



A World of Awareness  
A World of Education  
A World of Understanding  
A World of Compassion  
A World of Respect  
A World of Acceptance  
A World of Inclusion

# A World of Hope

**2022**  
*Impact & Advances*



A 501(c)3 Charity Organization  
Federal Tax Code 20-0032380

# Table of Contents



---

One Park Avenue, Suite 1  
Portsmouth, RI 02871

---

Phone: 877.NAA.AUTISM (622.2884)

Fax: 401.293.5342

Web: [nationalautismassociation.org](http://nationalautismassociation.org)

Email: [naa@nationalautism.org](mailto:naa@nationalautism.org)

---

[facebook.com/nationalautism](https://facebook.com/nationalautism)

[twitter.com/nationalautism](https://twitter.com/nationalautism)

[instagram.com/nationalautism](https://instagram.com/nationalautism)

**Our Mission** 03

---

**Our Programs ...** 04

---

**Our People ...** 13

---

**Previous Year  
Financials ...** 14

---

# About NAA



## Providing Hope & Help To the Autism Community Since 2003.

The National Autism Association is a nonprofit organization focused on addressing urgent issues that families and individuals in the autism community often face, including wandering/elopement, suicidality, bullying, restraint/seclusion, abuse, mistreatment, and discrimination. Our mission is to respond to the most urgent needs of the autism community, providing real help and hope so that all affected can reach their full potential.



ADVOCACY

*Advocate for federal policy and resources that address the most urgent needs of the autism community.*



EDUCATION

*Provide education & training to families, first responders, and service professionals throughout the U.S.*



RESEARCH

*Conduct and promote research that uncovers and addresses the most critical challenges families and individuals face.*



TANGIBLE TOOLS

*Provide direct, tangible tools to families and schools in all 50 states.*



THOUGHTFUL AWARENESS

*Create awareness that promotes understanding, compassion and respect for individuals with autism.*



HOPE

*Provide inspiration and empowerment through positive messaging, story-sharing and support.*

## Programs & Initiatives





# A World of Protection

## Keeping Our Community Safe.

Nearly half of children with autism wander from safe settings and about a third of reported cases end in death or need for medical attention. To help prevent further fatalities in our community, NAA created the Big Red Safety Box Program in 2011. The program provides lifesaving tools and education to families and schools throughout the country. Thanks to ongoing support, sponsorships, grants and private donations, nearly 70,000 families and schools have been able to receive this critical resource at no charge, including 2500 additional boxes and teacher toolkits in 2022. However, there are hundreds of thousands of families still in need of these safety tools.



# #WANDERINGPREVENTION #AUTISMSAFETY #SEARCHWATERFIRST #BIGREDSAFETYBOX



## NAA'S BIG RED SAFETY BOX



Each box includes a caregiver checklist, family wandering emergency plan, first-responder profile form, wandering quick tips, sample IEP letter, student profile form, emotion identification cards, two GE wireless door/window alarms with batteries, one RoadID bracelet or shoe tag, five stop sign visual prompts for doors and windows, two safety alert window clings for car or home windows, one red safety alert wristband and a Child ID Kit from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

## NAA'S BIG RED SAFETY TEACHER TOOLKIT



NAA's Big Red Safety Box program was made possible in 2022 from in-kind donations from RoadID, Jasco Products Company and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.



# A World of Connection

## Communication is a Basic Right.

Far too often, individuals with autism who are non-speaking and minimally speaking are left without a way to communicate basic wants or needs. This can lead to certain safety risks for those who may leave a safe place to seek out special topics or places without their caregiver, or if they're experiencing medical issues or mistreatment. Communication also helps ease anxiety and frustration, promote independence, and provides building blocks for a variety of skillsets.



# EVERY PERSON DESERVES A VOICE.



Communication is not only a basic right, it's often the first line of self-defense. Yet, each person with autism has different communication skills. Some people can speak well. Others can't speak at all or only very little. About 40% of children with autism do not talk at all, according to the Centers for Disease Control.



Many families across the country are unable to attain a device for use in the home, which is why NAA's Give A Voice Program is essential for many in our community. Our program provides a comprehensive communication package to non-speaking and minimally speaking individuals. Twenty families received packages in 2022. NAA also continued to educate families across the U.S. on how to obtain communication technology through their child's school. This program was made possible in 2022 through the generosity of Greater-Good.org and Avatalker AAC.



# A World of Understanding

## It Starts with Knowledge.

At NAA, we believe it takes more than just simple awareness to cultivate change, which is why we strive to provide thoughtful messaging with simple reasoning, facts, stories, and reminders that work to drive a deeper knowledge and understanding into the world of autism. Our Autism Atrium Program allows us to deliver this messaging and education to families and service professionals throughout the country, along with ongoing reminders, positivity, and inspiration. In 2022, nearly 400,000 families, service professionals and first responders were served by the Autism Atrium Program, along with website resources and educational materials. We also reached an additional 2M people through NAA's website and social media channels.





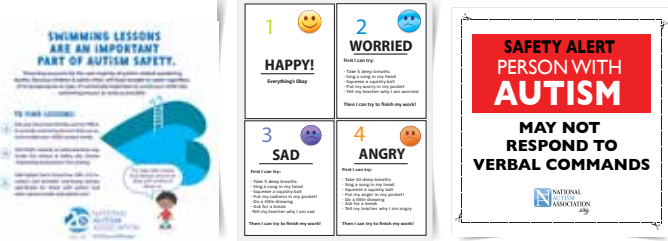
# WORKING TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING & RESPECT



It is our ongoing goal to educate every person about autism through thoughtful messaging and awareness building. In doing this, we believe mindsets shift away from negative assumptions that can lead to mistreatment...and into loving compassion, respect and acceptance.

## Providing Simple Tools 24/7

To promote safety and well being in our community, NAA works to provide free tools that families can easily download and use that same day. These tools range from free emergency forms and tips to DIY cutouts. Although simple, these ready-made resources are impactful for families facing everyday challenges and often long waiting lists in their local communities.



## Creating Meaningful Messaging

Respectful treatment often begins with understanding, and at NAA, we take this very seriously. It is our ongoing goal to educate every person about autism through meaningful messaging and awareness building. In 2022, our social media following increased to over 750,000 for Facebook alone, allowing us to reach even more individuals with educational tools and tips.



## Providing Criminal Justice Tools & Training

Over the years, NAA has provided training and resources to thousands of law enforcement agencies and first responders. In 2022, NAA had over 1000 downloads of our first responder materials and tools. NAA's efforts to create #SearchWaterFirst education continues to help build nationwide awareness and inspire numerous water safety programs and successful rescues.



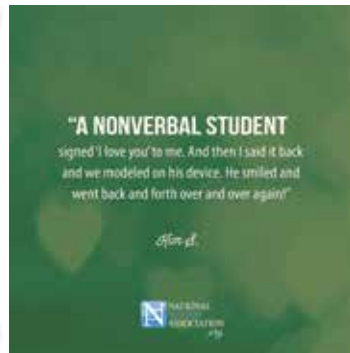
## Offering Free Tools & Toolkits to Families

In 2022, NAA continued to provide free downloadable toolkits to over 5000 families, along with our safety series brochure suite. This year, we also updated all of our materials and added new tools to our safety library, including a swim tool, and updated Family Emergency Plan.



## Sharing Hope

Our team also believes in continuing to encourage families and caregivers to stay educated, motivated and hopeful. To help with this, we created Milestone Monday, a day of sharing positive stories and celebrating victories, large and small.



## Spot ASD by 3 Initiative

In response to average-age disparities in low-income, minority & female populations, NAA created Spot ASD By 3. This early-signs education campaign works to help reduce average-age disparities in diagnosis, as well as provide early safety awareness.



# NATIONAL AUTISM CONFERENCE 2022

PHILADELPHIA - KING OF PRUSSIA



**NAC**  
NATIONAL AUTISM  
CONFERENCE

## NAC 2022: Two Days of Information, Inspiration & Hope.

In 2022, NAA's National Autism Conference brought together the country's leading experts on a variety of topics, including aggression, adulthood, communication, among many others. The conference also featured a live panel of non-speakers with autism to discuss the S2C (Spelling to Communicate) method of communication, along with incredible insights and personal experiences.

In addition to dozens of speakers and topics, a special track was held for physicians and clinicians. Nearly 300 virtual and on-site attendees participated in featured activities, including a meet-and-greet and special screening of the documentary film, *Spellers*. Recordings of the conference were made available to those unable to attend. NAC 2022 was made possible by generous sponsorships from MAPS & Alganot.



# Our People

## Board of Directors

Wendy Fournier, President

Claire Bothwell, Chairperson

Krystal Higgins, Executive Director

Kerry Magro

Lori McIlwain

James A. Moody

Leslie Phillips

Joseph Ranseth

---

One Park Avenue, Suite 1

Portsmouth, RI 02871

---

Phone: 877.NAA.AUTISM (622.2884)

Fax: 401.293.5342

Web: [nationalautismassociation.org](http://nationalautismassociation.org)

Email: [naa@nationalautism.org](mailto:naa@nationalautism.org)

---



NATIONAL  
**AUTISM**  
ASSOCIATION

2003 | 2023 #20YearsOfHope

Platinum  
Transparency  
**2022**  
  
**Candid.**

# Previous Year Financials (2021)

### 2021 Income

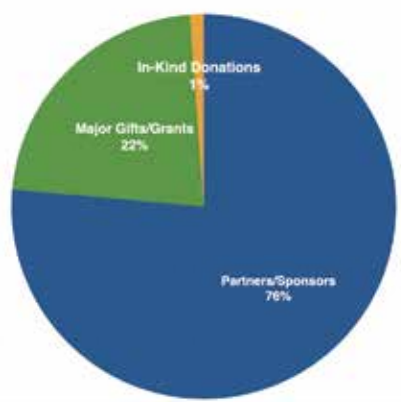
Retail partner/Sponsors	\$397,973.39
Major Gift/Grants/Other	\$116,818.61
Donated Goods	\$ 6,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$520,792.00</b>

### 2021 Expenses

Program Expenses	\$252,828.00
Management & General	\$ 59,227.00
Fundraising	\$ 22,116.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$334,171.00</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>	<b>\$465,420.00</b>

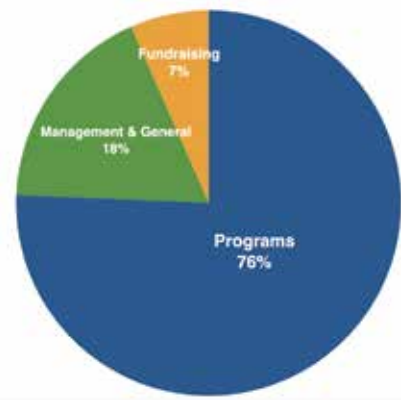
NAA 2021 Income

- Partners/Sponsors
- In-Kind Donations
- Major Gifts/Grants



NAA 2021 Expenses

- Programs
- Management & General
- Fundraising





# A World Of Gratitude

## Because of you, we made a difference.

As we head into our 20th year, we can't help but reflect on the amount of love, hope, and dedication that has led us to this point. The challenges and achievements. Victories and losses. The meaningful change that has moved us forward in protecting the lives of those with autism. It's been an amazing journey thus far, and there's so much more to be done.

Our late founder was a champion of difference-makers, and we hope each day that we are making her proud. We wouldn't be able to do any of it without your support.

**Thank you for sharing the love!**

*With hope,*

*Wendy Fournier*