



ANNUAL REPORT

 **AUTISM SOCIETY**
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Northwest Ohio

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TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Strategic Plan Highlights

In 2021, ASNO adopted a new strategic plan through 2023. Following are just a few of our objectives from our strategic plan for 2021-2023 in the areas of programs and services, effective advocacy and public policy, expanded education and training, and integrated information and referral:

- Provide education and information on topics related to autism.
- Offer social opportunities for those that would not otherwise have access.
- Be present and in contact with policy makers and being influential in policy changes favorable to individuals with disabilities.
- Educate parents in the in areas of significance and in areas lacking information about autism spectrum disorder.
- Educate professionals in areas of significance and in areas lacking information about autism spectrum disorder.
- Continue to be recognized as the “first call, go-to” resource and a trusted guide across the lifespan.
- Continue to create Resource Binders and distribute to local doctors, schools, community organizations.

2021 Programming, Education & Advocacy Highlights

Following are just some of our programming, education and advocacy accomplishments for the past year:

- Weekly Support Group meeting with an average of 3-5 attendees each week. These weekly support groups provided emotional and mental support for individuals and families in our service area. Without adequate support, the challenges of Autism Spectrum Disorder can be overwhelming.
- The resurgence of Sibshops in the fall of 2021. Sibshops provides opportunities for brothers and sisters with a peer on the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or special needs peer support and education within a recreational context. They provide a chance for siblings to meet other siblings who have a brother or sister with autism, learn about ASD, share joys and concerns, and to problem solve

- Information and Referrals. In the past 3 months alone ASNO has served 67 people through Information and Referrals. We were able to provide information about autism, as well as referrals to autism-specific and autism-friendly resources to individuals and families.
- Sensory bags for First Responders. This collaboration between ASNO, ProjectIAM and the Hussman Foundation allowed us to provide bags of sensory items to first responders in our service area. These bags and information provided a necessary first step towards training first responders on how best to support an individual with ASD in a crisis situation.
- Sensory Bags at the Toledo Zoo. These Zoo Bags contain many useful items including headphones, dry erase board with marker, fan, fidget items, and more! The bags are reusable, and help provide sensory supports for those with autism to assist in their experience at the Toledo Zoo.
- Autism 101 Trainings. Autism 101 is a training provided by ASNO to organizations interested in learning more about autism. The training covers topics ranging from the basics of autism, to what autism looks like, to how best to support an individual with autism. This year we presented to 150 pre service student teachers, and 42 Radiology Students.
- Crisis Intervention Training. Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) training is an intensive mental-health training provided to first responders. CIT training is available for law enforcement, emergency services responders, fire and rescue staff, dispatchers, jail staff, and school resource officers. This training is nationally recognized and is designed to improve the way first responders respond to people with disabilities who may be experiencing a crisis. CIT training provides information about topics such as autism, crisis intervention, and verbal de-escalation techniques. The training also provides its trainees with a list of services and resources to connect residents to the appropriate help. This year we provided training for 32 officers in Wood County.
- We were able to provided family autism-friendly events such as our Urban Air Event and Sensory Zoom Santa
- Activities to promote autism awareness including press conferences, news interviews and community activities
- Community and legislative advocacy. This year we advocated for the TARTA levy, which creates a modern funding structure to be a lifeline for people with disabilities by providing necessary quality transit throughout Lucas County. This levy passed in the

fall of 2021. We also continue to advocate for the passage of HCBS, a federal package for home and community based services.

- Additional information and resources. This year we also worked to build our virtual trainings and resources, including a webinar about Social Security Benefits, a webinar on Waivers, and our Community Resource Manual, all available on our website, asno.org.

“Throughout our eleven year journey ASNO has been one of many wonderful places I look for resources, emotional support and understanding. They have always been able to connect me to other professionals and helpful agencies in the community. Knowing where to start is half the battle.”

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead to 2022, ASNO seeks to continue to provide the programs and services we’ve already established, while also expanding our offerings to include additional webinars and online resources, an expansive conference with up-to-date information on autism for parents, families and providers, a continuing education program for professionals and providers in the area focused specifically on autism spectrum disorder issues, our popular community event the Autism Walk, and more!

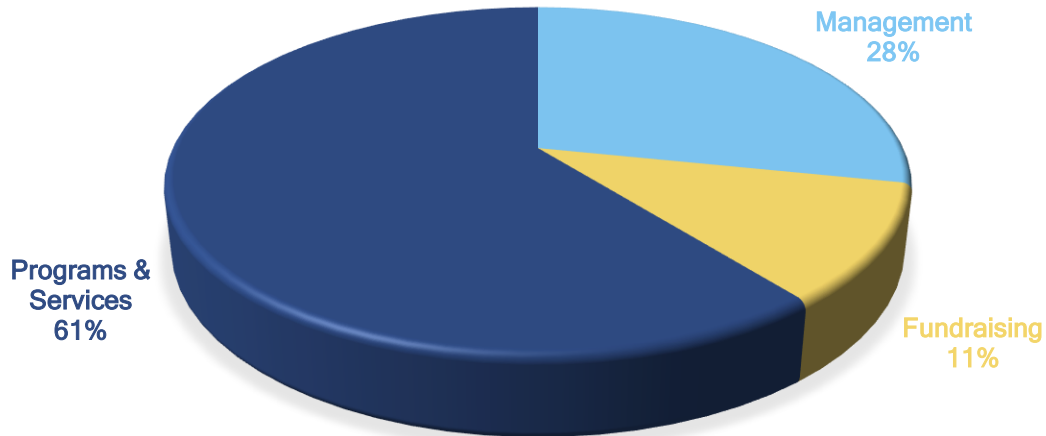
Kate Schwartz
Executive Director

Katherine Macek
President, Board of Directors

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Following is a breakdown of the financials for our core mission support from 2020:

2020 EXPENSES



See <https://asno.org/about-us/> for our full 2020 990 Return.

Following is a breakdown of the financials for our core mission support for January 1, 2021-October 31, 2021:

2021 EXPENSES JAN-OCT 31, 2021

