

# IMPACT



ANNUAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2021



# JOY IS ALL AROUND

## GOVERNANCE

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Autism Home Base Durham Inc. is a federally incorporated not for profit and a registered Canadian charity #81352 5797 RR0001.

Our charity is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of members with relevant lived experience as well as caring community leaders.

The Board sets the strategic goals for the corporation and meets regularly to assess impact, oversee finances, and ensure adequate policies, infrastructure and resources are available to deliver our mission.

The Board is supported by the Chief Executive Officer who manages the operations including staffing, revenue and expenses, program delivery and stakeholder engagement.

2022

Note - The audited financial statements along with board and management reports for the fiscal year ending Oct 31st, 2021 are available following the Annual Members Meeting to be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, Feb 17th 2022 in Bowmanville.

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

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As we reflect on the past year, the ongoing response to COVID-19 has had an extraordinary impact on our family, friendships, and work.

Four part-time staff, three summer students, and a slew of volunteers propelled the organization forward through unprecedented times.

We are pleased to report that through the prudent management of a \$311,000 annual budget, our 2021 fiscal year end shows a modest surplus of \$19,000 allocated to reserves, moving us closer to our 12 month operating reserves goal.

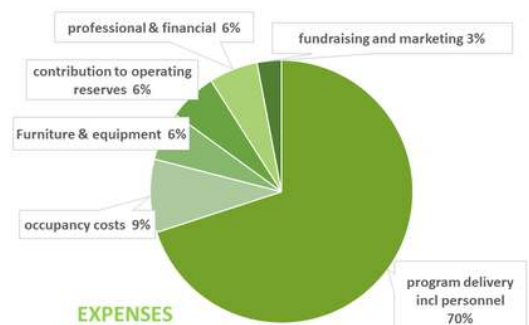
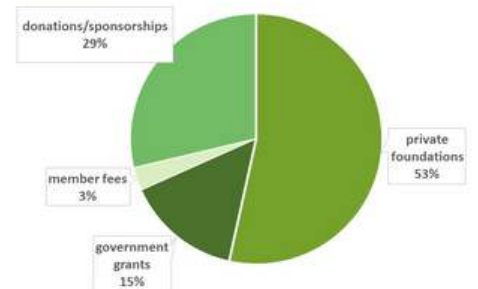
To our members, thank you for entrusting the board with your continued support and confidence. To our funders, donors, and patrons, you have brought great joy to our families through your support of the families of Autism Home Base.

In 2022, we will embark on a new strategic planning process, to consider not only the next three years but what real transformation could look like and how we might get there. What are the pressing issues that autistic adults face? And how can Autism Home Base contribute to individualized solutions?

No longer alone, we are stronger, together. Let's use our combined forces to create the community we envision.

Lynne Lyon, President  
Terry Batley, Vice President  
Linda Schrama, Treasurer  
Adriana Micanovic, Secretary  
Fred Horvath, Director  
Gordon Humphrey, Director  
Tanya Laschuk, Director  
Joe Neal, Director

## REVENUE



## REIMAGINING PROGRAM DELIVERY

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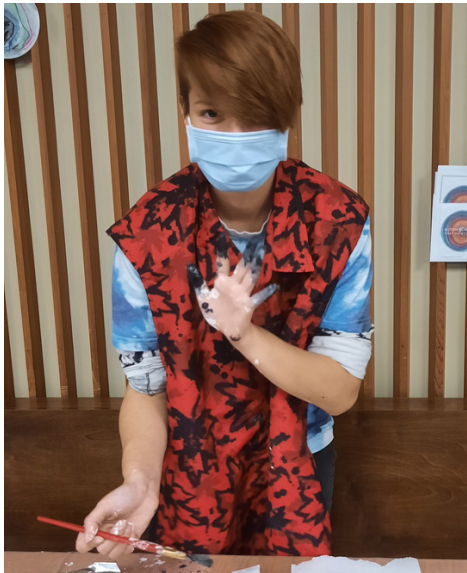
It is a testament to the resilience of our members that they remained connected through virtual and hybrid program delivery.

### **Offered weekly**

Caring Connections, Skit Club, Sensory Seekers, Gym and Swim, Move It and Mix it, Games Café.

### **Offered monthly**

Indies (community excursions for independent adults), Moms' Mixers and Guys' Nights, Games Group, RPGs including D&D, Full STEAM Fridays (Snapology, Scientists in School), and Movie Nights.



### **At the hub**

Weekday drop-in visits saw members relax in our lounge areas and new Zen room. Here members can use the self-serve kitchen, bring a snack, or find a quiet spot to create art, read, or write.

The Garden Club transformed our exterior garden boxes.



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## Seasonal

**Living Life to the Full**, an 8-week wellness program was delivered virtually for caregivers.

Families connected at our annual Summer picnic, as well as our Halloween and Holiday parties.

In July and August, AHB members were back in the hub and out in the community in small social pods of 3-5 members for morning, afternoon, or evening sessions. Through **Summer Palooza**, peer-to-peer groupings found members experiencing greater engagement, stronger emotional support, and deepened friendships.

The **Possibilities Program**, a highly customized goals-driven program, was piloted for four families over 12 weeks. Two worked on tolerating new environments, activities, & people. Two worked on developing and practicing healthy relationships. We aim to reintroduce this supported program as restrictions allow.



This year, nearly 200 participants from more than 70 families enjoyed sports, recreation, arts, social and wellness offerings.

# AUTISM AFTER 18 CHAMPIONS

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World Autism Awareness Day

Our charity is growing, thanks to the unwavering support of our donors and sponsors.

Autism Home Base receives no core government funding. So COVID restrictions hit our revenue options harder than some charities.

Unable to host our annual gala for the second year in a row, we instead presented a television broadcast through Rogers, a virtual celebration of World Autism Day. We are grateful to our volunteer production team and the many community and business leaders who sponsored **Allies for Autism 2021**.

We received a resilient Communities project grant through the **Ontario Trillium Foundation** to extend the hub hours for evening programs, and to bring in fundraising and partnership expertise.

Funding from **Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF)** through Durham Community Foundation helped recover extra costs incurred to serve members remotely.

We received federal and provincial grants to hire summer students. And a federal grant through Enabling Accessibility Fund that turned a storage room into our Zen room.



Ontario Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



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Private foundations fund special projects and programs that drive innovation. In 2021, that included the Harry Foster Foundation, Ballard Foundation and lead returning grantor, Unity For Autism. We are grateful for the continued support through community grants from the City of Oshawa, Town of Whitby and Municipality of Clarington.

Corporate leaders Elexicon Energy, Ontario Power Generation, TD Canada Trust, Tribute Communities, Meridian Credit Union, Durham Regional Police Services Board, and Sobeys are joined by Unifor Local 222 and LiUNA Local 183.

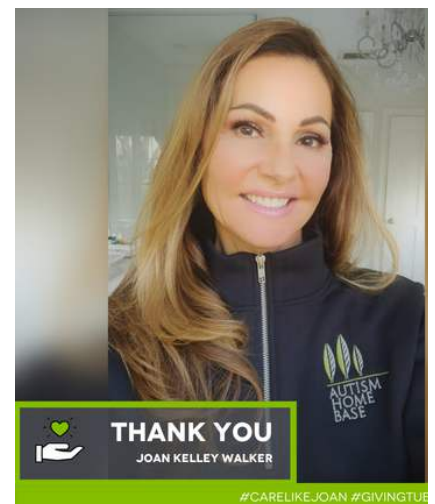
Service club volunteers work tirelessly to raise funds to support those in need locally and internationally. We are especially grateful to Bowmanville, Courtice, Ajax and Pickering Rotary club members, as well as the Newcastle Lions for their efforts and continued support.

Autism Home Base also relies heavily on the generosity of our member families and their supporters. Member-driven efforts included our 2nd annual virtual D&D tournament, rain barrel sales and Red Barn Bingo proceeds.

Our annual letter writing campaign to our close friends and allies attracted the leadership of an important Canadian philanthropist, Joan Kelley Walker, who has pledged to match donations made to our year end appeal.

#### **Multi-year pledge partnerships**

We're grateful for the support of returning and multi year community and corporate partners like Elexicon Energy.



# FORWARD FOCUS

Unexpected lessons learned and exciting new partnerships gained through COVID will inform how we look to the future.

Autistic adults are at high risk for sedentary lifestyles and the related health and wellness implications. We will explore the potential for technology to motivate members to enjoy active play among peers to increase engagement and build healthy habits.

Parents and siblings have always been included in our service model. They enjoy social and recreation alongside their family member with autism. In the months ahead, new programs will offer caregivers programs focused on their personal wellness and happiness.

Our strategic planning process will collect stakeholder needs and advice. Please plan to participate in surveys and discussions. We look forward to travelling this path with you.



Grateful to our returning lead partner who does so much for so many served by grassroots charities.



a registered Canadian charity #81352 5797 RR0001

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