DOCTOR’S ORDERS
Pediatric Screening Network grows to 100+ pediatricians
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TODDLER TIME
Community School opens new location in Tempe
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SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
Beneficial Beans® adds new retail partners
Page 34

Mission: POSSIBLE
New SARRC program promotes focus on infant developmental milestones and parenting skills Page 23
Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center

GRANDPARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

SARRC’s Grandparents Support Group is the visionary creation of Kathy Bosco, a grandparent of a child with 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 and to get involved, visit www.autismcenter.org or contact Kathy Bosco at 602.340.8717.
23 Baby Steps  SARRC’s new Milestones program promotes focus on infant developmental milestones and parenting skills.

28 Screen Time  The Pediatric Screening Network, a research project led by SARRC in collaboration with researchers at the University of California, San Diego, now includes more than 100 Phoenix-area pediatricians and more than 11,000 children have been screened for autism.

30 Expanding Our Horizons  SARRC’s award-winning Community School preschool expands to a second location on the campus of St. James Episcopal Church in Tempe, Ariz.

32 Meaningful Transitions  The First Place Transition Academy, operated by SARRC, paves the road to independence for eight adults with autism in partnership with GateWay Community College.

34 On the Grow  SARRC’s Beneficial Beans® social enterprise adds six new retail partners, including gift shops at Sky Harbor International Airport, and expands opportunities in both the Beneficial Beans café and garden internship programs.

36 Diagnosis in Days  The Mallon family uses NODATM – the Naturalistic Observation Diagnostic Assessment – to help expedite the diagnostic process for their 23-month-old son.
Community School benefits typically developing preschooler

Before we found SARRC’s inclusive Community School, we truly thought preschools were all the same. That all changed when we brought my daughter in to meet the teachers. Every single teacher was not only highly educated, they were specially trained to assist my daughter in her development.

Although she is not on the spectrum, my daughter’s behavior has improved dramatically. Especially during a hard time for our family, SARRC’s unwavering commitment to my preschooler’s emotional health helped us survive a very rough patch.

We were so impressed with the results, we signed up for one of SARRC’s parenting classes. We couldn’t believe all of the great and easy-to-implement parenting tips we learned. In fact, we use the techniques they taught us with both my preschooler and my preteen. Since we’ve become part of the SARRC family, we’ve found that our children are simply happier!

Megan & Michael Porth
Phoenix

Early intervention at SARRC pays off

Our family learned our son Bodie had autism when he was 16 months old and we, like an ever-increasing number of families, did not know what we were facing or what to do next. Fortunately, a family member had heard about SARRC through the Action for Autism event on KTAR, and so we reached out to SARRC for help.

That was the starting point for the support and services that have changed our son’s life and the rest of our family forever. When he was initially evaluated by SARRC, Bodie was non-verbal, had limited gross and fine motor skills, and would barely interact with toys and other children.

We’re happy to report that after three years in the SARRC Community School and some wonderful support through the first few years of elementary school, Bodie is reading above grade level, interacts appropriately with typical peers at school, and has a wild imagination and amazing interests. He recently joined his sister on the Scottsdale Aquatic Club swim team and is learning how to take direction from coaches, compete in meets, and most importantly, be part of a team! We owe where we are now to the care and programs of SARRC and its emphasis on early intervention, which really does make a difference.

The Bernosky Family
Scottsdale, Ariz.
When meeting someone new, I’m regularly asked whether I have a personal connection to autism that led me into the field, and people are often surprised to learn that I do not. Rather, it was the many early successes I had with children with autism and the extraordinary outcomes some of them achieved that ignited my passion and taught me what was possible. Today, SARRC is driven by that very same hope — what is possible in autism.

Take, for instance, the progress we’ve made in research. While our pharmaceutical studies continue, we have shifted our primary focus to original research designed and led by SARRC investigators, and over the last two years, our research team has published eight scientific papers. Further, our current studies are boldly making new knowledge possible, from screening 12-month-olds for autism that will lower the age of diagnosis in Arizona to functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRIs) of adults with autism to understand the aging process and how it may differ from unaffected adults.

We are also making it possible for families in other locations to access SARRC’s programs. Earlier this year, SARRC opened our first Community School expansion site in Tempe, Ariz., providing increased opportunities for children with and without autism in the East Valley (see page 30). Our intensive parent training program continues to target families in the rural areas of Arizona where, in the absence of highly trained therapists, SARRC is teaching parents to implement treatment. And we completed our first year of training for five Canadian “hubs” that have begun implementing Autism CommunityWorks®, our pre-employment program for teens, nationwide.

Finally, SARRC’s entrepreneurial spirit is helping us demonstrate what is possible for adults with autism, even in the face of immensely challenging national statistics, such as 84 percent of adults with autism living with their parents, likely due in part to the 10 percent employment rate. Yet, our talented clinicians, together with our social enterprise team that has created our Beneficial Beans café and garden internships, have helped 66 percent of the adults served last year obtain meaningful, competitive employment.

We are also one year into our partnership with First Place AZ®, founded by SARRC’s dynamic co-founder, Denise Resnik. Each of the students in the First Place Transition Academy, operated by SARRC, has obtained employment, attended classes at GateWay Community College, and learned to navigate the community using public transportation. Together, First Place and SARRC are showing that many adults with autism can learn to live independently (see page 32).

At 1 in 68 children diagnosed with autism today, perhaps the only impossibility we face is meeting the many individualized needs of all children, adolescents, and adults with autism on our own. But we can scale hope, possibilities, and high expectations. For instance, SARRC cannot single-handedly lower the age of diagnosis in Arizona, but we have created a Pediatric Screening Network committed to early identification of autism that will (see page 28).

Similarly, we need to further develop, research, and disseminate outcome-driven programs for other autism providers to implement effectively. We need to expand our partnerships with schools and businesses to better educate and employ those with autism, respectively, while increasing understanding for those who do not. And SARRC will continue to lead the way by modeling what is possible in autism with an inclusive, supportive community.
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

Chase is proud to partner with the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center.
Our mission is to advance research and provide a lifetime of support for individuals with autism and their families.
One of the only autism organizations in the world that provides a lifetime of services while conducting cutting edge research.

Established in 1997, the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC) is an internationally recognized, community-based nonprofit organization headquartered in Phoenix. SARRC is dedicated to autism research, high-quality intervention and education, training, and outreach.

Using evidence-based practices, SARRC’s team of highly trained and educated clinicians provides services that not only impact the lives of individuals with autism, but also their parents, grandparents, siblings, physicians, psychologists, educators, and therapists.

To advance research, SARRC initiates and collaborates in large-scale studies to find answers to the most pressing questions faced by individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families. SARRC’s innovative research is focused on improving screening and diagnosis for autism, improving treatments for autism including behavioral and pharmaceutical treatments, and educating professionals in order to increase their capacity to serve the autism community.

SARRC’s Programs & Services

- Diagnostic Services
- High-Quality Clinical Services
  - Individualized Services (Comprehensive and Consultation)
  - Community School
  - JumpStart®
  - Autism Community Works®
  - Employment Services
  - Beneficial Beans® Garden and Café Internships
  - First Place AZ® Transition Academy
- Education, Training and Outreach
  - Autism Training for Parents and Professionals
  - Intensive Parent Training
  - Milestones
  - Think Asperger’s®
  - School Consultation
- Research
  - Screening & Evaluation
  - Treatment Studies
  - Education and Outreach to Medical, Education and Legal Professionals

Support SARRC’s Mission

- VOLUNTEER
- GIVE A GIFT ONLINE, BY MAIL OR PHONE
- TAX CREDITS FOR SARRC’S COMMUNITY SCHOOL
- PLANNED GIFTS
- SHOP FOR SARRC
- TRIBUTE GIFTS
- MATCHING GIFTS
- VEHICLE DONATION
- WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS
- ORGANIZE A FUNDRAISING EVENT

Find more information about ways to support SARRC, visit autismcenter.org/Ways-Give
A Checklist for Parents of a Newly Diagnosed Child

Receiving a diagnosis of autism for your child can be an overwhelming experience no matter what age your child is diagnosed. While you may be wondering what to do first, it is important that you begin the process of accessing services for your child. Here are some steps to get you and your family started on the road to success. Please contact SARRC at 602-340-8717 for more information.

1. **Obtain a Formal Diagnosis**
   An assessment and report written by a psychologist, psychiatrist or developmental pediatrician is necessary for many funding agencies and service providers. Call SARRC and ask about our Diagnostic Services.

2. **Educate Yourself**
   Attend one of SARRC’s Family Orientation meetings to learn about available resources, SARRC services, and get answers to questions you may have about autism treatment.

3. **Identify Funding Sources**
   Contact your health insurance provider to determine if you have coverage for applied behavior analysis (ABA) services. You may also be eligible for government funded services, which vary based on your child’s age.

4. **Enroll in JumpStart®**
   JumpStart® is a parent empowerment program for families of children under the age of 6 diagnosed with autism or at risk for autism. SARRC clinicians provide information and individual coaching to each family with a focus on Pivotal Response Treatment, an evidence-based intervention.

5. **Participate in Your Child’s Education**
   Federal law sets educational standards for children with special needs. Talk to your child’s school about the diagnosis and the need for an individualized education plan (IEP).

6. **Organize Your Child’s Records**
   Take the time to organize your child’s developmental history and medical and educational records. You will need these records for most funding agencies and service providers and a good record-keeping system will save you time and effort.

7. **Begin Evidence-Based Intervention**
   Autism interventions supported by the most scientific evidence are based on applied behavior analysis (ABA). Ensure ABA is a central component to your child’s treatment program.

8. **Take Time for Yourself**
   Taking care of your health is crucial as you are your child’s best advocate. Take time for yourself to relax, accept any help that may be offered and identify some areas that would be of benefit to suggest if people ask.
SARRC ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2015

1,000 research and individualized services for children, teens, and adults with autism

66% of adults clients served secured and retained meaningful, competitive employment compared to the 10% employment rate for adults with autism nationally

67 CHILDREN with and without autism attended the Community School

37 CHILDREN WITH ASD and 75 family members, caregivers and professionals throughout Arizona, the U.S. and internationally

84 CHILDREN AGE SIX AND YOUNGER and 161 family members served in JumpStart® program

8 adult students enrolled in First Place® Transition Academy, operated by SARRC, to learn how to live independently

18 TEENS AND THEIR PARENTS participated in the PEERS social skills intervention research study to learn ways to make and keep friends

3,600 professionals, individuals, family members, and community members Educated by SARRC

31 teens with ASD & 42 teen peer mentors received pre-employment training through Autism CommunityWorks®

SARRC’s educational consulting program provided direct support to 30 school professionals

IMPACTING OVER 140 STUDENTS WITH ASD

112 PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS attended an orientation at SARRC to learn about autism and get connected to information and resources

83 individuals with autism received support in their homes, school, work and in community settings

1,098 individuals volunteered for SARRC

81 Autism and Asperger’s screening kits distributed to physicians

9 adults with autism completed Beneficial Beans® internships

1,320 Pounds of produce harvested and sold from the Beneficial Beans garden

20,557 Customers served at the Beneficial Beans café - Scottsdale

SARRC’s newly created PEDIATRIC SCREENING NETWORK SCREENED 7,500 CHILDREN with the goal of lowering the age of diagnosis in Phoenix
Hats Off to SARRC Board Members

Perlich named among 2015 Outstanding Women in Business honorees

Linda “Mac” Perlich was recognized by the Phoenix Business Journal as a 2015 “Outstanding Women in Business” honoree. Perlich is the owner, president and publisher of ON Media Publications, which produces visitor guides and programs for local arts organizations. Congrats, Mac!

SARRC welcomes new board member

Christine Wilkinson, senior vice president and secretary, Arizona State University; president and CEO, ASU Alumni Association; and managing director, Trustees of ASU; was recently elected to the SARRC board of directors. Wilkinson was previously a SARRC board member from 2004 to 2010 and has served on the governance committee since 2014.

Wilkinson’s current involvement in the community includes serving on the Community Advisory Council for Wells Fargo Bank, Valley of the Sun United Way board of directors, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona board of directors, and the Arizona Educational Foundation advisory board.

Resnik, Glawe honored as Moms of the Year

Valle del Sol recognized Denise Resnik and Sue Glawe as 2015 “Mom of the Year” honorees. This recognition honors women of diverse backgrounds for service to the community and for their exemplary roles as mothers. Congrats, Denise and Sue!

SARRC names new board chairman

Respected human resources executive Greg Wells has been appointed as chairman of SARRC’s board of directors. Wells is currently vice president of human resources and employee development at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBSAZ). Outgoing chairman Howard Sobelman, a prominent Phoenix attorney and partner at Snell & Wilmer, served eight years as board chairman.

Wells began working with SARRC nearly six years ago in an advisory role. His interest in the organization stems from having a family member with autism. Previously, Wells served the organization as human resources chair. Moving into his new role as board chair, he’ll work closely with SARRC President & CEO Daniel Openden and SARRC’s board to advance research and provide a lifetime of support to individuals with autism and their families.

2016 SARRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greg Wells, Vice President Human Resources, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Chair
Nicole Goodwin, Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Vice Chair
Gary Jaburg, Managing Partner, Jaburg & Wilk, PC, Vice Chair
Meighan Harahan, Waterfront Financial, LLC, Treasurer
Stephanie Papadopoulos, Parent, Secretary
Lynn Balter, Organizers Direct
Neil Balter, Organizers Direct
Tim Bolden, Director of Enterprise Risk Management, Arizona Public Service
Dan Coleman, John C. Lincoln Health Network (retired)
Patty Dion, Parent
Sue Glawe, Vice President Community Relations, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
Tom Harris, Executive Vice President & CFO, Arizona Diamondbacks
George Hostal Jr, Senior Wealth Advisor, CliftonLarsonAllen Wealth Advisors, LLC
Tim Newquist, Principal, Newquist Investments
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Doug Sanders, Executive Chairman of the Board, Sprouts Farmers Market, Inc.
Howard Sobelman, Partner, Snell & Wilmer LLP
Jim Waring, Phoenix City Councilman, District 2
Christine Wilkinson, Senior Vice President and Secretary, Arizona State University

Director Emerita
Denise D. Resnik, Co-Founder, SARRC, Founder, First Place AZ®, CEO, DRA Collective

Thank you to the director who completed his term in 2015
Craig Pearson

Thank you to Howard Sobelman for his eight years serving as Board Chair.
Pearson & Co. sponsors Great Pumpkin Festival

Every autumn, Pearson & Company supports an opportunity for SARRC’s Community School preschoolers, along with hundreds of other children with special needs, to enjoy a special day in the Pumpkin Patch at the Desert Botanical Garden. SARRC children experienced an old-fashioned hayride, carnival games, had their faces painted, and carved pumpkins that they picked from the pumpkin patch. Special thanks to the Pearson Family and Pearson & Company.

UAT hosts College Prep G33K Camp

For the third consecutive year, the University of Advancing Technology (UAT) partnered with SARRC to host the G33K College Prep Summer Camp for young adults with autism. During this weeklong camp, SARRC staff and camp participants had the opportunity to complete the typical college admissions process, move into the UAT dorms, attend classes, collaborate in teams, use new technology, complete a comprehensive group project, and take part in student life activities. The G33K College Prep Summer Camp accepts 10 participants annually, ranging in age from 16 to 26. Exposing individuals with ASD to a real college environment provides opportunities to learn many of the skills necessary to be successful in a higher education environment.

Brightening holiday spirits through Operation Santa Claus

The 14th Annual Operation Santa Claus holiday toy, food and donation drive encouraged the Arizona community to “feed a family, make a kid happy and win a new car or truck.” SARRC partnered with Sanderson Ford, Sanderson Lincoln and ABC15 in this campaign, which raised more than $1 million for charity. All proceeds from the campaign benefitted SARRC, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Phoenix, MAM (Military Assistance Mission) and St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance. Thanks to contributions from families across the Valley, SARRC was able to brighten the holiday season for nearly 200 families by providing toys, clothing, food and other gifts.

SARRC creates Planned Giving Professional Advisory Council

The Planned Giving Professional Advisory Council was created to serve as an advocate for SARRC in the community, and to provide professional knowledge and leadership to SARRC in the area of charitable planned gifts. SARRC has partnered with 33 highly motivated, well-qualified and charitable-minded professional advisors. They
help SARRC fulfill its mission and communicate the benefits of planned giving more efficiently with prospective donors.

**Perfect Game aces ‘Swings for Autism’ event**

Dozens of golfers gathered at Mesa Country Club in March 2016 to take part in the 11th annual Perfect Game Swings for Autism charitable event (formerly known as Sutton’s Strokes for Little Folks, named after event organizer Daron Sutton). This is the second year Perfect Game has served as the title sponsor of the event. SARRC volunteers were at the tee box of the 16th hole to inform golfers about SARRC’s mission and accept donations. Former LPGA Tour Pro Pam Wright was also in attendance to help golfers with their swings.

**SARRC and Delta Dental partner to improve oral health**

Part of SARRC’s mission is to teach adults with autism to live independently. SARRC clinician Justin James developed a unique video demonstration to help adults with autism brush their teeth effectively after coaching a client through the process. SARRC sought support from Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation (DDAZF) in an effort to help reach more individuals with autism and improve oral hygiene. DDAZF awarded SARRC a grant to provide intensive support for prevention services, oral health instruction and education/preparation for standard dental screening or office visits. In response to successful interventions, SARRC will create an instructional video series to guide individuals with ASD through the steps of brushing their teeth on their own, increasing independence for these individuals and promoting good oral health.

**SARRC hosts ‘Lunch on the Lawn’ at the Arizona State Capitol**

Lunch on the Lawn at the Arizona State Capitol brings awareness to SARRC’s research and services. Each year, SARRC has the opportunity to educate legislators about its programs while also thanking them for the legislation and appropriations that have helped SARRC advance its mission. Food for the luncheon was generously donated by Flicka’s Baja Cantina.

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**Karey and John,**

We are so proud of your devotion to your daughters and your community!

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All of our love,

Gary and Susan Polson
In Brief

Swirl Sip & Savor 2016 a success

More than 150 guests gathered at the Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort and Spa for Swirl, Sip & Savor. The event raises funds for SARRC to generate awareness and supports treatment and early diagnosis for individuals with Asperger's via the ThinkAsperger's® program. The fundraising soiree was chaired by Patty Dion, Lynne Jackson, Mac Perlich, Karen Quinif, Laurie Sandau, Lyndsey Waugh and Jaime Wright. The event brought in seven premiere wineries from Napa Valley and the Valley’s top chefs to offer guests wine tasting and a five-course meal.

A live auction featured unique wine experiences and wine lots, including a one-of-a-kind, hand-etched 5L jeroboam with the Arizona Cardinals logo and player signatures.
Phoenix Business Journal recognizes SARRC staff

Four of SARRC’s own were honored in 2015 by the Phoenix Business Journal. Dr. Daniel Openden was recognized as a “Most Admired Leader,” Dr. Christopher J. Smith was a finalist in the “Innovator Category,” Kathy Bosco received the award for the “Philanthropic Champion” at the Healthcare Heroes Luncheon, and Sean Husmoe was awarded “Outstanding Chief Financial Officer.” These awards elevated and reinforced SARRC’s position as a leader in the nonprofit community.

SARRC completes training for CommunityWorks® Canada

SARRC has completed training for Canadian colleagues in five major provinces across Canada as part of the replication of the Autism CommunityWorks® program. CommunityWorks Canada® is an inclusive, pre-employment program for teens with and without autism who work with nonprofit partners, while developing and practicing basic job skills, and building communication and social skills. The program provides teens with a better understanding of the community while sampling potential areas of interest for future employment. Once fully implemented, the CommunityWorks Canada replication is expected to impact hundreds of teens with autism across Canada in the first four years.

Beneficial Beans® launches CSA program

As part of SARRC’s strategic initiative to grow its most impactful programs, Beneficial Beans® launched a community supported agriculture (CSA) program. The program allows for a sustainable way of supporting local farmers and integrates with the garden internship. CSA members commit to 10 weekly produce baskets picked up at the Beneficial Beans garden. Upon pick up, CSA members are assisted by an adult with autism. This interaction helps SARRC clients gain necessary customer service skills so they can achieve meaningful employment in our community. The baskets of veggies are offered throughout the year. For more information on how to sign up, please visit BBGarden.org.

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.

CELEBRATE victories of all kinds
Special THANKS to our donors

| APS Foundation | Dreiseszun Family Foundation | Office Depot Foundation |
| Arizona Cardinals Charities | Els for Autism Foundation | Pepsi Co. |
| Arizona Community Foundation - Rachel Piekarski Fund | Employees Community Fund of Boeing Arizona | Phoenix IDA |
| Arizona Diamondbacks | Executive Council Charities | Phoenix Suns Charities |
| Arizona Public Service | Ford Motor Company | Salt River Project |
| Autism Speaks | Frito-Lay, Inc. | Scotts Miracle-Gro |
| Avnet | Fry’s Food & Drug Stores | Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation |
| BBVA Compass Bank | Gila River Indian Community | Sprouts Farmers Market |
| BHHS Legacy Foundation | Grand Aerie Fraternal Order of Eagles | Studio Movie Grill |
| Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona | Interest Ministries | Subway Kids & Sports of Arizona |
| Columbine Garden Club | Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation | Teaumen & Grace Fuite Foundation |
| Cox Charities | Louis Foundation, Inc. | The Ingebritson Family Foundation |
| Cox Communications | McDonough Corporation | The Langerman Foundation |
| Coyotes Charities | New York Collaborates for Autism | The Pakis Family Foundation |
| Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation | | USAA Foundation |

The Arizona Cardinals proudly support the SOUTHWEST AUTISM RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTER (SARRC) in helping families affected by autism.
Yelp Foundation ‘Gives Local’

After two weeks of social-media voting and more than 160,000 votes across 75 markets in the U.S., the Yelp Foundation Gives Local grant contest selected SARRC as the first place winner for the Phoenix market. SARRC was awarded $5,000.

Arizona Cardinals ‘Donate to Educate’

At every Arizona Cardinals home game, a 50/50 raffle is held to raise funds for the Cardinals Charities and the University of Phoenix Donate to Educate program. Donate to Educate is a new Cardinals Charities endeavor to raise much needed funding for Arizona’s teachers and students. SARRC was selected as the charity of choice for a December game raising more than $60,000 for its research and programs.

SARRC makes the top 20 in Phoenix Psychology Rankings

SARRC ranked in the top 20 of OpenCare’s Phoenix Psychology Rankings for 2015. Every year, OpenCare evaluates more than 300 psychology offices in Phoenix based on patient reviews from Yelp, Google, RateMDs, Yellow Pages, OpenCare and many other review sites. The rankings are meant to assist patients in finding the best psychology offices in Phoenix.

Authors of ‘In a Different Key’ discuss society’s role in autism

SARRC and its sister nonprofit First Place AZ® hosted an author signing of the groundbreaking new book, “In a Different Key: The Story of Autism,” at Changing Hands Bookstore. The 688-page book, written by Emmy Award-winning correspondent John Donvan and Peabody Award-winning television news producer Caren Zucker, unfolds a decades-long narrative – the story of autism – as a series of dramatic episodes exploring science, parenthood, empowerment and the meaning of being “different” in the 21st century. More than seven years in the making, the book weaves together largely unknown stories of previously unsung heroes, the rise of the disability rights movement, deinstitutionalization, the effort to mainstream those on the spectrum, breakthroughs in neuroscience, our understanding of the mind and the birth of the neurodiversity movement. SARRC was humbled to be included in this national conversation and is grateful to its partners and fellow autism organizations that together have helped build a supportive community.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Christine Wentz, Clinical Supervisor, SARRC Community School

Christine Wentz is a senior clinical supervisor for the SARRC Community School and has been with SARRC for seven years. She began as an intern and transitioned into full-time employment shortly after when she realized how much she loved being a part of producing socially significant outcomes, specifically in preschool-age children, utilizing the science of applied behavior analysis (ABA).

The most fulfilling part of her job is fostering friendships between all the children in the school. “The inclusive model the Community School utilizes inspires me every day,” Wentz says. “It gives me hope that our future generation will be more compassionate, accepting individuals empowered to support their peers with autism.” She also enjoys the parent involvement portion of the program and adds, “There are no words to express the joy I feel when I am able to be a part of having a parent hear their child say ‘mama’ for the first time.”

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Bryan Ghee, Edward Jones

Bryan Ghee first heard about SARRC after his son, Noah, was diagnosed with autism four years ago and he was referred to SARRC’s JumpStart® program. He says, “We left JumpStart not only with a greater understanding of Noah’s world view, but also with actual tools we could start using day one to make a difference for him.”

Noah is now in first grade, successfully integrated with all of his peers. “I made a promise to myself in JumpStart to find a way to repay SARRC for the help and support they had given my family,” he says.

For the past three years, Ghee has taken advantage of every opportunity to support SARRC either by raising funds for Walk Now for Autism Speaks in the fall or coming down and answering the phones during the KTAR Action for Autism fundraiser. He is supported by his employer, Edward Jones, who believes in giving back to the community.
BHHS Legacy Foundation & New York Collaborates for Autism

BHHS Legacy Foundation and New York Collaborates for Autism (NYCA) awarded funding in support of the e-learning expansion of JumpStart®, SARRC’s nationally recognized program that empowers families with children under the age of 6 who are at-risk or who have recently been diagnosed with autism. Thanks to their significant contributions, SARRC will develop a series of e-learning courses that will effectively reduce operational costs and improve accessibility to more families in Arizona. These programmatic developments will decrease costs for families traveling twice a week and increase flexibility to schedule the coaching portion of the program. Additionally, the new e-learning model of this proven educational series will be accessible to an increased number of families throughout Arizona, including those living in remote areas of the state.

Since 2001, BHHS Legacy Foundation has supported projects, programs and organizations that improve health and quality of life for those in our community who are most in need. As a previous funder of our Physician Outreach Program, the BHHS Legacy Foundation is well versed in the benefits of early intervention and supports initiatives that improve or increase access to needed healthcare.

New York Collaborates for Autism (NYCA) is a nonprofit organization that strategically designs and launches innovative, one-of-a-kind programs to improve the lives of people living with ASD. SARRC is proud to partner with NYCA and BHHS Legacy Foundation to create programs and opportunities that empower people with ASD to live fulfilling and meaningful lives.

APS Foundation

Arizona is one of five states registering the nation’s highest rates of autism and faces a critical shortage in the number of Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) needed to properly educate and support our autism community. Together, with the support of the APS Foundation, SARRC’s BCBA Certification Initiative will create an efficient staff training program to certify additional SARRC clinicians/educators over a three-year period. This project will also increase outreach for applied behavior analysis (ABA), a widely recognized and effective approach for children with ASD.

SARRC currently employs more than 10 percent of the state’s certified BCBA’s – the largest concentration of any nonprofit organization serving the state’s autism community. With this partnership, SARRC will grow the number of certified professionals focused on providing the highest level of quality services to a growing autism population.

Since 1981, the APS Foundation has invested in Arizona’s programs that enhance academic achievement in the areas of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). A majority of the funding is designated to teachers, who are broadly credited as the single-most important factor in the K-12 educational system. SARRC is honored to join APS Foundation in this effort by increasing the number of qualified teachers/clinicians with a BCBA certification.
Launched in January 2015, SARRC’s Legacy Circle has expanded to a total of 33 Founding Legacy Circle members. These founders are leading the way, planning now with estate gifts to ensure SARRC’s impact continues in perpetuity.

Anyone interested in contributing to a bright future for SARRC should explore becoming a Legacy Circle member. SARRC’s website is a great place to review the many ways to make an impact through estate planning. It can be as easy as a simple bequest in a will or by listing SARRC as an additional beneficiary on an insurance policy or IRA retirement account. To learn more: Visit autismcenter.planmylegacy.org or contact Beth Salazar, planned giving manager, at 602.606.9876.
Does insurance cover treatment for autism?

Yes! In 2009, the State of Arizona passed Steven’s Law, which required insurance companies that write policies in Arizona to provide $50,000 per year for children up to age 9 and $25,000 per year up to age 16. Some Arizona families have policies that are not written in Arizona, and they are not required to provide this coverage. However, many out-of-state policies are written in states that have similar mandates. There are 43 states now that require insurance coverage for autism treatment, and they may have higher or no limits on reimbursement. As a result, there are very few plans that currently have limits for dollars, visits or age, even in Arizona. If a family needs coverage for autism treatment, they should first call their insurance company and ask if they cover treatment for autism, if there is a limit on the amount they will pay for treatment each year, and if there are any limits for age, number of visits/hours or dollars.

What if my insurance company doesn’t cover treatment for autism, or if I don’t have insurance?

If you need insurance to pay for autism treatment, you may be able to select a plan from the government’s healthcare marketplace at healthcare.gov. Families need to be especially careful about selecting a plan that will provide them with appropriate financial coverage, so it’s important to look at the total cost of the plan. That is, what is the monthly fee for the plan, plus any copays, coinsurance and deductibles that are required by the plan? The total cost should be should be less than the amount the family would need to pay directly for autism treatment. For example, if treatment costs $1,300 per month, and an insurance plan costs $800 per month that may sound like a good deal, but if there is a $50 copay, and the treatment occurs three days per week (or 12 days per month) that adds $600 to the monthly cost of the plan. So the total cost for the plan is $1,400, and now the family is paying more for the insurance than they would have to pay for the treatment.

Does SARRC accept insurance for autism treatment?

Yes, we do! SARRC is contracted with Aetna, BlueCross BlueShield AZ, Cigna, Magellan, MHN (HealthNet), Tri-Care and United Behavioral Health. If your insurance company is not on this list, let us know, something might have changed. If you are selecting a plan from the exchange and you look for a plan from one of these providers, you still need to ask about copays, annual financial limits and age limits. All of these companies offer a variety of plans, so be careful to choose the right one for your family.

Can SARRC select a plan for me?

It’s not appropriate for SARRC to select a plan for you because doing so requires too much information about your family’s situation. It’s not about what’s right for SARRC, it is about what’s right for you. You can use this article to help guide you in selecting a plan. If you still need additional help, you may need to share this information with an insurance broker because they are professionals and may aid in selecting a plan unique to your family’s situation. While we cannot select a plan for you, please feel free to call us at 602.340.8717 for more information.
¿Qué pasa si mi compañía de seguros no cubre el tratamiento para el autismo, o si no tengo seguro privado?

Si usted necesita un seguro para pagar el tratamiento del autismo, puede seleccionar un plan en el mercado de salud del gobierno en healthcare.gov. Las familias tienen que ser especialmente cuidadosas con la selección de un plan que les proporcionará una cobertura financiera adecuada, por lo que es importante tener en cuenta el costo total del plan. Es decir, ¿cual es la cuota mensual por el plan, además de cualquier co-pago, deducible y co-seguro que son requeridos por el plan? El costo total debe ser inferior a la cantidad que la familia tendría que pagar directamente por el tratamiento del autismo. Por ejemplo, si el tratamiento cuesta $1,300 por mes, y un plan de seguro cuesta $800 por mes puede sonar como una buena oferta, pero si hay un copago de $50, y el tratamiento ocurre tres días por semana (o 12 días al mes) esto agrega $600 al costo mensual del plan. Por lo que el costo total del plan es de $1,400 y ahora la familia está pagando más por el seguro que lo que tendrían que pagar por el tratamiento.

¿SARRC acepta seguro médico para el tratamiento del autismo?

¡Sí! SARRC tiene contratos con Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield AZ, Cigna, Magellan, MHN (Health Net), Tri-Care y United Behavioral Health. Si su compañía de seguros no está en esta lista, háganoslo saber, ya que algo podría haber cambiado. Si va a seleccionar un plan de intercambio/mercado de salud del gobierno y busca un plan de uno de estos proveedores, usted todavía tiene que preguntar acerca de los co-pagos, límites financieros anuales y los límites de edad. Todas estas compañías ofrecen una variedad de planes, así que tenga cuidado al elegir el más adecuado para su familia.

¿SARRC puede seleccionar un plan para mí?

No es apropiado que SARRC seleccione su plan para usted, ya que hacerlo requiere demasiada información sobre la situación de su familia. No se trata de lo que es correcto para SARRC, se trata de lo que es correcto para usted. Puede utilizar este artículo como una guía en la selección de un plan. Si necesita ayuda adicional, puede que tenga que compartir esta información con un agente de seguros, ya que son profesionales y pueden ayudar en la selección de un plan único para la situación de su familia. Si bien no podemos seleccionar un plan para usted, no dude en llamarnos al 602.340.8717 para más información.
Research and clinical teams collaborate on trial of a social skills program for teens

With funding from the Organization for Autism Research (OAR) applied research competition, SARRC’s research and clinical teams began a randomized clinical trial of the UCLA PEERS® program in August 2015. PEERS is a psychoeducational social skills intervention for teens without intellectual disability and their parents. Goals of the trial include examining the effectiveness of an inclusive model of the PEERS program and examining whether skills acquired by teens generalize to the school setting. Eighteen teens and their parents were enrolled in the first year of the study, and data were collected at multiple time points at SARRC and in high school classrooms throughout metro Phoenix. Thirty teens and their parents will be recruited for the second year of the study, which will begin in August 2016.

SARRC completes trial of flagship program, JumpStart®

In the fall of 2015, the SARRC research team completed data collection for a control trial of JumpStart®, one of SARRC’s flagship programs. Over a period of two years, SARRC researchers followed 36 families who were either enrolled in JumpStart or in a waitlist control group. Preliminary findings indicate that, compared to the control group, parents who completed JumpStart demonstrated greater decreases in depressive symptoms and parenting stress and increases in parenting competence and their abilities to appropriately implement intervention. Also, children who completed JumpStart demonstrated increased communication with their parents. A manuscript describing these findings is in preparation and will soon be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Original SARRC research published

SARRC’s research team, in collaboration with Behavior Imaging Solutions and Georgia Institute of Technology, recently published an article in Psychological Assessment, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Psychological Association with high impact and international readership. The article reported findings from a clinical trial funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and conducted at SARRC that examined whether the NODA system can effectively identify autism in 18-month-old to 6-year-old children. The study demonstrated that NODA agreed with the standard, in-person assessment for ASD in 88.2 percent of the cases.

NODA is a smart-phone-based system that connects parents to diagnostic experts. Parents download the app from iTunes and set up an account. The app prompts them to record short videos of their child in the home and then upload the videos to a secure web-based system. Clinicians at SARRC then view the videos, tag behaviors relevant to a diagnosis of autism, and complete a diagnostic checklist for autism. NODA was commercially released in Arizona in early 2015, and SARRC is currently collaborating with researchers at the University of Idaho on a new study examining the use of NODA by rural families to accelerate the diagnostic process.
SARRC’s new Milestones program aims to support parents of infants while also offering consistent monitoring and options for very early intervention.

BY GINGER SCOTT-EIDEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
STEPHEN G. DREISESZUN/
VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHERS
One of the very first calls Dayna Carlson made when she found out she and her husband Chris were expecting their second child was to SARRC. The couple’s first son, Andy, was diagnosed with autism at just over a year old. Now four, Andy has shown amazing progress, and the Carlsons know that early diagnosis was key in getting their first born on a successful path.

When their second son, Austin, was born, the Phoenix couple knew that if there were any signs of autism, they wanted to find out as early as possible and begin making a difference. Through SARRC’s new Milestones program, along with InfantStart and SARRC’s intensive parent training sessions, the Carlsons did just that.

Austin, now 18 months old, was diagnosed on the autism spectrum by his first birthday, but thanks to monitoring and techniques learned through SARRC’s very early intervention services, he’s well on his way.

“Research tells us that early intervention is key with autism. The brain is so malleable at a young age, so getting in there and helping your child make those pathways and connections, which otherwise may never have been created, is critical,” Chris Carlson says.

Support for parents

Launched this year, SARRC’s Milestones program is focused on promoting healthy development of children ages 6 to 23 months with monitoring for at-risk infants and treatment options for those showing early signs of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The program includes two key service options:

- **Milestones Parenting Group**, an age-paced, monthly parent group developed for any parent of an infant between 6 and 18 months of age with service options for more intense support through Milestones Monitoring and InfantStart for infants who are demonstrating enough concern;

- **Intensive Parent Training**, a one-week bridge program for families with a young toddler (16-23 months) at-risk or diagnosed with ASD.

This series of programs was started to help address the gap between birth and first official diagnosis, and is yet another way SARRC is working to build an inclusive platform that helps families through every stage of an autism diagnosis.

“We have had a lot of interest in infant programs and for years, we have been working with infants, but without the protocol or capacity to serve more families that comes with a formal program. We’ve just been doing what we know is good teaching,” says Alexis Boglio, M.A., BCBA, SARRC clinical manager of Education, Training and Consultation.

With the creation of the very early intervention programs, Boglio says parents now have guidance and support at their fingertips, and can begin working on incorporating practices to promote engagement and understanding what to expect in their child’s first years of life.

“What we teach are strategies to engage your child within play and daily routines. These techniques are good to incorporate within your interactions whether your child is on the spectrum or not, and the sooner you can begin practicing these routines the easier they become to embed within your daily activities,” says Rachel McIntosh, M.A, BCBA, clinical manager and SARRC Community School director. “Being a new parent can be scary, but add to that having concerns about your child’s development and that can be terrifying. As such, it is critical that parents have a place to turn. The combination of being a part of a community with other parents who share similar experiences and are learning the skills and techniques provided through these programs is a wonderful balance.”

Where to begin

The Milestones program’s free monthly parenting classes are open to both first-time parents, or parents of infants with siblings who are on the autism spectrum. Roughly an hour and a half long each, the classes are held at SARRC’s Campus for Exceptional Children and focus on key developmental milestones and ways to encourage play and interaction. When need presents, parents will have access to an onsite clinician who will
“What we teach are strategies to engage your child within play and daily routines. These techniques are good to incorporate within your interactions whether your child is on the spectrum or not, and the sooner you can begin practicing these routines the easier they become to embed within your daily activities.”

— Rachel McIntosh, M.A., BCBA
Clinical Manager & Community School Director
closely monitor their infant’s development. Participation in this service will be determined based on assessment and availability.

“We can’t tell you with certainty what is going to happen, we can just monitor it,” McIntosh says. If infants are demonstrating enough early warning signs, a 12-week program option will be available. Participating parents will meet weekly with a clinician who will coach the parent to implement techniques to address symptoms and work to meet individualized goals developed by the parent and clinician.

“The benefit of being a part of this program, though, is that should it lead to a diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder, you are already poised to lead right into support services. Milestones puts you in an incredibly powerful position to start services.”

Enrollment in the Milestones Parenting Group is open continuously, and classes are segmented by a child’s age to ensure parents are receiving the most relevant information possible for their child and connecting with other parents of infants of a similar age. “Our goal is to teach parents practices they can build on, always with those essential goals in place focused on social interaction, communication, attention, play and eye contact. We want them to be things they can take home and work into their natural daily routines,” Boglio says.

Seeing the impact
For Dayna Carlson, the techniques she learned through her parent training led to breakthroughs she hoped for but was afraid may never come.
Dayna and Chris Carlson have two boys diagnosed with autism. Andy is now 4 and is excelling in the Community School at SARRC. His younger brother, Austin, received a diagnosis prior to his first birthday thanks to participation in SARRC’s Milestones program as well as InfantStart and intensive parent training sessions.

“Early on, we just felt like Andy was chronically unhappy. Nothing we did could make him happy, and he made very little eye contact. I look back at those early videos, when he was being evaluated, and he would lie in the center of the room and just cry,” Dayna recalls. “When he started in SARRC’s JumpStart program, we began working on eye contact right away. That was our first step. And to see him now, the greatest thing SARRC has given Andy is the ability to be happy.”

Andy is still not talking, but he does use the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), which utilizes a series of pictures to communicate. Austin is starting to demonstrate first words, and he makes new strides every day.

“With Austin, we feel confident he won’t be stuck in his own little world,” Dayna says, adding that thanks to the techniques she and her husband have learned, they will continue to help encourage his development in all areas — social, communication and basic interactions.

“I feel like we will look at this and know we did everything that we knew we could do — whatever the result, it’s the best result we were capable of achieving,” Dayna says. “The Milestones program should really be at the forefront — to show that a child is developing typically or that early intervention should begin. That’s what it comes down to. The earlier you can begin, the better.”

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>
<th>4 mos</th>
<th>6 mos</th>
<th>9 mos</th>
<th>12 mos</th>
<th>15 mos</th>
<th>18 mos</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<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>
<td>Uses single words</td>
</tr>
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For more information or to register, visit: autismcenter.org/milestones

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Phoenix IDA
Melissa Diggins was concerned about her son’s development. She talked to the family’s pediatrician when Jaxon was 6 months old and again at 10 months old.

“I had been in education for 15 years, and there were some early childhood red flags,” Diggins says. “Something just wasn’t right.”

Initially, Jaxon’s doctor encouraged Diggins not to worry.

Then, at Jaxon’s 12-month well-child visit, Diggins completed a screening form that ultimately led to an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis — a diagnosis that allowed Jaxon to gain access to services at an early age.

Jaxon is just one of many children to benefit from the Pediatric Screening Network, a research project led by the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC) in collaboration with leading researchers at the University of California, San Diego, to screen for autism at the earliest ages.

About the network

With funding from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), SARRC’s Pediatric Screening Network is made up of more than 100 pediatricians throughout the metro Phoenix area who are helping

**Pediatric Screening Network by the Numbers**

- **107** pediatricians
- **13** different practices
- **11,000** children have been screened
- **190** children have come to SARRC for an evaluation
- **173** children referred for early intervention
- **48** evaluations conducted monthly

*Approximate as of March 2016*
to actively screen children for signs of autism at 12, 18 and 24 months.

The project has two main goals, explains Christopher Smith, Ph.D., vice president and research director at SARRC. First, researchers hope to learn if it’s possible to accurately screen for autism at 12 months of age, and second, to ensure that children who are at risk of autism can begin early intervention by age 3.

**The process**

Here’s how it works: During a well-visit appointment at a practice that’s part of the network, parents complete the screening tool.

“What I like about the form is that it asks about typical behaviors and skills that a child should be doing. Parents simply need to respond with ‘always, sometimes, or not yet’ to report on the skill level,” Smith says. “Then, according to the age of your child, we can assess whether there’s a developmental delay. It’s a better, more objective way to conduct a screening than asking parents to tell you if they’ve noticed anything that concerns them.”

If the child fails the assessment, a SARRC coordinator contacts the parents to set up a free developmental evaluation. A clinical psychologist completes the evaluation, which takes about four hours.

“Parents receive immediate feedback, and if a referral for services needs to be made, it happens that day or shortly after,” Smith notes. “Parents get a detailed report within a month. And the pediatrician gets a copy too.” Regardless of the outcome, every child is invited back for a follow-up evaluation yearly until they turn 3.

It’s worth the time, Diggins says.

“’It’s a long screening day, but I feel so fortunate that we could participate in the program,” she says. “It was such good timing for our family.”

Timing is key, Smith says.

“We know that if a child can be evaluated and diagnosed earlier, they can get started with early intervention sooner when there is less catching up to do,” he adds.

This program helps make that possible, adds Meghan Whitehouse, MD, a pediatrician with North Scottsdale Pediatrics.

“With this screening, we get the results right away, and we can get them in to be evaluated right away,” she says. “Previously, if a child failed a screening, we’d have to get them into a developmental pediatrician — and that could take six to 12 months. There were a lot of barriers to getting them seen quickly and therefore into services.”

**Getting services**

When Jaxon was diagnosed with autism, he had just one word: “He said mama,” Diggins says. “But he was pretty much nonverbal. He wouldn’t respond to his name and wouldn’t communicate.”

Since then, Jaxon has been in occupational, speech and feeding therapy as well as applied behavior analysis (ABA).

“The improvement has been huge,” Diggins says. “He’s a different kid as a result. It’s night and day.”

Now 2 1/2, Jaxon can do a wide variety of things he couldn’t do just six months ago.

“He’s a very effective communicator, he makes eye contact, he responds to his name, he makes requests. He can say the alphabet and count to 10,” she says. “We had none of that prior to therapy.”

It’s a big difference. Instead of worrying about their child’s diagnosis, or why he’s not talking, the Diggins family is boasting about Jaxon’s accomplishments, just like parents of a typically developing child.

Jaxon is just one of more than 170 Phoenix-area children who’ve been referred for services in the first 14 months of the project, which is currently funded through 2019.

And when the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force has said there’s insufficient evidence to support universal screening for autism, Smith sees this study as an opportunity to change that position.

“It might be data that’s available as a result of this study that supports early screening and leads to better outcomes for kids,” he says. “So this project is particularly important.”
IN EARLY 2016, the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC) launched a second location for its Community School preschool program in an effort to increase its evidence-based services to the growing population of 1 in 66 children diagnosed with autism in Arizona. The new center is located in Tempe, Ariz., and aims to provide services to families in the East Valley who have children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), as well as to their typically developing peers.

While the school’s original location is in Phoenix at SARRC’s Sybil B. Harrington Campus for Exceptional Children, the new Tempe location on the campus of St. James Episcopal Church helps provide services to even more families. The Community School program is an inclusive model that serves as an intensive treatment program for those with autism and as a high-quality preschool for their typically developing peers.

“What makes the Community School unique is the focus on building lasting friendships between children with and without a diagnosis of autism,” says Rachel McIntosh, M.A., BCBA, Community School director. “For the outsider looking in, identifying the children with autism is often an
impossible feat as all of the children are engaged and communicating.”

**Research-based teaching methods**

McIntosh says the goal of the program is to increase social communication and engagement within the context of the natural environment, in this case, a preschool classroom.

The school uses a method of intervention called pivotal response treatment (PRT). PRT works directly at targeting a child’s motivation. Children with autism often fail to see the connection between their behavior and its impact on their environment. By targeting motivation and teaching children the positive consequences their behavior can have, children learn the power of communication and social interactions.

Treatment is delivered during school hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon, as well as through weekly parent training sessions in the student’s homes and in the community. “We want to make sure we’re providing as much treatment as possible,” McIntosh says. “The parent is with the child more than anyone, so their ability to implement and deliver the intervention can increase the intensity exponentially.”

**Integrating typically developing peers**

In each classroom, there are six children with autism, and between six and 10 typically developing children. This enables students with autism to form relationships and friendships with typically developing students, allowing them to learn from one another. Each classroom also has four clinicians present at all times.

The Community School develops an individualized plan for every child, both with autism and without a diagnosis. Individualized assessments are conducted when the child enters and exits the program and periodically throughout their enrollment.

“Instead of saying we’re going to teach everyone about letter A and hope they learn it, we have concrete data about each child and whether or not they have learned the letter A, so we know when we can move on,” McIntosh says. “Each child is working on a goal that’s appropriate to him or her at the time.”

The school writes reports on each student three times a year and includes parent input, as well as standardized assessments that compare the child to data of other children who are the same age.

“Derek has made tremendous progress in the areas of communication, socialization and adaptive behavior,” Vujtech says of her son. “When Derek first attended, he was 23 months and non-verbal. He is now 4 and a little chatterbox.”

**Enrollment now open**

A typical day at the Community School is busy, with the children moving around the various classroom zones in 15-minute increments. Students engage in free play, spend time on the playground, have circle time, snack time and structured time. Structured time consists of an activity like a craft or game, with the children dividing into smaller groups where clinicians are working on specific goals with each child.

The Tempe location currently has its first classroom open, and plans to open two more classrooms within the next two years. Classrooms are sectioned from toddlers to Pre-K, ranging in age from 2 to 5.

SARRC is currently enrolling students at its Tempe campus. Interested families should contact Pilar Dowling at 602-340-8717 or email pdowling@autismcenter.org.

SARRC recently expanded its Community School to the campus of St. James Episcopal Church in Tempe, Ariz.
First Place Transition Academy paves the road to independence for adults with autism

BY SYDNEE SCHWARTZ

It’s been more than a year since the First Place Transition Academy, operated by SARRC, opened its doors to young adults with autism. Since then, eight students between the ages of 18 and 35 have enrolled and begun the two-year transition program. In the program, students learn the importance of obtaining and maintaining a job, developing relationships with their peers, and living independently. After they graduate from the Academy, it is the program’s biggest hope that each student will move on to their “second place,” and continue to successfully live independently in the community.

A significant amount of progress has been made with the students since they first began. Currently, all eight students are employed in meaningful, competitive employment. “We want our students to participate in competitive employment opportunities that lead to a career path, not just a job,” says Paige Raetz, Ph.D., BCBA-D, SARRC Residential Transition Academy director. In a nation with a 90 percent unemployment rate for adults with autism, the Academy is making a huge difference. The students are learning the skills necessary to be successful in the workplace, such as timeliness, initiative and dedication. They are developing the strong work ethic required to compete in employment post-graduation.

“I’m having a lot of fun,” says Ian McCoy, a current student. “I am learning a lot about how to be an adult and how to be independent, and all of it is very beneficial to me.”

Partnership with GateWay Community College

On top of working approximately 20 hours per week, each student attends seven classes per semester at GateWay Community College. Brad Herron-Valenzuela, M.Ed., SARRC’s lead instructor, teaches life skills classes to the students on weekday afternoons. Classes focus on different aspects of independent living, including conflict resolution, personal finance, career education, and interpersonal relationships.

“You can see where they have directly applied what they are learning in class to their real world lives. For example, with something like our personal finance class, breaking down wants and needs. It’s been good for them to learn how to develop a budget,” Herron-Valenzuela says.

GateWay has been a great partner and supporter to First Place AZ® and the students in the Academy. The community college offers paid internships for students,
and supports an inclusive environment where students in the program are able to access all the college has to offer. This includes social events and activities as well as academic courses of interest.

“Our collaboration with First Place and SARRC supports our mission of providing opportunities and access for all individuals,” GateWay President Steve Gonzales, Ed.D., says.

The current program consists of a 36-course sequence that can be completed in two years. After completing the courses, students are given a certificate from GateWay Community College.

Aiming for typical experiences

A normal day is very similar to what might be observed for a student at any other college campus. Students start their day by taking public transportation to work. Next, they attend classes mid-day and then commute back to their apartments. In the afternoon hours, students practice the activities they learn in the classroom (banking, shopping, cooking, scheduling their time) with the support of the Academy team. In the evenings, students are encouraged and supported to identify and participate in social activities.

“All lessons taught in the classroom are then applied when the students are at home, giving them opportunities to practice and continue learning in the natural environment,” Raetz says. “It’s an intense schedule, and the students are busy throughout the week.”

On the weekends, students have an opportunity to engage in community-based activities. “We are teaching the students how to identify activities of interest to them, and how to access and afford the things they want to do in their free time,” Raetz adds. Students learn how to navigate public transportation and maintain budgets while they participate in activities like going to the gym, hanging out with friends, and attending community events.

The students in the Academy are flourishing. They are working hard, learning new things and developing meaningful relationships that will hopefully continue once they graduate. They are making tremendous strides toward being able to live as successful, independent adults in the community. “We have big expectations for the future,” Raetz says. “We want the First Place Transition Academy to be a place where adults with autism can learn to be independent and lead rewarding lives.”

—Ian McCoy, First Place Transition Academy student
n the past eight months, SARRC’s Beneficial Beans® social enterprise has expanded with several new retail partners, helping to raise awareness about SARRC and autism in new corners of the community. Every purchase of a Beneficial Beans product, ranging from coffee and produce to mugs and t-shirts, helps an adult with autism gain employment and independence.

Currently, Beneficial Beans partners with six different retailers: Paradies gift shops in Sky Harbor International Airport, Whole Foods Market, SummerWinds Nursery, DIG IT Urban Gardens and Nursery, Tommy Pastrami New York Delicatessen and Southwest Gardener. Each location sells a variety of Beneficial Beans products. The two Paradies locations in Sky Harbor are the newest Beneficial Beans partner. The Paradies airport shops order the highest volume of products that are sold in Explore Arizona and Desert News and Gifts in terminal four to travelers from around the world. “We don’t know where our products are going, but they are definitely being enjoyed in places beyond the Valley,” says Kate Thoene, SARRC’s social enterprise director.

Valuable internships

Sales growth has not only been beneficial to SARRC’s social enterprise goals, but to the interns who are part of the program as well. More Beneficial Beans partners means more work opportunities for interns in SARRC’s program. “Interns do a variety of work from planting seeds for DIG IT to preparing and selling community supported agriculture (CSA) produce baskets to individuals in the community,” Thoene says. “They handle customer service, cash and credit card transactions and everything related to the coffee and produce businesses.” The interns are busy from the moment they get to the garden until the moment they leave. They make beautiful cement planters, plant seeds and package and label coffee all while following a typical employee schedule.

The interns are the reason the Beneficial Beans businesses exist. The purpose of the social enterprise businesses is to advance SARRC’s mission, and the interns represent the adults with autism who directly benefit from product sales. The interns come to Beneficial Beans for a 10-week internship in the garden or a six-week internship in the café to
learn important skills for future employment. The interns are fully engaged with business operations through various work assignments that help them develop traits of a reliable employee. “We try to mirror the workplace as much as possible within the internships. They have an opening and closing checklist, they clock in and out, and have uniform standards typical of a workplace,” Thoene says. “We want to make it as seamless as possible when they transfer to community-based employment down the road.”

Each intern has a different experience and walks away with a better understanding of their unique job skills and interests after completing a Beneficial Beans internship. Their future employment is up to them, but they leave with a solid foundation. “I've worked with a lot of people here who have helped me learn to work in an environment with others and manage my time,” says Kristopher Wipprecht, a current intern in the program. “My number one goal after graduating the internship is to find a job and build my career.”

A community effort

The Beneficial Beans garden is also utilized by schools, corporations and individuals who are looking to give back to the community. Groups from Arizona State University and Sprouts Farmers Market often volunteer to help with garden maintenance and special projects. Partnering with community groups and retailers furthers the interns' involvement in the community and helps give back to those who have helped them grow. “One of our goals is to increase the number of retail partners who sell Beneficial Beans,” Thoene says. “We're looking for local businesses that will carry our products as a way to raise awareness about autism and give back to the community.”

She adds, “Over the past several months, we have dramatically increased our exposure for SARRC, Beneficial Beans and autism in general. By continuing to work with our new partners and the community to sell our products, we can positively impact adults with autism and teach them important job skills that can contribute to their independence.”

Beneficial Beans products can be purchased online at autismcenter.org, at SARRC's Beneficial Beans cafe in the Scottsdale Civic Center Library, or at any of the retail partner locations.

Opposite page: The Paradies gift shops in Terminal 4 at Sky Harbor International Airport feature Beneficial Beans® products.

Below left to right: A display at DIG IT Urban Gardens & Nursery; Beneficial Beans Intern Kristopher Wipprecht packages eggs for customers; SARRC’s Beneficial Beans garden produces vegetables and plants raised from seedlings, and also boasts a chicken coop that provides fresh eggs to customers.
How NODA Works

The Naturalistic Observation Diagnosis Assessment (NODA™) is a smart-phone based system that connects parents to diagnostic experts. Parents download the app from iTunes and set up a secure account. The app prompts them to record short videos of their child in the home and the app uploads the videos to a web-based system. Clinicians at SARRC then view the videos, tag them with behaviors relevant to a diagnosis of autism, and use these tags to complete a diagnostic checklist for autism.

For more information on NODA, contact Jennifer Donato at 602.218.8188.
started doing some research on their own.

“We started looking at videos online as to what typical behavior looked like versus what kids on the spectrum looked like,” he says. “It was evident by what we were watching that Sage clearly had a lot of the same behaviors as other kids on the spectrum.”

Within a matter of days, the Mallons received confirmation: Sage was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

“Every experience I’ve heard from others involves multiple appointments over several months to get a diagnosis,” Ian says. “The fact that we could bypass all of that with NODA and start finding resources for Sage quickly was amazing.”

**Getting services**

The Mallons set out to get Sage into early intervention therapies.

“We’re really fortunate,” Ian says. “We went from suspicion of autism to services within a month.”

With occupational and speech therapy, Sage has made great strides. Prior to treatment, he was non-verbal.

“Sage has progressed tremendously,” Ian says. “He became verbal within two months of his diagnosis.”

And while Sage has communication skills he didn’t have before, he still struggles to create social connections with his peers.

“The biggest thing with autism in general is realizing that it’s never going to go away,” Ian says. “But you get more tools. And our hope is that he’s only 2, so there’s time for him to continue to progress.”

There are moments that change your life in profound ways, Ian says. Danny suggesting NODA was one of those moments.

“For some families, it can take years to go from suspicion to services. For us, it took about a month,” he says. “That was such a blessing.”

NODA™ is a smart phone-based app that connects parents to diagnostic experts with the goal of using secure video to expedite the autism diagnostic process.

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Autism Walk Committee launches Charitable Paid Time Off program

When MC Companies set their company walk team goal at $100,000 for last year’s Arizona Autism Speaks WALK, many may have considered their goal ambitious or even unattainable. But not Ken McElroy, principal of MC Companies and the 2015/2016 Autism Speaks WALK chairman, or his employees. “Our company culture has always been based on seeing beyond what we think is possible and stretching ourselves to do bigger and better things,” says McElroy. So their internal walk committee went to work, looking for creative ways their property management company could generate walk donations.

Within a few short weeks, MC Companies launched a vendor fundraising campaign, asking each of their business partners to donate 1 percent of sales to their walk team. They also conducted a two-month program during which all apartment rental application fees would be collected and donated to their walk team. And then the company’s CFO, Freddie Thornton, came up with an idea: giving employees the option to donate accrued PTO, or “paid time off” hours.

The idea was beyond successful – in five days, more than 150 employees voluntarily donated a total of 1,300 hours, raising more than $22,000 for the walk. “Our team members were thrilled when we presented the charitable PTO program as a way to support the Arizona Autism Speaks WALK,” says Lesley Brice, president of MC Companies. “It gave them a new way to contribute, without having to write a check, and it created a real sense of enthusiasm around the walk.”

How it works

PTO programs require employees to fill out forms in order to take advantage of their PTO. MC Companies updated their forms to provide an option for employees to donate hours and tracked employee response through their standard HR practices. Then employees were invited to participate in a simple kickoff webinar to learn about autism and how their unused PTO hours (the company has a “use it or lose it” policy) could help raise money for autism.

In total, MC Companies raised $122,000 and united more than 100 employees and their families to participate in the walk. MC Companies has created Hours4Autism.com to help mentor other companies interested in implementing their own charitable PTO program to benefit the Autism Speaks WALK. The site includes step-by-step tools and information. To learn more, contact Lyndsey Waugh with SARRC at lwaugh@autismcenter.org.

MC Companies employees participated in the 2015 Walk Now for Autism Speaks, raising more than $22,000 for their team through the donation of their paid time off (PTO).
Cydcor is proud to support the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center.

Thank you for all the work that you do and the help & services you provide.
Partnership with SummerWinds Nursery brings Beneficial Beans® to customers, employs adult with autism

BY TRACI BRANDON

Our journey with SARRC started with a simple concrete pot with a little red poinsettia beaming from its center. It was dropped off by Social Enterprise Director Kate Thoene one unassuming winter day in 2015. The pot was left for Joe Sterkowitz, our buyer and manager. We sell a lot of pots at SummerWinds, but no one knew how special this little pot would become and how many lives it would touch daily.

That potted plant became the backdrop of something simply wonderful. As many things in life, sometimes it is the simple things that bring the most joy. Several months after the pot was delivered, Joe’s colleague and close counterpart, Art Eldridge, finally grabbed the pot off Joe’s desk and said, “Let me have that thing.” Art went back to his desk and made a call to SARRC. A meeting was arranged for Joe and Art to tour SARRC’s working gardens.

One can’t walk onto the SARRC campus without feeling the positive energy this organization exudes. Joe and Art were forever changed that day. The enthusiasm they experienced as they left SARRC has trickled down to all the SummerWinds associates who see and sell the Beneficial Beans® pots, mugs and coffee beans daily with proceeds benefiting SARRC.

Joe, Art and the SummerWinds team are currently partnering with Beneficial Beans to put in coffee bars at our locations. The team at SARRC has been a strategic partner working with us to find ways for SummerWinds to give back to the autism community. We are purchasing coffee directly from Beneficial Beans to brew and give to our customers, as a courtesy, so they can enjoy a wonderful cup of joe on us.

Joe took it a step farther when he employed one of SARRC’s talented gardeners with autism. We hope to continue to help young adults with autism who have an interest in gardening to transition into the workplace. We feel this partnership will strengthen the bond and help raise awareness about how important it is to give young adults with autism a chance to work and lead independent lives.

The unassuming cement pot SARRC left for us has put a young adult with autism to work. The simple, rough edge and the grey finish spoke to many people without saying a word. That pot and poinsettia touched our hearts and souls. We feel proud to call SARRC and Beneficial Beans our partner. We can’t wait to see what our partnership blossoms into this year.

Beneficial Beans coffee bars have been installed in two SummerWinds Nursery locations with plans to expand to two more. For more information on SummerWinds, visit summerwindsnursery.com.

Look for SARRC’s Beneficial Beans® coffee bars and displays at SummerWinds Nursery locations in Phoenix.
Thank you to Bashas’ Family of Stores for supporting SARRC through the Team Up for Autism Charity of the Month Campaign.

Special Thanks to our Partners!

SARRC
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We’re proud to support SARRC and the autism community
www.adwcomm.com
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; improving quality of life 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs &amp; Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Services</td>
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<td>SARRC's Diagnostic Services offers comprehensive evaluation completed by a licensed psychologist to determine if an individual meets DSM-V diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Our evaluations are available to individuals of all ages and include parent/guardian/caregiver assessments to gather information about an individual's developmental history. Diagnostic services are also available through the Naturalistic Observation Diagnostic Assessment (NODA™), an accurate and effective diagnostic service that uses smart-phone technology and a team of clinicians at SARRC to diagnose – or rule out – autism.</td>
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<td>Family Orientation</td>
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<td>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 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.</td>
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<td>JumpStart®</td>
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<td>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 (e.g. characteristics of ASD, improving social communication, reducing problem behaviors, toilet training, individualized education [IEPs], and accessing services), 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 verbally communicate. JumpStart is also available in Spanish.</td>
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<td>Milestones</td>
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<td>The Milestones program offers services for first-time parents and parents of infants with older siblings with ASD. These services include monthly parenting classes that focus on developmental milestones and parenting practices to encourage play and interaction for all infants. Additional services are available for infants demonstrating early warning signs of autism including scheduled assessments, video monitoring and more intensive treatment options.</td>
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Mercy Care Plan and Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care are proud to support the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC). Thank you for supporting our community.

www.MercyCarePlan.com
www.MercyMaricopa.org
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Snell & Wilmer is proud to support the 18th Annual SARRC Community Breakfast.

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SSP America is a PROUD partner and supporter of SARRC and their mission to advance research and provide a lifetime of support for individuals with autism and their families.
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<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td><strong>Community School</strong></td>
<td>The SARRC Community School is an inclusive 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 interventions 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 at the Phoenix campus.</td>
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<td><strong>Individualized Services</strong></td>
<td>SARRC’s Comprehensive Individualized Services 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 leisure skills, and cognitive development.</td>
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<td><strong>First Place Transition Academy</strong></td>
<td>In partnership with First Place AZ®, SARRC’s Transition Academy is a two-year program that provides comprehensive and intensive ABA-based programming to transition young adults with ASD. Students live in apartments within the community while attending classes and working in internships. 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 36-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. Students also participate in paid internship experiences leading to competitive employment by graduation.</td>
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<td><strong>Intensive Parent Training</strong></td>
<td>Intensive Parent Training is a one-week program for parents and their children (0 to 8 years). Families come to SARRC’s Campus for Exceptional Children to participate in therapy sessions Monday through Friday for 3-5 hours each day (a total of 15-25 hours of intervention) based on their child’s age. SARRC therapists teach parents to implement the motivational procedures of PRT to meet each child’s communication, social and behavioral needs. After the week-long training, families return home and have the option to receive ongoing support from SARRC’s clinicians by sharing video over a secure internet connection, allowing SARRC clinicians to remotely provide feedback to parents as their child’s skills and needs change over time.</td>
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<td><strong>Individualized Services-Consultation</strong></td>
<td>Individualized Services-Consultation provides focused intervention for individuals across the lifespan to develop a specific adaptive behavior (e.g., safety, toilet training, chores, employment) or to address a particular problem behavior (e.g., aggression, elopement, challenging stereotypical behavior). Following an initial interview, a SARRC therapist, under the supervision of a BCBA, provides direct observation, conducts a behavioral assessment and develops a treatment plan. After reviewing the plan with the family or adult with ASD and agreeing to its components, a SARRC therapist works with the family or adult with ASD to implement the plan, objectively measure changes in behavior, and evaluate progress to address any necessary modifications.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Autism CommunityWorks®</strong></td>
<td>Autism CommunityWorks® is a pre-employment and community involvement program that helps teens ages 13-18 make the transition to independent living, higher education and/or employment. Autism CommunityWorks, includes LibraryWorks®, PowerWorks® and GoodDeedWorks® and provides the opportunity for individuals with ASD and peer mentors to engage in volunteer work throughout their communities while developing job and social communication skills. Teens with ASD may also receive 1:1 intervention and parent training sessions conducted in the family’s home and in the community.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Employment Services</strong></td>
<td>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 vocational goals, supports and accommodations; resume and job interview preparation; and on-the-job training and coaching. Employment Services also provides vocational evaluations and support accessing vocational training programs in the community.</td>
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Mission Driven

UCI Local Media Arizona is honored to support SARRC and help further their mission to impact the lives of individuals with autism and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to give back to the communities we serve.
### Beneficial Beans® Café & Garden Internships
Beneficial Beans® internships provide work training opportunities for adults in the context of SARRC’s Social Enterprise businesses. The Beneficial Beans café internship provides employment training in the areas of order fulfillment, distribution, sales, customer service, cash-handling and barista skills. The Beneficial Beans garden internship engages individuals in every aspect of developing and sustaining a revenue-producing garden, including product development, marketing and sales, while building important workplace skills. Vegetables and herbs harvested from the Beneficial Beans garden are sold to the community, in a true farm-to-table model.

### Education and Training
The Education and Training program disseminates current, research-based information related to the development, characteristics and treatment of ASD across the lifespan to a wide range of audiences. Educational presentations focus on improving knowledge and understanding, whereas skill-based trainings target correct application of assessment and treatment procedures. Regularly scheduled education and training topics include ABA for Everyday Use and Pivotal Response Treatment. Education and training activities are offered regularly at SARRC, can be contracted by schools and organizations, and are available in Spanish.

### FRIEND® Program
The FRIEND® program is a curriculum designed to improve social skills for school-age students, and includes three components: peer sensitivity training, the FRIEND playground program and the FRIEND lunch program. Peer sensitivity training increases awareness and understanding of autism so typically developing peers are more likely to engage and provide support for students with ASD. The FRIEND playground program provides structured activities on the playground/during recess that are based on the interests of the student with ASD, yet are highly likely to attract typically developing peers and create opportunities for social interaction. During the FRIEND lunch program, a selected group of peers eats lunch with a student with autism daily so that social skills and conversation can be easily taught and facilitated.

### School Consultation
SARRC’s educational consultants contract with schools and districts to improve educational programming of students with ASD in public, charter and private schools. School consultation services include didactic in-service training; in-vivo teacher and paraprofessional training; general classroom observation and recommendations; functional behavioral assessments (FBAs) and positive behavior support (PBS) plans; classroom structure and environmental design; access to the common core curriculum; curricular modifications and accommodations; and inclusive best practices to support students in general education classrooms. While consultation and training is provided for school personnel, the focus is always on achieving the best possible outcomes for students.

### Summer Camp Partnerships
SARRC partners with existing summer camps to include children and teens with ASD (ages 3-16) with their typically developing peers and improve social skills. SARRC clinicians provide training and ongoing consultation to camp staff to ensure that children with ASD can successfully participate throughout the day and across structured and unstructured activities. Camp staff receive training in behavioral intervention and inclusive strategies to target communication, appropriate play and social interactions. Camp dates and times vary across locations and include half-day, full-day and overnight camp options during the months of June and July. For older teens and young adults, SARRC has partnered with the University of Advancing Technologies (UAT) to provide a Tech Summer Camp, a one-week, college life experience (e.g. attending classes, living in the dorms).

### ThinkAsperger’s®
This outreach program is designed to educate elementary school staff and pediatricians to “ThinkAsperger’s” when they see subtle social impairments in school-age children. SARRC developed an educational program and screening questionnaire (available online) to help teachers and pediatricians recognize these impairments and refer children for a formal evaluation. Once individuals are properly diagnosed, intervention can begin so they can have meaningful interactions, develop friendships and ultimately reach their full potential.

### 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.
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.”

For advertising opportunities visit: onmediaaz.com or call 602-323-9701

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### VANILLA
The VANILLA study, sponsored by Roche Pharmaceuticals, is investigating the effects of vasopressin, a common blood pressure medication, on social behavior and communication. It is a 12-week double-blind study that includes cognitive and social assessments, and careful monitoring by our research team. Adult males ages 18 to 45 and their caregivers (parents, siblings or significant others) are invited to contact SARRC for more information.

### Autism Screening Network
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 a child’s screen 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 are a pediatrician, or would like your pediatrician to be a part of this network, please contact SARRC Research at 602.340.8717, Ext. 1187.

### PEERS® Program Study
The Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS®) is a 14-week, evidence-based social skills intervention for adolescents with ASD without a cognitive disability and their parents. PEERS focuses on helping teens learn ways to make and keep friends. Each group session centers around important social skills and opportunities to practice these skills during fun and interactive activities. Parents are an important piece of the program, and are taught feedback strategies to assist their teens in starting and maintaining friendships. SARRC is performing a study of PEERS and its long-term effects on socialization, particularly the generalization of behaviors learned within the program.

### Seahorse (Downs Syndrome)
The Seahorse study, sponsored by Roche Pharmaceuticals, is investigating the safety and efficacy of a new compound, as well as its effect on learning, memory and performing daily activities. It is a 26-week, double-blind study that includes cognitive and social assessments, and careful monitoring by our research team. Caregivers of children ages 6 to 11 are invited to contact SARRC for more information.

### JAKE (Janssen Autism Knowledge Engine)
This observational study will assess the usability of JAKE as a system to monitor clinical outcomes in ASD. Participants’ safety will be monitored throughout the study. Participants with and without ASD must be between 6-9 years old or 14-17 years old. Participation in this study includes optional participation in an accessory study investigating differences in the implicit learning process for people with ASD and typically developing people.

### Curemark Study
The Curemark study is a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial of a proprietary digestive enzyme, focused on safety, efficacy and treatment of the core symptoms associated with ASD. Participants in this trial must be between 3-8 years old and have ASD. Upon completion of the double-blind trial, participants will have the option of enrolling in an open label phase of the trial.

### 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 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.

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For more information on any of these programs or services, please contact SARRC directly at (602) 340-8717.
A copy of the fully audited financial statements will be available after June 30, 2016, by contacting Sean Husmoe, SARRC Chief Financial Officer, 480.603.3295.
Jaburg Wilk Foundation working hand in hand to strengthen Arizona’s community
YOUR LEGACY. THEIR FUTURE.

Your Legacy gift to SARRC supports children, adolescents, and adults with autism and their families. Estate gifts of all sizes make a lasting impact.

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