



AUTISM
HOME
BASE

IMPACT

ANNUAL REPORT DECEMBER 2023



AGING IN PLACE #AUTISMAFTER18

2023 Year in Review

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

After 18, or even age 21, when education supports end, what becomes of autistic adults?

Employment rates for autistic adults in Canada is only 14.3% in comparison to the rate for people with all disabilities which hovers around 45%. Some autistics enjoy a level of autonomy. Others require complex care and supports, most often provided by aging parents and siblings.

Autism Home Base is committed to enhancing the quality of life for autistics and their lifelong caregivers. We have built a growing community of peers where neurodivergence is accepted and appreciated.

Our volunteer Board of Directors is honoured to govern this innovative charity on behalf of the families of Autism Home Base. They have banded together to share resources and build a place of belonging for autistic adults.

We prioritize the mental wellness of our members by offering social, recreational, and skills development opportunities - experiences for families to enjoy together, and alongside other families who live autism.

We are so proud of our passionate and committed staff team who consistently go above and beyond toward a vision where no one lives in isolation and participants realize their best life. They simply couldn't do it all without the support of ten placement students, four summer students and 86 volunteers who support our programming, fundraising and community outreach efforts.

Board of Directors

Lynne Lyon, President
Adriana Micanovic, Secretary
Brenna Bizley, Treasurer
Terry Batley, Past President
Erin Bibby, Director
Fred Horvath, Director
Gordon Humphrey, Director

The audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending Oct 31st, 2023 are available for the Annual Members Meeting to be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, Feb 15th 2024.



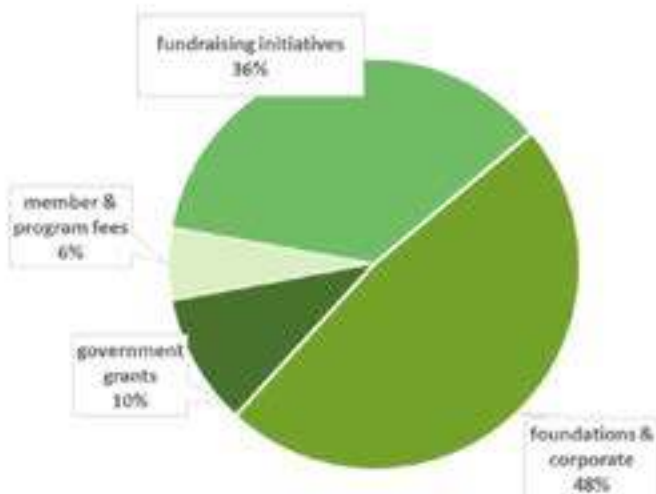
We are grateful to private foundations and corporations such as Building Industry for Durham Deeds (through Tribute Communities), Unity for Autism, Elexicon Energy, the Joseph Lebovic and Wolf Lebovic Charitable Foundation, Harry E Foster Foundation, and The Azrieli Foundation. Your transformational gifts keep us future-focussed while we seek to secure core funding support from government.

We appreciate donors who make monthly donations as members of our AutismAfter18 Society and funders who commit multi-year pledges. Thank you for subscribing to our mission and entrusting us with the resources to drive a systemic evolution of services to autistic and neurodivergent community members.

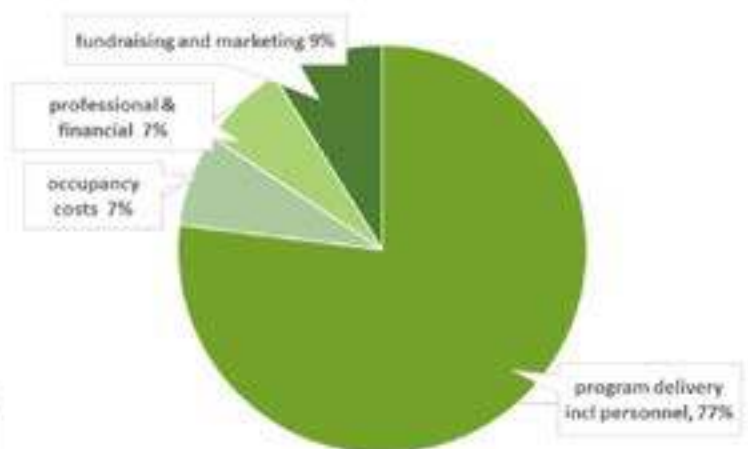
Following last fiscal's deficit, we are pleased to report a modest surplus due to growth in revenue and prudent spending management. The Board is committed to sustainability by building operational reserves.

Thank you for caring about families like ours.

REVENUE \$543,308



EXPENSES \$506,685



2023 in Review - Our Programs



Autism Home Base programs and meet-ups are tools that drive social interaction. We create opportunities for families to share experiences in a welcoming space surrounded by peers with parallel lived experience.

Members are encouraged to share special interests and skills by offering program suggestions and leading activities.



Our in-person, virtual and community outreach program calendar reflects member interests and includes:

- Sports - Boxing, Pickleball, Swimming, Bowling
- Social - Games Cafés, Guys Night, Moms Night, Movie Nights
- Dramatic Arts - Improv
- Music & Movement - Instrumental and vocal
- Visual Arts - artist-led and craft making
- Skill Building - Healthy Bites cooking, PEERS and Living Life to the Full wellness training
- Summer Palooza - 8 weeks of indoor/outdoor community exploration & friend making



Many thanks to program partners Toronto Blue Jays Foundation, Art Gallery of Peterborough for programming & Town of Ajax.



2023 Year in Review - Our Members

Autism Home Base is family-driven. We serve autistic adults and those that love them. Each family membership is entitled to attend and vote at the Annual Members Meeting, to review the financials, elect the Board of Directors, and provide feedback.

Our members are empowered to give back as volunteers, donors, or by holding or supporting fundraising events.

Our community includes autistic adults, parents and siblings, volunteers including our Board of Directors, placement students and our staff team. Each contributes to our safe, welcoming space promoting acceptance and inclusion.

We value opportunities to network and connect with peers.



"This is the first time in my life I can be somewhere where I am accepted. I like all the people very much and have made friends. This is one of the best things that has happened to me. I no longer have to sit home alone and feel depressed."

-2023 Program Participant



2023 in Review - Our Supporters



Autism Home Base thrives on the unwavering support from diverse stakeholders. In addition to the Corporations and Foundations mentioned in the Board comments, partnerships with Trent University and Town of Ajax as well as municipal, provincial and federal projects grants provide resources, collaboration opportunities, and support that enhances our outreach and impact.



Service clubs generously shared the proceeds of their fundraising efforts. Special thanks the Rotary Club of Bowmanville and Rotary Club of Whitby Sunrise Rotary for leadership gifts in 2023.



Our work is made possible with funds raised through individual donors and community-led initiatives such as 100 Men of Whitby, the Towie Family's Polar Swim, Golf Tournaments organized by the GM Professional Managers Association and by Elexicon Energy, as well as the Builders in Durham Deeds (BIDD) lunch through Tribute Communities.



"We're committed to making a positive impact in our communities, which is why we proudly support Autism Home Base. Their social and recreational programs for autistic adults and their families are more than activities; they're the heartbeat of an inclusive community."

- Melanie W, Elexicon Energy



Note Worthy in 2023

- 2,500 visitors to the hub
- 39 program options were offered
- 1,148 sessions were led by expert facilitators
- 4,100 of program hours delivered
- 318 individuals from 192 families participated
- 86 volunteers contributed 1,407 hours
- Ten post-secondary students gained employment experience through placements
- 438 supporters made donations
- 185 swimmers took an icy plunge in our first Polar Swim event on January 1, 2023
- 21 community outreach events offered new connections
- our Zen Den tent travelled to six local festivals
- 400 participants were served through 15 Lived-Experience Autism Perspective training sessions
- World Autism Day was celebrated with 100 local political, business, and community leaders

Grateful for leadership gifts from



COMING UP

starting March 2024

PEERS®

Because life is better with friends :)

starting May 2024

**LIVING LIFE
TO THE FULL**

helping you to help yourself



ASK ABOUT OUR LEAP TRAINING



The 'Lived Experience Autism Perspective' (LEAP) training is a 90-minute interactive discussion designed to support your team's understanding and service provision to neurodivergent community members.

Diversity and inclusion starts with conversation. We can help your team:

- Demystify autism
- Brainstorm strategies
- Develop inclusive solutions

Developed in collaboration with autistic self-advocates, LEAP will help you create and foster environments where everyone can thrive.

Learn more at autismhomebase.com/LEAP_workshops/



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   @AutismHomeBase

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