



AUTISM
HOME
BASE

IMPACT

ANNUAL REPORT DECEMBER 2024



FROM SURVIVING TO
THRIVING

2024 Year in Review

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

We are autistic adults, family caregivers, volunteers, donors and funders, staff, and advocates. But Autism Home Base is more than the sum of our parts.

Together, our inclusive, supportive community is moving beyond vague autism awareness concepts to concrete discussions of appreciation and accommodation for neurodivergent individuals. We are creating change.

This year, the United Nations theme for World Autism Day on April 2nd was “Moving from Surviving to Thriving”. It emphasized the need to shift our focus from merely addressing challenges, to creating opportunities to flourish.

Autism Home Base continues to champion quality of life, health and wellness considerations through a lens of social inclusion.

As we reflect on the successes of the past year, we are immensely grateful for the unwavering support of our community. In 2024, Autism Home Base reached new milestones in both impact and engagement.

Research proves that reducing social isolation is paramount to improving overall mental and physical health outcomes. According to our most recent member surveys, 81% of participants report feeling more socially connected as a result of Autism Home Base programs. These connections are life-changing for a population often marginalized and overlooked.

Yet despite the profound impact of our work, Autism Home Base receives no core government funding, relying instead on private donations, fundraising, and project grants to sustain operations.

Through prudent spending and sweat equity, we have delivered a modest fiscal surplus toward our goal of accumulating a minimum 4 month operating reserve in keeping responsible practices of leading non-profits.



Board of Directors

Lynne Lyon, President
Erin Bibby, Vice President
Adriana Micanovic, Secretary
Brenna Bizley, Treasurer
Terry Batley, Past President
Kat Bercuson, Director
Brendan Hill, Director
Gordon Humphrey, Director
Sheryl Hunter, Director

Thankfully, new Legacy level gifts keep us looking forward to game-changing opportunities. Our Futures Committee works with staff, board and outside experts to assess new ventures that will safeguard Autism Home Base’s sustainability and deepen our service to members across their lifespans.

Autism Home Base is pleased to be participating in emerging national strategy conversations that reflect the lived experiences of our members. We continue to support and advocate for regional advancements in neurodivergent inclusion through committee work.

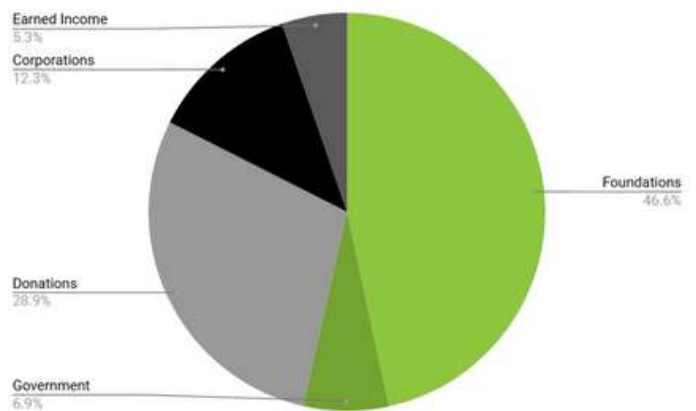
We are fuelled by opportunities to deepen our impact. We remain committed to expanding our programs, growing our partnerships, and advocating for meaningful change. Our community is stronger when we come together to support, inspire, and celebrate one another. We are a trusted resource and collaborator for other family networks.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission.

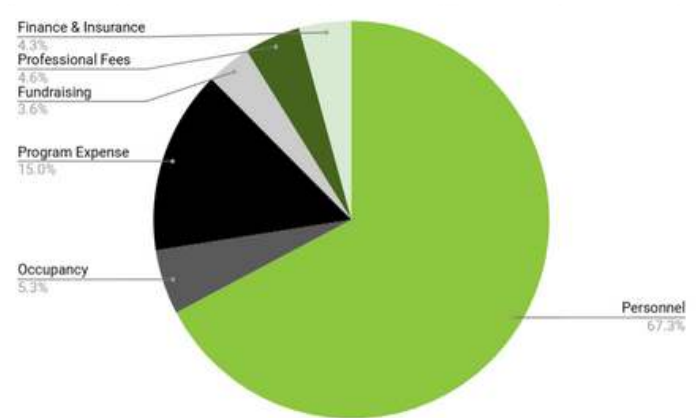
Thank you for caring about families like ours.

Fiscal Year Ending October 31, 2024

REVENUE \$620,347



EXPENSES \$608,426



Audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending Oct 31st, 2024 are available following the Annual Members Meeting to be held at 6:30 pm on Thurs. Feb 20th 2025

2024 in Review - Our Members

Autism Home Base serves adults aged 18 and older who identify as autistic or neurodivergent. 96% of our members live at home with aging family caregivers.

Some have complex dual diagnoses, developmental disabilities and mental health challenges and will require full-time, life long care. Other members have family or professional supports in place to reflect their social, emotional, or financial needs and independence levels.

We recognize and support parents, a large percentage that are now seniors. The level of support varies but the commitment is lifelong.

Families come to AHB seeking community and a space where they belong.

Our sports, arts, social, and wellness program offerings are tools providing shared experiences upon which participants can build supportive connections and community.

Members give back too, contributing volunteer hours and special skills. Members drive program offerings.



Members tell us

"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. This group is perfect."



2024 in Review - Our Volunteers

Autism Home Base could not survive without the dedication of our volunteers. In 2024, 90 volunteers supported program delivery, community outreach, and fundraising initiatives.

Volunteers are the backbone of communities, offering time, skills, and compassion to make a difference. They foster connection, address social needs, and support essential services. Their selfless contributions enhance lives, strengthen organizations, and build resilient societies.

Autism Home Base volunteers demonstrate the power of collective action and kindness.

The contribution of 14 post-secondary students gaining valuable employment experience highlights our commitment to fostering the next generation of advocates and professionals in autism care.



Volunteers tell us

'I like being part of a group that cares so much about their members and their families and works together to make their lives better.

I get back much more than I give.'

2024 in Review - Our Supporters & Partners

Grants received for special projects contribute nearly half our annual revenue. Autism Home Base carefully reviews the goals of funders to ensure our work falls within their mandate.

We are extremely proud to have earned the on-going trust and support of respected sector funders such as Unity for Autism, The Catherine & Maxwell Meighen Foundation, Els for Autism Canada, The Azrieli Foundation, Harry E Foster Foundation, as well as corporate sponsors who support programs and events.

Private donations include gifts from local service clubs, community members who organize fundraising events, and hundreds of event attendees as well as donors who respond to our annual appeal.

We are grateful to the Lebovic Foundations, the Vanhaverbeke Foundation, and Tribute Communities with annualized pledges and leadership level giving that allows Autism Home Base to work more strategically and proactively.



JOSEPH LBOVIC AND WOLF LBOVIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS



EDMOND AND SYLVIA VANHAVERBEKE FOUNDATION



2024 in Review - Quick Stats

- 3,300 visitors to the hub
- 28 new families joined our membership
- 260 participants accessed our programs
- 43 program options were offered
- 1,399 sessions were led by subject expert facilitators
- 90 volunteers contributed 1,360 hours of sweat equity
- 14 post-secondary students gained employment experience through work placements
- 15 community outreach events brought new connections
- our Zen Den tent made eight local festivals and events more accessible for neurodivergent visitors
- 85 participants learned through our Lived-Experience Autism Perspective (LEAP) training
- 495 supporters made donations
- 277 supporters took an Polar Plunge on New Year's Day
- World Autism Day was celebrated with 110 local political, business, and community leaders
- NextGen 4 Inclusion (Gen Z's and Millennials) held a Downtown Dash for Autism raising over \$6000
- one full-time staff, four part-time, six seasonal staff, and three contracted support professionals worked together to make it all happen under the guidance of nine volunteer Board Directors



WHY AUTISMAFTER 18?

Too many autistic adults are isolated & living at home with aging family members.

Too many can't access healthcare, mental health supports, or even recreation.

Too few are leading fulfilling, independent lives.

Our best lives see us surrounded by a supportive, educated community.



COMING UP IN 2025

CLARINGTON POLAR BEAR SWIM

JANUARY 1ST - NEW YEAR'S DAY
BOND HEAD PARKETTE, NEWCASTLE
CLARINGTONPOLARBEARSWIM.COM

AUTISMS ANGELS FAMILY WALK/RUN

SUNDAY MAY 4TH
HEYDENSORE PARK, WHITBY
AUTISMSANGELS.COM

WORLD AUTISM DAY

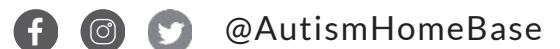
WEDNESDAY APRIL 2ND
AUTISM HOME BASE HUB
132 CHURCH ST, BOWMANVILLE
AUTISMHOMEBASE.COM

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH
LEBOVIC GOLF CLUB
14020 LESLIE STREET, AURORA
AUTISMAFTER18.CA



a registered Canadian charity #81352 5797 RR0001



@AutismHomeBase

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