

An estimated 1 in 91 children will be diagnosed with autism in the coming year.

Autism is a complex neurological condition that affects brain development, cognition and the way people interact socially. While the cause has not yet been established, progress is being made on finding effective treatments to cope with its many challenges. Funding for needed programs is one of these challenges.

Can we count on your help?

Autism Society of Minnesota Programs & Services

Information Services & Resources
Referrals for social services and community supports
Lending Library with more than 2000 autism-related items
Information Packs to parents and adults receiving a new diagnosis
Resource Directory containing listings of service providers
Employment Guides for employers of adults with ASD
Educational Development
Discovery Series Parent Classes covering a wide range of topics
Spectrum Series Classes that meet particular community needs
Lectures and Workshops presented throughout the year specifically designed for busy parents and professionals

Skillsshops evening presentations from area experts delving into crucial topics
Annual Minnesota Autism Conference
Annual Symposium for Educators
Social Opportunities & Support
Eagles Nest Social Skill Groups designed for children ages 8-15
Support Groups meeting needs of specific demographic groups
Parent Advocate Program providing one-to-one support
Parent Education Program using a home-based intensive early-intervention model which supports parents' day-to-day activities

Children's Summer Day and Residential Camps
NOLAR Adult Autism Conference that focuses on adults living positively with autism
Mental Health Clinic providing assessments and therapeutic care to individuals and families
Advocacy & Outreach
Policy Initiatives that maintain a visible presence at the State Legislature
Steps of Hope Support Grants that directly support projects and adults in our area who have ASD
Autism Awareness campaigns
Outreach Programs informational materials to diverse communities

Together, we make a difference in the lives of people living with autism. Sponsor hope in your neighborhood.



December 2009

ausm

autism society of minnesota

Dear partner in autism support,

The past few years have been rough on the economy. But here in Minnesota we know that giving is part of the solution to those hard times. And our communities have risen to the occasion.

Our mission to serve Minnesota's autism community is more important than ever, as national rates of diagnosed autism spectrum disorders have soared to 1 in 110. This means more mothers seeking spots in glutted waiting lists for treatment services, more fathers struggling to understand yet another therapy option, adults with autism who are baffled by workplace politics and families that grow increasingly isolated as autism impacts daily activities.

The Autism Society of Minnesota is here to help. With adult support groups and therapy, family advocacy programs, social skills groups, camps and an extensive resource directory, we strive to fulfill the needs of your neighbors living with autism. Through workshops and our annual conference we keep families and professionals at the forefront of cutting-edge research, information and therapies. We are an integral part of the vibrant Minnesota autism community – a community unparalleled elsewhere in the nation. AuSM is the place families turn when in crisis. You can make sure that our services stay vibrant and accessible to all local families.

Now, more than ever, we need your support. Please sponsor a newly diagnosed family this year. Your dollars will go toward vital programming that lifts families and individuals with autism out of bewilderment and into the services they need to flourish. As each newly diagnosed family is welcomed into our community, you will know that your dollars have inspired hope and a guiding hand when it's needed most.

Sincerely,
Shannon Andreson

** all contributions are tax deductible **

We Believe in Community



Together we are
changing lives. Join
our community today!

We appreciate your support!

- I would like to join AuSM
 - As an individual contributor (\$30)
 - As a family (\$40)

Not able to be a member at this time? Stay connected by emailing membership@ausm.org to remain on our list!

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Sponsor a family in:

- Essentials \$650 (membership, social skills group, conference registration & support groups)
- Discovery, \$100 (membership & Discovery Series)
- Community, \$40 (membership)
- Other \$ _____ (any amount helps families)

Payment

Check (Payable to AuSM) Check # _____

Credit Card VISA MasterCard Discover

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____