OUTREACH 2018
CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY & RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT AUTISM

DIVING IN
Hubbard Family Swim School joins growing list of employment partners
Page 28

MILESTONES MONITORING
Program provides roadmap for families of infants, including those at risk for ASD
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PIVOTAL MOVE
Campbell family finds a move to Phoenix pays off for son
Page 32

With You, WE CAN
Kingston Petty-Purcell proves no mountain is too big for him to climb
Page 24
We are humbled by SARRC’s accomplishments in autism research, treatment and providing a lifetime of support. Jaburg Wilk and SARRC - working hand in hand to better our community.
WE'RE HIRING!

SARRC was named a 2017 “Best Place to Work” by the Phoenix Business Journal! If you want to make a positive impact in the lives of families in our community, consider joining our growing team. For a complete list of open positions, visit autismcenter.org/careers.

Let’s get social!

Follow SARRC on social media to stay updated on the latest news and events!

Instagram: SARRC_Social
Twitter: SARRC_tweet
Facebook: SARRC.Moderator

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On the Cover: KINGSTON PETTY-PURCELL
PHOTO: STEPHEN G. DREISESZUN/VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHERS
PRT helps Safford student shine

We send greetings from Safford, Ariz., and just wanted to give you an update on Connor! He is a sophomore. He is a straight A student and has high goals to receive academic scholarships and wants to attend the University of Arizona. He is managing the varsity basketball team, plays in the band (trombone), jazz band and is on the film and TV crew for his high school. He even has his own sports show on the school’s network! Ha! Can you imagine? A kid with autism (who was diagnosed with low-functioning autism) is now broadcasting on his school’s site?!

Connor is busy and happy and will get his driver’s license in January. He is super kind, loving and funny. We couldn’t be prouder of him! Without you, I am not sure how our family would have survived. I know we are only one in a million families you have helped, but our gratitude will be forever! We thank SARRC for all the work, research and PRT help that has been given to us.

Much love to you and yours,
Clay, Jill and Connor Emery
Safford, Ariz.

Amusing! My 6-year-old and I came from out of town and did a 5-day parent training and ABA therapy. It was life changing! We were getting absolutely no services. The things we learned and will use on a daily basis – my son is now able to make eye contact! The staff was amazing!

-Amy Dombrowski

Yesterday morning my parents Doug and Kelly Eaton and my sisters Kate and Molly Eaton and I attended the first hard hat tour of First Place AZ, my future home, and then we stopped by the Arizona School Boards Association, my current employer, thanks to SARRC’s Employment Services team!

-Lindsey Eaton

This organization is amazing. My son gets ABA therapy from SARRC and they are completely DATA driven. It is so important that parents seek out therapies and companies that rely on DATA, facts and not just testimonials! They are the real deal! Thank you for all you do!
#Autism #SARRC @MLThorne1
Twenty years ago, SARRC hosted its inaugural Community Breakfast at the Phoenix Country Club for roughly 300 guests. While certainly a fundraiser for the organization, it was the first seed planted in order to grow our inclusive, supportive community. While intentional on the part of our co-founders, they never could have imagined the extent to which our community has truly blossomed.

As we celebrate our 20th Annual Community Breakfast in 2018, our theme, “With You, We Can,” recognizes the very community this event has established and continues to cultivate, a community that led “PBS NewsHour” to call Phoenix “the most autism-friendly city in the world.”

As you’ll see reflected in our Community Impact report (see page 39), year after year we serve more children, teens and adults with autism and their families, as well as provide important educational programming for physicians, educators, legislators and employers. The advancements we have made since our founding in 1997 demonstrate the ever-changing and growing needs of our community.

For instance, through SARRC’s innovative research initiatives, we continue to work toward lowering the age of diagnosis and start of intervention through early identification programs. We’re proud to introduce the Early Eye Tracking study in early summer 2018, which is a new study validating a device that will track the eye gaze of children as young as 18 months.

The expansion of our Community School with a second campus in Tempe, Ariz., is an important milestone in our growth demonstrating our inclusive model, which is now being sought by parents of young children with and without autism.

More than 20 organizations around the Phoenix-area have teamed up with SARRC’s CommunityWOrks® program, allowing us to offer more sites for effective pre-employment training for adolescents as they learn to work and socialize alongside their typically developing peers.

Through our adult programs, we’re working steadfastly to teach adults to lead more independent lives. And we’re achieving competitive employment rates that we’ve never seen before, thanks to our dedicated clinical team and diverse employment partners.

I am thankful for the countless relationships we’ve forged over the years within our supportive community, from the over 40 employers who are committed to hiring adults with autism, to the school districts and summer camps that have learned to integrate students—and campers—with autism, to the many dedicated families we serve each and every day. Our achievements are a direct result of our unwavering community of supporters, and passionate team members who are committed to autism research, education, evidence-based treatment and community outreach that supports individuals with autism and their families throughout their lifetimes.

While exponential progress has taken root since our first breakfast, there’s still so much to do. With you, we can continue to expand the boundaries of what is possible. With you, we can open more doors for individuals with autism and their families. With you, we can provide the supports children, teens and adults need to fully access an inclusive community. With you, we can lead and influence other communities around the globe to do the same.

With you, we can!
Great Minds. Great Hearts. Great Community.

Greenberg Traurig is honored to support SARRC in its mission to advance research and provide a lifetime of support for individuals with autism and their families.

Nicole M. Goodwin
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
2375 East Camelback Road | Suite 700
Phoenix, AZ 85016 | 602.445.8000

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Pearl Chang Esau
Pearl Chang Esau is an educator, advocate, policy expert and leading voice in support of excellent education for all students. Beginning her career as a 5th grade teacher in east Los Angeles, Chang Esau has worked throughout her career as a nonprofit executive to champion high expectations and public support for educators and students from their early years through high school, college and beyond. She received the Athena Young Professional Award from the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce and was recognized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as a Profile of Change in education reform.

Gregory Bernosky
Gregory Bernosky is director of state regulation and compliance for Arizona Public Service (APS). In this role at APS, Bernosky directs a team that interacts with the Arizona Corporation Commission on all company business, including rates and policy-making, compliance matters, program and budget approvals, and consumer advocacy issues. Previously, Bernosky was manager of the APS Renewable Energy Program where he developed and executed strategic planning for APS and customer solar and renewable initiatives, as well as activities related to utility-scale solar generation and customer-sited distributed solar energy programs.

Wilkinson Earns Lifetime Achievement Award
In late 2017, Christine Wilkinson received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Phoenix Business Journal’s Most Admired Leaders event. Wilkinson, who serves three roles at ASU including as president and CEO of the Alumni Association, has been a long-time board member and friend of SARRC.

Wilkinson was also recognized as an exceptional leader during a Women’s Empowerment event hosted by Escada last fall. Thank you for all you do, Christine!

Harahan Honored at Philanthropy Awards
SARRC Board Treasurer Meighan Harahan, chair of the Finance and Audit committee, was recently honored at the 33rd Annual Philanthropy Leadership Awards hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She was nominated by SARRC and received the Spirit of Philanthropy award because of her invaluable contributions to SARRC and the local nonprofit community, particularly as it relates to her financial and investment knowledge. Congratulations, Meighan!

2018 SARRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Gary Jaburg, Vice Chair, Jaburg & Wilk, PC, Managing Partner
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Howard Sobelman, Snell & Wilmer LLP, Partner

Ex-Officio
Daniel Openden, Ph.D., BCBA-D., SARRC, President and CEO

Thank you to the directors who completed terms in 2017
Lynn Balter
Tim Bolden
Sue Glawe
Stephanie Papadopoulos
Barbara Ralston
In Brief

Community School Continues to Expand

In August 2017, SARRC’s Community School celebrated the opening of a third classroom at its Tempe campus allowing for more typically developing children to benefit from vital, inclusive environments, while serving more students with ASD in an enriching, supportive classroom. The Tempe-area Community School, serving East Valley families, is located at 975 E. Warner Road on the campus of St. James Episcopal Church. For more information on enrollment, contact Pilar Dowling at 602.340.8717 or email pdowling@autismcenter.org.

Beneficial Beans, CO+HOOTS Partner on Pop-Up Boutique

SARRC’s Beneficial Beans® received an opportunity to partner with CO+HOOTS, a nationally recognized co-working community in Phoenix, during a five-month pop-up boutique dedicated to helping social enterprises succeed. Beneficial Beans & Boutique launched in mid-October 2017 in downtown Phoenix and served as a one-stop shop for mission-oriented products. Shop Beneficial Beans online at ShopBeneficialBeans.org.

ThinkAsperger’s Mobile App Launches

The ThinkAsperger’s mobile app was developed by SARRC to aid in the identification of ASD and may be accessed worldwide by parents, educators and medical professionals. The process guides users through features including a screening questionnaire to assist in the identification of social challenges in children, and also offers resources for a formal ASD evaluation.

The app, available via the App Store or Google Play, was designed by SARRC’s clinical and research teams to reduce the number of children who are undiagnosed or misdiagnosed and who may struggle with loneliness, social isolation, peer victimization, academics and life skills.
SARRC Launches Leadership Academy with ATLAS Award

SARRC was one of eight Phoenix organizations selected to participate in the ATLAS Project, an initiative of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust designed to strengthen and sustain the operating capacity of Valley nonprofits.

Through this multi-faceted project, SARRC launched the Leadership Academy, a capacity-building program to empower leaders and support continued growth in order to best serve the autism community.

Operation Santa Claus Strikes Again

Thanks to our friends at Sanderson Ford, SARRC has been a proud partner and charity recipient of Operation Santa Claus for the past 16 years. Throughout the 2017 holiday season, Sanderson Ford hosted numerous events around the Valley collecting thousands of food, toy and cash donations to support the participating charities. The effort raised more than $600,000 in donations and in-kind support in 2017.

Through Operation Santa Claus, valuable funds were collected to support SARRC’s programs, services and research. Also, SARRC was privileged to help make the holidays brighter for more than 300 families by distributing clothing and toys.

Your Donations at Work

For the second consecutive year, SARRC was awarded a 4-star rating through Charity Navigator, the premier independent charity evaluator. This is the highest rating awarded and ensures donors that each dollar donated is carefully applied to the mission in a fiscally responsible way.

SARRC was also awarded a “platinum” rating by GuideStar, a tool for funders showing we are effectively measuring progress and results, as well as demonstrating organizational improvement year over year. Platinum is the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar.
Fry’s Change Benefits SARRC

Throughout January 2018, all Arizona Fry’s Food Stores collected change from customers to benefit SARRC. The 120 store locations statewide raised a total of $46,876.31 to support our programs, services and research. That’s no small amount of change! Thank you, Fry’s Food Stores and Fry’s customers.

SARRC Expands Summer Camp Partnerships

SARRC is proud to partner with several summer camps throughout Arizona to support inclusive opportunities for campers of all ages. In 2017, SARRC announced its newest camp partner, Children’s Museum of Phoenix.

Currently, SARRC partners with Camp Daisy and Harry Stein, Camp Simcha, Children’s Museum of Phoenix, Phoenix Theatre and Tech Camp at the University of Advancing Technology to offer incredible experiences and unforgettable memories. For more information on summer camp opportunities with SARRC partners, visit autismcenter.org/summer-camps.

Medication Designated as Breakthrough Therapy

In 2018, the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) designated Balovaptan, a Roche-Genentech medication as a “Breakthrough Therapy.”

Breakthrough Therapy is a designation process that expedites the development and review of drugs that are intended to treat a condition. Designation is only given when preliminary clinical evidence indicates that the drug may demonstrate substantial improvement over currently available treatments. As of February 2018, Balovaptan, a medication that controls the activity of specific nerve cells in the brain, is in phase II clinical trials. SARRC has conducted clinical trials on this compound for the past three years and leads the nation in recruitment for this project, nearly doubling the efforts of the next most productive site. Currently, SARRC is conducting a study on Balovaptan among children ages 5 to 18.
Snell & Wilmer is proud to support the 20th Annual SARRC Community Breakfast.

Understanding what makes you unique.

www.swlaw.com
The Arizona Cardinals Football Club is proud to support Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center for their contributions to our community.

Arizona Cardinals Together we can do more.

First Place Phoenix to Open Summer 2018

After nearly two decades of planning, First Place® Phoenix will officially open its doors in July. The new development offers supportive housing and a residential transition program for individuals with autism and for other neuro-diverse populations, as well as sites for education, training and creative inspiration.

First Place is comprised of three fundamental components: Apartments, Transition Academy and Global Leadership Institute. The 55 apartments will offer residents supportive housing services and amenities in the heart of Phoenix, maximizing independence, community integration, personal enrichment and quality of life. The First Place Transition Academy, operated by SARRC, is open annually to 32 students with ASD who will live both on and off campus while completing the two-year program. The First Place Global Leadership Institute will serve as a site for research and training for service providers, professionals and physicians.

Learn more at firstplaceaz.org.
Sharman Ober-Reynolds, MSN, FNP, CCRP
Senior Research Coordinator

Sharman Ober-Reynolds is one of the most recognizable faces on SARRC’s research team. She started working for SARRC back in May of 2002 after attending a social-skills group with her son, Andrew, who has ASD. She struck up a friendship with SARRC’s very own Janet Kirwan and the rest is history.

Today, she is busy coordinating research studies designed to determine the underlying cause(s) and most effective treatments for autism. We caught up with Sharman and asked her a couple questions about her 15+-year career at SARRC:

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

“Being part of a research team that works every day to better understand how to help individuals with autism.”

What is one of your favorite SARRC memories?

“When my son, Andrew, was diagnosed with ASD in 1992, there was no SARRC. Over the past 15 years, I’ve watched SARRC develop the programs and services that every family needs to ensure a better quality of life for their child. It was also amazing to watch my son get his first job with the help of SARRC’s Employment Services team.”

Natalie Walker

When Natalie Walker was first introduced to her husband, David, she never had a personal connection to autism until she met his daughter. Natalie took this as an opportunity to learn about the programs, services and outreach available in the autism community.

Her quest led her to SARRC, where she decided to become a volunteer. Four years later, Natalie is considered an extension of the SARRC team where she actively volunteers during the annual Autism Speaks Walk in Partnership with SARRC and at Operation Santa Claus. Each year, Natalie provides vital assistance during our signature events, which is a tremendous help to SARRC’s staff. Over the years, Natalie has also engaged David as a volunteer, and has helped connect her stepdaughter with various SARRC programs and services.

“What touches me the most is SARRC’s people,” Natalie says. “When I first attended the Autism Speaks Walk and saw everyone come together for a common cause, it was incredibly powerful.”

19th Annual Community Breakfast Makes History

On April 28, 2017, nearly 1,800 guests came together to celebrate SARRC’s Annual Community Breakfast at the Arizona Biltmore Resort. The event, which was chaired by long-time supporters Kathy and Mike Bosco, showcased SARRC over the last 20 years and for the first time ever, guests heard from every perspective of the family: parents, siblings and grandparents. The Community Breakfast is SARRC’s signature fundraising event.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
Cenpatico Integrated Care and Health Net of Arizona are proud to partner with SARRC. Their leadership in autism research, treatment, and outreach remains groundbreaking. Positive outcomes happen through their support of individuals with autism and their families.

Every school-age child needs Internet access.

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- IN HONOR OF -

KAREY & JOHN STEVENSON FOR THEIR WORK TO HELP THE CHILDREN IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

ALL OF OUR LOVE,

CYDCOR & SUSAN & GARY POLSON

- charles SCHWAB -

OUTREACH | 14 | 2018
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona is proud to support Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center in its mission to advance research and provide a lifetime of support for individuals with autism and their families.
To celebrate SARRC’s recent 20th anniversary, its Legacy Circle aims to grow by 20 new members in 2018. You can become a member by making a planned gift to SARRC. Whether in your will or as a beneficiary to an IRA or life insurance policy, a planned gift will ensure the continued vitality and growth of SARRC’s research, programs and services for generations to come.

Please visit autismcenter.planmylegacy.org/20-20 or contact Planned Giving Manager Beth Salazar at 602.606.9876 to learn more.

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SARRC has made a difference to my family, and I want to ensure it’s there to support others in the future. That’s why I chose to include SARRC in my estate plan and become a founding member of the SARRC Legacy Circle. As a client, volunteer and now board member, I’ve experienced SARRC on many levels. I know my gift will be used in a productive, impactful way.

~Nicole M. Goodwin, founding member, SARRC Legacy Circle

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### Legacy Circle Founding Members

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<th>Neil &amp; Lynn Balter</th>
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### Legacy Circle Members

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<td>Kim &amp; Dan Owens</td>
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OUTREACH | 16 | 2018
Since 2009, SARRC has offered Intensive Parent Training for families with a child diagnosed with ASD living in rural or remote areas of Arizona. Aimed at teaching parents and caregivers how to implement strategies to better support their child in all areas of their lives, this program has been a reliable resource for families.

Thanks to the Gila River Indian Community and its Office of Special Funding, SARRC has been able to serve more families without access to quality services or with limited services. Since the program’s inception, more than 150 families have completed Intensive Parent Training, with the Gila River Indian Community’s commitment being key to its success.

In October 2017, the Gila River Indian Community announced its continued support of this important SARRC program through a two-year grant that will support approximately 50 families in rural or remote areas of Arizona who are in need of resources to help meet their children’s individualized needs.

As a key corporate partner for 20 years, Cardinals Charities continues to champion SARRC through funding of mission-critical programs and services and support of special events. The organization has also publicly recognized some of our most valued volunteers.

Cardinals Charities recently pledged its support of JumpStart®, SARRC’s flagship program, through a grant that will support parents with an at-risk or newly diagnosed child with ASD. In addition to the Cardinals Charities’ unwavering commitment, in 2017, the organization selected SARRC as a recipient of its 50/50 raffle. The raffle directly funds programs and research serving Arizona’s autism community.

Founded in 1990, Cardinals Charities supports programs designed to improve the quality of life and enhance opportunities for children, women and minorities in Arizona. Since its inception, Cardinals Charities has distributed more than $9.1 million to hundreds of worthy charitable organizations on behalf of the Arizona Cardinals and the National Football League. SARRC is proud to be considered one of those organizations and a longtime partner of the state’s beloved professional football team.
Achieving great things for our community

When a group of people comes along who have the courage and vision to turn dreams into reality, they make the future bright for everyone.

SARRC, we celebrate your achievements.

wellsfargo.com

Thank you for helping us help our community.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan is proud to collaborate with our community partners to help build healthy, inclusive communities for all.

Willis Towers Watson is proud to sponsor SARRC!

Willis Towers Watson is focused on designing and delivering solutions to manage risk, optimize benefits and cultivate top talent!
A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Arizona

Findings from the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (ADDSP) help us understand more about the number of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the characteristics of those children, and the age at which they are first evaluated and diagnosed. Read on to learn more about ASD in Arizona and how this important information can be useful to you.

About 1 in 71 or 1.4% of 8-year-old children were identified with ASD by ADDSP in 2014.

Boys were more likely to be identified with ASD than girls. White and black children were more likely to be identified with ASD than Hispanic children.

- 3.2x MORE LIKELY among boys vs. girls
- 1.6x MORE LIKELY among white vs. Hispanic children
- 1.9x MORE LIKELY among black vs. Hispanic children

* No significant differences between white and black children.

Among children identified with ASD who had IQ test scores available, less than a third also had intellectual disability.

- 25% Average or above average intellectual ability
- 28% Intellectual disability
- 47% Borderline range

* Intelligence quotient (IQ) scores available for at least 70% of children identified with ASD by ADDSP. Intellectual disability defined as IQ score ≤ 70.

About 90% of children identified with ASD had concerns about their development noted in their health and/or education records by age 3 years.

About 34% of children identified with ASD received a comprehensive developmental evaluation by age 3 years.

Even though ASD can be diagnosed as early as age 2 years, about half of children were not diagnosed with ASD by a community provider until after age 4 years and 7 months.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Arizona Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program. For the most current prevalence rates and information, visit www.CDC.gov
How is SARRC making inclusion a priority?

SARRC is committed to building a supportive community for individuals with ASD. A core component of accomplishing this is creating an inclusive environment for people to live, work, learn and play. Inclusion is not an outcome, it is a process. It involves continuously learning and adapting to ensure that individuals with ASD, and everyone else, are not only accepted but also valued and appreciated for what they bring to the table.

SARRC prioritizes inclusion in our programs where participants with and without autism learn and grow together. We support individuals with autism in their own neighborhoods, schools, grocery stores and workplaces where we teach important skills, and establish community partners committed to inclusion. We also offer autism education and training opportunities to individuals, organizations, schools and other community leaders on how we can work together to practice inclusion.

Why does SARRC support inclusive classrooms?

Research has demonstrated positive educational outcomes for students with disabilities who are in inclusive educational placements, resulting in fewer absences and behavioral referrals and better outcomes after high school in the areas of employment and independent living. These are important outcomes among individuals with ASD and every child. Inclusive classrooms benefit all students, including children with ASD.

Teachers are more likely to provide instruction in a way that values the unique contributions, supports the varied needs, and reaches all of the learners in the classroom. As a result, children master academic standards, but also learn to embrace diversity and promote inclusion on the playground, in the workplace, and beyond. As a community, we benefit from the larger workforce, innovative ideas and valued contributions of all members of our community.

I want to be part of this initiative, what can I do?

Have a preschool-age child? Consider enrolling your child in SARRC’s Community School in Phoenix or Tempe. Have a school-age child or teenager? Support one of our summer camp partners who are collaborating with us to make Phoenix a more inclusive community, or look into our CommunityWorks program and sign your teen up! Are you a leader in your organization and want to learn more about inclusion and what you can do to support individuals with ASD? Contact our Education, Training and Consultation team at 602.340.8717 to attend an upcoming training and explore how we can work together.

Are you an employer? Hire someone with autism by reaching out to our Employment Services team.
Promoviendo una Vida de Inclusión

POR ALEXIS BOGLIO, M.A., BCBA
Y BEATRIZ ORR, M.A., BCBA

¿Por qué esta SARRC haciendo de la inclusión una prioridad?

SARRC está comprometida a construir una comunidad de apoyo para individuos con ASD. Un componente crítico para lograr ésto es creando un ambiente inclusivo para que las personas vivan, trabajen, aprendan y jueguen. Inclusión no es un resultado, sino un proceso. Involucra aprendizaje y adaptación continuas para asegurar que individuos con ASD, y el resto, no son solo aceptados, pero también valorados y apreciados por lo que tienen que ofrecer.

SARRC prioriza inclusión en nuestros programas donde participantes con y sin autismo aprenden y crecen juntos. Apoyamos a individuos con autismo en sus comunidades, escuelas, tiendas y lugares de trabajo donde enseñamos habilidades importantes, y establecemos asociaciones con compañías comprometidas a la inclusión. También ofrecemos oportunidades de educación y entrenamiento para individuos, organizaciones, escuelas, y otros líderes en la comunidad sobre cómo podemos trabajar juntos para practicar inclusión.

¿Por qué SARRC apoya salones de clases inclusivos?

Investigaciones han demostrado resultados educacionales positivos para estudiantes con discapacidades que participan en salones de clases inclusivos, resultando en menos ausencias y menos problemas de conducta, así como también mejores resultados después de graduarse de secundaria en las áreas de empleo e independencia. Estos son resultados importantes entre individuos con ASD y todos los niños. Salones de clases inclusivos benefician a todos los estudiantes, incluyendo niños con autismo.

Los maestros están más dispuestos a proveer instrucción de una manera que valora las contribuciones únicas, apoya las necesidades variadas, y alcanza a todos los estudiantes en la clase. Como resultado, los niños logran expectativas académicas, pero también aprenden a aceptar diversidad promoviendo inclusión en el parque, en el lugar de trabajo, y mucho más. Como comunidad, todos nos beneficiamos de más trabajadores, ideas innovadoras, y la contribución valiosa y valorada de todos los miembros de la comunidad.

Yo quiero ser parte de esta iniciativa. ¿Qué puedo hacer?

¿Tiene un niño de edad preescolar? Considere registrarlo en la escuela comunitaria privada en Phoenix o Tempe. ¿Tiene un niño de edad escolar o adolescente? ¡Apoye a uno de los campamentos de verano que están colaborando con nosotros para hacer a Phoenix una ciudad más inclusiva, o pregunte sobre el programa CommunityWorks y registre a su adolescente! ¿Es usted un líder en su organización y quiere aprender más sobre inclusión y lo que puede hacer para apoyar a individuos con ASD? Contacte a nuestro equipo de Educación, Entrenamiento y Consulta al 602.340.8717 para participar en los próximos entrenamientos o explorar como podemos trabajar juntos.
SARRC differs from other community-based autism centers due to its well-developed clinical and research programs, whereas many have only one or the other. This positions SARRC to conduct impactful work that can be disseminated and put into clinical practice.

In January 2018, SARRC published findings from a two-year study in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, a leading peer-reviewed journal in the field of autism research. The article “Exploring the Effectiveness of a Peer-Mediated Model of the PEERS Curriculum: A Pilot Randomized Control Trial,” describes the project, which was only possible due to SARRC’s research and clinical departments working together to bring their unique expertise to the table.

Members of the research team designed the study, and members of the clinical team implemented the evidence-based intervention to eight groups of high school students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

**PEERS CURRICULUM WITH SARRC SPIN**

The PEERS® curriculum is one of the most well-studied social skills interventions for intellectually-able teens with ASD. Over the course of 14 weeks, teens learn strategies for making and keeping friends while parents are trained to help their teens practice new skills in the real world.

Traditionally, PEERS groups include only teens with ASD. To remain consistent with SARRC’s other inclusive clinical programs like CommunityWorks® and the Community School, SARRC teams adapted the program to include typically developing peer mentors. SARRC believed peer mentors would strengthen the program, but recognized that evidence was needed. In 2014, SARRC was awarded funding from the Organization for Autism Research to investigate whether the inclusion of typically developing peer mentors improves the effectiveness of the PEERS curriculum.

SARRC enrolled 34 teens with ASD, their parents, and 16 typically developing peer mentors. Teens with ASD were randomly assigned to participate in
one of three study groups: 1) the traditional PEERS curriculum, 2) PEERS with typically developing peer mentors, or 3) a delayed treatment control group. The teen participants’ functioning was measured before the intervention, at the end of the intervention, four months after the intervention, and one year after the intervention.

**SARRC FINDINGS SHOW BENEFITS**

Findings indicated that completing either version of PEERS increased social skills and reduced loneliness, and these changes were maintained four months after completing the intervention.

Teens with ASD who completed PEERS with typically developing peer mentors showed an advantage in social skills compared to teens who completed traditional PEERS. Further, typically developing peer mentors showed gains in social skills knowledge and reductions in loneliness.

Together, findings suggest that the effectiveness of PEERS is modestly improved when typically developing peer mentors are included in the intervention, and that peer mentors also benefit through their participation.
He has such overall joy. He’s this amazing little guy with this wonderful personality. You’re incredibly motivated to work with him and help him be successful because he’s got so much to give.

~ Rachel McIntosh, SARRC Community School Director
Leslie Petty has always had this sense that her son’s path was written in the stars. Adopted by Leslie and her husband, Richard Purcell, right after birth, Kingston Petty-Purcell entered the world wide-eyed and ready to go places. And in their hearts, his new parents knew they were the ones who were supposed to take him wherever he was meant to go.

The milestones they led him through followed the usual track at the start. In many ways, he was advanced. Kingston was walking by nine months of age, and his first word — moon — was uttered around this same time, too. But while most of those around him were celebrating his early achievements, his mom was noticing the small things, and her gut was telling her that something just wasn’t right.

“Kingston was never really a little baby,” Leslie says. “There was just something there. I started looking at other kids his age, and he had obvious differences. Kingston was always extraordinarily active. And as he began to speak more, I noticed that he was repeating exactly what I said, but he would not answer questions or initiate conversation.”

Shortly after he turned 2, the autism diagnosis came, and Leslie found a new gear — one that wasn’t going to stop until her son had a team behind him. Her search for help and answers led her to SARRC. When she got there, it was almost as if SARRC had been waiting.

**WITH YOU, WE CAN SUCCEED**

“They were just starting these seminars, a day after we learned he could be on the spectrum, and I just begged to get in. My husband was off from traveling on a very rare occasion, and I asked him to attend. It was like the universe opened this door for us, but I’ve come to learn that’s just Kingston,” Leslie says.
Soon after, the Petty-Purcells started SARRC’s Intensive Parent Training program — again, in a world where everything seemed to have a waiting list, there was an opening and they got in. Leslie let herself breathe, just a little, but then she dug in. Kingston had a long climb, and she wasn’t going to let him fall.

“Kingston was demonstrating some aggressive behaviors, and that first day... it was rough,” says SARRC Clinical Manager Alexis Boglio, M.A., BCBA, recalling the first session in which she observed Leslie interacting with Kingston one-on-one.

A strong 2-year-old, Kingston was behaving as he always had when someone took a toy from him or asked him to share or to move somewhere else — he got physical. When Leslie asked her son to do something he didn’t like, he pushed or shoved.

“That was his way of showing what he wanted and didn’t want,” Boglio says. “That was his way of communicating, and we needed to replace the pushing and shoving and show him that the only way to get what he wanted was to use his voice. He needed to learn a more appropriate and efficient way of communicating.”

His parents were learning, too. At first, they worked on something as simple as playing with bubbles. On the first day, Leslie would ask Kingston if he wanted bubbles and anytime he would nod or look at them, she would blow bubbles. But as Boglio coached Leslie, she encouraged her to hold out for her son to use his words and ask for the bubbles, things started to change. By the end of the week, Kingston was responding to more than half of the opportunities his mom would give him to communicate with words — a far cry from the 5 percent measured on the first day. As Leslie, her husband, their nanny and others began implementing this strategy at home, Kingston’s success went up.

The Petty-Purcells are one of about 35 families this year who will go through the Intensive Parent Training program. The intervention is called Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT), and the one-week model began as a study out of the University of California, Santa Barbara. SARRC offers a 15-hour model for young toddlers, and a 25-hour model for young children, like the Petty-Purcells completed. The key to the intervention’s success, Boglio says, is the way it can be integrated into everyday life and activities.

“There are opportunities throughout the natural day for parents to work with their kids on this, to urge them to use words to communicate and encourage positive behaviors,” Boglio says.

“One of the best experiences at the end of the week is when a parent tells me ‘I’ve got this.’ They don’t
feel helpless, or like they have to wait for someone to come in and rescue them. This isn’t the end, and it doesn’t solve everything, but most parents feel empowered, like they can have an impact on their child’s outcome,” Boglio adds.

WITH YOU, WE CAN LEARN

The next task for Kingston and his family was to carry these one-on-one behaviors over to a group setting. He needed to learn how to adapt to using his words, not his muscles, with his peers. This task was a bigger mountain to climb.

Prior to beginning at SARRC’s Community School in Tempe, Ariz., Kingston’s parents had tried socializing through various other activities and youth programs. The outcome was always the same — Kingston would get aggressive, and eventually he would be asked to leave or no longer attend.

His struggle is not so different from many, and it’s one of the main driving forces behind SARRC’s Community School program that pairs typically developing kids alongside those with autism in an early-educational setting.

“Kingston is extremely social, and the Community School is perfect for him because he needs to be around other kids. He needs that social interaction to learn,” says Richard. “What he’s learned through the Community School is how to function with other people. How to handle and learn through his struggles. And even more than that is the sense of consistency that comes with attending the Community School. It’s the key, the foundation to everything else we’re doing to help him. Everything he learns applies to all aspects of his life.”

It’s within this rigorous and continued practice of what is called applied behavior analysis (ABA) that Kingston has seen tremendous success.

“He came in after a week of intensive work with his mom, one-on-one, and we knew what his challenges were,” recalls Community School Director Rachel McIntosh, M.A., BCBA. “Kingston struggled, and it took time for him to learn his way. There were so many potential trouble spots that he needed to work through in a typical day.”

During his first year at the school, a lot of Kingston’s day was spent one-on-one with clinicians. His dislike for seeing someone get disciplined or breaking what he might perceive as a rule, such as not lining up in time or in the right order, would trigger the negative behavior and he would push or kick. The same things would happen in groups when he was forced to share or change activities too quickly.

“The solution was to double-down at home, and we all worked together, kind of digging our heels in for Kingston,” Leslie recalls.

The changes in his behavior didn’t happen all at once, but now in his second year at the school, things have really started to click. And rather than going home with reports about aggression, Kingston has started simply going home happy. More importantly, he wakes up ready to go to school again.

“He’s making so much progress, it’s almost too much to count,” McIntosh says. “He’s able to use the strategies not just on a daily basis, but a minute-by-minute basis. He has such overall joy. He’s this amazing little guy with this wonderful personality. You’re incredibly motivated to work with him and help him be successful because he’s got so much to give.”

WITH YOU, THE FUTURE IS POSSIBLE

Kingston’s next year of school at SARRC will be pre-K, and his parents have started to consider the questions about where their son will be after this.

“How much more will he progress, and how do we make the right choices for him?” Leslie wonders. “We need to make sure we’re putting him in a place that isn’t going to set him back. I don’t know if he’ll be ready for a typical school, but it’s another year and a half away. He’s come so far in a short time, maybe…”

One thing Kingston’s parents know for certain is that their son will carve a path and forge ahead. The stars will follow his lead and line up as he demands, because as his mom explains… they always have.

“I can tell you, in my heart, I see him being the CEO of a Fortune 500 company, an Olympic medalist or perhaps President of the United States,” Leslie says, no hint of doubt in her voice. “He’s so determined, and charismatic, and really funny. He’s loving and always wants to make sure everyone’s included. He’s going to be up to big things. I do know that.”
As Tyler Hubbard was growing up, his parents suspected he might have autism. “Over the years, it just became more and more obvious,” says his father, Bob Hubbard. But little was known about autism at the time, and it wasn’t until Tyler’s later grade-school years that the Hubbards were able to get a diagnosis.

Today, Tyler is 24, and after participating in programs at SARRC, he is thriving in a way his parents never thought possible. And for Bob and his wife, Kathy, the experience motivated them to give back and engage with SARRC in many ways, from donating and fundraising to signing up their own business with SARRC’s Employment Services.

DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR LIFE AND WORK

The Hubbards were aware of SARRC, but the family hadn’t fully explored the organization’s services until they talked with a family friend who suggested they look at the Vocational & Life Skills Academy, which offers a range of services. The experience changed their lives.

“It’s been a really positive, consistent journey over the past two to three years,” Hubbard says. “Kathy and I were going a couple hours every week, and then we gradually progressed. Now, we meet with someone at SARRC for an hour every other week.”

In addition to the training Bob and Kathy receive from SARRC, Tyler receives Comprehensive Behavioral Services as well. He learns life skills like how to manage his calendar, improve his communications, keep a budget and prepare for the workforce. “The team has been awesome to work with,” Hubbard says.

“Like a lot of kids on the spectrum, he’s a little awkward socially,” Hubbard says. “Two years ago, if we went to dinner, I’d ask him what he wanted, and I’d tell the waiter. Now, he can speak for himself.”

Tyler lives in his brother’s guest house, and SARRC has been instrumental in helping him build his independent living skills and keep his living space clean, too. The team has worked with him on grocery shopping, comparing prices, being aware of value and couponing.

“The SARRC team has been amazing,” Hubbard adds. “To act like an adult, you need to be responsible with your money. SARRC has removed a lot of tension from our lives by being a resource.”

ON THE JOB

For individuals on the autism spectrum, getting a job often isn’t easy. Applying for and maintaining employment is a life skill that must be learned.

“Tyler didn’t just immediately get a job. SARRC worked with him on interviewing skills and resumes,” Hubbard says. “He has a high school education and struggles on the phone, so phone interviews weren’t
Partnering with SARRC and their inventory of resources was tremendous.”

SARRC’s Employment Services help adults with autism gain the skills needed to prepare for a job, get a job and maintain a job.

“That includes both hard skills — actually doing the work — but even more importantly the soft skills, which include social communication, problem solving, transitions, engagement, etc.,” says Beatriz Orr, M.Ed., BCBA, clinical services manager and Hispanic outreach coordinator at SARRC.

SARRC has more than 40 employment partners with nearly 60 locations around the Valley. In September 2016, Tyler was hired at Paradies at Sky Harbor International Airport. He works in the warehouse and loves his job.

“We love him. If we could duplicate him a few times, that would be great,” says Teresa Dominguez, local business partner with Paradies and one of Tyler’s managers.

“When we interviewed him, Tyler was quick to respond, and he asked good questions. He was very well prepared,” she says. Since he was hired, Tyler has worked in various capacities and has been trained in many facets of the warehouse — from the receiving department to inventory management to loading the trucks and delivering merchandise to stores.

“Our manager on the premises is extremely pleased. We’ve been giving him additional responsibilities,” Dominguez adds. “We’re very, very happy to have him aboard.”

When they learned about Employment Services, the Hubbards, who own Hubbard Family Swim School, signed up.

“We wanted to complete the circle,” Hubbard says. Currently, one of SARRC’s clients is working at a swim school location, working the snack bar, checking in students and stocking retail.

“He’s very independent,” Hubbard notes. “He’s blended in and taken on new responsibilities.”

Watching this employee and their own son thrive with work responsibilities has been an encouraging milestone for the Hubbards.

“It’s still a journey,” Hubbard says, but he now has more hope for Tyler’s future than ever.>

BECOME AN EMPLOYMENT PARTNER

Want to be an employment partner? You’ll be in good company. The following businesses are current SARRC Employment Partners:

Albertsons
Arizona Autism Charter Schools, Inc.
Arizona School for the Arts
Arizona Sunrays Gymnastics and Dance Center
Az Working Girl Café
Beatitudes Campus
Safeway
Breakthru Beverage
AMC
Arizona Diamondbacks
Arizona School Boards Association
AutoZone
Celebrity Theatre
Clearskin Institute of Laser Aesthetics
City of Scottsdale
ConstructionReports.com
CVS Health
Edge Building Services
Emily Taylor Law Firm
Fractured Prune Doughnuts
Fry’s Food & Drug Stores, Inc.
GateWay Community College
Gompers
Harkins
Hubbard Family Swim School
Integrative Headache Care
Laneterralever
Omni Bioceutical Innovations
Outback Steakhouse
Paradies Lagardère Travel Retail
Peckham, Inc.
PetSmart
Pinnacle Transplant Technologies
Pro-Serv Commercial Cleaning, Inc.
Raceway Express Car Wash
Redi Carpet
SAP
Sprouts Farmers Market
SSP America
Summer Winds Nursery
TCH (The Centers for Habilitation)
The Touchpoint Solution
Valor Global
White House Design Studio

For more information about SARRC’s Employment Services, please contact SARRC at 602.340.8717
Charting a Course

BY MICHELLE GLICKSMAN

Milestones program leads to earlier diagnosis, intervention by getting infants and parents involved early on

When Claire and Brian Kelley’s third child was born, they were concerned about the possibility of delays, as their oldest child had been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at age 3.

“You always worry, you always have it in the back of your mind,” Claire shares.

With current research showing the sibling recurrence risk of ASD considerably higher than previous estimates, Claire and Brian jumped at the opportunity to attend SARRC’s free Milestones program. Open to families with an infant, the program provides support through education on developmental milestones, consistent monitoring and early intervention options if enough early warning signs of ASD are observed through monitoring appointments.

“Milestones was developed to be a multi-faceted program that provides a range of services from information to intervention for every family enrolled and is sensitive to each family’s baby as they grow from infant to toddler,” says Alexis Boglio, M.A., BCBA, clinical manager at SARRC. “Each family’s journey is based on their baby’s unique development that is tracked carefully with up to five different age-based check-ins beginning at 6 months and ending at 18 months.”

Milestones provided the Kelleys with a road map and guidance to help them better understand how to navigate their concerns with their infant son. Because their infant had an older sibling with a diagnosis of ASD, they were offered immediate enrollment in Milestones Monitoring, where SARRC’s clinical and research teams work together to conduct assessments that determine if very early intervention would be a precautionary next step.

“For anybody who has a first child and doesn’t know what to expect or anybody who has a child on the spectrum, Milestones allows parents to detect changes early and intervene early, and helps you work on what skills you need to develop to work with them,” Claire says.

Since launching two years ago, SARRC’s...
Getting Started

Enrollment in the Milestones program is one click away. Visit autismcenter.org/milestones to complete the enrollment form online. Those infants identified as having a sibling with ASD will be contacted and offered immediate enrollment. The Milestones program consists of:

Milestones Education
Offering quality information that focuses on developmental milestones and parenting practices and ideas to encourage play and interaction.

Milestones Monitoring
Let us watch you grow. Some parents will have the opportunity to participate in ongoing assessments beginning as early at 6 months up until 18 months. Participation in this service will be determined based on assessment and availability of services. Assessment results will be used to provide clinical recommendations and/or a recommendation to pursue full diagnostic evaluation.

12-Week Consultation
12-week parent-implemented early intervention program for infants demonstrating early signs of ASD. Coaches will work together with parents to target goals through play and everyday interactions.

Did You Know?

During the first year, your baby will not only grow in size but will develop skills such as smiling, babbling and waving that are called developmental milestones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 mos</th>
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<th>6 mos</th>
<th>9 mos</th>
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<td>Turns head to sound</td>
<td>Smiles at people</td>
<td>Responds to name</td>
<td>Uses finger to point</td>
<td>Uses gestures &amp; a few words</td>
<td>Gives toys to parent when asked</td>
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For more information or to register, visit: autismcenter.org/milestones
Finding the MISSING PIECE

A move to Phoenix proves pivotal for the Campbell family

By Michelle Glicksman

From left, Chad Campbell, his mother-in-law, Lynne; son Euan and daughters Niamh and Zara, wife Elana and their Chocolate Lab, Zuma.
When Euan Campbell was 2-years-old, his parents, Chad and Elana, began to notice some red flags and delays with his development. They began early intervention services — speech therapy and occupational therapy for him — “but I constantly felt like there was something missing and that we weren’t doing everything that we could do,” Elana shares.

Then in 2015 the family moved from Chicago to Chad’s hometown of Phoenix.

Euan was turning 5, which made him eligible for kindergarten.

“Once we got him into the school environment, we realized we needed more help,” Chad explains. “We were able to get by at home, but there were a lot of missing pieces that got amplified when we put him in a school environment.”

Euan had limited verbal skills, tended to be very rigid and was prone to tantrums. It not only impacted Euan, but the entire family, including the couple’s two daughters, Niamh, then 10, and Zara, then 7.

“Life was very restrictive because we didn’t go out,” Elana shares. “It wasn’t great for our girls, either. We’d get invited to people’s homes and we didn’t really go. If we did, it was tag-teaming because it was so emotionally draining for everyone around. Sometimes it would be a half an hour just to get him into the car.”

A DIAGNOSIS—AND SOME HELP

Then, just a month after Euan was formally diagnosed with ASD in December 2015, Chad was invited to an event at SARRC.

“I showed up not knowing what I was going to,” he shares. “I just saw that it had something to do with autism and Euan had just been diagnosed with ASD.”

At the event Chad toured the facility, “and before I even got in my car to go home, I called Elana from the parking lot and said we have to learn more about this place.”

Elana reached out to SARRC, and after a phone conversation, Euan was added to the list for the Comprehensive Behavioral Program.

MOVING FORWARD

The family waited 11 months for the call that there was an opening in the program. It would be a full-time commitment, and the family jumped in eagerly.

SARRC’s Comprehensive Behavioral Program provides intensive, customized ABA intervention across environments (home, school, community) to meet the needs of children with ASD and their families. The first step for all clients is a full assessment to determine the child’s needs, and to then be able to develop a treatment plan utilizing Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT) and ABA therapy to address those needs.

“It’s one-on-one therapy at home, at school and in the community to address whatever the needs are of that particular child very subjectively. For Euan’s case, he has as about an intense of a program as it comes,” Chad explains, sharing that Euan has a therapist with him all day at school, and then three evenings a week a therapist is with him or with the family.

HELPING EUAN

With SARRC therapists then in the picture almost day-in and day-out, Elana says she had to learn how to balance everything.

She was nervous at first, wondering how to juggle errands that she’d normally do after work—

“At the root of it all, our goal is to provide Euan with the best opportunities that we can possibly give him, to allow him to be as independent and successful as he possibly can.”

~Elana Campbell
like a run to the grocery store — since the therapists would be at her home. Instead, she quickly learned that those types of trips were welcomed, and therapists and her son could join her.

“It was great because I was able to apply what I learned in those parent trainings and say to my therapist who came in that evening, ‘Hey, I have to pop to the supermarket. Can you come along and we can make it a community outing?’”

The trip would then become a learning and training tool for both Euan and his parents and sisters, who were able to watch how to work with Euan in various situations — skills they can then apply when the therapists aren’t with them.

Now, not only are they able to do outings, but Euan’s sisters have also embraced the therapy program and have become some of his biggest champions, helping him however and whenever they can.

“They’re learning how to play with Euan, and the therapists joke that they’re mini SARRC therapists!” Elana says. “They’re constantly modeling with him, and it’s become almost second nature to them. They’re both very much invested in the process.”

SEEING CHANGES

Although the Campbells are still very much in the midst of the program, they’ve already seen big changes in Euan.

“Flexibility is one,” they share. “If you break from routine he doesn’t melt down anymore. He’s more adaptable to new environments.”

This was especially true when the family moved to a new home and Euan changed schools. The transition went smoothly, and the therapists were there to help him adjust to his new school during the day.

“He’s also made leaps and bounds in terms of communication,” Elana says. “It’s given him the tools he needed. It’s also improved his confidence.”

Additionally, the behavioral changes in school helped his academic ability shine through instead of masking it.

THE FUTURE

“Overarchingly, we’re just very hopeful,” says Elana. “We just keep on doing what we think is best. I’ll always trust my gut, and I knew when I was in Chicago that I thought something was missing. It wasn’t until we came to Phoenix and found SARRC that I realized what was missing. As soon as we found it, it clicked and I knew this is what we needed. It’s so life changing.”

She adds, “At the root of it all, our goal is to provide Euan with the best opportunities that we can possibly give him, to allow him to be as independent and successful as he possibly can.”

From top: Euan’s SARRC clinical team (from left) Alannah O’Hagan, Ashley Weaver, Haley Loeffler, Euan, Mandi Winters and Justin James.

Elana and Euan enjoy a community fair ride.

The Campbell siblings (from left) Niamh, Euan and Zara goofing around.
Why I Walk for AUTISM

In 2008, two years before my nephew Elijah was born, I began helping families who were seeking immigration relief in hardship cases. I spent a great deal of time researching and interviewing applicants about special needs awareness in other parts of the world. This is when I was first introduced to autism.

Fast forward to Elijah’s birth in 2010, and later his autism diagnosis in 2013, one would think I was prepared to render advice and support, but I felt helpless being out of reach and out of state. I realized for Elijah’s sake that there was no time to be upset, so I decided to encourage my network of coworkers and friends to become involved in the Autism Speaks Walk in Partnership with SARRC to help create more awareness.

Elijah inspires me to be persistent and find solutions, and I have made it my priority to advocate and raise autism awareness in our community.

Each year, one in 68 children are diagnosed with autism. Events like the Autism Speaks Walk in Partnership with SARRC not only promote awareness about autism spectrum disorders, but also raise funds for critical research and programs for those impacted by autism.

—Veronica Villasenor

2017 WALK HIGHLIGHTS

- Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017
- Nearly 20,000 people attended
- 500+ walk teams
- $927,000 funds raised
- Half of all monies raised during the walk stay in Arizona
- 17 vendors provided valuable resources to walkers

Thank you to all of our 2017 sponsors including Presenting Sponsor, Sprouts; Start & Finish Line Sponsor, Desert Ford Dealers; the Arizona Multihousing Association, MC Companies, Get Your Move On, Pump It Up, BARD, ABC15, Alliance Bank of Arizona, APS, Butterfly Effects, Cenpatico Integrated Care, HealthNet, Edward Jones, Studio Movie Grill, New Western Rentals and Alkaline88.

SAVE THE DATE

13th Annual Autism Speaks Walk in Partnership with SARRC

Sunday • October 28, 2018
8 to 11 a.m.
80 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:
5K & 1-Mile Family Fun Route
Family Fun Festival & Kid Zone
Autism Resource Providers
Food Truck caravan

Register at: autismspeakswalk.org
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We are honored to have a small part in helping those living with autism reach their fullest potential.

Lincoln Strategy Group is a full-service campaign management company that specializes in both corporate and political campaigns to affect public policy.
Most people have many misconceptions about autism. Four years ago, I was no different than most people. Whenever I thought of autism, I would immediately think of either my best friend’s younger brother who was nearly nonverbal, or jokes I had heard pertaining to it. Thankfully, I had an opportunity to learn how wrong my perceptions of those with autism really were.

I walked into my first orientation for SARRC’s peer mentor program as the youngest person in the room. There were no familiar faces around me, so I was especially nervous. In only an hour, I gained a better understanding of ASD, its prevalence in our community and how it can affect one’s social skills. By the time we all grouped up, the misconceptions I’d previously had about autism disappeared. I was meeting a group of teens who were coming together to help the community and learn something new. That day I had already found common interests among my peers — including those with and without autism — ranging from music to sports to card game preferences. Finding this common ground made it easier for us all to get along and build relationships.

As a peer mentor, I’ve participated in the former PowerWorks® program and I am now a part of Good DeedWorks®, where we incorporate fun activities into learning social skills that will help in settings such as school and work, all the while gaining employment skills beneficial for future careers. We participate in activities like memory games, volunteer at interesting places such as Tierra Madre Horse Sanctuary or the Phoenix Herpetological Society, and really help make learning social and life skills more enjoyable for those impacted by autism.

Since 2014, I’ve been privileged to watch my teen peers with autism improve upon social skills in a short period of time. Even the small changes are noticeable. Whether it’s learning to ask for what he or she wants, staying on topic during conversations, asking questions during conversations or using the right amount of eye contact, being a peer mentor has opened my eyes to how much effort it takes individuals with autism to hold a conversation, something I previously took for granted. This program has not only helped teens with autism, but I feel I’ve learned valuable tools that have improved my own communication skills. I pay so much more attention to every action I make and every word I speak now.

Through peer mentoring in SARRC’s CommunityWorks® program, I have learned the importance of educating the public about autism to convey how it should not be viewed negatively or as extraordinarily different. One of the messages that stuck with me most throughout the last few years was, “While math may not be my strongest subject, I am not ‘the girl who is bad at math.’ There is so much more that makes me, me. So ‘autistic’ should not be the first word used to describe someone who has autism, because each and every person is so much more than that.”
The team at MJ Insurance spends thousands of hours volunteering each year through partnerships with charitable organizations in Indianapolis and Phoenix. And while we love having the chance to make a big impact, it’s the small moments of connection that remind us why it matters—the laughter, the high-fives, and the smiles we share with our neighbors.

We’re dedicated to inspiring the success, fulfillment, and wellbeing of the people we serve. We do it one person—and one moment—at a time.

Learn more at mjinsurance.com
## 2017 SARRC Community Impact

### Pediatric Screening Research Project
- The pediatric screening research project in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) screened 15,338 individuals, and 75 pediatricians in the Valley participated in the project in 2017.

### Treatment Hours Provided
- 77,000+ treatment hours were provided in SARRC clinical programs.

### Employment Partners
- 42 employment partners dedicated to employing individuals with autism.

### Education, Training, and Consultation
- Education, Training and Consultation touched 100+ camp staff and 418 educators, impacting 700+ students with ASD across several school districts.

### Community School Classrooms
- 128 children with and without autism attended seven Community School classrooms.

### Pre-Employment Training
- 29 teens with ASD and 60 teen peer mentors received pre-employment training in CommunityWorks®.

### Meaningful Employment
- 75% of SARRC’s adult clients secured and maintained meaningful, competitive employment.

### Research and Individualized Services
- 1,034 research and individualized services provided for children, teens and adults with ASD.

### JumpStart®
- 72 children age 6 and younger and 127 family members participated in JumpStart®.

### Adult Students
- 22 adult students enrolled in the First Place Transition Academy operated by SARRC to learn how to live independently.

### Parents/Caregivers
- 118 parents/caregivers attended an orientation.

### Children and Family Members
- 128 children with and without autism attended seven Community School classrooms.

### Parents/Caregivers Attended
- 118 parents/caregivers attended an orientation.

### Employment Secured
- 5,100+ parents, family members, typical peers and community members served.

### Small Moments
- The team at MJ Insurance spends thousands of hours volunteering each year through partnerships with charitable organizations in Indianapolis and Phoenix. And while we love having the chance to make a big impact, it’s the small moments of connection that remind us why it matters—the laughter, the high-fives, and the smiles we share with our neighbors.

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SARRC’s clinical model is grounded in applied behavior analysis (ABA) with a particular focus on naturalistic behavioral interventions in inclusive environments (e.g. at home, in school, on the job, and in the community). Each of SARRC’s therapeutic programs, classes and trainings are guided by best practice models; the most currently available science; increasing independence and producing meaningful outcomes; and the individualized needs of the children, adolescents, adults and families we serve.

For more information on any of these programs, services or research studies, contact SARRC at 602.340.8717 or visit autismcenter.org.

**Diagnostic Services**
Licensed psychologists will conduct assessments to determine if an individual meets DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This program is available to individuals of all ages and includes parent/guardian/caregiver assessments to gather information about an individual’s developmental history. For children 6 and under, the Naturalistic Observation Diagnostic Assessment (NODA™) is an accurate and effective alternative to the in-person assessment that uses smart-phone technology and a team of clinicians at SARRC to diagnose – or rule out – autism.

**Family Orientation**
Family Orientation connects caregivers of individuals with ASD to current information that will help them navigate the journey of autism. Participants learn about supports and services, evidence-based interventions, resources and receive information about SARRC programs specific to the individual’s stage of life. Family Orientation meetings are held once a month for caregivers of individuals in each age group: young child (younger than 6 years), school-age child (6 to 11 years), and teens and adults (12+ years). Meetings are designed for families of newly diagnosed children, those who have recently relocated to Arizona, and families making life transitions.

**JumpStart® and JumpStart® Online**
JumpStart® is a six-week program that provides information, support and training to parents of children up to age 6 who have recently been diagnosed with or are at risk for ASD. Components of the program include staff-led discussions on the most critical topics for newly diagnosed families, a classroom where children with ASD receive ABA-based intervention from highly trained SARRC therapists, and parent training in pivotal response treatment (PRT) to teach children to communicate.

JumpStart Online is a hybrid program that combines a series of online lessons that families can access at their convenience with in-person coaching sessions with a highly trained SARRC clinician.

JumpStart and JumpStart Online are also available in Spanish.

**Milestones**
The Milestones program offers services for parents of infants and young toddlers (6 to 18 months). These services include screening, informational classes and newsletters that focus on developmental milestones and parenting practices to encourage play and interaction for all infants. Additional services are available for infants who have an older sibling with a diagnosis of autism including regularly scheduled assessments, and treatment options for any child who is demonstrating early warning signs of autism.
The SARRC Community School is a unique preschool program that provides intensive, ABA-based programming for children with ASD and high-quality early childhood education for typically developing children with campuses in Phoenix and Tempe. All children (ages 18 months to 5 years) receive the benefits of highly trained SARRC classroom therapists within a 4:1 student-to-teacher ratio; a play-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum that is aligned with state education standards; and a language-enriched environment structured to specifically improve meaningful engagement and social communication. Children with ASD also receive 1:1 intervention in the classroom, parent-training sessions conducted in the family’s home and in the community, and program supervision from a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). After-school care is available for typically developing children.

SARRC’s Comprehensive Behavioral Program provides intensive, ABA-based programming across environments to meet the needs of individuals of all ages with ASD and their families. Treatment is primarily implemented in the home and in the community, and is often coordinated with a student’s school or adult’s employer. Families receive weekly 1:1 intervention sessions, a weekly caregiver training session, and program management and supervision from a BCBA. Goals are developed in coordination with the family and focus on language skills, social skills, adaptive behavior, play or leisure skills, and cognitive development.

In partnership with First Place AZ®, SARRC’s Transition Academy is a two-year program that provides comprehensive and intensive ABA-based programming to support transition for young adults with ASD. Students live in apartments within the community while attending classes and working. Students receive a comprehensive curriculum including career education and support, independent living skills, social and leisure skills, and transition services. The Transition Academy includes a 32-course sequence, consisting of classes on finances, interpersonal relationships, advocacy and personal safety, all completed at the GateWay Community College campus. Instruction is also provided within the students’ apartments applying the skills they learn in the classroom to the natural environment.

SARRC’s Parent Training Program equips parents with the tools needed to help teach their child appropriate language, social, and play skills that will benefit them throughout a lifetime. Through coaching and hands-on practice, parents learn naturalistic, play-based teaching strategies proven to yield results. Across all models, clinicians work toward specific goals identified through collaboration between parents and clinicians. SARRC’s Parent Training Program offers both an intensive one-week program and extended 12-week program for parents and their children (0 to 8 years).

CommunityWorks® is a pre-employment and community involvement program that helps prepare teens ages 13-18 for the transition to independent living, higher education and/or employment. Autism CommunityWorks, includes LibraryWorks®, and Good DeedWorks® and provides the opportunity for teens with and without ASD to engage in volunteer work throughout their communities while developing job and social communication skills. Teens with ASD may also receive parent training and 1:1 intervention sessions conducted in the family’s home and in the community.
### Employment Services

Employment Services creates partnerships with local and national employers to increase competitive employment opportunities for adults, while teaching appropriate work behaviors, building social skills, and providing specialized vocational training. Clients receive a functional assessment to identify employment skills and interests; development of pre-vocational and vocational goals, supports and accommodations; resume and job interview preparation; and on-the-job training and coaching. Employment Services may also include vocational evaluations, internships and volunteer opportunities within SARRC’s Beneficial Beans® Garden or in the community, and support accessing vocational training programs in the community.

### Education, Training and Consultation

Education, Training and Consultation provides a range of services to meet the needs of parents, caregivers, professionals and educators. All services promote the use of evidence-based interventions and strategies for individuals with autism. SARRC specializes in naturalistic teaching strategies including Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT). Services are offered in a progressive level system to meet the varied needs of the community. We offer education opportunities to ensure broad reach and access with more in-depth training and consultation services for consumers looking to develop their own skills including but not limited to:

- **School Consultation** includes initial assessment to guide the development of a proposal to meet the needs of a student, teacher or classroom. Initial observation and assessment are completed and reviewed with the school and may include a service delivery proposal. Proposals can include a variety of activities to meet the school’s needs.

- **Program Consultation** for organizations offering community-based programs that are inclusive of individuals with autism spectrum disorder and are looking to implement evidence-based strategies to improve success of all participants. Observation and assessment will be completed and reviewed with the program to drive service proposals which may include a variety of activities to meet the goals of the program.

- **Think Asperger’s® program** is designed to educate parents, educators, and pediatricians to “Think Asperger’s” when they see subtle social impairments in school-age children. SARRC developed an educational program and screening questionnaire to help identify impairments and refer children for a formal evaluation. Our Think Asperger’s app can be downloaded for free by searching “ThinkAsperger’s” via the App Store or Google Play. Learn more at autismcenter.org/ThinkAspergers.

### Physician Outreach Program

SARRC’s Autism Spectrum Disorders Screening Kit enables physicians to effectively screen for ASD during developmental checkups. The kit includes parent questionnaires, presented in English and Spanish, scoring templates and materials to assist with timely referrals and earlier diagnoses. Training meetings are held monthly for all medical personnel who are interested in learning more about autism.
SARRC has an active portfolio of pharmaceutical trials that are investigating the effects of medications that are targeting symptoms of or associated with autism and other related disorders like Down’s syndrome, Fragile X, Angelman’s disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. These studies target specific age groups ranging from young children to adults. Please call 602.340.8717, Ext. 1011.

For any developmental disorder, early diagnosis is key. SARRC has developed a network of more than 100 pediatricians that conduct screenings at well baby check-ups. This program will essentially identify every child with ASD in the network by the age of 3 at the latest. Participating pediatricians agree to screen for ASD at the 12-, 18- and 24-month well-baby visits. If results indicate potential concerns, the parents are referred to SARRC for a free evaluation with a licensed clinical psychologist. Families are provided with feedback at the end of their visit and have a diagnostic report mailed to them within a few weeks. If you have questions about this project, please call 602.340.8717, Ext. 1187.
### Aging & Autism Study

In partnership with Barrow Neurological Institute (BNI), SARRC is studying the aging process of individuals with autism. There are two groups of participants for this study including men and women ages 18-25 and 40-50 years old. Participants are asked to complete an evaluation at SARRC and then undergo an FMRI scan at BNI. During the scan, participants will complete tasks related to memory and thinking. For more information, please call 602.340.8717, Ext. 1014.

### Early Eye Tracking Study

This project is validating a device that will track the eye gaze of children between the ages of 18 and 36 months. To participate, parents must be seeking a developmental evaluation for their child. Children will be seated in front of a computer monitor and be shown several videos. A device will be tracking their eye movements as they watch the screen. Previous research shows the attention to specific kinds of stimuli may be related to a diagnosis of autism. Children and parents will also complete a traditional diagnostic process. The results from each procedure will be compared. For more information, please call 602.340.8717, Ext. 1011.

### NODA Study

The Naturalistic Observational Diagnostic Assessment (NODA) is the product of a SARRC Research collaboration with Behavior Imaging. NODA is an app that allows families to seek and receive an autism diagnosis from the comfort of their home by submitting video evidence of their child’s behavior to a team of diagnostic clinicians. In addition to the ease and convenience of this method, SARRC and Behavior Imaging are now validating NODA for monolingual Spanish-speaking families. For more information, please call 602.340.8717, Ext. 2000.
Mrs. Nicole Stanton, Managing Partner of Quarles & Brady Phoenix, commented,

“When you look through the pages of the ON Media Publications, you certainly notice who is in the program, but you equally notice who is not. We are proud to support the arts through advertising in ON Media Publications, and we think our clients take note.”
### Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2017 *(unaudited)*

#### Assets
- **Current Assets** $6,786,103
- **Long Term Assets** $7,714,264
- **TOTAL ASSETS** $14,500,367

#### Liabilities
- **Current Liabilities** $980,815
- **Long Term Liabilities** $63,783
- **TOTAL LIABILITIES** $1,044,598

#### Net Assets
- **Unrestricted Net Assets** $9,799,801
- **Temporarily Restricted Net Assets** $1,025,968
- **Permanently Restricted Net Assets** $2,630,000
- **TOTAL NET ASSETS** $13,455,769

#### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
$14,500,367

#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
for the Period Ending December 31, 2017 *(unaudited)*

**Support & Revenue**
- **Individuals & Corporations** $642,813  5.6%
- **Grants** $681,125  5.9%
- **Governmental** $215,829  1.9%
- **Special Events** $1,753,128  15.3%
- **Program Fees** $7,249,094  63.2%
- **Interest, Dividends & Investments** $766,587  6.7%
- **In-Kind Support** $154,623  1.3%
- **TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE** $11,463,199  100.0%

**Expenses**
- **Salaries, Benefits & Professional Development** $8,131,977  75.7%
- **Contract Labor & Professional Services** $421,746  3.9%
- **Program Expenses** $827,240  7.7%
- **Postage, Printing & Marketing** $190,594  1.8%
- **Occupancy & Communication** $354,286  3.3%
- **Special Events Costs** $193,019  1.8%
- **In-Kind Expenses** $153,391  1.4%
- **Amortization & Depreciation** $464,708  4.3%
- **TOTAL EXPENSES** $10,736,961  100.0%

**TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** $726,238

**Expenses by Department**
- **Clinical Services** $3,332,463  31.0%
- **Community Preschool** $2,437,835  22.7%
- **Residential Transition Academy** $669,051  6.2%
- **Education & Training** $322,857  3.0%
- **Social Enterprise** $543,484  5.1%
- **Research** $1,408,151  13.1%
- **Administration** $779,223  7.3%
- **Development/ Fundraising** $1,243,897  11.6%
- **TOTAL EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT** $10,736,961  100.0%

*A copy of the fully audited financial statements will be available after June 30, 2018, by contacting Sean Husmoe, Chief Financial Officer, 480.603.3295*
Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center

GRANDPARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

SARRC’s Grandparents Support Group is the visionary creation of Kathy Bosco, who has a grandson impacted by autism.

The Grandparents Group offers grandparents a place to grow and share in a community of support.

Through monthly gatherings, volunteer opportunities and social events, grandparents gain education and hope.

Grandparents are empowered to learn about the latest autism research and collect vital information, tips and strategies that will help their entire family on their journey with autism.

For more information, visit www.autismcenter.org or contact Kathy Bosco at 602.340.8717
YOUR LEGACY. THEIR FUTURE.

CREATE A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM.

SARRC’s Legacy Circle recognizes the support of those who help ensure the long-term success of our programs and services.

autismcenter.PlanMyLegacy.org