



AUTISM SOLUTIONS ACADEMY

Community Impact Report

2023

AUTISM SOLUTIONS ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Lacey Anderson
Founder/Executive
Director



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Our Mission & Vision

Mission

To provide effective and inclusive education that is integrated into the community and driven by compassion, connection and science.



Vision

To be a model of exemplary Autism education in Utah and across the country.



Growth & Learning for All Abilities!

Autism Solutions Academy has provided accessible and effective schooling to Autistic students in Utah since 2016. We are able to do this with a high level of adult support, clinical direction, a passion for ethical care, and research driven academic interventions. We believe in our program and the value that it adds to our students, their families, and the community.





WE BELIEVE EVERY CHILD CAN LEARN.

We recognize that every child's learning style and motivation are different. Because of this, each child follows a customized curriculum and treatment plan and is supported by caring, compassionate professionals at every step.

WE PROVIDE A FUN, POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT TO HELP CHILDREN GROW.

We use ABA Principles to teach.

ABA principles focus on increasing language & communication skills through understanding root behavior.

We use differentiated instruction.

Our well-trained staff creates programs that adapt learning styles to fit each child's needs.

Each student has an ABA therapist to help support their learning.

In addition to learning from their homeroom teacher, students work every day 1:1 with a trained ABA therapist.



• **“I CANNOT EMPHASIZE ENOUGH THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD TEACHER.” – TEMPLE GRANDIN.**

ACADEMIC STRIDES

61%

OF OUR
STUDENTS
IMPROVED IN
MATH IN 2023,
ACCORDING TO
STANDARDIZED
TEST SCORES

69%

OF OUR
STUDENTS
IMPROVED IN
ELA IN 2023,
ACCORDING TO
STANDARDIZED
TEST SCORES

100%

OF SENIORS
GRADUATED IN 2023
AND TOOK THEIR
GENERAL
EDUCATION
DEVELOPMENT TEST
(GED)

100%

OF OUR
STUDENTS
RECEIVED 1:1
FULL TIME
SUPPORTS



THE CARSON SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

At our school, we understand the financial strain that private school tuition can place on families, especially for students with special needs. That's why we encourage our students to apply for funding through the Carson Smith Scholarship Fund. This state of Utah-funded scholarship is available for children ages preschool through 12th grade and provides tuition assistance for special education students in both public and private schools. By taking advantage of this opportunity, families can alleviate some of the financial burden and ensure their child receives the education they deserve.

80%

**OF OUR
STUDENTS
CURRENTLY
RECEIVE THE
CARSON SMITH
SCHOLARSHIP**

18%

**OF OUR STUDENTS
ARE IN THE
APPLICATION
PROCESS**



AUTISM SOLUTIONS ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Autism Solutions Academy scholarship fund is available because of the generous donations of community members. This fund helps cover the remaining tuition cost after the Carson Smith has been applied so that the burden does not fall on the families of those we serve. Each student attending Autism Solutions Academy qualifies and is awarded this Autism Solutions Academy scholarship. Tuition covers a variety of unique academic experiences for our students, such as:

- Small class sizes of ten or less students
- Scientifically backed curricula
- Specialized sensory equipment and adapted materials
- Monthly community visitors





OUR DONORS HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to the unwavering support of our donors and supporters, we have been able to enhance our mission of providing top-notch education to our students. With their generous contributions, we were able to purchase much-needed technology, such as tablets and chrome books, to enhance the learning experience for our students. Additionally, our community visitors program has flourished, with visitors coming to our schools every month to share their experiences and inspire our students. And lastly, thanks to our donors and supporters, we can continue to tell the inspiring stories of our students through our Inclusion Matters Project. We are incredibly grateful for the support we have received, and we are dedicated to making a positive impact in the lives of our students.

**OVER
\$600,000
WAS DONATED
TO THE AUTISM
SOLUTIONS
ACADEMY
SCHOLARSHIP
FUND IN 2023**



ENHANCING LEARNING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

At the Autism Solutions Academy, we are dedicated to providing our students with the best resources and tools to support their learning and growth. Thanks to the generous donations to our scholarship fund, we were able to purchase 25 new chrome books in 2023. These chrome books are used by our students to complete various academic tasks, such as conducting research on the internet and writing reports. Additionally, they are able to engage in interactive math and reading games that help reinforce their learning. In addition to the chrome books, we also use the funds to purchase tablets that aid in communication and serve as a form of reinforcement for our students.





COMMUNITY VISITORS

In 2023, we were thrilled to welcome numerous visitors who helped enrich the learning experience for our students. These visitors not only provided valuable knowledge and insights on various topics but also had the opportunity to learn more about autism and witness the amazing abilities and talents of our students. Community members visiting the school also offer many of our students opportunities that are otherwise not accessible to them. It was truly an amazing experience for all involved, and we are grateful for the impact it had on our students' education and personal growth. We look forward to continuing to provide such valuable opportunities for our students in the future.

Our visitors included:

Ogden Nature Center

Thanksgiving Point Community Outreach

Characters from Part of Your World Princess Parties

Hale Center Theater

Magician from Carnival Magic

A Petting Zoo

Firefighters from all three cities

Hokulia Snow Cone Truck

The Bean Museum

Cindy the Face-painter

Debbie the Balloon Artist

The West Jordan Mayor, Dirk Burton



INCLUSION MATTERS PROJECT

Our broader mission is to help our students and their families tell their stories and to help our communities celebrate and include our students in meaningful ways. We are doing this through a series of videos highlighting our students and celebrating their unique abilities. Our ongoing videos will begin to highlight community members and businesses who are finding meaningful ways to be inclusive. To view our videos, scan the QR code below:



STORIES WE HAVE TOLD IN 2023



William thrives when his sensory needs are met. In the classroom, he has found success in a learning environment that allows him to move around and fulfill his need to spin his block. By providing him with this outlet, William is able to better focus and engage in his studies, leading to a more positive learning experience for him. As educators, it's important to recognize and accommodate different learning styles, including sensory needs, in order to help all students reach their full potential. With a supportive and understanding environment, students like William can excel and reach their academic goals.

Nolan finds joy in reciting lines from his favorite movies and takes great pleasure when others join in and engage with him using his scripts. His teachers have recognized this passion and have found ways to incorporate it into his academic tasks, making them more interesting and engaging for Nolan. By tying his academics to his unique interests, Nolan is able to stay focused and motivated, leading to increased academic success. This approach not only benefits Nolan but also creates a more inclusive and enjoyable learning environment for all students.



Calan is a talented and passionate young man. His favorite activity is crafting, and his special interest is recycling materials into incredible creations. Give him some paper and tape, and he can make almost anything - from elaborate costumes to intricate sculptures. A special interest is a topic or activity that an individual focuses on with intensity and passion. Calan's special interest in crafting allows him to channel his creativity and produce incredible works of art.





GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES

At our school, we strongly believe in teaching our students the value of giving back to their community. It is our mission to help them feel involved and make a positive impact in the lives of others. Recently, we organized a hygiene kit drive to support local rural farmers in need. Through the generosity of our parents and hard work of our students, we were able to create over 200 kits to donate. Additionally, during the holiday season, our students organized a toy drive for the Christmas Box House, a non-profit organization that supports children in need. They went above and beyond, creating flyers to advertise the drive and collecting and counting over 300 toys to donate. We are proud to say that our employees also got involved, signing up to help sort and organize the donated toys. We are committed to instilling a sense of compassion and generosity in our students, and these drives are just a few examples of how we encourage them to give back to their community.

**OVER
200
HYGIENE KITS
WERE DONATED
TO LOCAL RURAL
FARMERS**

**OVER
300
TOYS WERE
DONATED TO
THE CHRISTMAS
BOX HOUSE**



FUNDRAISING EVENT INCLUSION MATTERS GALA

On March 31, 2023, our school proudly hosted the first annual Inclusion Matters Gala, a celebration of neurodiversity and inclusion. The event was a tremendous success, thanks to the support and generosity of our sponsors and attendees. We were honored to have Michael McCreary, an autistic comedian, as our special guest performer. Not only did the gala raise much-needed funds for our school, but it also helped raise awareness about our important work in promoting inclusion.

We are looking forward to this year's event on March 29, 2024. We are thrilled to announce that Temple Grandin, a renowned Autistic advocate and pioneer in animal behavior, will be our keynote speaker. We can't wait to see what the future holds for our Inclusion Matters Gala and the impact it will continue to have on our community.

**OVER
130
GUESTS
ATTENDED THE
GALA**

**\$22,558
WAS RAISED
AND DONATED
TO THE AUTISM
SOLUTIONS
ACADEMY
SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**

“INCLUSION IS NOT BRINGING PEOPLE INTO WHAT ALREADY EXISTS. IT IS MAKING A NEW SPACE, A BETTER SPACE FOR EVERYONE.” -GEORGE DEI





FUNDRAISING EVENT

FLUTIE 5K RUN

In 2023, our organization was proud to partner with The Flutie 5k Foundation for our annual fundraiser event. On October 14, 2023 we hosted a fun run and 5k race, which saw an incredible turnout of over 150 enthusiastic participants. It was heartwarming to see many of them dress up and bring an incredible amount of energy to the event. Through their dedication and support, we were able to raise over \$5,000 towards the Autism Solutions Academy Scholarship Fund. In addition, we were fortunate to have Get Air host an after race event for us and generously donate \$500 towards our fundraising efforts. We are grateful for the amazing community support and look forward to continuing our partnership with The Flutie 5k Foundation in the future.

**OVER
150**

**PARTICIPANTS
CAME AND RAN
IN THE RACE**

**OVER
\$5,000**

**WAS RAISED
AND DONATED
TO THE AUTISM
SOLUTIONS
ACADEMY
SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**



FUNDRAISING EVENT NATIONAL SOFTBALL LEAGUE AUTISM TOURNAMENT

We were honored to have been invited by the National Softball League to participate in their fundraising event. This generous contribution has made a significant impact on our school and community, which allowed us to facilitate visits from community members to our students. We are incredibly grateful for their support and generosity, as they have donated over \$3,000 to our school. This will not only benefit our students but also strengthen the relationship between our school and the community. Thank you to the National Softball League for their dedication to giving back and making a positive difference in the lives of our students.

**OVER
\$3,000**

**WAS RAISED
AND DONATED
TO THE AUTISM
SOLUTIONS
ACADEMY
SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**

2023 PARTNERS



Bennica Properties LLC
Millennium Machining Inc.
FineLine Painting