



Autism Speaks Canada 2012 Family Services Community Grant Recipients

Ability Online Support Network

Toronto, ON

Friendship Builder

\$22,500

The Friendship Builder module is a series of online activities designed to assist members with social communication challenges in developing appropriate social thinking strategies. The objective is to reduce these challenges by providing dynamic online learning opportunities which focus on social thinking and social skill acquisition. The reduction of such challenges will lead to greater friendship opportunities and peer interactions in and out of the classroom. The program will feature a series of progressive activities with varying levels of difficulty. The activities will start with basic skill acquisition, progressing to interpretation of social situations and appropriate responses.

ACT - Autism Community Training

Burnaby, BC

Focus on Research 2013 - Building Community Capacity Across the Rockies

\$22,500

This grant will support ACT's 9th Annual Focus on Research Event, which will now widen its scope to include researchers from across British Columbia and Alberta. The intention of this project is to promote knowledge translation and exchange between researchers, educators, and community-based clinicians working with individuals with ASD and their families. It will also be an opportunity to bring together researchers across these regions to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration, with an emphasis on research that promotes quality of life outcomes for individuals with autism across the lifespan.

Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA)

Halifax, NS

A training initiative through Autism in Education: An Atlantic Partnership

\$22,500

This initiative will provide specialized training to a group of key educators as well as provincial, district and board autism consultants who provide planning and resource support to children with ASD in all elementary and secondary schools across the Atlantic provinces. These key educators will use this specialized training to mentor and coach classroom and resource teachers at a local level on evidence based best practices for students in schools across all four provinces.

Autism Calgary Association

Calgary, AB

Adult Workshop Series Expansion Project

\$22,500

This project will support the expansion of the existing Adults with ASD Workshop Series. The series presents a positive strengths-based view of Asperger Syndrome and high functioning autism that leads individuals towards gaining confidence and independence through peer networking. The expansion will focus on achieving optimal sustainability and practical replication of the workshop series. A team of presenters will be trained to deliver the program to significantly reduce the delivery costs. Once the training occurs, a comprehensive training guide will be created to assist sustainable delivery of the program for future years.

Autism Ontario

Toronto, ON

Transition to Life: A Model for Planning & Living a Good Life for People with Asperger Syndrome
\$22,059

The intent of this project is to respond to the increasing needs of the young adults in Ontario with Asperger Syndrome transitioning from the secondary school setting into independent living. There is currently a significant gap in services and supports for this population, their parents, and for the professionals that attempt to support their complex needs. This project proposes to address these needs by developing and teaching a 12 week pilot/demonstration course for individuals with Asperger Syndrome, provide individual support and coaching on specific needs related to the transition process and to provide sessions for parents to assist in the development of a plan for the future. The intent is that this course would become available for professionals and individuals with Asperger Syndrome who are graduating secondary school in Ontario, as well as Canada.

Autism Ontario York Region Chapter

Richmond Hill, ON

Social Skills Summer Institute (SSSI)
\$22,500

The Social Skills Summer Institute (SSSI) will address the need of more support for adults who have graduated from secondary school, but have not yet been able to secure a meaningful work placement. A lack of social skills may prevent the individual from launching into post-secondary education. The SSSI will create a cohesive social support community around the participants to help build their self-esteem, gain important work experience and job search skills, as well as developing appropriate social skills to be successful with employment or education. They will focus on finer details to getting a job - resume building, interview skills, what to wear to an interview, what is appropriate to discuss during an interview, and how to get the job you want. Participants will also practice their social skills through excursions and intentional social opportunities.

Autism Services Waterloo Region

Kitchener, ON

Family Resource Coach
\$22,500

The Autism Services Waterloo Region's Family Resource Coach (FRC) will act as the only autism-specific provider serving families impacted by autism, with or without a diagnosis, in the Waterloo Region. Families can access comprehensive resource support in order to make informed decisions for their family at no cost. The FRC will provide a holistic and cohesive view of support, including programs and services and also items such as preparing your child for a dentist visit/haircut/airplane, how to talk to a child about diagnosis, sibling support, bereavement, transition planning, and financial resources. The goal of the FRC is to ensure that all families and individuals are able to receive the support and direction they require for their unique situation. The FRC works with all autism-service providers in the Region to complement existing services and supports in the development of a suitable and customized plan of care for every family.

Autism Society of Edmonton Area (ASEA)

Edmonton, AB

Living with Autism Project
\$22,500

Autism Society of Edmonton Area's *Living with Autism Project* will address the need for more resources for adults with autism and their families by presenting a series of speakers and workshops that will address topics that individuals and families are requesting. For example, a workshop that focuses on relationship issues of all kinds, but most importantly intimate relationships, will be provided. Other topics will be determined based on the interest and requests of the attendees. Speakers and workshops will be recorded and made available online so they are accessible to individuals with autism in smaller or rural areas unable to attend in person.

Bond Child and Family Development (BCFD)
Staff Training/Autism Intervener
\$6,083

Toronto, ON

Bond Child and Family Development (BCFD) will use this grant for three Registered Early Childhood Educators and one Early Childhood Assistant to attend Autism Intervener Training Levels 1 and 2 at the Geneva Centre for Autism. The goal is to improve their capacity to support preschoolers with a diagnosis of ASD and their families. As a result, BCFD hopes to increase the number of children with ASD that they support by 50%.

Brock University
Peer Awareness for Preservice Teachers
\$1,800

St. Catharines, ON

Peer Awareness for Preservice Teachers will provide resources and education to primary, junior, and intermediate preservice teachers through Brock's Instruction Resource Centres (IRC) located in St. Catharines and Hamilton. The IRC provides resources to preservice teachers, university community members, and practice teachers in local communities. Through this grant, Brock University will be creating kits for school-based peer awareness with information regarding ASD for children and adolescents.

Centre for Autism Services Alberta
Teen & Young Adult Program
\$22,155

Edmonton, AB

The primary goal of this program is to focus on skills of independence including healthy choices, food preparation, daily living skills, physical activity and leisure, transportation, money management, self-care, social skills and vocational skills. The two modules for this project, mobility and physical activity, will further support inclusion within the community by building on skills of independence for young adults and adults with autism, age 16-29 years old.

Earlscourt - Creche Child Development Institute
SNAP-A for Children with Asperger Syndrome & Their Families, Phase 2
\$22,500

Toronto, ON

This project, which is in its 2nd phase, will offer modified SNAP®ORP intervention to 20 children with Asperger Syndrome and their families, evaluating the effectiveness of this unique program on a larger scale. Phase 2 will provide a highly sought-after treatment opportunity for boys with Asperger Syndrome exhibiting severe behavioural problems and their families, improve the intervention through implementing changes from the Phase 1 quantitative, qualitative and clinical findings, and publish and disseminate findings to a range of service sectors, organizations and consumers.

ErinoakKids
"I Changed My Mind" - Cognitive Behaviour Therapy
\$22,500

Mississauga, ON

For youth/young adults with both anxiety symptoms and Asperger Syndrome or High Functioning Autism, a group therapy program using cognitive behavioural therapy consisting of both adolescents and parent components will run for 12 weekly sessions. Each session will have parent training/coaching goals that parents will be required to practice weekly with their adolescents. Each group will be led by a psychologist and will take into account the age and skill level of the adolescents by implementing participant-specific modifications. A combination of verbal and visual materials, games, and a reward/consequence system will be used within the groups.

Friend 2 Friend Social Learning Society
Friend 2 Friend Play Centre for Children with Autism
\$22,500

North Vancouver, BC

This project will establish and provide new state-of-the-art intervention programs at a Friend 2 Friend Play Centre for Children with Autism in a new Vancouver-based location. The programs that will be delivered at this new centre will be the first of their kind to focus on the core needs of children with autism by combining SCERTS®, Integrated Play Groups® and Friend 2 Friend models in innovative on-site specialized programs for children ages 3-12, their families and the professionals who support them. The programs will be offered year-round.

Geneva Centre for Autism
Café 165 - Vocational Centre Pilot Program
\$22,500

Toronto, ON

Café 165 is an innovative vocational initiative to prepare youths and adults with ASD to participate within the community. Participants will learn life skills by working as a paid staff member at a real café. This grant will support the curriculum development and participant training specific to the culinary arts and hospitality pathway. Participants will learn essential skills and work habits. The skills they learn are used in all occupations and are transferrable. The goal of this project is to have participants obtain competitive employment and transition into a new job within six months of starting work at the café.

Kerry's Place Autism Services
Loyalist College Adult Student Support Group
\$13,489

Aurora, ON

The Loyalist College Adult Student Support Group will enable students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to pursue advanced education while providing them with specialized social-emotional support which will allow them to fully embrace the experience of post-secondary education. Student success goals for participants of The Loyalist College Adult Student Support Group will include crisis prevention, student retention, increased social participation and social relationships, increased use of existing student supports and preparation for the workplace. The elements of The Loyalist College Adult Student Support Group curriculum will include: campus social skills, promoting independence, self-advocacy, navigating the college system, crisis prevention and health promotion, promotion of social participation training and workplace social skills.

Kerry's Place Autism Services
The Life Academy
\$25,000

Aurora, ON

The LIFE Academy will feature a customized learning environment for transitional-aged young adults (16 years+) and adults with Asperger Syndrome offered through Kerry's Place Autism Services. The method of instruction will be based on best practice research and is a modern approach to providing day support services with an educational focus while replicating the experiences of traditional post-secondary programs. Courses will include classroom time with assignments, individualized instruction and supports, as well as hands-on participative learning. In its first year, The LIFE Academy will provide over 1,150 hours of instruction and over 140 learning spaces to young adults and adults with Asperger Syndrome. A total of 10 courses will be developed to meet this goal and will range from vocational training, transition planning, community integration skills and special interest courses.

KidsAbility Centre for Child Development
Three Steps to Recreation Success
\$25,000

Waterloo, ON

This grant will support a recreation therapist to create skill development programs for healthy lifestyles, provide consultation and education to parents as well as work with community organizations to develop recreation programs to meet the needs of children with ASD. The program will support children and youth with ASD and their families in the Waterloo Region, City of Guelph and Wellington County. This project will enhance the community's capacity to include children with autism in community recreation programs and provide children with the opportunity to develop their recreation and group skills.

Kinark Child and Family Services
Fill the Gap
\$15,758

Minden, ON

The "Fill the Gap" project provides a six day recreation experience for groups of ten families in a lake side cottage setting. The program is designed to provide families with young adults over the age of 18 with the opportunity to enjoy a recreation experience as a family-unit in a setting that provides support services for those impacted by ASD. The goals are to support ASD families through guided experiences to develop the necessary skills and comfort level to plan and self-direct leisure activities and to support social networking and community building through the structure and setting of a social recreational cottage initiative.

La Fondation Place Coco
Captain Coco's Autism Awareness School Program
\$12,500

Montreal, QC

This grant will support an autism awareness campaign aimed at elementary schools across Montreal. The project aims to educate children on what life is like for their classmates and friends living on the spectrum and also encourages schools to be proactive in reducing bullying in schools. The staff at Coco's Place has developed a play whereby a hero, Captain Coco, teaches social skills and life lessons to children. The play provides interactive learning with students that teaches them about anti-bullying. This program focuses on the inclusion and exclusion realities of children with ASD in mainstream schools.

Lanark Autism Support Group - a division of Lanark Health & Community Services
Lanark Autism Resource Room
\$4,955

Carleton Place, ON

This grant will create a Resource Centre in Lanark County that is open and accessible to individuals who wish to broaden their knowledge base about autism. This room will consist of various resource materials including books, videos, toys, sensory items, therapeutic tools, magazines and activities, as well as a computer with internet access for families who do not have access to view online resources elsewhere. The intent is to bring all resources into one central location and make them available free of charge to residents of Lanark County who can benefit from them. This will be especially beneficial for parents with children on the spectrum as well as teachers, therapists and medical professionals working with individuals diagnosed with autism.

Lucy McCormick Senior School
iPad Technology Project
\$5,000

Toronto, ON

Lucy McCormick is a congregated special education school with 74 non-verbal students with many abilities and special intellectual and physical needs. Most of the students have autism. Many of these students use iPads to communicate and to learn. This grant will support the addition of 3 iPads for classroom use to teach and engage with the students who are on the spectrum. Having the communication devices allow students to express themselves in ways not previously available and provides staff the ability to better understand them and respond. It is a two-way meaningful interaction. The end result is a calmer more engaged and relaxed student who has a huge sense of accomplishment. The iPads can be used for teaching of new skills, having schedules on line that provide an ability for immediate interactive use, music and fine arts applications and teaching life skills.

Lunenburg County Assistive Technology Centre Society Hebbville, NS
The iPad3 & Enhancing Performance of Students with ASD in Transition to Post-Secondary, Work or Community
\$22,905.50

This grant provides iPad3 devices to 30 high school students diagnosed with ASD in Lunenburg County and provide services and supports to enhance performance in the school setting, enhance performance in transition to work and post-secondary schools as well as monitor the use and application of the iPad3 device in each application. It will also provide further support as needed, including training to ensure the successful use and application of the devices. This project will identify young adults in high schools with ASD who are potentially transitioning to post-secondary schools, work settings or other locations once they complete high school. They will be assessed for iPad3 assistive technology, appropriate apps and accessibility options to meet their high school training needs as well as provide support with team training and transitioning to post-secondary settings.

Miriam Foundation
MateriaTech
\$25,000

Montreal, QC

In 2011, Autism Speaks Canada funded the launch of the MateriaTech Project, which developed an Autism Educational Resource Bank for families, schools, therapeutic programs and work placement sites for older individuals to access. The 2012 grant will continue to innovate the MateriaTech Project by developing on-site and web-based training seminars as well as a guideline series for the clinical population to be able to efficiently search and use the educational materials available via MateriaTech. The grant will also support the upgrade and addition of materials and increase the efficiency of the search and cataloguing system for ease of use and to better meet the learning needs of people with ASD.

Ontario Brain Institute
OBI/CIFAR Accelerator Workshop - Public Lecture
\$5,670

Toronto, ON

This grant will support the Ontario Brain Institute and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research public lecture that will feature world-class researchers, discuss the current understanding of autism and give members of the public the opportunity to learn from thought leaders in autism research. It will also support the development of a video of the lecture that can be shared with those who were unable to attend, providing a chance for online knowledge translation and a broader audience to learn from leading autism researchers.

Pathways Health Centre for Children
The “Clarity, Please!” Project
\$6,500

Sarnia, ON

This project will be a one day conference in 2013 that will be hosted by the Sarnia community’s JumpStart Teen Transition Planning Committee, which works to improve services for youth with disabilities as they transition from children’s services to adult services and learn to live in their communities as adults. This conference targets families in Sarnia, Lambton County and Chatham. The goals of the conference are to introduce two new transition resources to families in the community as well as bring all ASD service providers together to present how their services work and intertwine with other agencies in the community. The conference will also give parents who have been or are going through the transition process a chance to share their stories and lessons learned with other families and to provide an opportunity for parents to increase their support networks.

Reach for the Rainbow
24th Annual Reach for the Rainbow Conference
\$13,500

Toronto, ON

This grant will support the 24th Annual Reach for the Rainbow Conference taking place on June 13, 2013. The goal of the 2013 Conference is to assist camps and community programs through training and resources in providing long term experiences of independence and belonging for individuals on the spectrum. The conference will address the specific needs of ASD individuals who attend Reach for the Rainbow programs by providing tools and hands-on strategies to front line providers. Training, as well as outreach, significantly facilitates vital community capacity building and plays a major role in the safe and successful inclusion of these young persons into society. The goal of the conference is to increase attendance from 220 to 300 by decreasing fees to partner and non-partner programs.

Sinneave Family Foundation
What Will it Take? - Advancing Vocational Opportunities for Persons with ASD
\$22,500

Calgary, AB

This grant will support a conference that will bring together stakeholders to discuss the advancement of vocational opportunities for those living with ASD. The conference will comprise of knowledge translation and exchange and a think tank to examine evidence and devise strategies for identifying best approaches for the varying needs of persons across ASD spectrum. It will also focus on determining “fit” of vocational activity relative to specific community and resource considerations such as urban centres, towns, rural and remote communities, as well as the unique strengths/resources within various communities. To this end the workshop will move from evidence to action at regional, provincial and national levels via education and networking across communities and among key stakeholders in Canada. Conference sessions will be webcast to extend this learning opportunity to those who may not be able to participate in person due to time or geographic restraints.

St. Clair Catholic District School Board
I-Skills for Students with Autism
\$10,028.75

Chatham, ON

This grant will support the development of a technology-assisted learning system for students with autism in the Autism Transitional Classroom of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board. This classroom provides short-term placements for students with Autism within Chatham-Kent. Students have uniquely designed treatment and educational programs which are clinically supervised and based on principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis and the entire focus of this classroom is to implement a process for helping students make successful transitions to inclusive classrooms in their home schools. The project will match students on the spectrum with learning applications that target specific skills and matching iPad-based learning applications to create individualized curriculum for these students.

Surrey School District

Surrey, BC

Fostering Peer Play and Friendship for Children on the Autism Spectrum
\$21,776.25

This grant will help to implement two Autism Demystification programs in 16 Surrey elementary schools (with the highest populations of students with ASD). These programs were designed by Friend2Friend Learning Society to foster understanding, acceptance and empathy towards individuals on the spectrum while introducing pro-social communication strategies to enhance peer social interactions and relations between individuals with autism and their peers. The Program Facilitator will visit each of the participating 16 schools a total of four times. The first visit will be a presentation to 2 Primary Classes, the second visit will be a presentation to 2 intermediate classes, the third visit will be a follow up with the 2 primary classes and the fourth visit will be a follow up with 2 intermediate classes.

Woodview Children's Centre & Brock University

St. Catharines, ON

My Life as an Epic Win
\$25,000

This grant will support a 10-week course that is delivered three times over the year with groups of teens/young adults with HFA and Asperger Syndrome to assist them in developing plans for a successful transition into adulthood. Participants will learn how to (1) identify their strengths and challenges (i.e., thinking, social, emotional, sensory), (2) build team support through thinking socially, starting within the group and extending into their family and community, (3) use creative problem solving around barriers to social, academic and vocational success, and (4) create an empowering "Life Plan." Two peer facilitators will be involved in all group sessions to model, mentor and assist as needed. Parents will also receive coaching on how to help facilitate their child's life plan as well as receiving education about adult services and supports, transition planning and how to effectively empower themselves and their teens/young adults in turning great ideas into actions.