### geneva centre for autism

# **IMPACT REPORT** 2 0 1 9

My son came a long way when he started coming to [Geneva Center]. It's a big change in our life. When a child is not verbal it's very stressful for the family and when the child is making sounds and then words and then sentences it's a big change for our family.

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### MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT



This past year has seen a change in the landscape of autism funding and GCA has been taking appropriate steps to evaluate the impact of these changes. Throughout this process, we continue to be flexible, adaptable and to prioritize the immediate needs of our clients and communities.

This Impact Report highlights some of the exciting programming we have introduced this year. Our new Early Years programs will continue to provide the evidence-based practices we have employed for years in supporting children with ASD and their families through the transition to a classroom environment. We are thrilled to offer paid employment training and job placement opportunities to youth with ASD through a new partnership with Acces Employment. Meanwhile, our Training Institute is creating cutting edge content and exploring new, user-friendly technologies to provide personalized training to teachers and professionals all over the world. Our goal is always to make sure that GCA remains a relevant and vital resource to our clients, their families and the autism sector. We all benefit from the inclusion of people with autism in our communities. During the past year, the members of the Board and I have worked to strengthen our governance structure by revising our Policy against Board Discrimination, Harassment, Violence and Domestic Violence, our Board Code of Conduct, our By-laws and our Conflict Policy. This coming year, we will be working on a new Strategic Plan and reviewing our Mission and Vision statements.

I would like to thank Jon D'Allessandro who is stepping down this year at the end of his term. I would also like to recognize the invaluable contribution made by Harold Gershman, who sadly passed away quite suddenly this past spring.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Geneva Centre for Autism if you like to learn about us or to get involved.

Sincerely,

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Judy Welikovitch President, Board of Directors

## **OUR MISSION**

Our mission is to empower individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and their families, to fully participate in their communities. We do this by providing direct support for families as well as professional training to share best practices around the world.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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# IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

87% of families would recommend Geneva Centre for Autism







professionals in • 4 countries around the world

# **FINANCIAL REPORT**

April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 through March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019

### Generous program support for children, youth and adults with ASD came from:

**Government funding and grants** \$9,756,386

**Registrations and other** \$1,937,346

**Fundraising** \$1,120,997

### These funds were invested in:

Early intervention and treatment \$6,363,492

Training, education and workshops \$1,627,357

Community service partnerships \$1,877,983

**Respite and camps** \$785,592 Social skills and vocational training \$546,243

**Fundraising** \$323,155

**Operations** \$999,533

**NEW PROGRAMS** AT GENEVA CENTER

### **ADULT SERVICES**

For over 20 years, GCA has been empowering adults with autism through our Adult Services programming. Over this time, we have continually adapted and improved our programming to suit the needs of our clients and communities. This year GCA expanded our adult programming due to the high demand for our services. New programs include:

For more information contact: adultservices@autism.net.

#### **Day Support:**

In response to increasing community need, GCA has expanded our Day Support program to welcome more adults with ASD. This program provides opportunities for participants with complex needs to learn new skills and be part of a community. Guided by Individualized Service Plans created with participants and their families, GCA staff assist each participant in developing and achieving personal goals.

#### Youth Job Connection:

GCA is partnering with Acces Employment to offer inclusive employment training and job placement opportunities for youth with ASD ages 15-29. This fully funded program provides classroom-style job readiness training as well as paid job placements in a variety of industries. GCA has adapted program curriculum to make it more accessible to individuals with ASD and is providing onsite support throughout classroom sessions and placements to increase the potential for meaningful employment. In a bid to meet the needs of families in our community we've created customized services that are effective and affordable. This will help families bridge the gap until they receive their Childhood Budgets to purchase more extensive, long-term services.

- Leona Olney, M.ADS, Director, Programs and Services

# EARLY YEARS

In response to the changes in the recent autism landscape, Geneva Center for Autism has launched new early intervention programs to continue supporting the ASD community. These programs will emphasize and prioritize the development and maintenance of functional skills, including those skills that prepare children to more fully benefit from, and participate in, their communities.

For more information contact: earlyyears@autism.net.



#### Little Learners: Kindergarten Readiness

The kindergarten preparation program will support children with ASD ages two to five years old in developing the necessary skills to succeed in a classroom environment.



#### My Way to Say: Communication Skills

This program will focus on building communication skills to help children express their needs and socialize with family and peers.



#### I Can Do It: Building Independence

This program will help children build independent daily living skills like getting dressed, making snacks and playing on their own.



#### **Making Friends:** Social Skills

This program will help children build social skills such as turn-taking and sharing to support engagement in group activities.



#### One Step at a Time: Self-Regulation

This program will help children enjoy more activities by teaching strategies to adapt to new experiences and environments.

## **INNOVATIVE TRAINING**

For nearly 30 years, our Training Institute has provided innovative training and education to professionals and families supporting individuals with Autism. We have become the leading training provider of intervention techniques for classroom educators and our online training courses have enrolments worldwide. Still, our goal is to increase public awareness and education on neurodiversity by continually striving to make our training more relevant and more accessible. With this is mind, Geneva Center is working to launch a new learning management platform later this year.



# READY WILLING & ABLE

Over the past year, Geneva Centre expanded its life skills and vocational training, as well as employment program partnerships, to offer more options for young adults with ASD to live independently and pursue their own personal dreams.

Ready, Willing, and Able (RWA), a national employment project, connects employers with candidates who have an intellectual disability or ASD.



. 99% Attitude Towards Work









## THANK YOU!

Over 3,000 families in Toronto rely on Geneva Centre for Autism services to achieve the best outcomes at home, work, and in the community. Thanks to the generous support of individuals and organizations, GCA is able to help children, youth, and adults through every day challenges and celebrate accomplishments.

#### \$30,000-\$49,000

BMO Financial Group ICON Digital Productions State Street Trust Company Canada

#### \$10,000-\$29,999

IAMGOLD Elpida Autism Foundation KPMG Langar Foundation Rexall Foundation The Catherine And Maxwell Meighen Foundation The Harry E. Foster Foundation The Lloyd Carr- Harris Foundation Toronto and Area Road Builders Association Walk Through The Red Door Foundation

#### \$5,000- \$9,999

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP Deloitte Dentons ELS for Autism Gerald Machtinger Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP Jennifer Tremblay TMX Group

#### \$2,500-\$4,999

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#### \$1000-\$2,499

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www.autism.net

Main Location: 112 Merton St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4S 2Z8 Other Location: 164 Merton St., Toronto, ON M4S 3A8 Tel: (416) 322-7877 | Fax: (416) 322-5894 Charitable Registration #: 86866 4640 RR0001