to follow-up with me and I am very grateful! I have had the opportunity to use some of your resources but I can see now how many really great resources there are that I can share with our students and our families!"*

**JUST A CALL, CHAT OR EMAIL AWAY**

The Autism Speaks Autism Response Team is a group of trained specialists providing personalized information and support to the autism community in both English and Spanish.

## ENSURING ACCESS TO RELIABLE INFORMATION AND SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE LIFE SPAN

FOR MOST, AUTISM IS A LIFELONG CONDITION, AND AUTISM SPEAKS IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING ACCESS TO RELIABLE INFORMATION AND SERVICES ACROSS THE SPECTRUM AND THROUGHOUT THE LIFE SPAN. In 2018, we focused on providing those impacted by autism a more personalized experience to address their needs, and we continued to advocate for advances in services and supports to enhance the lives of all individuals with autism – no matter their age or where they fall on the spectrum.

**In 2018, we aided more than 1 million people** through Autism Speaks-funded programs and resources.

**Our Autism Response Team provided personalized responses to nearly 80,700 direct inquiries** for autism information and resources, an increase of 19 percent year-over-year.

**We launched a new and improved AutismSpeaks.org.** More than 1.5 million monthly visitors are provided a streamlined, more personalized approach to delivering interactive tools, expert advice, information about local service providers and education tools on topics across the life span.

**In 2018, downloads of Autism Speaks tool kits surpassed 1 million,** delivering support and guidance on topics of vital concern to families and professionals seeking information about autism.

**We continued to lead efforts for improved health care coverage.** In 2018 we supported increased access to autism health benefits in the plans of an additional 22 million people; championed the passage of Kevin and Avonte's Law through the FY19 omnibus appropriations bill to safeguard those who may wander from safety; and advocated for the successful passage of the 2018 RAISE Family Caregivers Act that will, for the first time, create a national strategy on ways to support family caregivers.

**We helped improve the medical and behavioral care of more than 38,000 children and teens** with autism seen at the 12 sites of the Autism Speaks Autism Treatment Network, while expanding access to autism care through the network's outreach work with pediatricians and other primary care physicians across North America.

**Autism Speaks authored an analysis of the National Survey of Children's Health revealing that nearly a fifth of children with autism (18.8 percent) have unmet healthcare needs** – compared to 9.6 percent of children with other disabilities and 2.6 percent of children without disabilities. The report provides insights into the circumstances behind the disparities and guidance on how public programs can better address them across the life span.

**Autism Speaks hosted free community meetings and town halls** throughout the country on vital topics including research, early diagnosis, employment and adult services.

**In 2018, Autism Speaks provided more than \$1.3 million in grants** to organizations in 39 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, in order to increase supports and services for people with autism in their local communities.



THROUGH COLLABORATION ACROSS THE CONTINENT, AUTISM SPEAKS IS WORKING TIRELESSLY TO MAKE AN IMPACT FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES – AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### **INCREASING GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE WITH AUTISM**

*Continued the Learn the Love Spectrum partnership with Samsung Canada*, distributing 500 tablets to people living with autism and service providers.

*Increased autism-friendly events across Canada*, including 82 shopping opportunities hosted by Toys“R”Us; 403 autism-friendly movie screenings hosted by Cineplex; and hundreds of autism-friendly Santa visits in partnership with Cherry Hill Programs.

*Hosted 18 Autism Speaks Canada Walks in five provinces* including support of volunteer-led Community Walks.

*Participated and supported in the announcement of first Canadian autism prevalence numbers* released from the Public Health Agency of Canada, indicating that autism affects one in 66 youth, 5-17 years of age.

### **BEING A CATALYST FOR RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGHS**

*Funded Dr. Jonathan Weiss’ research at York University, ASD Treatment and Care*, focusing on treatment of mental health problems in people with autism spectrum disorders and/or intellectual disabilities across the life span.

*Continued to fund two Autism Treatment Network sites* dedicated to improving medical care to children with ASD.

*Partnered with Samsung Canada and Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital* to fund research focusing on the use of technology and individuals with ASD.

### **INCREASING EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING AND TIMELY INTERVENTION**

*Provided comprehensive services to hundreds of people at the two Canadian sites* of the Autism Speaks Autism Treatment Network.

*Funded the Mobile Development Outreach Clinic* which provided free developmental assessments to new Canadian and low-income families on the path to diagnosis and early treatment.

*Funded a documentary webinar series, “The Exceptional Life,”* providing tools for viewers on ABA therapy, intervention strategies and support.





**AUTISM SPEAKS<sup>®</sup>**  
**CANADA**

## IMPROVING THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

*Held leadership roles in two federally-funded government grants, Worktopia and Ready, Willing and Able, which focus on increasing employment opportunities for individuals with ASD.*

*Hosted and facilitated Canada's national employment conference.*

*Partnered with Spectrum Works on the Autism Job Fair, supporting 300 individuals to help facilitate meaningful connections with employers.*

## ENSURING ACCESS TO RELIABLE INFORMATION & SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE LIFE SPAN

*Granted \$427,000 to support 48 service organizations to increase services for individuals with ASD and their families.*

*Launched the Autism Speaks Canada Connect platform, Canada's first virtual, multi-faceted online platform created to improve the way the autism community interacts, disseminates, accesses and utilizes credible information.*

*Translated three of the most frequently downloaded tool kits into French for accessibility to more Canadian residents.*

*Giancarlo and Rosalia  
2019 Local Walk Ambassadors, Montreal, Canada*



*Kristian Bernesky-Lyster  
2016 Edmonton Walk Ambassador, Edmonton, Canada*



*Addison Johnston  
2017 National & Vancouver Walk Ambassador, Toronto, Canada*



 **AUTISM SPEAKS®**  
**WALK**

*powered by love™*  
NATIONAL PARTNER ALPHA XI DELTA

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF COUNTLESS VOLUNTEERS, CONSTITUENTS, PARTNERS AND CORPORATIONS, WE REMAIN STEADFAST IN OUR MISSION TO ENHANCE LIVES TODAY AND ACCELERATE A SPECTRUM OF SOLUTIONS FOR TOMORROW.

As the world's largest fundraising event to support the diverse needs of the autism community, Autism Speaks Walk brings communities across North America together to advance the mission every year. Powered by the love of people with autism and the parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, relatives and providers who support them, the 2018 Autism Speaks Walk program raised \$17.5 million across 72 cities. With every step taken and every dollar raised, the Autism Speaks Walk is making an impact on individuals and families living with autism.

# FUNDING OUR MISSION



## TOP 10 TEAMS



## TOP 10 INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISERS





## FUNDING OUR MISSION



### AUTISM SPEAKS® SPECIAL EVENTS

*Autism Speaks brought together passionate supporters at dozens of special events nationwide, raising more than \$6.3 million in 2018.* Each event was championed by dedicated leadership volunteers, who in turn engaged community leaders, celebrity friends and corporate stakeholders. From the *Light Up the Blues Concert* in LA to *Chef Galas* in Saint Louis and Chicago to *"A Blue Affair"* in Miami and golf in NY and NJ – just to name a few – Autism Speaks crisscrossed the country generating awareness and funds. Sincere thanks to our sponsors, volunteers, in-kind donors, celebrities and artists whose generous support makes our life-changing mission possible.



### AUTISM SPEAKS® TEAMUP AND ENDURANCE EVENTS

*In 2018, endurance athletes literally went to great lengths to show their commitment to people with autism.* Their amazing feats of personal accomplishment happened through our TeamUp program at our own local running races and in some of the world's greatest endurance events, like the *TCS New York City Marathon*, the *Run Disney* series, the *Ironman World Championships* and the *Bike to the Beach* series of cycling events. Collectively this dedicated group of supporters raised more than \$1.9M to support the mission of Autism Speaks.



*As the official National Walk Partner of Autism Speaks, Alpha Xi Delta Women's Fraternity inspires women to realize their potential by providing opportunities for sisterhood, leadership, knowledge and service. In 2018, Alpha Xi Delta raised more than \$1.7 million for Autism Speaks and, since 2009, more than \$9.1 million. Alpha Xi Delta's 130 college chapters and 175,000 initiated members participate in Autism Speaks Walks nationwide, raise funds at *AmaXing Challenges* and share heartfelt personal stories of their connections to autism through the *Letters of Love* campaign.*



# FUNDING OUR MISSION

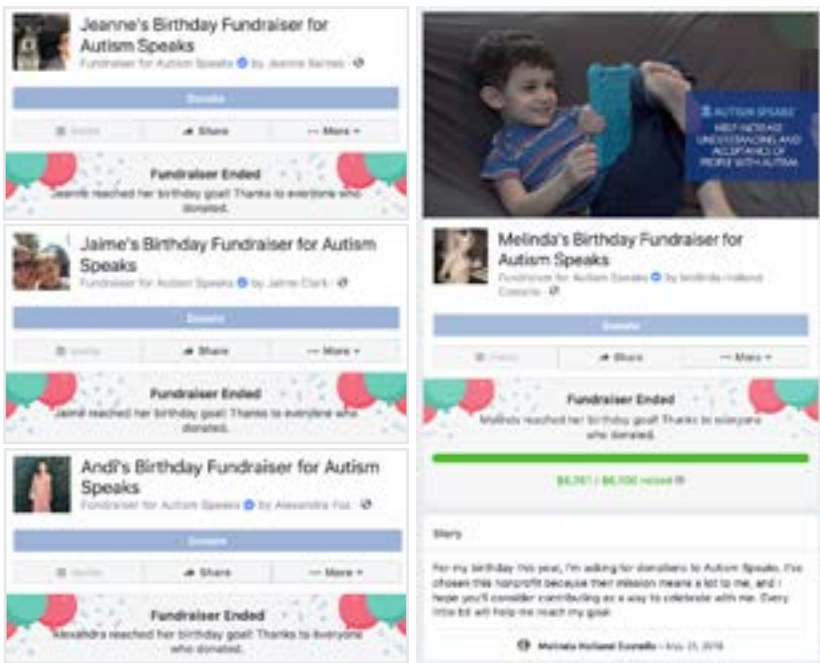


**SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT**

AUTISM SPEAKS®  
**COACHES POWERING FORWARD**

Every February, we are honored to be supported by Coaches Powering Forward during the NCAA Autism Awareness and Acceptance Weekend. Coaches of basketball teams from around the country come together in support of people on the autism spectrum – wearing the Autism Speaks puzzle piece pin during games and spreading a message of inclusivity.

Coaches Powering Forward was created in 2014 after NCAA Coaches Pat Skerry and Tom Herrion embarked on a mission to raise awareness of autism. As of 2018, the campaign has grown exponentially, with more than 4,400 Autism Speaks puzzle piece pins provided to coaches, their staff and broadcasters to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism during the February weekend games.



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK!

In 2018, members of our social community made an incredible impact, tapping into *Facebook Fundraisers* to raise valuable funds in support of people with autism and their families. We are deeply grateful for our entire Facebook community's support.

## CORPORATE AND ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

THE UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ALLOWED AUTISM SPEAKS TO CONTINUE TO MOVE OUR MISSION FORWARD. By educating their employees and constituents, inviting their customers to participate in fundraising campaigns, sponsoring events and mobilizing volunteers, our corporate and organizational partners helped make meaningful progress for people with autism in 2018.

### ILLUMINATOR: \$1 MILLION OR MORE



**T.J. MAXX** conducted its 15th annual World Autism Month campaign, inviting customers to raise valuable funds toward increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism each year.



**ALPHA XI DELTA** has been the national partner of the Autism Speaks Walk since 2009, hosts AmaXing Challenge events on college campuses and leads the annual Letters of Love story-sharing campaign.

#### DOLLAR GENERAL

**DOLLAR GENERAL** hosted their annual World Autism Month campaign, as partners of Autism Speaks since 2010.



**GAMESTOP** ran their third annual World Autism Month campaign and launched the NXT GEN Coders, paving a path toward increased employment opportunities for people with autism.



**TOYS "R" US CANADA** contributed to Autism Speaks through an in-store campaign, employee participation in the Autism Speaks Walk, golf tournaments and payroll deductions.



**SAMSUNG CANADA** contributed through an in-store campaign, corporate contribution, in-kind donation of technology and in-kind marketing support.

### CHAMPION: \$500,000 - \$999,000



**WHITE CASTLE**, a partner since 2009, continued to raise funds for Autism Speaks and to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism through their annual campaign.



**QUADRANT BIOSCIENCES** provided support for the Autism Speaks Autism Response Team and key research priorities, as part of their commitment to helping people with autism and their families and increasing early intervention through early diagnosis.



## CORPORATE AND ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

### FOUNDER'S CIRCLE: \$100,000 - \$499,000



**BIKE TO THE BEACH, INC.** combines biking, purpose and fun to inspire people to overcome obstacles through personal challenge and raise funds to support people with autism.



**MODELL'S SPORTING GOODS**, an East Coast and Mid-Atlantic retailer, supported Autism Speaks through an in-store campaign.



**HOME DEPOT** partnered with Philips Lighting to help people "light it up blue" with blue light bulbs in stores across North America.



**DUNNE MANNING INC.'s** annual in-store puzzle piece campaign brings together customers, site level employees and corporate level employees to raise awareness and funds for Autism Speaks.



**ARIZONA MULTIHOUSING ASSOCIATION and MC COMPANIES** remain dedicated to their partnership with Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center and committed to fundraising for Autism Speaks.



**THE SHAPE OF BEHAVIOR** partnered with Autism Speaks chapters around the country, sponsoring the Seattle Walk, Texas Walks and the Houston 8K, as part of its continuing efforts to raise awareness and increase understanding and acceptance.



**HHM** and its 100-plus hotels supported Autism Speaks during World Autism Month.



**NEST FRAGRANCES** donated proceeds from sales of its Blue Garden candles to Autism Speaks.



**ISLANDERS HOCKEY CLUB's** more than 1,000 youth and adult members raised funds for Autism Speaks and attended the Greater Boston Walk.



**BOB'S DISCOUNT FURNITURE** contributed as a multi-location sponsor of Autism Speaks Walk and featured Autism Speaks as its second-quarter Café Collections in-store partner.

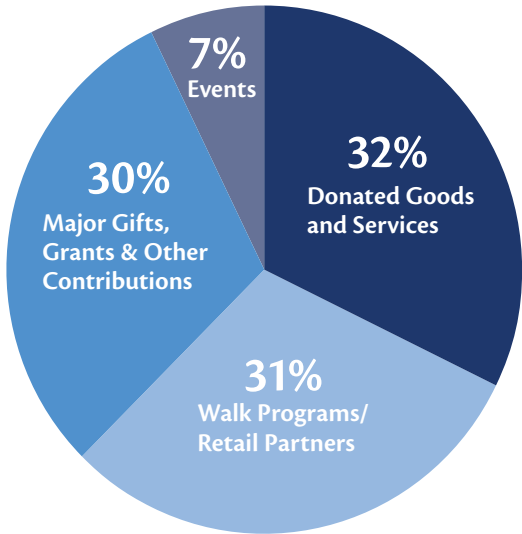


**SOLGAR HERBS & VITAMINS** continued its support of Autism Speaks through a generous donation.



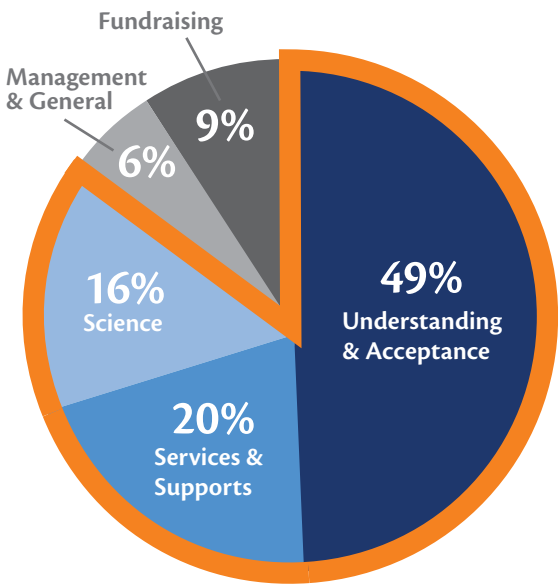
**WILSON SPORTING GOODS** committed support for Autism Speaks through the "Love the Moment" campaign, set to feature a line of limited-edition baseball equipment benefiting Autism Speaks.

# FINANCIALS 2018



## FUNDING SOURCES

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Donated and In-kind Goods and Services*     | \$ 30.4 M        |
| Walk Program/Retail Partners                | \$ 28.7 M        |
| Major Gifts, Grants and Other Contributions | \$ 28.5 M        |
| Events                                      | \$ 6.9 M         |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>\$ 94.5 M</b> |



## YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

### PROGRAM SERVICES

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Understanding & Acceptance** | \$ 36.7 M     |
| Services and Support         | \$ 15.5 M     |
| Science                      | \$ 12.0 M     |
| <b>Total \$</b>              | <b>64.2 M</b> |

### SUPPORTING SERVICES

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Management and General | \$ 4.2 M         |
| Fundraising            | \$ 7.2 M         |
| <b>Total \$</b>        | <b>\$ 11.4 M</b> |

## NET ASSETS

### TOTAL NET ASSETS

|                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| at December 31, 2018 | <b>Total \$ \$ 37.0 M</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------------|

**85¢ of every dollar funds research, advocacy, programs and services**


To view Autism Speaks' complete audited financial statements and Form 990 please refer to our website [AutismSpeaks.org/About-Us/Annual-Reports](http://AutismSpeaks.org/About-Us/Annual-Reports). Donated media is not included on Form 990 per IRS guidelines.

\* Included in the *Funding Sources* and *Your Dollars at Work* are donated and in-kind goods and services totaling \$30.4M, primarily related to media and related services, with \$30.1M supporting our program services and \$.3M relating to fundraising efforts.

\*\* Dollars used for awareness efforts in support of people with autism.







Autism Speaks operations are located throughout the country to address the needs of the autism community. To find an office, event or support nearest you, please visit **AutismSpeaks.org**.



## MAIN OFFICES

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