



**Autism
Society**
Northwestern
Pennsylvania

CONNECTIONS IN ACTION

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



Together, we are building
a stronger, more inclusive
community.



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

A Year of Growth. A Community of Connection.



Tish Bartlett

Autism Certified
Executive Director

As we reflect on 2025, one word stands out: growth. Throughout the year, Autism Society Northwestern Pennsylvania continued to expand opportunities, strengthen programs, and deepen our impact across the communities we serve. From updating our Strategic Plan to launching new initiatives and enhancing our facility, every step forward was guided by our commitment to creating connections and empowering individuals and families living with Autism.

This year, we saw remarkable engagement from our community. Families participated in programs, trainings, social opportunities, and employment-focused initiatives designed to support individuals at every stage of life. We expanded workplace inclusion efforts through our Embracing Neurodiversity in the Workplace project and strengthened partnerships with schools and employers.

We also continued building pathways to independence through programs such as Job Site Classrooms, Empowered Employees, and The Incredible Years. These initiatives helped individuals develop skills, gain confidence, and access meaningful opportunities within their communities.

Our fundraising events once again demonstrated the power of community. Thousands of supporters came together through the Walk for Autism, Erie Gives, the Equitable Golf Scramble, and the Reverse Raffle to ensure that vital programs and services remain available throughout Northwestern Pennsylvania. These successes continue growth and sustainability.

None of this would be possible without you. Every volunteer hour, donation, partnership, and act of support helps create opportunities, foster belonging, and strengthen our Autism community.

As we celebrate a year of growth, we are reminded that our greatest strength is the people who stand beside us. Thank you for believing in our mission and for helping us create a more connected, inclusive future.

With gratitude, *Tish Bartlett*

Allyson Grossman

Certified Recreational Therapist
Program Director



Ashley "Frankie" Fisher

Assistant to Executive Director

Jayna Deniziak

Office & Family Activities Assistant



Marley Bartlett

AKC Canine Good Citizen
Certified Therapy Dog, Therapy Dogs United

Making Connections One Paw at a Time

The connection is you.



400+

Resource/
Referral Calls



221

Households
Served



13

Family
Outings



12

Programs



22

Trainings



130

Volunteers

Stories of Connection

Every family has a story. Every journey matters.



Why Serve?

Autism Society NWP values diverse perspectives and welcomes individuals who are passionate about creating a more inclusive community for those living with Autism.

Serving on our Board of Directors provides an opportunity to share expertise, develop leadership skills, and make a lasting impact on local families.

2025 Board of Directors



Sam Lopez
President



Heather Evans
Vice President



Brandy Brine
Treasurer



Kieran Dhillon
Secretary



Kat DiVittorio
Board Member



Justin Herring
Board Member



Jack Hewitt
Board Member



Dan Kress
Board Member



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Board Member



Doug Massey
Board Member



John Nygaard
Board Member



Nathan Venesky
Board Member



Jennifer Williams
Board Member



Israel Wodarski
Board Member



The Incredible Years Program



When our family joined The Incredible Years, we were looking for guidance and support. What we found was so much more. The program provided practical tools, encouragement, and a welcoming environment where we could connect with other parents who understood our journey. The strategies we learned helped strengthen our family, build our confidence as parents, and create more positive interactions at home. Today, we feel more prepared, more connected, and more hopeful about the future.



Adult Programming for My Daughter



As my daughter entered adulthood, I worried about opportunities for social connection and meaningful engagement. Through Autism Society NWP's adult programs, she found a place where she belongs. She has built friendships, developed new skills, and gained confidence through activities designed to support independence and community involvement. Seeing her smile, participate, and look forward to each gathering reminds me how important these opportunities are for adults living with Autism and their families.



Receiving Resources and Guidance



Receiving an Autism diagnosis can feel overwhelming. We didn't know where to start or what resources were available. Autism Society NWP helped us navigate the next steps by providing information, referrals, and compassionate support. From educational resources to community connections, they helped us understand our options and feel less alone. The guidance we received gave us direction, confidence, and hope during a challenging time for our family.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

Programs for Every Stage. Connections for Life.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR



The Autism Society Northwestern Pennsylvania continues to expand its impact by providing programs that support individuals on the Autism Spectrum across the lifespan, beginning at age three and extending through adulthood. Since 2022, our therapeutic programming has grown significantly, increasing to 12 specialized programs that now serve approximately 280 participants each year. This growth reflects our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the Autism community and to ensuring that individuals and families have access to meaningful, evidence-based support at every stage of life.

Our therapeutic programs are designed to build skills and independence in seven key areas: executive functioning, daily living skills, job preparation, communication, socialization, safety, and self-advocacy. Each program is facilitated by trained professionals with education and experience in Autism and related fields, allowing participants to receive instruction and support tailored to their needs. Through structured lessons, hands-on activities, and individualized guidance, participants develop skills that can be applied at home, in school, in the workplace, and throughout their communities.

Autism Society is committed to serving individuals across all parts of the Autism Spectrum. Our programs are intentionally designed to meet participants where they are, recognizing that every individual has unique strengths, challenges, and goals. By providing support and fostering skill development, we work to help each participant achieve independence and successfully participate in the least restrictive environment possible. As the needs of our community continue to grow, we are dedicated to expanding our programs and continue to create new opportunities that empower individuals with Autism to lead fulfilling lives.

With warm regards,

Allyson Grossman

PROGRAMS FOR EVERY STAGE OF LIFE

At every stage of life, our programs are designed to build **skills**, foster **independence**, and create meaningful **connections**.



PRESCHOOL (AGES 3–5)

- Building early skills through play
- Social interaction & communication
- Parent support & guidance



ELEMENTARY (AGES 5–12)

- Building confidence & friendships
- Skill-building & enrichment
- Fun activities that encourage growth



TEEN (AGES 13–22)

- Building independence & life skills
- Peer connections & support
- Preparing for school, work & beyond



ADULT (AGE 18+)

- Supporting independence & daily living
- Community connection & inclusion
- Resources for work, wellness & lifelong learning



"Our programs do more than build skills—they build confidence, independence, and lifelong connections."



FAMILY SUPPORT

Supporting Families. Strengthening Connections.

Because when families are supported, individuals with Autism thrive.



Preschool & Pre-K Meet Up

Early Childhood Connections

- Ages 3–5
- Parent networking
- Sensory play
- Community connections



The Incredible Years

In Partnership with
Erie Family Center

- Evidence-based parent program
- Positive parenting strategies
- Building confidence
- Family support



Family Sensory & Social Outings

Creating Community

- Monthly family events
- Inclusive recreation
- New experiences
- Lasting friendships



Family Education & Community Trainings

Knowledge & Empowerment

- Autism 101
- IEP Support
- Safety Trainings
- Community Education



Resource Navigation

Connecting Families

- Local resources
- Referrals
- Service navigation
- Individual support



Knowing the Next Steps

The Next Step Guide

- Newly diagnosed families
- Resource roadmap
- Community connections
- Practical guidance



Membership Matters

At Autism Society Northwestern Pennsylvania, we believe every individual and family should have access to support, resources, education, and opportunities for connection—regardless of membership status. You do not need to be a member to participate in our programs, attend family support opportunities, or receive assistance from our organization.

An annual Household Membership is just \$40 (\$35 renewal) and is one meaningful way to support our mission. Membership helps offset a small portion of the costs associated with providing programs, family support, educational opportunities, and community outreach throughout Northwestern Pennsylvania.

As an independent nonprofit organization, Autism Society NWPA relies on fundraising dollars to provide 100% of our services and programs. Every membership, donation, volunteer hour, and act of support helps us continue creating connections, empowering families, and ensuring that no one has to navigate the Autism journey alone.

Thank you for being part of our community. The connection is you.™

“When our family received an Autism diagnosis, we didn’t know where to turn. Autism Society NWPA helped us find resources, friendships, and a community that understands our journey.”
– Autism Society NWPA Parent

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Fiscal Year 2025



INCOME 2025

\$482,945

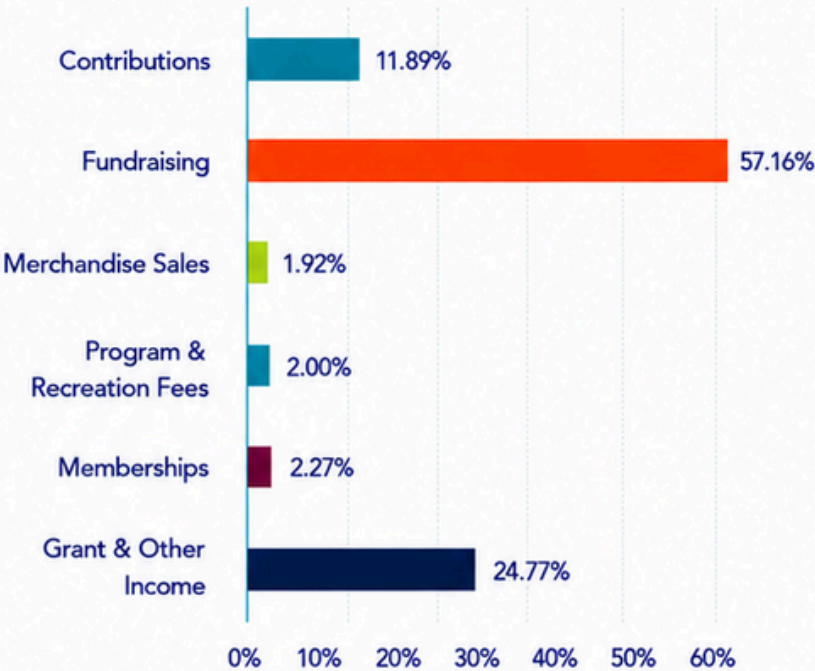
Our income comes from a diverse range of sources that help support programs, services, and resources for individuals and families across our community.

	Contributions	\$57,395	11.89%
	Fundraising	\$276,025	57.16%
	Merchandise Sales	\$9,248	1.92%
	Program & Recreation Fees	\$9,749	2.00%
	Memberships	\$10,928	2.27%
	Grant & Other Income	\$119,600	24.77%

TOTAL

\$482,945

Donor restricted funds \$2,409
Congressional Direct Funding award competed in FY2025.



EXPENSES 2025

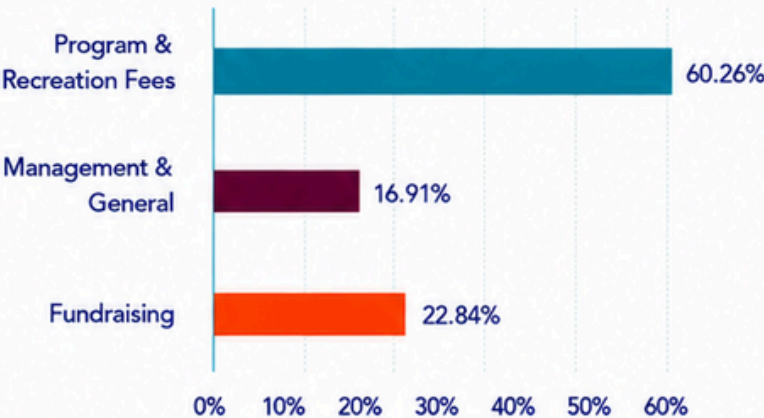
\$417,282

We are committed to responsible stewardship and ensuring that resources are used effectively to maximize our impact.

	Program & Recreation Fees	\$251,445	60.26%
	Management & General	\$70,551	16.91%
	Fundraising	\$95,286	22.84%

TOTAL

\$417,282



"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."



VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Together, we make a lasting impact.

Our volunteers and community partners help us create connection, build inclusion, and support every step of the Autism journey.

WE ARE SMALL BUT MIGHTY

With 2 full-time staff and 2 part-time staff, our volunteers are vital.

We depend on volunteers for committee work, board service, programs, family support, and building and grounds maintenance.

Each volunteer helps us grow and continue providing essential resources, education, and support to our community.



1,115
VOLUNTEER
HOURS



146
DEDICATED
VOLUNTEERS



SPONSORSHIPS



Our community and family sponsors make our events possible.

ANNUAL SPONSORS

WARRIOR

WM.T. SPAEDER
Since 1914

Comprehensive Mechanical Contracting

PROTECTOR

KOHLS
cares



32
COMPANIES &
INDIVIDUALS
sponsor our
fundraising events



2,232
DONATIONS
IN 2025
keep us moving
forward

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The need continues, and so does the impact of your generosity



JOIN US

Become a monthly or annual donor and help us sustain our mission all year long.



SPONSOR

Consider sponsoring an event, program, or fundraiser.



BE OUR CHAMPION

Become a sustaining monthly donor or Be Our Champion Annual Sponsor to make an even greater impact.



GIVE A LEGACY

Consider planned giving through outright gifts including charitable IRA rollover or transferring securities, or through your trust or estate.

Gifts of stocks, bonds, life insurance policies, annuities, or retirement plan assets and/or IRAs make a lasting difference.



HOST AN EVENT

Host an event or fundraising benefiting Autism Society NWPA.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP:

Contact Tish Bartlett

(814) 455-3540

tbartlett@autismnwpa.org

For information on becoming a monthly donor or join our Be Our Champion annual sponsor campaign.

Autism Society Northwestern Pennsylvania is an independent affiliate of the Autism Society of America. Every dollar raised locally stays local, helping us provide programs, resources, education, and support to individuals and families throughout Northwestern Pennsylvania.



YOU make connection possible. Thank you for being part of our community.

The connection is you.™

The connection is you.™



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Thanks to you, our work thrives. We've built a nurturing, inclusive environment fostering growth, independence, and well-being for those living with Autism. Your belief in our community transforms lives, instilling hope and resilience.



Your dedication demonstrates compassion and commitment to positive change. We're deeply grateful for your generosity, enabling us to broaden our reach, improve our programs, and create lasting change.



Together, we empower individuals with Autism to thrive and support families along their journey, helping them find strength and support.

Leading Through Connections.



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