



INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR AUTISM AND
NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

PROGRESS REPORT

Grantor: Autism Speaks Canada
Grant Director: Esther Rhee
Grant Name: Family Services - Targeted Special Initiative
Grant Number: ASCTS1-2014-01
Total Grant Amount: \$400,000
Duration of Grant: 4 Years
Grant Period Report: November 2016 – November 2017 (Year 3 of 4)
Amount: \$50,000

SUMMARY

The third phase of the Targeted Special Initiative Grant continued to provide ISAND with resources to build its operation and administrative infrastructure through a number of key initiatives that included supporting mission-critical expenses such as technology, increased lease expenses, assessment tools and protocols, therapeutic program supplies and essential external professional services.

ACHIEVING OUR MISSION

Dear ISAND,

December 22nd, was the day our lives changed forever. K and G came into the world three months early fighting for every breath. I knew in my heart that very day that our journey was going to be difficult, but I never imagined it would be this hard.

By just 10 months old, I knew that G was different from other babies. For months, my concerns were dismissed by family and doctors. As G missed more and more milestones, my hopes and dreams for his future fell apart. Then, at 18 months, he had a major regression and I felt that I had lost my son. He was a child that I no longer understood. A boy who could no longer communicate with me, his own mother.

My world was shattered and I didn't know how I could possibly live knowing that this was all likely due to his prematurity. Then, we met you. You were a gift to our family. To G, and to T and I. Every time we work with you, we understand our son better and better. It was as if I could finally see what was going on in his mind (from the very first time we met with you). This new understanding has given me a new hope for G's future. Something that I had lost.

I feel empowered to care for my son and to give him the best chance possible. There are very few people in this world who care as much as you do about changing and improving the future for young people like G.

As his mother, I can't tell you how amazing you are and how much you inspire me to be a better person. Thank you for all that you do!

- A Grateful Parent (Clinical Service)

ISAND's Social Peer Program has been wonderful for our son. He has made huge strides socially and even made his first real friends (the other children in his group). He has even gone from disliking daycare to loving it, and I don't believe the timing is coincidental.

- A Grateful Parent (Clinical Program)

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued growth through internal and external referrals, service and program delivery, community engagement and fund development.
- Implemented new management software that will allow ISAND to streamline our clinical processes and strengthen our scheduling, billing and regulatory compliance.
- Implemented the formation of a new Clinical Advisory Committee reporting to the Board of Directors. Advisory members include: Jessica Brian (Psychologist, Holland Bloorview Research Institute), Briano Di Rezze (Professor, McMaster University) and Jonathan Weiss (Professor, York University).
- Introduced a new clinical operating model that will allow ISAND to focus and continue to research and develop complementary program-based services, allowing us to strengthen ISAND's offering of integrated care across a continuum of development and align to our annual service delivery and financial plan.
- Introduced a Crisis Prevention Intervention Training Program for administrative and clinical team members.
- Successfully hosted our second annual Family Fun Day that saw families, administrative and clinical team members and board members come together for an afternoon of fun that included games, crafts and a barbeque lunch. It also saw families connecting with other families and new friendships being developed.
- Introduced a new quarterly newsletter with the singular goal of increasing awareness and engagement with ISAND. The strategic objectives established were to demonstrate the integration and expertise of the ISAND Team and our comprehensive care model, promote our professional services and programs, showcase the impact that ISAND has on clients, family and on the larger community and highlight opportunities to become involved with and support ISAND's mission.

BUDGET UPDATE

Funds received from the third installment of the Targeted Special Initiative were strategically spent on the following mission-critical activities.

ACTIVITY / ITEM	EXPENSE
Lease (25%)	\$40,199.08
Select Professional Services (25%) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Telecommunications• Information Technology• MARCOM Technology	\$1,733.47 \$3,874.91 \$ 208.39
Select Clinical Administration (25%) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supplies• Multifunction Printer	\$1,172.94 \$ 535.53
Hardware (100%) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lenovo Laptops	\$2,299.92
TOTAL	\$50,024.24

CLOSING THOUGHTS

As ISAND enters its fifth year and continues to move towards its future potential as a leading, non-profit centre of excellence for children, youth and young adults living with autism and other complex neurodevelopmental disorders, we will soon require permanent and experienced clinical supervision, additional client and family administrative support, and other mission-critical investments to help strengthen our founding and current infrastructure.

We look forward to Autism Speaks Canada's continued support and guidance as we continue to develop plans to support this potential, and as we continue to passionately serve the families who are counting on us to be there for them today and tomorrow.

With our deepest appreciation and gratitude, we remain,

Yours truly,



David Gray
Executive Director