



2020/21

IMPACT

REPORT

 geneva
centre for
autism

MESSAGE

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

As we all know, this past year has been one of many challenges. COVID-19 required the Centre to pivot and adjust to a new reality. As with all things, however, the work of the Board carried on. 2020-21 was a year of growth and renewal at the Board of the GCA: we welcomed two new members in March 2021: Wendy Kosky and Marieta Mendoza. Wendy is a human resource professional, and Marieta is a businesswoman with a human resources background. Both women have been valuable additions to the Board.

This past year, we also engaged in Board development: we participated in facilitated sessions on unconscious bias, on Board governance, and on Board self-evaluation. The Vice-Chair and I also participated in a program on Next Level Governance. This type of work is essential to having a Board that is engaged, socially conscious and thriving.

As we all endured the prolonged state of lockdown in the province, the Centre responded with pivotal new programming to help families in crisis. Despite the restrictions, the Centre was able to offer Crisis Response Respite, a program for families with the highest level of need, all in compliance with Toronto Public Health guidelines. We also launched the Online Youth Job Connection Program.

Our e-learning platform, Sonderly, has expanded into the field of mental health as the demand for this type of support has risen during the pandemic. Working with experts in the field to curate relevant content for educators, Sonderly launched its first mental health course this year. The course is designed for educators and stresses the importance of supporting student mental health in the classroom.

Finally, we were pleased to see the return of our students once permitted by Public Health guidelines. We have many safety measures in place to ensure the students' and staff's safety.

In the coming year, we anticipate more challenges and more successes. We look forward to reporting on them next year.

Be safe and be well.



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

Judy Welikovitch - President
Beata Mehta - Vice President
Hafeeza Bassirullah - Treasurer
David Gillespie
Paul Jachymek

Sagar Kancharla
Darren Williams
Wendy Kosky
Marieta Mendoza
Linda Kenny

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Tremblay - President
Nina Valentic - Vice President
Priscilla Sutini - Secretary/Treasurer
Geoff Wright
Judy Welikovitch
David Gillespie
Hafeeza Bassirullah

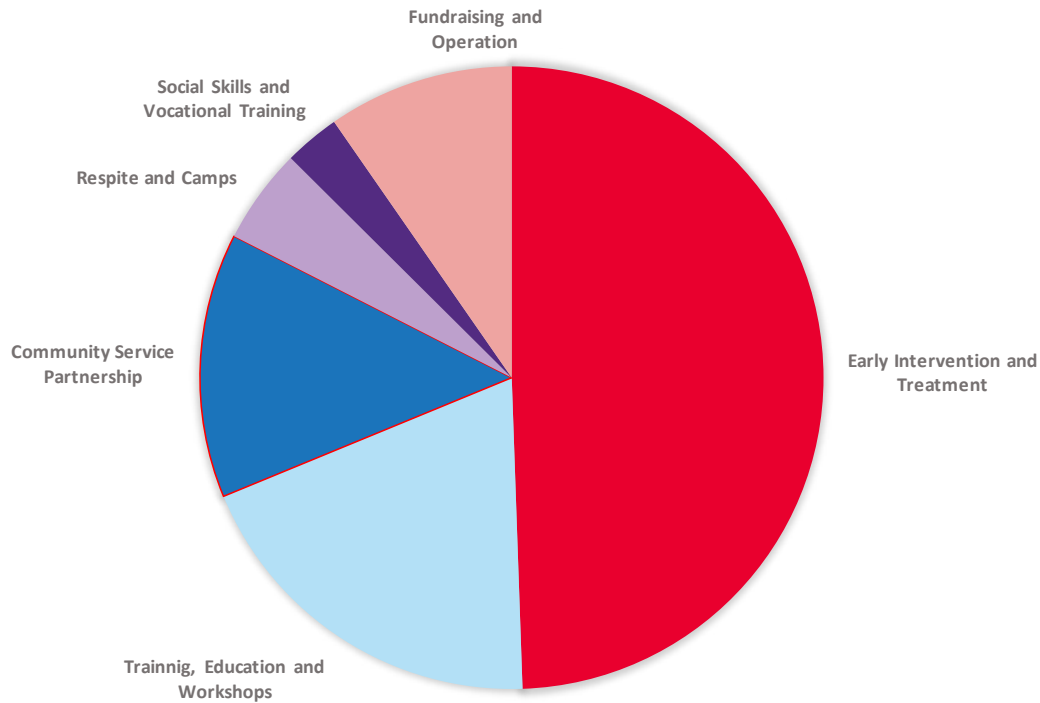
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Abe Evreniadis - Chief Executive Officer
David Ayanoglou - Chief Financial Officer
Renita Paranjape - VP, Programs and Services
Kim Takata - Chief Operations and People Officer
Andrew Davis - Director, Sonderly
Bahar Miraftab - Director, Marketing and Communications
Lin Zhang - Director of Technology and Innovation



FINANCIAL REPORT

Geneva Centre for Autism invested the generous funds in the following programs to support children, youth and adults with ASD:



CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Early intervention treatment	\$5,950,449
Training, Education and workshops	\$2,325,811
Community Service Partnership	\$1,652,853
Respite and Camps	\$595,515
Social Skills and vocational training	\$347,919
Fundraising and Operation	\$1,161,099



YOUTH JOB CONNECTION

The Youth Job Connection @ Geneva Centre for Autism Summer program is a holistic job-training program that supports youth, ages 15-21, with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in gaining meaningful employment experience. Delivered in partnership with a local employment agency Acces Employment, the program builds on the expertise and resources of both organizations to offer paid, ASD-specific classroom training and 1:1 support for job sampling and placement opportunities.

During the lockdown, the centre has successfully converted activities, events and forms into a remote format, increased 1:1 support to complete in-class hours and activities, and deferred placement opportunities for participants who don't feel comfortable working during these uncertain times.



4 Main Program Activities:

Classroom training

- Participants complete 20-30 hours of paid in-class training
- Curriculum is adapted with more visual materials and role-playing activities
- Additional topics include self-advocacy, scheduling and work relationships

Career Development

- Participants complete individual activities to identify strengths and interests
- Participants attend individual consultations with a Job Developer
- Participants learn about careers tailored to their skills and interests

Job Searching Tool

- Participants are supported in creating a professional CV & Linked In profile
- Participants are supported in completing employment and tax forms
- Participants practice interview skills in mock interviews with volunteers

Paid Work Experience

- Participants choose between job sampling or a job placement opportunities
- Participants are matched with opportunities that suit their skillset
- 1:1 support is provided during job transition and as needed throughout

100%

OF PARTICIPANTS FOUND THE PHONE/VIRTUAL SESSIONS WITH FACILITATORS TO BE HELPFUL

83%

OF PARTICIPANTS RECOMMEND YJC @ GCA

83%

OF PARTICIPANTS REPORTED LEARNING NEW SKILLS DURING THE CLASSROOM TRAINING

67%

OF PARTICIPANTS FEEL BETTER PREPARED TO FIND A JOB

248

UNIQUE CLIENTS SERVED

LES & KAE ADULT SUMMMER CAMP

Thanks to the Les & Kae Martin Charitable Foundation, Geneva Centre for Autism has created a new bursary program, named and in honour of the Foundation, to provide financial assistance for adults to access our services. GCA offered a funded summer camp for high-needs adults demonstrating financial need.

Facilitated by GCA staff, participants in the Les and Kae Adult Summer Camp have exposure to social, recreational and leisure opportunities in a group environment. Camp staff use the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) to support clients in working towards individualized goals and engage in individual and group activities. This program is for individuals aged 18+ and offers a 1 to 1 staff to client ratio.



100%

OF THE CLIENTS RECOMMEND
THE PROGRAM TO FAMILIES
AND FRIENDS

100%

OF THE CLIENTS WOULD
LIKE TO PARTICIPATE
AGAIN



Ricardo was always happy when he gets home every day he does a lot of walking and fun activities at camp. I received daily information about his day he felt safe.

It was my sons first adult experience. He literally loved every moment. He is already talking about going back next year. Thank you for making it possible.

CRISIS RESPONSE RESPITE

While the Stay-at-Home Order during fall and winter 2021 remained in effect and programs across the city were forced to remain closed, GCA recognized the significant amount of stress that this was putting on families. As a response, Geneva Centre for Autism offered limited spots of Crisis Response Respite for families in need of additional support during this time. The program was offered for clients and families that were unable to receive support from schools, programs, or professionals due to COVID-19 closures.

About: Crisis Response Respite is a recreational program that supports children and youth on the Autism Spectrum. Participants will have exposure to social, recreational and leisure opportunities in a group environment. Respite staff use the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) to support clients in working towards individualized goals and engage in individual and group activities. Daily activities may include, but are not limited to: Music circles, arts and crafts, puzzles and board games, gross motor activities like soccer, basketball and obstacle courses, sensory activities, group games, etc.

25

CLIENTS SERVED IN
COMMUNITY OUTINGS

“

Our son is so happy and excited to come back. All morning after I gave him the good news he hasn't stopped talking about you all and can't wait to play with you all again.

Thanks for all your efforts. Geneva is a lifeline for him and us.





SONDERLY™

Autism Training Platform for Professionals

Sonderly's main aim has always been and continues to be, to deliver core foundational training as well as the latest research findings and intervention techniques to educators and teaching professionals. Courses are curated based on Applied Behavioral Analysis and close collaboration with teachers and recent scientific research.

Since its launch in October 2019, Sonderly has trained over 17 thousand users! Almost double the users since the launch in 2019! With courses available in English and French, the e-learning platform offers over 150 hours of training to help individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families.

The last year was not only successful in terms of Autism education – Sonderly expanded into the field of Mental Health. Working with experts to curate relevant content for educators (Dr. Weiss and Dr. Jensen courses), Sonderly launched its first mental health course, Exploring Mental Health of Autistic Students, to stress the importance of supporting Mental Health in the classroom.

For children on the spectrum, educators are their greatest influence. At Sonderly, we aim at providing educators with the necessary knowledge and tools to help students and individuals integrate with their communities.

17k+

Individuals Trained

150+

Hours of Training



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

At Geneva Centre for Autism (GCA), we recognize the importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for our staff, clients, and families we serve.

Diversity is about fostering an organizational culture that recognizes and values the uniqueness of each individual and we are committed to fostering a culture and environment that is both psychologically safe and accountable to diverse individuals.

These underrepresented groups include persons with disabilities, racialized minorities, women, Indigenous people, individuals from the LGBTQ2S+ community, and persons caring for the elderly and child dependents. The selection of these groups does not preclude the possibility of addressing systemic discrimination for other underrepresented groups.

To address the above, Geneva Centre for Autism has implemented a plan including the development of IDEA@GCA (*inclusion, diversity, & equity @ GCA*). IDEA@GCA with the support of the Executive Leadership Team is:

1. Reviewing agency policies and procedures
2. Addressing cultural competency & psychological safety
3. Reframing the work GCA has with various community partners (*first responders, partner agency groups*)



THANK YOU!

Over 3,000 families in Toronto rely on Geneva Centre for Autism services to achieve the best outcomes at home, work, and community. Thanks to the generous support of individuals and organizations, GCA can support children, youth, and adults with autism to grow and participate in the community.



Our Annual Golf Classic turned 22 this year and raised over \$120,000 for children, youths and adults with ASD. All funds raised this year will help our Centre and clients as we make the slow transition back to the new normal – *one where safety and accessibility are top of mind*. The ongoing success of this tournament is a testament to our long-term partnership with BMO. Thank you for being a champion of the GCA for over 20 years.



\$100,000+

Ontario Trillium

\$30,000-\$60,000

BMO Financial Group
State Street Corporation

\$10,000-\$29,999

Air Miles
Canada Post
Els for Autism Foundation
Icon Digital Productions
Royal Bank of Canada
StorageVault Canada/Access
Storage
The Catherine And Maxwell
Meighen Foundation

\$5,000- \$9,999

Canadian Online Giving
Foundation
Harry Singh
Indigoblue Group of Companies
The Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation
The Harry E. Foster
Charitable Foundation
Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund
Alice and Murray Maitland
Foundation

\$2,500-\$4,999

Benefaction Foundation
Charities Aid Foundation of
Canada
Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP
Intrepid Quantity Surveying Inc.
London Property Corp.
Pelican Woodcliff Inc.
Real Estate Homeward
Brokerag

Rescon Financial Corporation
Robins Appleby LLP
Tridel Corporation
Turner and Townsend
United Way Greater Toronto

\$1000-\$2,499

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CB Ross Partners
CBRE Limited
Dalta Building Services Inc.
Dentons
Empire Communities
Lev Pidwerbesky
LP/AD
Mattamy Homes Limited
Matthew Melchior
Menkes Developments Ltd.
Michael Henriques
Owens Wright LLP
Raj & Beata Mehta
Schneider Ruggiero Spencer
Milburn LLP
Stephanie Douglas
Stewart Title Guaranty Company
Susannah B. Roth
Syra Build Ltd.
Tanner Financial

\$100-\$999

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Beata Lis
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Bidor Ali
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Carmela Diano
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Chantal Wall
Charleen Zozzolto
Christine Besnard
Christine Bowers
Claudia Tremaine
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Corey Goodman
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David Green
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Dom Glavota
Donate A Car
Douglas Hewson
Durst Image Technology
Ed Walsh
Elizabeth Szymus
Fabiana Plat
Faith D D. Orr
Fulvio Zanette
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Jim Walter
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Kathy Shaw
Kelly Smith
Kelly Steepe
Kena Paranjape
Kendra Relf
Kevin Stark
Kevin Wong
Kim Standing
Kim Takata
Krista Thalassinou
Lahsen Elyousoufi
Leah Adam
Lisa Au
Lucy Resendes
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Marianne Rabczak
Mark Youngman
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Ralph Bellamy
Richard Gamblen
Risa Drimmer
Rob Lavecchia
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Sandy Harrington
Sean Gilbert
Selby Kostuik
Seungmin Chang
Simon And Amy Tsui
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Steve Lennox
Suvam Banerjee
Theodore Manziaris
Thomas Douglas
Trevor Tremaine
Unilumin Group Co.,Ltd
Victoria Snook
Walter Zuleta



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