Our Vision: Successful Community Inclusion

Our Mission: To empower individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, and their families, to fully participate in their communities

What is an Autism Spectrum Disorder?
An Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects communication, social interactions, learning and behaviour. Each individual with autism or Asperger Syndrome is affected differently. Although there is no known cause or cure for ASD, specialized interventions can enable individuals with this disorder to lead full and productive lives.

- One in every 150 Canadian children is diagnosed with an ASD.
- More children are diagnosed with autism than aids, diabetes and cancer combined.
- Someone you know is affected by autism.

Contents
Services for Children ......................... 4
Services for Youth and Adults ............... 6
Services for Families .......................... 8
Services for Professionals .................... 10
Volunteers, Members and Foundation ...... 11
Geneva Centre for Autism

has been a trailblazer and internationally recognized centre of excellence in the field of autism since 1974. We influence policy, support research and deliver innovative services that make a real difference to children, youth and adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.

Every day of their lives, individuals with an ASD face difficulties communicating, socializing and interacting. Without support, making friends, participating in school or simply buying a ticket for the subway can be tremendous challenges.

Geneva Centre is a place that families turn to; a place where they find hope, support and, above all, possibilities.

We are there every step of the way to support individuals at all age levels to reach their full potential. A key to our success is building collaborative partnerships with family members. We create uniquely tailored solutions that enable individuals with an ASD, their parents, siblings and others to adapt and prosper despite the daily challenges of living with an ASD.

Canada’s autism service leader by the numbers:

- **600,000** hits on our leading-edge website annually
- **120,000** respite hours provided to Ontario families
- **4,600** solutions provided to Ontario residents through our seven-day-a-week resource service
- **4,200** Toronto area families supported
- **2,000** children and youth discover how to navigate the world by learning vital life skills
- **2,000** teachers and child care professionals trained and supported to create inclusive classrooms
- **320** volunteers
- **260** full and part-time staff
“Geneva Centre has just been awesome in providing support and all the information and education we needed when our son was diagnosed…and they continue to be the first place we go when we have any questions or need any help.
Thank you Geneva Centre”
— Karim Visram, Toronto, Ontario

With you from the start
Our Services for Children

Imagine living in a world where you are constantly bombarded with messages that you don’t understand, where you can’t find the words to express yourself and where you continually feel a sense of loneliness and isolation.

This is the reality that many children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) face every moment of every day.

At Geneva Centre for Autism our services build skills in children so they can realize their potential. Working in partnership with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and other community partners, we develop and deliver a wide range of innovative services that meet the unique needs of children with autism and Asperger Syndrome. These services are provided by a multi-disciplinary team that includes psychologists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists and behavioural therapists.

Pre-School-Aged Children
A wide-range of multi-disciplinary programs emphasize play as a central focus to promote development of social-emotional, communication and cognitive development skills. Programs often include home and childcare consultation, Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI), transition to school and community supports.

Services for School-Aged Children
Positive behavioural supports are provided through group training, consultation and one-on-one coaching. Groups and individual programming includes games, art, music and sports delivered by our multi-disciplinary team, including: psychologists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists and behavioural therapists. We introduce, reward and reinforce the skills children need to succeed at school, home and in the community.

For more information about Geneva Centre for Autism’s services for children, visit www.autism.net
Services for Children:

• Skill Building Groups
• Respite
• Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI)

• Behaviour Communication Services
• Intensive Behaviour Communication Service
• Counselling
• Asperger Specific Programs
Services for Youth and Adults:

• Transition Support
• Training and Coaching
• Respite
• Social Groups
• Financial Aid Counselling
“The Geneva Centre has helped Matthew by removing the barriers that kept him from reaching his full potential. For the first time in his life, he is setting goals and taking action to reach and even surpass them! His life now has purpose and meaning, and most importantly he has found a place where he belongs.”
— Michelle Green, Toronto

Working with and helping Youth and Adults

The transition to adulthood is daunting for most adolescents. For those with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) it is even more challenging, often fraught with social isolation, frustration and depression.

At Geneva Centre for Autism, our multi-disciplinary team provides, training, positive behavioural intervention and counselling programs to address these issues. We focus on the unique abilities of each individual, helping them develop the skills needed to lead successful lives as valued members of the community.

Services for Teenagers
A range of social skill building, peer support and consultation services are available at the Centre for teenagers. The Centre is also one of the few organizations in Toronto that offers specialized behaviour/communication programs for teenagers with Asperger Syndrome. Parents of teens with autism can also access training programs to help guide them in supporting their teen during their transition to adulthood.

Services for Adults
The goal of our programs is to ensure that adults with autism and Asperger Syndrome have the confidence, support and knowledge to pursue post-secondary education, employment, volunteer and leisure opportunities.

Geneva Centre for Autism wants to do even more. Youth and adults with autism are among our most vulnerable and poorly served citizens, facing a void of adequate services. That is why we are working with parents, business and community partners to establish Canada’s first specialized resource facility for youth and adults with autism.

For more information about Geneva Centre for Autism’s services for youth and adults, visit www.autism.net
“Recently, our lives stopped as we knew it when one of our twin sons, Jacob, was diagnosed with autism... We set out to discover some answers to our questions only to find out that there would be a lot of challenges along the way such as a lack of funding, waitlists and a dearth of full-service programs... No one said, this is what Autism is, this is what you do to get help, this is how we can help. That is until we discovered Geneva Centre.”

— Joanne and Bill Connolly, Brampton

**Vital support for all**

**Family Services**

Initially, a diagnosis of an ASD, can be a devastating experience for the family. However it is also an opportunity to better understand their child and help them achieve their potential. At Geneva Centre for Autism we work with parents and caregivers to ensure they have the support and tools they need to cope and flourish.

Our family programs consist of a wide range of information and support services, including family education workshops and courses, which enable parents, siblings and other family members to understand and manage the day-to-day issues and challenges of caring and supporting loved ones with autism and Asperger Syndrome.

For more information about Geneva Centre for Autism’s services for families, visit [www.autism.net](http://www.autism.net)

Geneva Centre for Autism is proud to host [Respiteservices.com](http://Respiteservices.com), an online service across Ontario. Respiteservices.com provides information and links to local respite services for people with disabilities and their families across 38 communities.

Family Services
Services for Families:

- Service Coordination
- Parent Network
- Parent and Sibling Support Groups
- Respite
- Parent Training/Education
- Counselling
- Annual Family Picnic
- Annual Holiday Party
- Movie Nights
‘Geneva Centre for Autism has a reputation throughout the world as a centre of excellence in the field of Autism. I have great confidence in the skills and knowledge of the staff and their ability to help those with autism and their caregivers.’

— Dr. Tony Attwood, Griffith University, Australia.

Learning from each other  
Our Work with Professionals

Across Toronto, Canada and the world, Geneva Centre for Autism is recognized as a leader in the field. Our learning opportunities for professionals include consultations, workshops, training delivered to educators, childcare providers, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists and psychologists and others from around the world.

Our comprehensive website at www.autism.net serves as a highly valued portal for information, virtual training, accessing services and problem solving.

As a pioneer in the development and implementation of training programs, Geneva Centre for Autism delivered the province's first-ever system-wide training for professionals working in the education and childcare sectors.

Our full spectrum E-Learning service is used by hundreds of parents, family members, education and community service professionals annually.

Each year our Summer Training Institute is telecast across the province, reaching hundreds of educators, professionals and families with the most recent developments in the field of autism.

Every second year, the Centre hosts our International Symposium on Autism, recognized as the preeminent autism education event which brings together experts sharing leading edge information, research and best practices. To date, over 20,000 parents and service providers have participated as delegates.

Services for Professionals

- Biennial International Symposium
- Annual Summer Training Institute
- Customized International Training
- Workshop and Certificate Courses
- Provincial Training Initiatives
- E-Learning
- Website — autism.net
- Canada’s largest autism reference and lending library
Help us achieve our Vision

Become a Donor
The mission of the Geneva Centre for Autism Foundation is to raise the funds necessary for Geneva Centre for Autism to achieve its vision. Through the generosity of our many donors and supporters, crucial dollars are raised to support ongoing programs that would otherwise not be possible.

As more children are diagnosed with autism and as thousands are transitioning into adulthood, our need for donor support continues to grow.

To make a donation or to join the Foundation team, visit www.autism.net/foundation or call (416) 322-7877 ext. 307

Become a Volunteer
Our volunteers are essential partners in the success of The Centre. Our volunteer team of 340 dedicated individuals work at all levels of the organization in leadership, fundraising and program delivery.

To get involved visit www.autism.net/volunteers or call (416) 322-7877 ext. 224.

Become a Member
By purchasing an annual supporting membership, individuals and organizations can make a contribution to Geneva Centre and benefit from privileges such as discounts on workshop fees and access to our library.

To find out more visit www.autism.net/membership or call (416) 322-7877 ext. 235.

For more information about Geneva Centre for Autism, our services and how you can make an impact visit www.autism.net or call (416) 322-7877.
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Donate now at www.autism.net