

The connection is you.™

2022 Annual Report



**Autism
Society**
Northwestern
Pennsylvania



Better Together

Over the past 25 years, Autism Society NWPA has been at the forefront of providing comprehensive support and advocacy for individuals living with Autism. Our organization has grown from its humble beginnings with eight dedicated parents to becoming a widely recognized nonprofit in our community.

Throughout our history, we have consistently emphasized the importance of recognizing and respecting the diverse needs and experiences of individuals with Autism. We understand that each person with Autism has unique goals, desires, and requirements for support, and we strive to provide personalized services to address these individual needs.

As we reflect on our 25-year journey, we are proud of the positive impact we have made in the lives of countless individuals with Autism and their families. Moving forward, we remain committed to our mission of empowering and enriching the lives of individuals with Autism while continuing to adapt and evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of our community.



MISSION

We create connections, empowering everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully.

VISION

Creating a world where everyone in the Autism community is connected to the support they need when they need it.



OVER 200
Households receiving membership benefits



OVER 350
referral & resource calls helped in 2022!

- 16 - Family Sensory & Social Outings
- 4 - Therapeutic Programs
- 3 - Autism 101 Community Training
- 11 - Family Educational & Support Seminars



Tish Bartlett, Autism Certified Executive Director
tbartlett@autismnwpa.org

Allyson Grossman, Certified Recreational Therapist Program Director
agrossman@autismnwpa.org



Wendy Zukowski
Office Manager
wzukowski@autismnwpa.org

"The Autism Society's activities have allowed my family to have fun and not be worried about being judged in different social situations."

Dave Steiner,
Father





Highlights from 2022!

Preschool & Pre-K Meet Up: Bi-monthly program is designed specifically for parents seeking a supportive network in a sensory-friendly and welcoming setting. Created for ages 3 to 5, our group offers a valuable opportunity to connect with other parents at the Autism Society NWP Family Center. By fostering a nurturing environment, we aim to enhance social interaction and provide resources for families.



Autism101 For Parents, Grandparents, & Caretakers and Autism 101 Community:

Designed to provide parents with valuable information, resources, and connections. Autism 101 covers essential topics such as communication, sensory issues, behavior management, and accessing support. Additionally, we offer a community training version of Autism 101 for local businesses and organizations. This training fosters understanding and acceptance, empowering them to better support individuals with Autism and their families.

Mom's "Whine" & Cheese: Quarterly gathering specifically designed for moms to prioritize self-care in a relaxed and welcoming environment. It's the perfect opportunity to build a supportive network and engage in interactive activities.



Parent Panels: Parents supporting parents! A collaboration with local school districts to share valuable information about the Autism Society NWP. This initiative creates an inclusive platform for parents to connect, exchange resources, share information, and get their questions answered. Together, we can build a stronger support network and empower each other on this journey.

21st Annual Walk for Autism: The 2022 Walk for Autism was a resounding success! This signature event played a pivotal role in supporting our operation and program budget, which relies entirely on fundraising dollars. Thanks to the tremendous support from our community, we raised awareness and crucial funds to aid individuals living with Autism. The participation of our families and community made a significant impact, and we are grateful for the unwavering support. Together, we are making a difference!

To see the support of family, friends, and the community at the Walk for Autism was overwhelming.



Theresa Mastrostefano, 2022 Walk Chair Family

Celebrate the Differences

At Autism Society NWP, we are dedicated to empowering individuals and families affected by Autism, offering lifelong support tailored to their specific needs. We celebrate the uniqueness of each individual, recognizing their distinct talents and requirements.

Our organization is committed to developing comprehensive evidence-based programs that cater to individual needs, fostering growth, independence, and a sense of belonging for all.

Together, we are building a more inclusive and compassionate community.

Autism Society NWP offers therapeutic programming throughout the lifespan, equipping individuals with essential life skills.

Our programs focus on developing essential life skills including executive functioning, practical living, personal care, job skills, personal safety, people skills, and communication ensuring comprehensive support and development for all.

The programs are open to all individuals with Autism and adapted towards their developmental needs, promoting their success and well-being from age 3 through adulthood.

We are proud to be professional stewards of your donations, ensuring they are utilized effectively for the betterment of individuals and families affected by Autism.



"My name is Donnie Mastrostefano. I am 15 years old. I like going to Teen Club. I like the Small Bites class and learning to make snacks."



"My daughter, Neelym, gained a lot of confidence. LEGO Club is her first extracurricular activity where she has been able to go and participate for an hour and a half and have a positive experience. It's been a positive experience for us parents because we don't worry."

Kieran Dhillon, Mother

Through the Autism Society NWP, individuals can connect with each other, with resources, and with support and services so that they may live full, vibrant, self-actualized lives.



Ways to Be Involved

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Make a lasting impact by supporting the Autism Society NWPA through your time, talents, and treasures. With autism affecting 1 in 36 individuals and being the fastest-growing developmental disability, your financial contribution can transform lives.

Together, we can empower our loved ones with the tools they need to live independently, leading to a measurably improved quality of life.

We rely entirely on fundraising dollars to sustain our work. Your financial contributions play a vital role in enabling us to continue our support of individuals living with Autism and their families. Every dollar donated directly impacts the programs and services we provide. Your support ensures that we can create a positive and lasting impact in the lives of those affected by autism. Please consider making a donation today to help us continue our important work.

- Become a sustaining monthly donor at bit.ly/AutismSocietyNWPADonation
- You can also review all giving options on our website at www.autismnwpa.org/ways-to-give
- Become a Champion, sponsor an event, or attend a fundraiser.
- Planned Giving through outright gifts including Charitable IRA Rollovers or Transferring Securities or through your trust or estate. Gifts such as stocks, bonds, life insurance policies, annuities, or retirement plan assets and/or IRAs.
- Host an Event or Fundraiser



Thank you to our donors who changed the lives of so many.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, sponsors, families, community members, and volunteers who have generously supported our organization.

Your contributions, whether monetary or through the gift of your time, have been invaluable in helping us establish and sustain the Family Center. This center is dedicated to serving individuals on the autism spectrum across their lifespan, providing essential support and resources.

Together, we are making a significant difference in the lives of those we serve.



Donate by mail or online:

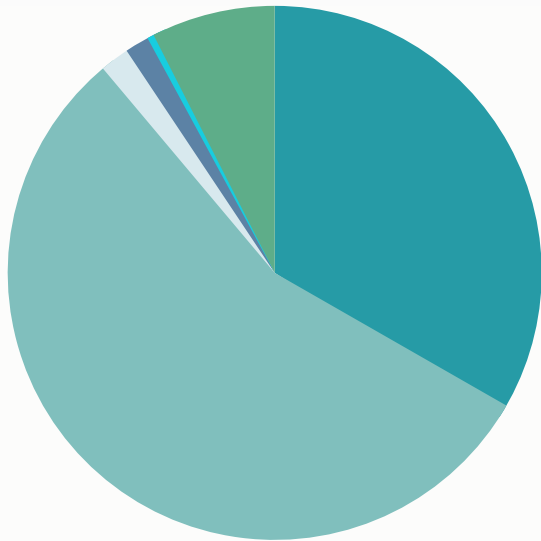
Autism Society NWPA
3308 State Street
Erie, PA 16508



Legal Name: **Autism Society
Northwestern Pennsylvania**
Federal Tax ID# **46-1124803**

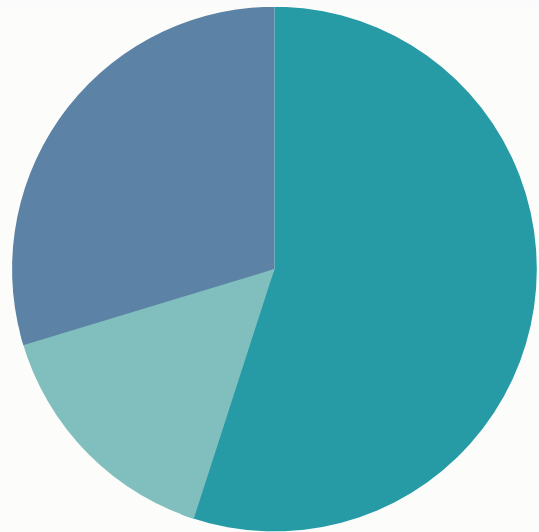
Financial Data

2022 Revenue \$420,159



- Contributions (33%)
- Fundraising (56%)
- Merchandise Sales (2%)
- Program & Recreation Fees (1%)
- Memberships (0%)
- Grant Income (8%)

2022 Expenses \$289,271



- Program & Recreation Fees (55%)
- Fundraising (30%)
- Management & General (15%)

Revenue

Contributions *	\$139,819
Fundraising	\$233,592
Merchandise Sales	\$7,423
Program & Recreation Fees	\$6,113
Memberships	\$1,712
Grant Income *	\$31,500

\$420,159

Expenses

Program & Recreation Fees	\$159,022
Management & General	\$44,380
Fundraising	\$85,870

\$289,271

Change in net Assets: \$130,888

* Donor restricted funds: \$30,000 Grant Income; \$66,163 Contributions



New Look, More Impact

The Mark

The brandmark is a symbol of community and strength, equity, diversity, pathways, and, of course, connection. The single threads of the Autism Society brand mark represent individuality and unique experiences that are simultaneously interconnected and woven into the greater community.

The mark speaks to the interdependence and interconnectedness of the Autism community through the threads "woven" together.

The strength of our brand continues to be paired with the strength of our network, and the passionate group of people working alongside the Autism community each and every day.

Autism Society NWPA is a part of the Autism Society affiliate network, the nation's leading grassroots organization. Autism Society NWPA is separately incorporated and received our 501(c)3 status in 2012. We are fiscally and legally wholly independent from the Autism Society of America, sharing only the name and brand.

Board of Directors

Autism Society NWPA desires individuals who reflect diversity including, but not limited to, age, gender, sexual orientation, geography, economic status, disability, and ethnicity.

Serving on the board is a rewarding experience and an opportunity for personal and professional growth.




Our Dedicated Board Members

Jay Spaeder, Board President	
Heather Evans, Vice President	
Ryan Bergquist, Treasurer	
Sam Lopez, Secretary	
Natalie Braddock	Doug Massey
Brandy Brine	Angela McNair
Christine Carrucci	John Nygaard
Justin Herring	Nathan Venesky
Jack Hewitt	Jennifer Williams
Stella LaPaglia	Israel Wodarski

"As a board member of the Autism Society NWPA, seeing the kids and young adults that benefit from our programs and services is all the reward I could ever ask for. Seeing the parents and caregivers relieved to have a place where their children are welcomed, respected, and cared for is the icing on the cake!"

John Nygaard,
Board Member





The connection is you.™

Our work is possible because of you. We have been able to create a nurturing and inclusive environment that fosters growth, independence, and well-being for those living with Autism. Your belief in our individuals and families has not only transformed lives but also instilled hope and resilience within our community.

Your dedication is a testament to your compassion and commitment to making a positive difference in our community. We are profoundly grateful for your generosity, which allows us to expand our reach, enhance our programs, and bring about lasting change.

Together, we are empowering individuals with Autism to thrive, and families to find strength and support along their journey.

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