“Autism Canada has provided me with up to date news, studies and treatments, as well as a means to connect to other moms with little ones on the spectrum. They are non-biased, friendly, helpful, and above all supportive.”

NICOLE
“Autism Canada is an excellent organization aimed at improving the lives of people living with autism and their families. The organization provides up to date, empirical and relevant information that shapes and mounts therapeutic practice and provides another framework or a lens through which to examine these children. Their uphill battle to improve services, funding, and change policy regarding autism is a noble and worthy cause.”

ASHLEY AGNEW (MSCOT), PEDIATRIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

To Our Cherished Supporters,

As we look forward to 2014, all of us at Autism Canada would like to reflect upon those who have helped us reach families and fulfill our mission over this past year.

Thanks to generous donors like you, hundreds of families took the first steps of their autism journey with courage and optimism knowing they are not alone.

A doctor is leafing through the Autism Physician Handbook you helped fund, and will be able to help a child with autism feel some relief from his tummy pain. Over 13,000 individuals downloaded our Autism Physician Handbook in 2013.

A mother in Canada had an “aha!” moment because she heard about a new iPad app that could improve her child’s ability to learn. Our conference/webcast reached 1,900 people across Canada and thousands more will watch the recorded presentations online. Your donations ensured that any family across Canada who needed the most up-to-date information on autism could watch the live webcast of our conference for free.

You are the hero for the children and families in these stories. With your support in 2014, we can help even more families struggling to navigate the health system find the answers they need. We can show even more physicians that autism has many treatable features. We can help children living with autism reach their full potential and thrive.

Jayden

FACE OF AUTISM

© John Waddell & Lesley Proctor
This year has been another year of growth and accomplishment for Autism Canada, thanks to our donors that support our work. It is a privilege for me and my colleagues on the board to work for Canadian families affected by autism.

In 2013, we welcomed Darlene Pugsley from New Brunswick and Laurel Gibbons from Ontario to our Board of Directors. Both are experienced autism advocates and parents of children diagnosed with autism. They are a real asset to our organization and we are thrilled to have them join us.

The board and staff are committed to our donors hence our transparency through this report and our full Audited Financial Statements that are available through our website. In 2013, we took this commitment to you to another level by becoming officially accredited through the Imagine Canada Standards Program. To date we are the only autism charity in Canada to do so.

The Standards Program is a Canada-wide set of shared standards for charities and non-profits designed to demonstrate their compliance in five fundamental areas: board governance; financial accountability and transparency; fundraising; staff management; and volunteer involvement. It helps organizations mitigate risk by ensuring that staff and volunteers understand and meet their legal, financial and fiduciary responsibilities. You can be certain that your dollars are being used prudently and we are a solid charity to support.

We are committed to serving both English and French Canadians and our big project for 2014 is to translate our website, brochures and resources into French. Critical documents like our Autism Physician Handbook – Canadian Edition, the Medical Comorbidities in Autism Spectrum Disorder report and the Summary of Dietary, Nutritional and Medical Treatments for Autism report will soon be available. These documents are priceless in working with licensed health care professionals to ensure your loved one with autism gets the medical attention they require.

We all know that children with autism grow up and sadly there is a shortage of adequate housing, programs and supports. Founding board member, Sam DeCaria and current board member Steve Horner, attended the 2nd Annual ASD Vocational Conference, “What Will It Take: Advancing Vocational Opportunities for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders” in Calgary, Alberta. We need to work and advocate together for change. We will continue to feature successful solutions to these problems at our annual conferences so that others may be inspired to bring them into their communities.

I and the entire board are committed to serving you. Whether it be raising awareness and addressing the issues of the day through media appearances or strategizing in a board committee meeting on how we may better support our mandate, it is always the people affected and their families that we have in the forefront of our minds.

Please keep supporting us so that your dollars can make a difference for those affected by autism.

Yours truly,

DON BLANE

"All lives have their challenges. Autism Canada is there to reach out and provide guidance, education and support to those who need it."

RENEE LEVESQUE M. SC., S-LP(C)
Your gift to us is an investment in the work that needs to be done for families living with autism. While we have made great strides there is much still to be done. We must work to change policy so that no family feels alone with no place to turn. We must continue to reach out to health care professionals with the message that autism has treatable medical features that should not be ignored. Your gift is an investment for families now, and in the future, so that all persons with autism have the chance to reach their full potential.

After spearheading the Canada Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance (CASDA) in the summer of 2007 and sitting as the Chair, I have never been more proud of our accomplishments. Today, we are over 50 autism organizations with a united voice and clear message: our Federal Government needs to have a plan. We call this plan a comprehensive National ASD Strategy. This plan needs to address the critical gaps in funding and policies, which are preventing individuals with ASDs and their families from exercising their equal rights as Canadians. Autism Canada is committed to not only supporting this alliance but continuing to play a leadership role moving forward.

Thanks to CASDA’s efforts the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is working diligently on a National Autism Surveillance System. For two years, I have sat on their Advisory Committee. I can tell you it is a big endeavor but we are getting closer thanks to the wonderful team that PHAC has assembled. It is extremely important that we understand the numbers so that we can plan and budget accordingly. It is our view that we have an epidemic on our hands and immediate attention is required. These numbers will reinforce our message.

In 2013, we attended the largest physician conference in Canada called Primary Care Today. We provided 3,000 copies of our Autism Physician Handbook to delegates and talked to hundreds of physicians about the treatable comorbidities that exist. Over the three days our message was well received and many provided their contact information so that we might forward them more information.

Board member, Dr. Wendy Edwards and I were guests on Accessibility in Action’s segment on autism. This weekly television show airs nationally across Canada. This autism segment showed the potential of those on the spectrum and how Autism Canada empowers families. It was wonderful to have participated.

I pledge to you our donors to work passionately for change so that all Canadians living with an ASD have full and equal access to the resources they require to achieve their full potential.

Warmest regards,

LAURIE MAWLAM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NEW MARKETING PARTNERSHIP: SNUGABYE

Snugabye has partnered with Autism Canada!

Snugabye Inc., a privately owned Canadian company, was founded in 1947 by the late Louis Davis and remains a leading national brand of apparel and accessories. The Snugabye brand encompasses the following product categories: sleepwear from newborn to adult, underwear, layette and playwear. Snugabye has won many ‘Vendor of the Year’ awards from various retailers, recognizing the Snugabye history of integrity, dependability and service. Visit their website at www.snugabye.com

For every Special Needs Snugabye Onesie, with the distinct zipper in the back purchased, 3% of the proceeds are donated to Autism Canada to help Canadian families affected by autism. When you buy a Special Needs Snugabye Onesie, you are helping to empower other families on their unique and challenging journey through the support and resources that Autism Canada provides. A big Thank You to our friends at Snugabye for their support!

If you or your company would like to partner with Autism Canada please contact us today.

EMPOWERING WITH INFORMATION: FAMILY SUPPORT AND RESOURCE PROGRAM

In 2013, 180,000 individuals accessed our website, up by 10,000 people from 2012. Seventeen thousand people used the online screening tools, and 13,000 individuals downloaded the Autism Physician Handbook. We responded to over 4,000 emails and calls. We are here for Canadians.

Resources Sent to Families
With your help in 2013, over 350 free books from top autism health and advocacy professionals were sent to families and public libraries that needed them.

AutismCanada.org
Autism Canada’s website is an exceptional tool to get information. When visiting our website, families will find:
- A directory of treatment options including biomedical approaches
- Complete information on characteristics and early signs of the disorder, including our illustrated Autism Physician Handbook, online screening tools for all ages and scholarly articles
- Over 50 free video presentations from autism experts from our annual conference and scientific symposium

YOUR SOURCE FOR AUTISM NEWS

Part of the Family Support and Resource Program funded by our donors allows us to keep our followers up to date with the latest autism news. We love to share stories of hope, injustices that need public attention, information on the latest research, hot topics, and much more.

Our friends at Babble.com have once again listed Autism Canada as a Top 30 Autism Facebook Fan Pages in the World. Babble.com is an online resource for parents, providing exceptional service content and incisive, honest essays about parenting.

Our social media following has grown with Facebook Fans reaching 6,674 (up 1,800 from last year), and twitter followers reaching 914 (up 270 from 2012). We also send a weekly newsletter to 2,800 subscribers. Are you on the list? If not, go to www.autismcanada.org and join today to receive news from the nation’s premier resource for information on autism.

YOUR DONATIONS: CHANGING THE COURSE OF AUTISM

In 2013, you helped us bring our 11th annual Changing the Course of Autism Conference/Webcast to Victoria, British Columbia. The event, in collaboration with the Victoria Society for Children with Autism, drew 300 parents, service providers, health professionals and educators, with over 1,500 watching live across Canada.

Because of your donations, the live webcast was accessible at no cost so that everyone who needed could tune in and watch presentations by experts on the most current autism information and topics. The videos stay posted online long after the webcast has finished for individuals to access; over 7,100 people watched the videos throughout 2013.
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS // THIRD PARTY EVENTS

Third-Party Fundraisers are crucial to Autism Canada’s efforts in accomplishing our mission critical activities. The services we provide would not be possible without the generosity of volunteers across Canada who take time out of their busy lives to contribute to our cause.

Although we cannot acknowledge all of the third-party events in this section, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated — from organizers to volunteers to participants. Their hard work has contributed immensely to improving the lives of Canadian families and their children living with autism.

Third Party events vary in size and scope — whether it is a bake sale, open-mic concert, choral performance at a church or golf tournament, each event is an integral part of raising funds to support children with autism.

An important component of our Third-Party Event fundraisers, beyond raising funds for our organization, is the awareness these events provide in communities all over Canada.

A NIGHT FOR MUSIC & AUTISM

Frank and Melissa hosted their first autism fundraiser, A Night for Music and Autism, on March 30. With over 80 guests in attendance, they enjoyed a beautiful dinner, entertainment and an auction with abundant prizes donated by local businesses in Vaughan. Autism Canada Chair, Don Blane, spoke to the attendees to begin the festivities. Frank and Melissa’s event resulted in $6,000 being donated to Autism Canada. They relished raising both awareness and funds for autism and intend to make this an annual event.

ART BY PATRICK

Patrick is a talented artist whose passion is fueled by his son Samuel diagnosed with autism. Patrick has supported Autism Canada for over 2 years through his painting and selling of his artwork. Patrick donates a portion of each piece he sells to Autism Canada. He is in the business of design and offers various services including website design and marketing materials. Check out his work on his Facebook page or website www.artbypatrick.ca

STEP BY STEP AUTISM AWARENESS WALK

Dorothy Day, with the help of friends and family, organized for the second Step by Step Autism Awareness Walk in Belleville, Ontario. The event featured a walk, craft sale, hotdog/drink sale, and representatives from local agencies on hand to provide information on autism and answer questions about the services available in the community. All proceeds from the event were donated to Autism Canada. Thanks to everyone who supported Dorothy and her family by donating or walking!

HYDRONIC PARTS GROUP

Hydronic Parts Group (HPG) presented Autism Canada with a $16,000 cheque in honour of their annual golf tournament. Golfers experienced a beautiful dinner and presentations after playing a round of golf at the Granite Ridge Golf Club. The day was enjoyed by all including Autism Canada Chair, Don Blane. Over the past six years HPG’s tournament has raised over $80,000 for autism. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Helen and Doug Mater and family for your continued support.
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS // THIRD PARTY EVENTS

LIGHT IT UP BLUE
Tilbury Area Public School participated in World Autism Awareness Day this year. The children created signs that were posted around the school to Light It Up Blue for April 2. The school asked local businesses to support a BBQ fundraiser included in the event. Everyone’s help resulted in over $1,200 being donated to Autism Canada. Ashley Patton, Public Relations Coordinator at Autism Canada, had the pleasure to meet the young boy who inspired everyone to participate. Thank you for all your hard work!

WALK FOR AUTISM
An enthusiastic group of families came together in the town of Campobello Island, New Brunswick to support Shelley Brine and her team complete a 5 km walk to help raise awareness about autism in the community. With her family by her side she raised over $1,000, Shelley’s inspiration comes from her son, who is diagnosed with autism.

MUD HERO RUN
Michelle and her team laced up their shoes and got down and dirty for Mud Hero in Toronto. While participating in Canada’s best rated obstacle course, Michelle’s family and friends supported her through donating to Autism Canada. Michelle’s efforts resulted in over $1,000 being donated to Autism Canada. Thank you Michelle for all your great work!

AUTISM LIVE & LOUD
The Asylum Radio and Straightjacket Productions presented Autism Loud and Live on April 25 at The Eclipse in downtown Oshawa. The Eclipse had a full house with entertainment from MegaCity Kidz, Sadie Marguis, Miss Paige, BRP, Ron Cee and more. Autism Canada’s staff enjoyed the performances and thanked Chris for organizing this tuneful event.

PHOTO CONTEST
On April 2nd, 2013, Canadians officially recognized World Autism Awareness Day for the first time. In honour of this historical day, members of our Board set a fundraising goal of $10,000. They surpassed their goal, raising a whopping $16,796. Great job team!
Autism Canada receives no direct government funding for the programs and services it provides and is dependent on individual and corporate donations to carry out its mission. An additional resource was added in December 2012 to develop a Fund Development Strategic Plan and sustainable long-term revenue base for Autism Canada.

Donations were up 34% while third party fundraising events were down over last year due to an unbudgeted matching donation challenge to a maximum of $15,000 from an anonymous donor to support autism research. This combined with individual donations, brought in a total of $33,000.

Total disbursements were relatively constant over the previous year. Your donations regardless of the amount would be greatly appreciated to enable us to provide quality information and services to assist you on your journey with autism. For more information on how you can help, visit our website at www.autismcanada.org.

The complete financial report, including the cost of fundraising, notes to the financials and the independent auditor’s report can be found at www.autismcanada.org/aboutus.

STEVE HORNER

Autism Canada’s financial statements were audited by MacNeill Edmundson LLP from London, Ontario.
DONORS & SPONSORS

Autism Canada would like to thank all of our donors and sponsors in 2013. It is because of your support that we are able to accomplish so much. The listing in this section represents all donors and sponsors from January to December, 2013, and is recorded as their accumulated donation over their giving history. Donors are listed alphabetically, with companies and organizations listed first followed by individuals. Thank you for believing in us.

$10,000+

COMPUTER MODELLING GROUP LTD.
HUNT FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
MANULIFE FINANCIAL
SICKKIDS FOUNDATION
ALICE & MURAVI MALTAND FOUNDATION
ANEW BUILDING CORPORATION
RICK CAMPOVARI PLUMBING

STEVE AND MAVIS HORNER
PETER MCCAINLEY

$5,000+

ATLIFIC INC.
DYKCROFT FARMS
SNC- LAVALIN GROUP INC.
STARBUCKS CANADA
THE SSLUIS ACADEMY
UNITED WAY OTTAWA

DON BLANE
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$2,000+

Aqueduct Foundation- Horn Family Fund
Emcad Consulting Engineers (1995) Inc.
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United Way Of Greater Toronto

Anthony and Margaret Zekulin
David Brander
David Galvao
Dorothy Day
Jamie and Shelley Brine
Michelle Curtis
Jean Blane
John and Joan Craig
Kathryn Craig
Ronald and Dorothy Edwards
Roy Best
Thomas McAskin
Troy Barker

$1,000+

Active Mechanical Ltd
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ICapital Financial Services Corp
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Kids Matter Inc.
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$500+

André Hughes Dentistry Professional Corp.
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Nerio D‘Ambrosio
Maria DeCarlia
Nancy DeCarlia
Charlotte Froike
David and Elizabeth Hudson
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John Thomson
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$250+

Adidas
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Richard and Bonnie Van Grieken
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Ryan and Maggie Tavares
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$100+

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Catulpa Community Support Services
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Glenda Beer
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Len and Cathy Blair
Barbara Blane
Gary Cabral
Joe Campisi
Wendy Carson
Gary and Cathy Churchill
Sally Cippen

$30,000

TD BANK GROUP

$20,000+

RBC FOUNDATION

$40,000

HYDRONIC PARTS GROUP

$10,000+
$100+
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Margaret Cody
Kellie Coe
Jean Comfort
Kelly Cordingley
Dana Crow
Gina Duncan
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Felipe Valezuel
Peter Vanderheyden
Vittoria Varalli
Carla Vitoria
Linda Waks
Beth Waldman
Michael and Violetta Wareing
Danny Webb

$100+
Kimberley Wingert
Michael Wingert
Jeannie Wong
Susan Woodward
Anthony Yim

While we were unable to list our donors who contributed under $100, please know that all donations make a difference.

$100+
Cecile Roi
Charles Terpstra
Daniel Stone
David Osmond
Derek Whipps
Donald Pardy
Earle Baker
Elenor Eholnikof
Eva and Jerry Cudaby
Evelyn Pierrepoint
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Raymond Grobowsky
Ronald Wilson
Russ Makepeace
Wayne Hutchison

MEMORIAL RECOGNITION
We would like to take a moment to remember those who have gone before us and to thank their families and friends for making donations in their honour.

Harold Wright
Harry Webber
Henry Stratigacos
Herb Phillips
Holly Carmier
Irene Grant
Jean Anne Lang
Jeanette Lamarche
John Thompson
Jose Santos Rolo
Judy Matis
June Humby
Justin Michael Nichols
Luciano Furlone
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