

2017 Family Services Community Grants



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Programs	Collaborating Organizations	Funded Amount
Autism and Art in the Laurentians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Learning Centre - Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board •4 Korners Family Resource Centre •Fondation Autisme Laurentides 	\$25,000
Expanding summer employment learning opportunities for adolescents with ASD in the Job-Train Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services •Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) •McMaster University: McMaster Autism Research Team (MacART) 	\$40,000
Expansion of Proset Autism into GTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Proset Autism •Tennis Canada •Community Living Toronto •Abilities Centre 	\$25,000
Improv for Teens on the Spectrum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •YMCA of Greater Toronto •The Second City 	\$21,500
LINKS - Lifespan Integrated Network of Knowledge and Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Autism Edmonton •University of Alberta - Lonnie Zwaigenbaum •University of Calgary - David Nicholas •Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Alberta Health Services •Autism Alberta 	\$40,000
Mobile Developmental Outreach Clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •South Asian Autism Awareness Centre •McMaster Autism Research Team (MacART) •Thornclyffe Collaborative for Muslim Families and Children •Punjabi Community Health Services 	\$40,000
Parent to Parent: Caring for the Caregiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Centre for Addiction and Mental Health •Autism Ontario •Surrey Place Centre •Extend-A-Family Toronto •University Health Network 	\$38,200
Pathways to Employment Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Asperger Manitoba Inc. •The Sinneave Foundation •Autism Society of Manitoba •Education Solutions Manitoba •Seven Oaks School Division •Red River College •Level it Up Inc. 	\$39,969
Technology Training for Youth with ASD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital •Autism Ontario •Geneva Centre for Autism 	\$40,000
The Exceptional Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Rotary Club Etobicoke •Fifth Ground Entertainment •St. Michael's Hospital - Dr. Joeline Huber, Developmental Pediatrician •Sarah Davis, ABA Therapist •Open Sky Co-operative Ltd. 	\$39,400
Transitioning for Life! Skills and supports for youth and young adults at school and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Tantramar Regional High School - Joceline Young, Resource Teacher •Mount Allison University, Meighen Centre - Anne Comfort, Director, Accessibility and Student Wellness 	\$38,000
Virtual Reality Autism Demystification® (VRAD) Demonstration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Friend 2 Friend Social Learning Society •LNG Studios •D,C, Robbins & Associates Inc. •Ziva Dynamics •Autism Institute on Peer Socialization and Play, San Francisco 	\$40,000

Autism and Art in the Laurentians - \$25,000

Autism & Arts in the Laurentians (AAL) is an art program and social club for Anglophone youths on the spectrum in Lachute, Quebec. In this community, the English speaking population is too small to attract ASD therapists and service providers for this demographic. AAL is the **first program offered in English for teens & young adults in this region.**

AAL is a weekly program consisting of art activities in a stimulating, safe and nurturing environment including painting, sculpting, crafting, story-writing, filmmaking, stop-motion/claymation, improv, music and much more. Led by professional artists and local contributors in each field, each session also focuses on **socialization and relationship development.**



Expanding Summer Employment Learning Opportunities for Adolescents with ASD in the Job-Train Program - \$40,000

This program enhances **employability for youth** with ASD by building on the innovative Job-Train Program (JTP) to provide vocational training and work experience. In partnership with Hamilton School Boards, this program will refine, elaborate and evaluate the JTP for large-scale study.

Over 13-weeks, JTP students learn skills and receive support in a weekly Job Club. A customized curriculum is paired with an **8-week paid summer job on the McMaster campus**. Worksites at McMaster will receive support and training in employing people with ASD. JTP integrates **involvement from parents and educators** to ensure that new learning is generalized to home and future co-op.



Expansion of Proset Autism into GTA - \$25,000

Proset Autism provides adaptive therapeutic and recreational programs for children, youth and adults with ASD. Expanding off of the success of Proset Autism's Tennis programs in Montreal and Ottawa, this **adaptive tennis program** will expand to the Greater Toronto Area.

The uniqueness of the program will be the ability to cater to both **individual and group play** in a cohesive environment, while practicing **five global skills**: *Motor Development, Joint Attention, Participation, Motivation, and Socialization all integrated through the principles of ABA*. This program will be presented in community schools, community recreation programs and on Municipal tennis courts.



Community
Living
Toronto



Improv for Teens on the Spectrum - \$21,500

Improv for Teens on the Spectrum, partners the YMCA Academy, an alternative high school for 75 students with learning disabilities and learning style differences, and The Second City Toronto. This program will provide a **tailored Improv approach including experiential learning opportunities and alternative teaching methodologies** with Academy students on the spectrum.

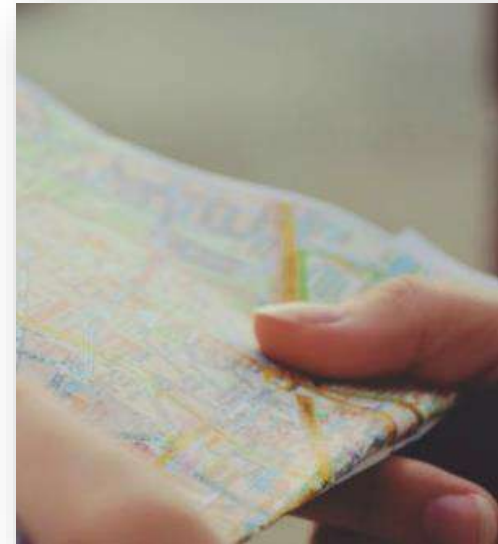
Through Improv for Teens on the Spectrum, students will **complete high-school credits**, and increase their social connections and social support networks in a healthy social and physical environment. The initiative will help grow the pool of experienced high-school teachers and the pool of successful graduates who will enter and **diversify the post-secondary sphere and workforce**.



LINKS - Lifespan Integrated Network of Knowledge and Supports - \$40,000

Numerous navigation pathways are established in central and northern Alberta however they currently work autonomously. This project will work to identify such pathways, identify gaps and ultimately build a navigation strategy linking these systems, which will **enhance autism service knowledge and access across the large geographic part of central and northern Alberta.**

This project includes **metro, urban, rural, remote and Aboriginal communities** and includes a **lifespan focus** addressing services for all ages. A rigorous evaluation framework will support the production of a community navigation network that is evidence-based and may be replicated by other communities.



Mobile Developmental Outreach Clinic - \$40,000

The Mobile Developmental Outreach Clinic (MDOC) will provide **free developmental assessments** and help **100 New Canadian families** on a path to diagnosis and early treatment. The **mobile aspect of the clinic** allows our team to deliver community-based service to groups in need of developmental health access.

In addition to our developmental health team, MDOC utilizes Community Health Workers from partner organizations to serve as cultural liaisons between clinicians and families. The MDOC was created with the intention of improving practices that lead to **earlier ASD identification and intervention services for newcomer and low-income families** who typically are at risk for considerable delay in the diagnosis of ASD.



THORNCLIFFE COLLABORATIVE FOR MUSLIM FAMILIES PROJECT

Parent to Parent: Caring for the Caregiver – \$38,200

This program is a brief evidence-informed intervention developed specifically for parents of children and youth with autism, which involves **parents as group facilitators**. Based on the principles of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and mindfulness, it teaches coping strategies and allows parents to feel less isolated in their experience, enhancing their well-being and parenting.



Autism Ontario to offer this group to Ontario parents in the GTA, as well as parents from other parts of the province, and will build the capacity of a select group of **parents to facilitate similar groups in other parts of Ontario**. Increased capacity to offer these groups across Ontario will create a **network of parent leaders**, improving access to interventions for parents, with reduced waitlists and limited travel requirements.



Pathways to Employment Project - \$39,969

Replication of the **Launch into Life Program** developed at The Ability Hub/Sinneave Foundation in Manitoba. Student with ASD can enroll to participate in either an 11 week pre-employment prep program (Building Independence) and/or a 6 week post-secondary prep program (Start Strong). Both programs have been **adapted for use in Manitoba**. The availability of these programs to students as they prepare to graduate from high school will support success in their future endeavours.



SEVEN OAKS
SCHOOL DIVISION
community begins here



Education Solutions Manitoba



Technology Training for Youth with ASD - \$40,000

Recognizing the strengths of individuals with ASD, several software companies have started programs to hire individuals with ASD. To benefit from these opportunities, there is an urgent need to **build capacity within the autism community in the area of software development.**

This program will **co-create one of the first evidence-based curricula for employment readiness in the software industry** targeted towards a wide range of abilities across the autism spectrum. This project will connect a unique team of experts from academia, service organizations, and industry to improve employment outcomes for youth with ASD by offering personalized and early employment preparedness.



Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital


AutismONTARIO
see the potential voir le potentiel

 geneva
centre for
autism

 **EVERY 1 GAMES**
Professional Services Inc.

The Exceptional Life - \$39,400

This **documentary web series** follows developmental pediatrician Dr. Joelene Huber and Sarah Davis, an Applied Behaviour Therapist, as they guide families raising a child with ASD. The team provides families with **ABA therapy tools, intervention strategies and support over several weeks.**

The families are diverse and are at **different stages in their Autism journey**: initial diagnosis, adjusting to the school system, navigating adulthood. Each episode will focus on a particular developmental issue such as communication, social interaction, sensory needs or repetitive behaviours. The Exceptional Life is an intimate series that **will provide viewers with actionable strategies** they can apply within their own families.



St. Michael's
Inspired Care.
Inspiring Science.

Transitioning for Life! Skills and Supports for Youth and Young Adults at School and Beyond - \$38,000

This program will model a **seamless community approach to skills-building and transitioning from school to school to community** for youth and young adults in our **rural community** of Sackville, NB. Non ASD university students will train as **Peer Mentors**, and provide supports to ASD students at high school and ASD university students on campus. The Meighen Centre will augment supports with a **Drop-In Centre**, and intentional **social activities** that amplify learned skills. The high school will offer a **new transition skills curriculum**. **Pre- and post-assessments** will demonstrate ASD students' improved readiness for transitioning into independent living, employment and Life!



Virtual Reality Autism Demystification[®] (VRAD) Demonstration - \$40,000

Friend 2 Friend Social Learning Society and our partners Archiact and Ziva Dynamics will design and develop a Virtual Reality Autism Demystification[®] Program (VRADP) demonstration.

Virtual Reality Autism Demystification[®] Program (VRADP) is a multi-level **virtual reality educational game enabling children, parents and professionals to enjoy a simulated interactive game experience** of “what it feels like” to have autism. The game focuses on **building empathy, changing perspective, while at the same time building real-life prosocial skills to enhance peer social interactions and to reduce bullying and feelings of isolation.** Like the Society’s real-world Autism Demystification[®] programs, VRADP will foster empathy, understanding and acceptance for tens of thousands of individuals with autism throughout Canada and abroad.

