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2013 Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center

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Great Minds. Great Hearts.

Greenberg Traurig is honored to support SARRC and the individuals and families whose lives are positively impacted.

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Lifetime of Firsts  SARRC families share photos of meaningful firsts for their sons and daughters ranging from a first successful trip to the doctor to a first house.

Mission Accomplished  Vin Peterson completes a rite of passage — successfully graduating from kindergarten — with preparation from SARRC’s Community School where Vin was enrolled as a preschooler.

Crowning Moment  SARRC teen and Chaparral High School student Lindsey Eaton is named Prom Queen at Arizona’s first Best Buddies prom.

Model Employee  24-year-old Curtis Squire has a nearly two-hour commute to and from his job at Sprouts Farmers Market, but that doesn’t stop him from showing up on time and ready to work.

Making Strides  The 2012 Walk Now for Autism Speaks set new records and the 2013 Walk is poised to do the same.

Hope in Diagnosis  When KaMisha Herrera finally received a diagnosis of autism for both her son and daughter, she was relieved to finally be able to get them the services they so desperately needed.

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Your Thoughts

First swim meet brings fond memories

When thinking of our son’s “firsts,” we knew exactly which moment meant the most to us. It was Alex’s first swim meet at the YMCA Christown. He was four years old and the coaches had worked with him all summer so that he could participate in a swim meet before the season ended. He did the “vertical freestyle” across the pool, coming in 5th place. His 5th place green ribbon is still hanging up in his room. He was very proud of it, though when he went to the prize table he asked for a red ribbon instead, since that is his favorite color.

What was so amazing about that moment for us was the collective gratitude we felt for all the SARRC therapists, other therapists, teachers, family and friends who got him to that moment. It’s funny because the crowd was cheering like crazy for him simply because they always cheer loudest for the little ones who struggle to get across the pool in their first meet… but, in our case, I kept thinking if they only knew how many people had worked so hard to give him and us this wonderfully typical moment.

Christine Badoux
Scottsdale, AZ

Celebrating a meaningful first at Build-a-Bear

We tried to take our son to Build-a-Bear last year and it was so disappointing. At the time, William didn’t even recognize the bears as toys or something fun to have, he just sobbed and wanted to leave. Recently, during parent training, we decided to try again. We did a ton of priming and we had gumballs for reinforcers. He walked in, helped make the bear and though we had to work through some anxiety when we went into a small area to record his voice, he did it! He loved giving it a bath and gave it lots of hugs when the bear was all done. The experience was night and day from the last time we attempted this. I know this success is a simple first, especially compared to dental visits and things, but from where we’ve come from, our first successful trip to Build-a-Bear was huge for us. Thanks for all SARRC does!

Sonja Dodge
Gilbert, AZ
This month marks the end of Matt’s high school tenure and the close of our chapter with the public school system. After some 18 years in the system, it will be emotional and bittersweet to pick up Matt that final day of school. To see him burst through the door surrounded as always by a herd of other kids with special needs. Wondering if he really understands it’s his last day of high school and whether that holds any significance for him. And while graduations are happy milestones to celebrate, we are also thinking about the goals reached through his IEPs (Individualized Education Program), as well as the disappointments.

Matt’s been on a transition track that we intensified this past year, splitting his time between Chaparral High School and SARRC’s Vocational & Life Skills Academy, developing his work stamina, life skills and independence. He’s been working at SARRC’s Beneficial Beans Café and at Outback Steakhouse, site of SARRC’s CulinaryWorks® program; volunteering with SARRC’s Good DeedWorks®, GardenWorks® and LibraryWorks® programs; and working out through PowerWorks® at the YMCA and Spo-Fit. He’s also developing his own home bakery business, which we hope to turn into a fun family enterprise. You can read more about SARRC’s enterprising programs and social business ventures throughout this issue of Outreach.

We were reminded how much it takes to ensure Matt is safe, comfortable and able to thrive in a new environment having recently embarked on our first major family vacation in seven years. Our one-week experience was another sobering indication of how much work will be involved in his major transition to a working environment and independent living over the next few years. We’re diligent in our pursuits for Matt and the more than 500,000 children with autism entering adulthood this decade, and hope and pray that Matt and other young adults will be embarking on the most fulfilling and gratifying years of their lives. We want them to have friends, jobs, residential options and communities that support them. We want them to be safe, healthy and happy, and have opportunities to be productive, contributing members of communities that value and recognize their special talents.

Thanks to SARRC’s stellar board, powerful senior leadership and the most talented collection of staff and volunteers I know, there will be many memorable firsts worthy of celebration. Through SARRC’s broad range of programs, we remain committed to supporting individuals with autism throughout their lifetimes.

We are enormously grateful to the SARRC team and to the dozens of teachers and aides who have supported, challenged and cheered on Matt and our family. And thanks to the generous support of our families, friends and community, SARRC is on track to find more answers, provide more services, support the creation of new hopes and dreams, and ease life’s profound transitions — as we embark on the next big journey together.

Onward,

Denise

Denise D. Resnik, SARRC Co-Founder & Matt’s Mom
Not Everything We Do Can Be Measured In Kilowatts.

In addition to making clean, renewable energy a reality, APS is proud to support hundreds of organizations like the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center that improve the health, education, arts and economy of Arizona—now and for generations to come.

To learn more about APS’s commitment to building a better Arizona, visit aps.com.
Passing the Torch

New president/CEO to drive 5 major initiatives

By Jeri Kendle and Daniel Openden, Ph.D., BCBA-D

In this issue of Outreach, we highlight a lifetime of firsts from the perspectives of the children, adolescents, adults and families we serve. Some have been exciting. Others have been devastating or missed altogether. And some firsts have been made possible — and positive — because of the efforts made by individuals with autism and their families together with support from the SARRC staff. This year, we heard many children say their first words. Several children successfully made it through their first year of kindergarten, while our teens achieved success as they walked onto high school campuses for the very first time. Adults made it through their first day, first week, first month and first year on the job.

This past year has also been filled with many firsts for SARRC. We launched important new programming for our teens and adults under the leadership of our new Vice President and Vocational & Life Skills Academy (VLSA) Director, Christina Whalen, Ph.D., BCBA-D. Our research team, working in collaboration with Georgia Tech University and Behavior Imaging, received its first Small Business Initiative Research (SBIR) grant to develop a technology that addresses two of the biggest barriers to early identification of autism: waitlists and geography. SARRC also partnered with the Scottsdale Civic Center Library to open its first Beneficial Beans Café. The café not only provides job training and employment for adults with autism, but also raises awareness about the disorder and provides support for entrepreneurs with autism.

Over the last 16 years, SARRC’s growth and transformation have been well planned and focused on the ever-evolving needs of those affected by autism. With SARRC as strong as it’s ever been, it is time to pass the baton for the next step in SARRC’s exciting journey. Earlier this year, SARRC announced that Daniel Openden, Ph.D., BCBA-D, is succeeding Jeri Kendle as president and CEO, effective July 1, 2013.

As part of this transition, we engaged SARRC’s senior leadership team to create a five-year plan that identifies five major initiatives with stated outcomes aligned with our mission and the needs of individuals and families impacted by autism. SARRC’s five major initiatives include: 1) developing and validating new efficacy measures that more effectively measure the impact of SARRC’s programs across the lifespan; 2) expanding and enhancing agency-wide programming for children, adolescents and adults with autism and their families; 3) increasing awareness so individuals with autism can be included in and contribute to our community; 4) expanding SARRC’s national and international footprint to reach more families; and 5) diversifying revenue to ensure the long-term sustainability of SARRC, its research and its programs.

Together with our staff, board of directors and the greater community, SARRC is embarking on a plan that will not only produce many exciting firsts for the organization, but, more importantly, for the individuals and families we serve.
Four Seasons Helps Bring in the Dough

For the second year in a row, SARRC Community School students were treated to the culinary talents of Lance Whipple, pastry chef at the Four Seasons. SARRC’s budding young chefs delighted in the creation of their own gingerbread cookies, which were uniquely incorporated within a festive display in the lobby of the Four Seasons. Nearly $1,400 was raised for SARRC through the cookie auction.

Delta Dental Makes SARRC Smile

Thanks to a grant from Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation, SARRC has developed resource guides for families with individuals with autism, autism service providers and dentists in an effort to expand dental care for those on the spectrum. The resource guides were developed with input from a commissioned dental committee, which was made up of parents, SARRC staff and representatives from Affiliated Pediatrics, A.T. Still University, Arizona Dental Foundation, First Things First/DES Division-Child Health and Phoenix Children’s Hospital. Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation recently awarded an additional $15,000 to SARRC to provide training on best practices based on the committee’s findings and to disseminate the resource guides.

Pearson & Co. Gifts Music, Games & Pumpkins

Earlier this year Craig Pearson, along with his sisters Cyndi and Christi, joined family and friends for the unveiling of their generous tribute to their parents, the Neva and Dean Pearson Music & Game Room at SARRC’s Vocational & Life Skills Academy. The room is filled with a full assortment of musical instruments, a pool table and dozens of electronic and board games. It has already become a favorite hangout for SARRC teens!

Pearson & Co. also supported 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 and carnival games, visited with the farm animals in the petting zoo and picked their favorite pumpkin in the patch.

12th Annual Beauty of a Bonzer Benefits SARRC

Special thanks to Matt McMahon for his passion and leadership in yet another successful Bonzer (Australian for “great party”), sponsored by Outback Steakhouse and Fosters. Fans enjoyed the soulful
music of Michael McDonald and helped to raise more than $10,000 for SARRC.

**SARRC Adds BCBAs to Staff**

SARRC added four Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) to its staff this past year. Dr. Christina Whalen, Ph.D., BCBA-D, was hired May 2012 as Vice President & Director of the Vocational & Life Skills Academy (VLSA). Dr. Whalen is the first BCBA to join the VLSA team, and quickly added Marja Huzevka, M.A., BCBA, to lead VLSA’s 1:1 Transition Program for teens with autism.

Stephanie Mueller and Katrina Warriner, clinical interventionists and program managers in SARRC’s Home-based Programs, recently learned that they passed their Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) exams and have become nationally accredited BCBAs. Mueller and Warriner bring SARRC’s total number of BCBAs to nine with several other staff planning to take the exam later this year.

**SARRC Earns 5-Star Rating with Guidestar and Great Non-Profits**

Leading charity evaluators Guidestar and Great Non-Profits have bestowed a 5-star rating, the highest honor, on SARRC. Focus on mission, impact, transparency and personal reviews are all factors considered in their evaluation of more than 1.8 million IRS-recognized nonprofits.

**SARRC Named to ‘Best Places to Work’**

For the second consecutive year, SARRC has been named among the 2012 Best Places to Work in the Valley by the Phoenix Business Journal. Selection was based on staff opinion surveys regarding various elements of employee life, including workplace environment, leadership direction, culture and management practices.
In Brief

Operation Santa Claus Provides Another Year of Hope

For the 11th year in a row, Sanderson Ford Lincoln hosted the Operation Santa Claus charity drive and our community gave back in a big way to support local nonprofits, including SARRC. SARRC extends its thanks to Sanderson Ford Lincoln, ABC15, UPS and Clear Channel for their sponsorship and incredible support! This year’s drive resulted in a record number of donations and allowed SARRC to serve nearly 300 families and more than 700 children.

Special Thanks to Our Donors

SARRC extends its thanks to the following donors who have enabled SARRC to serve individuals impacted by autism and their families by making a grant or donation to SARRC within the past year.

Arizona Community Foundation - Pakis Family
Arizona Community Foundation - Pierkerski Fund
Arizona Community Foundation - Summer Youth Program Fund
Arizona Builders Alliance (ABA)
Arizona Department of Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
Arizona Diamondbacks
Arizona Lottery
Avnet Foundation
Bank of America
Boeing-Mesa Employees Fund
Cardinals Charities
Cox Charities
CVS
Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation

The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation
Executive Council Charities
Freeport McMorRan
Interest Ministries
JP Morgan Chase
Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation
Phoenix Suns Charities
Safeway Foundation
Thunderbirds Charities
USAA Foundation
Valley Partnership
Valley of the Sun United Way
Walmart Local Giving
Walmart Volunteerism Always Pays
United Way Funds Make an Impact

SARRC is proud to be a partner organization with the Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW), which provided grants and donor designations exceeding $106,000 in 2012. VSUW’s funding has supported SARRC’s JumpStart® program and numerous teen and adult programs at the Vocational & Life Skills Academy. Please contact Marcy Adkins at 602.218.8213 to find out how you can designate your VSUW dollars to SARRC.

SARRC Tees Off with Golf Fundraisers

The 7th Annual Sutton’s Strokes for Little Folks golf tournament benefitting SARRC was held at the Arizona Grand Resort in 2012 and once again, drew a record number of golfers. The eighth annual tournament is being held on May 9, 2013. For additional information and to register, check out the Happenings section on page 34.

The Jeremy Brigham Make a Difference Foundation Celebrity Golf Tournament was held in February 2012 at the Grayhawk Golf Club and raised $15,000 for SARRC. Jeremy Brigham, former tight end for the Oakland Raiders, hosted the tournament with full support from Raider Nation!

Hats Off to SARRC Board Members

Sue Glawe, SARRC board member and vice president of Community Relations for Blue Cross Blue Shield, was named Valley Leadership’s 2012 Woman of the Year. In addition, Glawe was recently awarded the Arizona Women’s Education and Employment “Angel Award” for her commitment to women’s workforce issues.

In early February 2013, SARRC board member Jane Christensen was recognized along with Sandy Magruder as “Women Who Care” at Phoenix Theatre’s annual gala. Applause!

SARRC board member Scott Sutherland was named the Julie and Tim Louis Spirit of Hope Honoree at the 2013 Phoenix Children’s Hospital Beach Ball.

IN MEMORIAM

Paul Martin O’Neill (1955-2012)

Paul O’Neill was a major contributor to SARRC from the very beginning, capturing autism through his remarkable photography and great big heart. He empowered SARRC and families everywhere to share the story of autism, which extends way beyond words. We will cherish his many gifts, images and friendship forever. We also value one of his very favorite quotes: “Courage doesn’t always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says, I’ll try again tomorrow.” We thank Margo, the love of Paul’s life, for her continued support of SARRC. Paul passed away Oct. 5, 2012. We miss him.
Christina Whalen, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Vice President and Director of the Vocational & Life Skills Academy

Q: Having relocated from the San Francisco area to become SARRC’s Vocational & Life Skills Academy (VSLA) Director what attracted you to SARRC?
A: I have had a relationship with SARRC for several years through my company, TeachTown. I developed a good connection with the leadership team and collaborated on a few projects. I have watched SARRC grow and mature over the years and was a big fan of the organization. What attracted me to the VLSA position specifically was the opportunity to build high-quality, innovative and evidence-based programming for teens and adults with autism, something that is not happening much in other parts of the country. There is such a strong body of research and good practices to pull from for younger children and this is just not the case for teens or adults. SARRC can be a leader in paving this path as children get older, and I am excited about the opportunity to be a part of accomplishing that.

Q: What programs are you most excited about?
A: This is a tough question because I am so enthusiastic about all of our programs, especially as we begin to research what works and what doesn’t work and make necessary adjustments or add programs to help our clients achieve the highest level of independence and quality of life possible. The addition of employment classes is very exciting because it allows us to help prepare more adults for future jobs and give them the tools they need to succeed. I’m also really hopeful about the addition of psychological services, including social-skills training, empowerment groups, diagnosis and counseling. Moving forward, I hope to do more with technology and develop some creative new opportunities for our clients including theater experiences, college opportunities and the expansion of employment services.

Debbie Schwartz

Debbie Schwartz has been a star volunteer since the earliest days of SARRC. She’s Auntie to Matthew Resnik and sister to Denise Resnik, SARRC co-founder. She lives her priorities: family, friends and SARRC. She’s made SARRC’s annual community breakfasts, annual walk, KTAR Action for Autism radio-thon and every event in between her priority and job for more than 16 years. She’s diligent, conscientious, tenacious and gracious about her volunteer commitment. She never draws attention to herself or the late nights and very early morning hours she invests to make sure all the details for SARRC events are executed professionally and with much heart and affection.

Last year, Debbie had two heart attacks, quadruple bypass surgery, plus another major surgery involving her lung. With the help of dialysis three times weekly, tremendous courage and unfettered tenacity, she regained her strength and is preparing for her long-awaited surgery — a kidney transplant. In between, she continues volunteering her time, providing us with much needed hugs, encouragement and wise counsel. When scheduling the transplant, she wanted to ensure it would not get in the way of SARRC’s community breakfast. She’s never missed a single one.

Throughout her health challenges this past year, she insisted on no flowers, just donations to SARRC. In honor of Auntie’s years of generous volunteer service and leadership at SARRC, and in celebration of her courage and health, SARRC has created “Auntie’s Corner,” part of the new JumpStart Family Resource Center located at SARRC’s Campus for Exceptional Children. An “Auntie’s Corner” fund has also been established at SARRC in honor of Debbie, her years of volunteer service and her outstretched arms always.
Donors Who Make a DIFFERENCE

Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS GO OUT TO the Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation for their generous support of SARRC through the years. The foundation’s charitable support has provided SARRC the opportunity to grow and thrive during some trying economic times. This year, SARRC is honored for the foundation’s support of the Kemper & Ethel Marley JumpStart Training and Resource Center, located at SARRC’s Campus for Exceptional Children. The funding will provide JumpStart® scholarships for families in need, improved technology, a greatly expanded library available to families and staffing to allow us to serve more families at the most critical time following a child’s diagnosis.

Valley Partnership

VALLEY PARTNERSHIP, ARIZONA’S PREMIER advocacy group for responsible development, chose SARRC as the beneficiary of its 25th Anniversary Community Project this past fall. More than 200 volunteers gathered at both SARRC campuses to beautify training gardens that will be utilized by current and future SARRC clients. SARRC would like to thank Valley Partnership and the Community Project participants for the incredible donation of time, effort and resources spent on our new, stunning gardens.

As part of the Valley Partnership project, volunteers installed a sculpture in memory of Lee Hanley, an icon in the Phoenix commercial real estate industry and, as noted on the plaque, “a man of faith, family and integrity,” in one of SARRC’s gardens.

Arizona Builders’ Alliance

ARIZONA BUILDERS’ ALLIANCE is the heart and soul of the commercial construction industry and its more than 400 member companies statewide are committed to giving back to the community. This year’s Leadership Development Forum class selected SARRC as its charity project, which included construction of a new preschool classroom and JumpStart Training and Resource Center. This project has allowed SARRC to expand its JumpStart® early intervention program and provide a safe, nurturing place for parents to come and learn. The new classroom will help to significantly reduce the ever-expanding waitlist for SARRC’s preschool program.

Volunteers from the Arizona Builders’ Alliance completed construction of a new preschool classroom and the JumpStart Training and Resource Center at SARRC.

Funding from the Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation supports children and families in the JumpStart® program.
There are many reasons people make charitable bequests, but perhaps the one common denominator is a sincere desire to give back to the community. Through planned giving, you have the satisfaction of knowing your donation will benefit SARRC and many future generations of children and families.

Great Flexibility
A bequest lets you balance your philanthropic goals with your current living expenses, future medical costs and the needs of your loved ones. Making a bequest is as simple as inserting a few sentences in your will or revocable trust. Because you’re not actually making a gift today, you are free to alter your plans in the future, eliminating the worry that you might make a commitment that may need to be modified at a later date.

Your estate is entitled to an unlimited estate tax charitable deduction for bequests to qualified charitable organizations. Making a bequest is tax-smart!

How it Works
To make a bequest, you will need a current will or revocable living trust. You can specify that the bequest be used for a certain purpose or you can make it an unrestricted gift. An unrestricted gift will be used where it is needed most by the organization. You can structure your bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, make the gift contingent on certain events, or leave a percentage of your estate to us.

Explore Your Options
A charitable bequest is one of the many ways to help support SARRC’s mission. To learn about all the ways you can help, contact Laurie Sandau, SARRC Development Director at 602.340.8717 or at lsandau@autismcenter.org. You may also visit the Planned Giving page on our website at www.autismcenter.org under the Get Involved tab.

To Make A Charitable Bequest
Determine if you need to update your will or revocable living trust. Decide which purpose you wish to support, or whether your gift will be made as an unrestricted gift or endowed bequest. Notify SARRC of your intention (unless you wish to remain anonymous), so we can thank you for your gift and keep you informed of our ongoing activities.

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Current Clinical Trials

SARRC partners with several leading pharmaceutical companies to bring to Arizona cutting-edge clinical trials dedicated to the treatment of autism and Fragile X. For a complete list of current clinical trials, see page 39.

SARRC also has several new trials starting later in 2013 for individuals with autism spectrum disorders ages 6 and older. Contact Sharman Ober-Reynolds at 602.218.8225 for more information on future trials.

WHAT’S NEW?
The NODA Project

SARRC, Behavior Imaging and Georgia Tech are collaborating on a new study to develop and validate a method for diagnosing autism spectrum disorder via the Internet. The Naturalistic Observation Diagnostic Assessment (NODA) will give the ability to diagnose autism to more professionals without costly training programs. Parents who bring concerns to their pediatricians may be asked to download the NODA app to their smart phones, which will prompt them to answer some basic questions and upload videos in a structured format. This technology will allow diagnosticians to see the behaviors that concern parents directly without the need for an in-office appointment. It may reduce the time spent to obtain a diagnosis by up to one year, and allow parents to begin an early intervention program much sooner than before. For more on this project, read the article on page 30.

Grant Program for Grad Students

Inspiring young professionals to work in research or treatment of autism spectrum disorders is critical to future generations. SARRC is beginning a program to offer funding and support to students to work on specific research projects. Students will receive supervision at SARRC, conduct important research and satisfy academic requirements. SARRC has a rich source of information and wants to support students to focus on autism and develop their skills to serve this community. Request for Proposals will be developed and disseminated to graduate programs and the application process will be completed by June. Projects will begin this summer. For more information, contact Christopher Smith, Ph.D. at 602.218.8192.

Genetic Research

SARRC and the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGEN) continue to collaborate on biomolecular research. An investigation of blood proteins yielded significant results and led to a joint publication in an upcoming issue of Journal of Neuroinflammation. The study identified differences in protein profiles of sibling pairs, in which one sibling had autism and the other did not.

Think Asperger’s®

SARRC is committed to improving early detection of Asperger’s disorder. Through educational symposiums and the Physician Outreach Program, we are shifting a trend and getting educational and medical professionals to “Think Asperger’s” when they see a child whose social functioning is significantly behind their peers. The results of SARRC’s yearlong research indicate the DAVE Screening Questionnaire is a strong tool for detecting Asperger’s disorder. SARRC is currently presenting this research as part of an awareness program for educational professionals in schools throughout metro Phoenix and to medical professionals in SARRC’s monthly Physician Outreach Program. If your school would benefit from our Think Asperger’s program and you would like to schedule a presentation, please contact Christopher Smith, Ph.D. at 602.218.8192 or visit www.ThinkAspergers.org for more information.
Our grandchild was just diagnosed with autism. What is the first thing I should do to help?

Every family is different. Grandparents need to tailor their reaction to be consistent with how the family is dealing with the news. Some may have had concerns for a long time before they actually heard the word “autism” while others may be in shock. The best advice to grandparents is to be supportive and focus on today. Ask your children what you can do to help, and then do it. It will be a difficult time and they will have a lot of information to sort through regarding treatment approaches. Remind them of the old adage, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

My children work and are busy with my grandchildren. I have more time. How can I keep updated and educated to share my knowledge with them?

It is true that many grandparents have more time than their children. Grandparents shouldn’t feel responsible for screening and disseminating information to their children. Someone calling with new facts and information every day can get overwhelming. They may not be able to handle new information with any regularity. The best advice is to keep open communication with your family and discuss their needs. Listen and be helpful in ways that are valued. But that shouldn’t stop you from collecting your own information and building your own knowledge base. That way, when they’re ready, you’re ready.

How can we help our children and grandchildren that live out of state?

Treat your grandchild with autism spectrum disorder just like you would treat any grandchild. Cards and gifts are always appreciated, but better if you make an effort to focus on his or her interests, rather than what you think they should be interested in. Respite for your children is important too. During visits encourage your children to take time for themselves and enjoy a night out. Don’t wait for them to ask. Be sure to offer – just don’t be too pushy.

How do I encourage my children to have the patience to continue with programs and therapies with their child when they want and need more immediate results?

It is so easy to be led astray from treatments that will be better in the long term by treatments that make great (albeit, false) promises of cures or quick fixes. Just like you, your children want to do the best things for their children, and at times their situation might seem desperate to them. Provide support when you can, and be there for a reality check at times. Remind them there are no silver bullets. Encourage them to look for evidence about treatments they are considering. Help them make rationale choices that are practical and safe.
El consejo para abuelos

POR KATHY BOSCO

Nuestro nieto/a acaba de ser diagnosticado con autismo. ¿Qué es lo primero que debo hacer para ayudarlo/a?

Cada familia es diferente. La reacción de Los abuelos debe ser consistente a la reacción de cómo la familia ha tomado la noticia. Algunos pueden haber tenido preocupaciones durante mucho tiempo antes que oyeran la palabra “autismo” mientras otros lo toman con mucha sorpresa y no lo pueden creer. El mejor consejo para los abuelos es de apoyar a los padres y enfocarse en el futuro. Pregunte a su hijo/a que puede usted hacer para ayudar, y hágalo. Será un tiempo muy difícil y ellos tendrán mucha información para revisar con respecto a enfoques de tratamiento. Recuerdeles del dicho, si suena demasiado bueno para ser verdad, probablemente lo es.

Mi hijo/a trabaja y está muy ocupado/a con mis nietos/as. Yo tengo más tiempo. ¿Cómo me puedo mantener actualizado e informado para compartir mi conocimiento con ellos?

Es verdad que muchos abuelos tienen más tiempo que sus hijos/as. Los abuelos no deben sentirse responsables de investigar y difundir la información a sus hijos/as. Alguien que les está llamando con nuevos hechos e información todos los días puede ser agobiante. Ellos no podrán manejar nueva información con regularidad. El mejor consejo es de mantener comunicación abierta con su familia y discutir sus necesidades. Escuche, y sea útil en maneras en que ellos necesiten la ayuda. Pero eso no debe de pararlo a usted de seguir reuniendo información y obtener su propia base de conocimiento. Así, cuando los padres estén listos, usted estará listo.

¿Cómo podemos ayudar nosotros nuestros hijos/as y nietos que viven fuera del estado?

Trate a su nieto que tiene autismo como trataría a cualquier otro nieto. Las tarjetas y los regalos siempre son apreciados, pero es mejor si hace un esfuerzo de enfocarse en lo que al niño/a, le interesa antes de que lo que usted piense que le debe interesar. Darle un tiempo de respiro a su hijo/a es importante también. Durante visitas anime a su hijo/a a tomar tiempo para si mismos y disfrutar de una noche fuera. No espere a que ellos le pregunten. Usted ofrézcase – pero no sea demasiado insistente.

¿Cómo animo yo a mi hijo/a a tener la paciencia para continuar con programas y terapias con su niño/a cuándo desean ver y necesitan resultados más inmediatos?

Es muy fácil ser descarriado de tratamientos que serán mejor a largo plazo por tratamientos que hacen granes (aunque, falsas) promesas de curaciones o resultados rápidos. Como usted, sus hijos/as quieren hacer lo mejor para sus niños, y a veces su situación quizás parezca desesperante para ellos. Proporcione apoyo cuando pueda, y esté allí para un chequeo de realidad debe en cuando. Recuerde que esto será un proceso largo. Animeles a buscar evidencia acerca de tratamientos que están considerando. Ayúdelos a hacer elecciones razonables que sean prácticas y seguras.
A Lifetime of FIRSTS

Each of us has a series of “firsts” in our lifetime. First word. First trip to the dentist. First day of school. First date. First job. The list goes on. These milestones, while seemingly ordinary for many of us, can be very different for individuals and families living with autism. First words might be delayed... or they might disappear. The prospect of a first job might seem like an impossibility for those faced with a diagnosis of autism. Firsts that seem trivial to most – like the first successful trip to a doctor without a major meltdown – are what matter most to families impacted by autism. These photographs and the stories that follow capture some special firsts celebrated by SARRC families and all the people who work so tirelessly every day to make memories like these possible.
First horseback ride

First trip to NYC

First swimming lesson

First art exhibition

First successful trip to the doctor

First house

First amusement park ride

First trip to the beach
Vin Peterson graduated from SARRC’s Community School in the spring of 2012 and successfully entered Kindergarten last fall.

Kindergarten is an important rite of passage. But for parents of children with autism, this young milestone is often seen as an impossible barrier. The staff at SARRC’s Community School and comprehensive behavioral program is working together with parents to give them the tools to make kindergarten not only possible, but a success.

BY GINGER S. EIDEN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN G. DREISEZUN
“It’s amazing to show parents and teachers that through these individualized approaches we can make a child with autism successful in a mainstream environment.”

—Bethany Chadd, M.A., BCBA

TESS CALVERT used to lay awake at night worrying about the day her son Vin would turn 5. Diagnosed with autism when he was 3, Vin had the language skills to communicate with his parents and younger brother, Drake, but he was also removed, not really participating in the world passing by around him.

“One of the biggest things that pushed us to seek a diagnosis was when our 3-month-old was looking at us and engaging us but our 2-year-old was not,” Calvert recalls. “And ever since he’s been diagnosed, I’ve been afraid of kindergarten.”

Calvert and her husband, Christian Peterson, wanted their son to have the rich social experience that other 5-year-olds had—memories of first teachers, play-time at recess and those cherished first friendships. Despite their hopes, they weren’t always sure they’d be able to get there. But after they enrolled Vin in SARRC’s Community School, they started to think maybe that first year of school they had pictured and wanted for Vin wasn’t such a far-fetched fantasy after all.

WHERE TO START

The SARRC Community School is a unique preschool program designed to provide 20 hours per week of early intensive behavioral intervention. Modeled after the Walden Early Childhood programs at Emory University, classes are comprised of six children with autism and six to 10 typical children. The goal is to create a setting that is not so different from any other classroom a child will enter for their first year of school.

“When you tour it, it’s bright and it’s loud and it’s exactly what you would see in a regular school setting,” says Rachel McIntosh, Community School Director.

“We want to get them ready for kindergarten, and their first concern is going to be knowing the rules and learning how to adjust to their environment.”

Vin was 4 when he started at the Community School, and his parents say they noticed the differences in their son quickly. Sometimes it would be the small things, like saying good morning to his teachers, unprompted, when he arrived to school. And that led to greater social interactions like starting a conversation with a peer or choosing a game and asking someone to play.

“From day one, it always felt like SARRC knew what the right steps were,” Peterson says.

“There were times when they were tough on him, and it was difficult, but it’s because they knew he could do it and they weren’t going to let him fail,” Calvert echoes. “It always felt like we were charging uphill. They didn’t try to change him, they tried to bring him out.”

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

McIntosh says it’s the individualized approaches to each child that are what lead to great success stories. “You really never know what sort of behavior is going to arise that is going to set a child with autism apart from their peers, and every child is different,” she says.

For Vin, the focus was on learning how to interact and engage with his peers as well as how to complete a task in a timely manner. “He’s a social kid, but he just struggled with how to get into a play setting,” McIntosh says. “Then once he was in, he struggled with following the transition.”

By practicing interactions together in the school setting, Vin was able to learn to navigate the
Our connection to the community prevails in everything we do.

Being a part of our community means helping our neighbors, and because philanthropy is a core value of First Western Trust, giving our time and resources to organizations that help support the local community is an essential part of our commitment. That is why we are proud to sponsor the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center.

Beneficial Beans Café created by the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC) offers more than a jolt of caffeine...it provides valued training and job experiences for adults with autism.

Join us in creating meaningful opportunities and a lasting impact.

Now Open in the Scottsdale Civic Center Library
3839 North Drinkwater Boulevard, Scottsdale, AZ
www.culinaryworks.org  602-606-9890

Snell & Wilmer is proud to support SARRC.
Po’okela means excellence in Hawaiian—a fitting name for a program that aims to turn schools into Centers of Educational Excellence (CEE) to support students on the autism spectrum.

Started in fall 2011, the project has five participating schools in Hawaii (two elementary schools, two high schools and one middle school). SARRC was awarded a contract with the Hawaii Department of Education to build capacity through professional development for programming and education for students on the autism spectrum. The program originated from a need to not only build the department’s capacity to serve its students with autism spectrum disorders, but also to sustain a high level of expertise. The project was recently extended through the 2013-14 school year.

Jessica Sheridan, SARRC’s educational consultant on the project, works both in the classrooms and through remote web access to train educators on best approaches to working with students with autism. And this work has led to a greater number of students moving from self-contained classroom settings to more typical classrooms where they are able to integrate with the rest of the student population. The district has reported an increase in student achievement academically, socially and behaviorally since the program began.

“All schools and districts have accepted the challenge to become a CEE for the state. They see the vision, with many excited that our efforts are finally focused on sustained and durable learning for staff,” says Annie Kalama, educational specialist with the State of Hawaii Department of Education. “All of the sites are honored to be part of the project and have expressed their desire to stay the course.”

“It’s been amazing to see this program expand out of the classrooms and really trickle down into the school and the community,” Sheridan says. “Ultimately, we hope that these schools will serve as a model for others.”
LINDSEY EATON SPENT THE WHOLE DAY getting ready for Arizona’s first Best Buddies prom in 2011.

Like most teenage girls, she spent hours getting her hair and makeup just right, donned her satiny green dress and anxiously waited outside for fellow Chaparral High student Blake Sykes to pick her up.

After hours of dancing, food and mingling with her many friends, the announcement came. Lindsey and another buddy, Drew Dysko, were crowned Prom King and Queen.

“I literally lost it and started crying,” says the now 19-year-old Chaparral senior. “I was so excited and honored to have received the title.”

The pair hugged and countless photos were snapped as the crowd of some 500 teens and parents looked...
Flashback to Lindsey’s freshman year, however, and the scenario might seem very unlikely along with the fact she’s become an advocate for her peers with disabilities.

“At age 10 Lindsey was diagnosed with what at the time was called high-functioning autism,” her mother, Kelly Eaton, says. “When she entered high school at Chaparral four years ago, she really never had a true friend.”

She stayed at home, was on the computer and watched her two younger sisters have active social lives. Then she became involved with SARRC and Best Buddies.

“Through both of these organizations her confidence, social life and skills have grown tremendously. She truly is a different person,” her mother says.

GETTING INVOLVED

One of the SARRC programs Lindsey became involved with is Autism CommunityWorks®, launched in 2007 to promote best-practice job training and social skills in the face of 90 percent unemployment for adults with autism, says Erica Skepnek, CommunityWorks program coordinator.

“She is very bright,” Skepnek says of Lindsey. “She has come out of her shell.”

But that doesn’t mean it was easy.

She took part in LibraryWorks® programs at Scottsdale Civic Center Library and most recently PowerWorks® at SpoFit, the Virginia G. Piper Sports and Fitness Center for Persons with Disabilities.

Not a fan of physical activity and with some vision issues, “she was terrified to start SpoFit,” her mother recalls. She also was apprehensive and uncomfortable starting the library program. “Over time, she built rapport with her SARRC site manager as well as the other kids.”

Ask Lindsey now and she says learning to use the fitness equipment was her favorite CommunityWorks experience.

ADVOCATING FOR PEERS

Her big accomplishment was being named to the CommunityWorks Peer Advisory Board in June 2012. More recently Lindsey was named volunteer recruitment chair, a job she takes very seriously, Skepnek says.

“There have been some pretty substantial gains she’s made to get her participating at this level,” Skepnek adds. “She definitely thinks outside the box and has great enthusiasm for everything she does.”

As part of recruitment efforts, Lindsey reaches out to her friends at Best Buddies, a global organization that encourages one-on-one friendships for people with and without intellectual disabilities.

Just as with SARRC, Lindsey is deeply involved with Best Buddies as her school’s program director, buddy ambassador leading training on topics such as finding a job, and this year, as an intern.

The school-based organization has 47 chapters in Arizona and among its activities is the annual prom, says Samantha Mason, deputy director of development. “It’s great social inclusion, allowing them to experience the things any high school student experiences,” Mason says.

COMING OUT OF HER SHELL

The once very shy Lindsey is now experiencing many things typical students do – typical students who go the extra mile that is.

She raised $5,000 for the 2011 Walk Now for Autism Speaks benefiting SARRC and Autism Speaks, and $3,000 as top fundraiser for the 2013 Best Buddies Arizona Friendship Walk.

Skepnek says it’s still difficult for Lindsey to speak in the moment, but that doesn’t stop her. In March, she spoke at a school assembly promoting the Spread the Word to End the Word campaign. The hurtful effects of the words “retard” and “retarded” affect her as well others with and without disabilities, she says.

Her involvement in both SARRC and Best Buddies has allowed her to blossom as an individual and she sees college in her near future with plans to major in nonprofit leadership and development.

But for now, she has more dancing on her mind.

Recently, good friend and Hamilton High School Best Buddies Chapter President Austin Rector came to the Eaton home with balloons, a big smile and a sign that read: “Lindsey, you’re the best friend that a friend could be. Would you go to Chaparral’s Prom with me?”

“She definitely thinks outside the box and has great enthusiasm for everything she does.”

—Erica Skepnek, SARRC
DEDICATION. THAT’S WHAT CURTIS SQUIRE, 24, a client of SARRC Employment Services, possesses. He travels 1 hour and 40 minutes each way by walking and taking the city bus to his regular part-time position at Sprouts in Phoenix.

He’s been working at the market since January serving as a customer service associate and helping customers find what they need, bagging groceries and delivering them to cars, maintaining safety within the store, ensuring bathrooms are stocked and clean, and sweeping the store’s floors. SARRC job coach Ean Goldberg helped Squire, who was diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder almost 20 years ago, find the job. “We built his resume, worked on interviewing skills, learned how to dress appropriately for an interview,” Goldberg says.

TO LEARN ABOUT SARRC’S TALENTED PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES OR TO LEARN HOW TO EVALUATE YOUR WORKPLACE FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT PETER CONDER AT 602.218.8191.
“Curtis also took on small project-based jobs to help him develop job skills and cultivate references that he could highlight on his resume with the goal of gaining permanent employment.”

Curtis completed the interview process and drug testing at Sprouts just like any other job candidate. The only difference is that Goldberg came in with him for the first two weeks of his shifts to ensure Curtis was comfortable and understood his job duties. Goldberg then phased his visits out, but maintains open communication with the employer.

Achieving success on the job

After successfully completing his first 90 days on the job, Sprouts Store Manager Craig Medina says Curtis is thriving. “It’s been a rewarding experience to see him come out and interact with our customers and his co-workers,” Medina says. “He’s a hard-working, responsible individual who is helpful and friendly. I trust him and know I can rely on him to be here.”

Those words are like music to Gina Squires’ ears. As his mom, Gina is well aware of the challenges her son faces each day in the workplace. She also knows that an astounding 90 percent of adults with autism are unemployed.

“It makes a mom cry,” Gina says after hearing the positive feedback her son received from his store manager. “SARRC helped get his foot in the door and guided him through the interview process. His job coach truly gave him the support he needed to be successful, and I’m thankful to Sprouts for giving him a chance.”

Constantly improving skills

Before working with Goldberg, Squire had difficulty speaking to adults. “As a mom, it’s scary because everyone looks at him and they don’t see a disability,” Squire says. “He’s still making progress every day. He really enjoys the positive feedback he gets from customers and co-workers, he enjoys routine and a regular schedule, and he’s loving the paycheck.”

Curtis is also gaining new skills that come along with employment, like budgeting and setting up checking and savings accounts. He is saving for the long term, but likes to spend his discretionary income on comic books and video games. He hopes to one day get his driver’s license and buy a car.

“SARRC’s Employment Services program has given us the chance to have someone other than me help Curtis,” Squire says. “It’s a huge step forward for us as a family and a positive transition into adulthood for him.”

SARRC Employment Partners

SARRC would like to acknowledge its 2013 employment partners and encourages donors, volunteers, staff and families to support these businesses for their commitment to helping individuals with autism gain invaluable vocational skills:

- Alliance Beverage
- AMC Theatres
- Bell Ford
- Beneficial Beans Cafe
- CloudBlue
- Compass Group
- Crates & Freighters
- CVS
- Gompers Habilitation Center
- Harkins Theatres
- Hensley Beverage Company
- Hope Group
- Joe’s Diner
- Marriott
- Matador Coffee
- Outback Steakhouse
- Paper Clouds Apparel
- Petco
- PetSmart
- Pizza Hut
- Safeway
- Sanderson Ford
- Specialized Office Systems
- Sprouts Farmers Market
- SSP America
- TCH – The Centers for Habilitation
- Tempe Diablo Stadium
- Trinity Cross Collection
- US Airways
- Walmart
- White House Design Studio

Now Open: Beneficial Beans Café

SARRC’s Vocational & Life Skills Academy has launched several entrepreneurial ventures under its CulinaryWorks® umbrella, including Beneficial Beans Café at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library.

Teens and young adults are given the opportunity to build vocational skills five days a week by serving coffee, tasty baked treats and other goodies in a café setting. Pastries are provided by Stuttering King Bakery, a local business owned and operated by 23-year-old Matt Cottle, who has autism and dreams of expanding his business. For more info, visit www.culinaryworks.org.
Mikayla Bonds, 22, a client in SARRC’s Vocational & Life Skills Academy, sang the National Anthem to kickoff the walk. Each year, participating walk teams become more creative with their team T-shirts and signage in support of their family members affected by autism.

Performance DRIVEN

Annual Walk Now for Autism Speaks achieves new milestones every year

BY LYNDSEY WAUGH • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MALLORY PHOTOGRAPHY

MIKAYLA BONDS, 22, has participated in the Arizona Walk Now for Autism Speaks since 2009. Each year, she raises money and shows up early to volunteer, along with her grandmother, Mary, before walking alongside other young adults with autism from SARRC’s Vocational & Life Skills Academy. But, last year, something different occurred...

As the more than 18,000 walkers gathered in front of the stage, preparing for the walk to begin, Bonds saw the crowd from an all-new perspective. To her, the crowd looked like a bright sea of colored walk team T-shirts as she stepped out into the middle of the stage, raised her microphone and sang the National Anthem, kicking off the walk’s opening ceremonies.

For Bonds, the moment was priceless — her first singing performance at the walk. And, for the thousands of families touched by autism in attendance, the moment was also special — filled with hope and a true appreciation for the special gifts each individual with autism has to contribute.

“When I was up on stage, I felt joy,” Bonds says. “I was not nervous because I knew that all of my friends from SARRC were cheering for me. It was a great feeling.”

The evolution of the Walk

Since 2006, the Arizona autism community has been gathering at Tempe Beach Park to raise awareness and funds for Autism Speaks and SARRC through the annual Arizona Walk Now for Autism Speaks. From modest beginnings, the event has grown to become one of...
the top five walks in the country produced by Autism Speaks, thanks to the incredible support of family walk teams, event sponsors and hundreds of dedicated volunteers.

“Over the years, my husband Neil and I have watched the walk evolve from an event into an experience,” says Lynn Balter, 2013 walk co-chair along with Neil. “For newly diagnosed families the experience of creating a walk team becomes an opportunity for friends, co-workers and extended family members to become educated about autism and actively do something to show their support for the diagnosed child.”

President of Sprouts Farmers Market Doug Sanders has played an instrumental role in growing the Arizona walk program and shares Lynn’s sentiments. “Shortly after my son, Ethan, was diagnosed with autism, I attended my first walk,” Sanders says. “Everywhere I looked, I saw the possibility for corporate sponsorships, partnerships, for bringing together companies that would proudly stand behind the event and the cause – including Sprouts.”

Under Sanders’ leadership as 2010 walk chairman and with the full-force of the grocers industry influence, walk proceeds neared $1 million, new partnerships were formed and, for the first time, the Arizona walk garnered national attention for its fundraising and community participation.

In 2012, Walk Chairman Jeff Swenson expressed a true passion for growing the walk team program and creating meaningful connections between the more than 500 teams that registered for the walk. With his guidance, the first-ever formalized walk team mentoring program was created for Arizona, dubbed “Neighborhood Champions,” and a fundraising incentive program to complement the team mentoring effort is being rolled out nationally this year.

“Walk teams are at the heart and soul of the walk,” Swenson says. “It’s our responsibility to motivate and inspire walk teams to help make the walk better and better each year.”

A look at what the Walk funds

Through SARRC, half of all proceeds remain local, sustaining programs that may be underfunded. These critical dollars also fund innovative programs and research as SARRC strategically works to develop more enriched programming to support individuals across the lifespan.

“Each year, we identify core areas where we can maximize the programmatic and research value of SARRC’s portion of the walk proceeds to benefit families and individuals living with autism right now,” explains SARRC’s Vice President & Clinical Services Director Daniel Openden, Ph.D, BCBA-D. “We’re proud to tell walk teams that the money they’ve worked so hard to raise will make a true impact on Arizona families in real time.”

Over the past three years, the creation of programs for school-age children; expansion of vocational and life-skills programs for young adults and adults with autism; and research to assess the efficacy of SARRC’s clinical programs have all been funded by walk dollars.

Meet the 2013 Chairman

Derek Greene
Owner, Get Your Move On

“When my son, Mason, 7, was diagnosed with autism, we were fortunate to access services early on and, as a result, he’s making incredible strides. I am proud to be able to express my gratitude and roll up my sleeves and get involved so that other families can benefit from the good work that SARRC and Autism Speaks are doing.”

Derek Greene, 2013 Arizona Walk Chair, with his sons.

2012 Walk Success

The 2012 walk united a record-setting 18,000 people and raised $1.2 million thanks to the generous support of event sponsors, corporate partners and families in our community.

Visionary
Sprouts Farmers Market

Start & Finish Line
Valley Honda Dealers

Resource Fair
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Kids’ Zone
Sprouts Fresh Food

Gold Sponsors
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Get Your Move On
Hensley Employee Foundation
Mercy Care Plan
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Wizler
KaMisha Herrera and her two children, Jayah and Thomas.

Buying TIME

New technologies enable earlier diagnosis, give parents answers

BY STEPHANIE CONNER • PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN G. DREISESZUN
That’s what KaMisha Herrera felt when she learned that her two children — Thomas, 4, and Jayah, 2 — had autism.

When her son was 2, he exhibited signs of autism, but when Herrera tried to find someone who could diagnose his condition, she was unsuccessful. For two more years, Thomas was undiagnosed — and therefore, went without any sort of therapy. In the meantime, Herrera’s daughter started showing signs of autism as well.

Herrera felt helpless.

“I was frustrated — not that they had this disorder, but that I couldn’t do anything,” she says. Then, she was introduced to SARRC, where both children were diagnosed at the same time. Finally, she had a diagnosis — and more importantly — the tools to help them.

While parents experience a range of emotions, including shock and denial, relief is a common reaction, says Christopher Smith, Ph.D., SARRC vice president and research director.

“Families are often thankful,” he says. “For some, hearing the word autism is a huge relief. It’s never good news. But it can be empowering.”

That’s because with an accurate diagnosis, parents can seek out appropriate early interventional therapies, Smith says. And because early intervention is essential, SARRC is committed to developing and improving tools for the early diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders.

A NEW TOOL

“There aren’t enough professionals who can diagnose autism, and there are long wait lists. That’s lost time,” Smith says. “Early intervention is critical. From 0 to 3, there isn’t that much time. And it’s really criminal to spend six months of those 36 on a waiting list.”

Parents are often first to notice when a child initially exhibits signs of autism, Smith says. And a new tool in development utilizes video collected in a natural environment, the child’s home.

A parent might notice odd behavior and bring it up with the child’s pediatrician.

“If the parents are lucky, the pediatrician will refer them to a specialist,” Smith says. And the professional will try to elicit those same behaviors the parents have observed at home. However, that’s not always easy.

The Naturalistic Observation Diagnostic Assessment, or NODA, is designed to help expedite the diagnosis process.

SARRC developed the concept for NODA, and is now developing the product, a smart phone application. SARRC’s national partners are Georgia Institute of Technology and Behavior Imaging Solutions (BIS). A $2.2 million Small Business Innovation Research grant from the National Institute of Mental Health is funding the research and development of NODA.

The assessment, Smith says, will allow parents to shoot video in their home and then upload their videos to be viewed by professionals who can help identify the signs of autism.

“This allows direct observation in a way that’s natural rather than elicited in a laboratory,” Smith notes. “And it helps connect parents to professionals.”

BIS’ Behavior Imaging® platform — which is the capture, analysis and secure review of a person’s behavior information via video and other digital electronic means — allows parents from around the world to capture and upload video and share it confidentially with child development experts.

SARRC is leading the research efforts, and Georgia Institute of Technology is developing the app that parents can download onto their smart phones.

The app, Smith explains, will prompt and instruct them how to record video in four different situations, such as mealtime. The video then uploads directly from their smart phone to provide their “behavior specimen” to experts.

After viewing the videos, the NODA practitioners will issue a report to the child’s referring pediatrician, who gives the family the feedback they need, Smith says.

“In essence, we are giving the ability to issue a
diagnosis of autism to more professionals,” he adds. “This will reduce time spent on waitlists for their initial diagnosis.”

The plan for NODA, he adds, is to have the app ready for pre-clinical testing this summer. Then, a large-scale clinical trial will follow next year to determine if this method of diagnosing autism is as effective as in-office clinical assessments.

DAVE QUESTIONNAIRE

The DAVE (Detect Asperger’s Very Early) Questionnaire — named for Dave Dion, who had Asperger’s disorder — is another way SARRC has demonstrated its commitment to early diagnosis.

Using the most common signs of Asperger’s, SARRC researchers developed a screening questionnaire. Follow-up research has shown that this screening tool is very good at detecting Asperger’s among elementary school-age children.

In their work with more than 600 students, researchers identified 15 students who were at risk for Asperger’s, and confirmed the diagnosis in six students.

“Early intervention is critical. From 0 to 3, there isn’t that much time. And it’s really criminal to spend six months of those 36 on a waiting list.”

—Christopher Smith, Ph.D.

“We potentially eliminated a lifetime of confusion for them regarding their condition,” Smith adds. “Now, we are working with schools to use this as part of their annual screenings,” Smith notes, explaining that this questionnaire can be part of the health screening that includes vision, hearing and other checks.

“Using this questionnaire, we know with some reasonable certainty when children should be further evaluated, and they can be referred to an appropriate professional,” he adds.

Smith also sees the potential for an app that could make the DAVE questionnaire a diagnostic assessment instead of a broad-based screening tool, using technology similar to the NODA app.

As these technologies are further developed, Smith recognizes that some might be hesitant. But when it comes to getting parents the answers they need, he says, the upside is clear.

“(The current system) can rob a year or more of potential time for that child to benefit from early intervention,” he says. “And that needs to stop.”

Left to right: Jayah and Thomas Herrera play at SARRC.
Born 10 weeks premature, nothing with my son was going as I had planned. As Kurtis was progressing slowly, I always knew something was “different” or “unique” about him. I noticed his difficulty sleeping, crying, restricted interests, repetitive behavior and self-inflicted injuries from a young age.

After many doctors’ appointments and specialists, with many different diagnoses (ADHD, Tourette, Sensitivity Disorders and Depression) we resigned ourselves to the fact that KJ would just be a special little boy. It was not until my husband came across an autism conference pamphlet that described all the diverse symptoms that our son was presenting with when we realized he might have autism or Asperger’s disorder. It was the best news to us – finally a diagnosis that summed up everything that Kurtis was experiencing.

We had been through nine years of being forced out of eight different preschools, elementary school difficulties and family members always asking, “What’s wrong with Kurtis?”

After a bullying incident in 4th grade, we knew that we had to be reactive and find another option than public education. If the school wasn’t going to protect him, I would make sure his family would. We found a wonderful solution, a virtual online school where Kurtis is graduating high school this spring. A university education was never a thought for Kurtis, until now. When Kurtis was 13, we were introduced to SARRC by a random advertisement in an Arizona Parenting magazine, and we were put in touch with their young adult programs coordinator. What a glorious journey we have been on because of their extensive network of support and the encouragement we have received from SARRC. We have attended various seminars, life-skills classes, Monday Night Out dinners and various CommunityWorks programs. Kurtis, who is now 19, is also a member of the Peer Advisory Council. He feels a sense of security and belonging when he’s at SARRC-supported functions – a feeling he has never felt in any other organization.

SARRC’s ideas and vision for getting Asperger teens off the couch and into college is an incredible venture. With SARRC’s help, we are preparing Kurtis for the future. When we were approached about a new program featuring the University of Advancing Technology (UAT), we were overcome with happiness and fear. After our tour with Provost Dr. David Bolman, we decided to take this opportunity and explore what SARRC and UAT have given to us: a chance.

Jody Leach is a registered nurse and mother of two sons, Kurtis, 19, and Bryce, 9.
Special Events

SARRC's 15th Annual Community Breakfast
This year’s theme, **A Lifetime of Firsts**, provides an inspiring perspective into the world of autism. As we think of the “firsts” in our lives... our first day of school, our first friend, our first job... we remember how different these firsts are for our individuals with autism and their families. This year’s program is sure to be enlightening and compelling.

**Date:** Thurs., May 2
**Time:** 7:30 – 9 a.m.; registration begins at 6:30 a.m.
**Place:** Arizona Billmore Resort, Frank Lloyd Wright Ballroom, 2400 E. Missouri Avenue, Phoenix
**Cost:** RSVP only; donations appreciated

**Sutton’s Strokes for Little Folks Golf Tournament**
The 7th Annual Sutton’s Strokes for Little Folks golf tournament benefiting SARRC is being held at the Arizona Grand Resort. This tournament will once again provide golfers of all skill levels with great food, laughter, golf and fabulous music. For additional information please visit suttonstrokes.autismcenter.org.

**Date:** Thurs., May 9
**Time:** Check-in time is 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
 Shotgun start at noon
**Place:** Arizona Grand Resort, 7777 S. Point Parkway, Phoenix
**Cost:** $150/player

**Saguaro Golf Classic**
The Saguaro Golf Classic benefiting SARRC is being hosted at the Phoenician Golf Club and promises to be a fun annual tournament. Golfers will enjoy a continental breakfast, prizes for longest drive, closest to the pin, longest putt and more. The tournament will wrap up with an awards luncheon. To register, visit www.saguaro golfclassic.com.

**Date:** Sat., June 1
**Time:** Registration and continental breakfast begin at 6:30 a.m. Shotgun start at 8 a.m.
**Place:** The Phoenician Golf Club, 6000 E. Camelback Road, Scottsdale
**Cost:** $200/player

**2013 Arizona Walk Now for Autism Speaks**
Join Autism Speaks and SARRC for the 8th annual Arizona Walk Now for Autism Speaks at Tempe Beach Park. More than 18,000 participants are expected to participate this year. This family friendly walk is free to attend and includes live entertainment, a kids’ zone featuring dozens of activities and an autism resource fair with more than 50 community resources. For more information about how you can support the walk, details on how to form a walk team and more, visit walknowforautismspeaks.org/arizona.

**Date:** Sun., Oct. 27
**Time:** 8 a.m. registration; 9:45 a.m. walk start
**Place:** Tempe Beach Park, 80 W. Rio Salado Parkway

Trainings

**Applied Behavior Analysis Training Series**
SARRC offers this behavior analysis training, which includes three workshops created specifically for those living or working with individuals with ASDs, including habilitators, parents and related professionals. Participants will learn evidence-based strategies for supporting individuals of all ages with varying levels of ability. This training series encompasses an overview of typical child development, autism, applied behavior analysis (ABA) and behavior management strategies. Participants will learn valuable information about communication skills, positive behavior support, how to structure the environment and reinforcement procedures.

**Dates:** June 10, 11 and 12
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
**Place:** SARRC, 300 N. 18th St., Phoenix
**Cost:** $50/training or $130 for all three trainings
**Think Asperger’s: Overview, Early Warning Signs and Intervention**

Asperger’s disorder is a lifelong disorder with symptoms that can progressively worsen over time without early identification and proper treatment. This hands-on training by SARRC Research Coordinator Elena Pollard, M.A., offers a detailed overview on Asperger’s disorder, including characteristics and behavioral examples shown via videos. Practice current intervention strategies based on ABA principles and gain valuable resources for ongoing treatment and support. Parents and professionals are welcome to attend.

- **Date:** July 23
- **Time:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Place:** Vocational & Life Skills Academy, 2225 N. 16th St., Phoenix
- **Cost:** $35/person or $30 for groups of 2 or more

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**The FRIEND® Program**

This training offers an overview of the FRIEND® Program, an inclusive social skills program for preschool-12th grade students that provides increased awareness of autism spectrum disorders, and how to create learning opportunities for individuals with ASDs to engage appropriately with typical peers in the natural setting at school during lunch and recess. Participants will develop an understanding of ASDs learning challenges that may impact social interactions with peers. A discussion of how to implement the lunch and playground program will be reviewed. Innovative materials will be shared to include the FRIEND Program manual, children’s book *Wings of Epoh*, DVDs, an educator activity guide, informational tips useful for peer sensitivity training to promote awareness of ASD and social differences, and appropriate strategies for facilitating social interactions for school-age students.

- **Date:** Aug. 12
- **Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Place:** SARRC, 300 N. 18th St., Phoenix
- **Cost:** $50/person or $45 for groups of 2 or more (lunch is not provided)

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**Grandparents Group**

The Grandparents Group focuses on educating and supporting grandparents of children with autism and presents the latest news and research in the field. The group meets once a month October through May. New grandparents are welcome to come to a special meeting at 9 a.m. to discuss autism and have a tour of SARRC.

- **Dates:** May 10, Oct. 18, Nov. 15
- **Time:** 10-11:30 a.m.
- **Place:** SARRC, 300 N. 18th St., Phoenix
- **RSVP:** (602) 218-8203

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**West Valley Autism Parents Support Group**

Join mothers of children with autism for a night out. Share your experiences, make new friends and learn something new. Contact Shelly Vinsant for more information at shellyvin@cox.net.

- **Dates:** Second Monday of every month
- **Time:** 7-9 p.m.
- **Place:** New Life Community Church, 8155 W. Thunderbird Road, Peoria

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**East Valley Autism Network (EVAN)**

EVAN is a parent-led support group providing hope, resources, information and support for families with children on the autism spectrum. EVAN welcomes all families who would like to network and help each other get the services and education children with ASDs need. Contact Melissa at melissavanhook@hotmail.com for additional information. No RSVP necessary.

- **Dates:** Fourth Tuesday of the month (except May-July)
- **Time:** 7-9 p.m.
- **Place:** Mi Amigo’s Mexican Grill, 1264 S. Gilbert Road, Mesa

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For a complete list of SARRC’s workshops and trainings, visit autismcenter.org and click on calendar. To register, call (480) 603-3283 or e-mail training@autismcenter.org.
Central to SARRC’s mission is to provide a lifetime of support for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their families. SARRC’s clinical model is grounded in applied behavior analysis (ABA) and psychology 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 clinical trials, contact SARRC at 602.340.8717 or visit autismcenter.org.

JumpStart®

JumpStart is a six-week program that provides state-of-the-art information, support and training for 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 programs [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 for monolingual Spanish-speaking families.

Community School

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. All children (ages 18 months to 5 years) participate in one of four classrooms and receive the benefits of highly trained SARRC classroom therapists within a 4:1 teacher-to-student 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). All-day care is available for typically developing children.

Comprehensive Home-Based Behavioral Program

SARRC’s comprehensive behavioral program provides intensive, ABA-based programming across environments to meet the individualized needs of children with ASD (0-12 years) and their families. Treatment is primarily implemented in the child’s home and in the community, and is often coordinated with the child’s school. Families receive weekly 1:1 intervention sessions, a weekly parent training session, program management and supervision from a BCBA. Goals are developed in coordination with the family and focus on language, social, adaptive behavior, play and cognitive development.

Home-Based Consultation

Home-based consultation is available for families with children up to age 12 seeking intervention for a specific problem behavior (e.g. tantrums, aggression), challenging routine (e.g. going to bed, getting dressed, taking a bath), or issues that affect the well-being of the child and/or family (e.g. toilet training, sleeping, feeding, safety). Following an initial parent interview, a SARRC therapist, under the supervision of a BCBA, provides direct observation of the child, conducts a functional behavioral assessment (FBA), and develops a behavior support plan. After reviewing the plan with the family and agreeing to its components, a SARRC therapist works with the family to implement the plan, objectively measure changes in behavior, and evaluate the child’s progress to address any necessary modifications.
Specialized Habilitation Services

Specialized habilitation is a 16-week parent training program implemented in the family’s home and in the community for children up to age 12. Under the supervision of a BCBA, a SARRC therapist conducts an assessment of the child and develops an individualized plan for teaching parents to implement the motivational procedures of Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT). The primary goals of the program are to produce generalized improvements in social communication and reductions in problem behaviors in children. Once the primary caregiver demonstrates correct implementation of PRT, other therapists who work with the child (e.g. state-funded habilitators) are invited to participate in the parent training sessions. The SARRC therapist will also coordinate with the parents to identify additional goals that are important to the family.

Remote Parent Training

Remote parent training is a one-week, intensive parent training program for families living in rural/remote locations or outside of the state of Arizona. Parents and their children (0 to 8 years) come to SARRC’s Campus for Exceptional Children to participate in therapy sessions Monday through Friday for 5 hours each day (a total of 25 hours of intervention). SARRC therapists train parents to implement the motivational procedures of Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT) to meet each child’s communication, social and behavioral needs. After their initial week-long training at SARRC, families return home and have the option of receiving telemedicine support from SARRC’s clinicians by sharing video over a secure internet connection, allowing SARRC clinicians to remotely provide ongoing feedback to parents as their child’s skills and needs change over time.

Autism CommunityWorks®

Autism CommunityWorks® is a vocational training program that helps teens ages 13-18 make the transition to adulthood, higher education and/or optimum employment. Autism CommunityWorks®, which includes LibraryWorks®, PowerWorks®, GardenWorks®, TheatreWorks®, and GoodDeedWorks®, provides the opportunity for individuals with ASD and peer mentors to engage in volunteer work throughout their communities while developing job skills, learning to socialize and building lasting friendships.

ECSA provides training and work opportunities that involve adults ages 18 and older in every aspect of operating a business. ECSA programs also build transferable skills likely to lead to on-the-job success and financial independence, while raising community awareness about the employability of individuals with autism. CulinaryWorks® programs partner with Arizona’s most celebrated chefs and Matador Coffee Roasting Company to prepare, package and sell SARRC’s signature soups and own blend of coffee, respectively. Through hands-on gardening, sustainable landscaping and water harvesting training, Humana GardenWorks® engages individuals in developing and sustaining a revenue-producing co-op garden, including product development, marketing and sales. Finally, ECSA provides employment opportunities at the Beneficial Beans Café at Scottsdale Civic Center Library and through the Rising Entrepreneurs® program, which helps adults start their own home baking business.

VOICE creates partnerships with local and national employers to increase competitive employment opportunities for adults ages 18 and older, while teaching appropriate work behaviors, building social skills and providing specialized vocational training. Clients receive a functional assessment to identify job readiness skills; development of vocational goals, supports, and accommodations; resume and job interview preparation; and on-the-job training and coaching. VOICE also provides employment classes, including Employment 101, Employment 202 and Tech Workshop.

VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

VOCATIONAL & LIFE SKILLS

VOICE creates partnerships with local and national employers to increase competitive employment opportunities for adults ages 18 and older, while teaching appropriate work behaviors, building social skills and providing specialized vocational training. Clients receive a functional assessment to identify job readiness skills; development of vocational goals, supports, and accommodations; resume and job interview preparation; and on-the-job training and coaching. VOICE also provides employment classes, including Employment 101, Employment 202 and Tech Workshop.

SARRC’s Academy of Classes help teens and adults develop the life, social and employment skills necessary to support independent living. Classes include Life Skills 102 (teens), 201 (adults) and 301 (advanced), a 14-week series that focuses on communication and social skills, basic budgeting, money management, household management, hygiene, preparing simple meals, public transportation and navigating the community; Autism Artisans, a series of art workshops designed to expose emerging and established artists to a variety of art mediums while learning about opportunities to develop careers through the arts; Monday Night Out, a monthly themed social event to meet new people and practice social skills; and Social Clubs, community-based clubs (e.g. adventure fitness, bowling) that create opportunities for social interaction centered around a specific interest or activity.
SARRC’s transition program provides 1:1 ABA-based programming across environments to meet the individualized needs of teens with ASDs (13-16 years) and their families. Treatment is primarily implemented in the teen’s home and in the community, and is often coordinated with the teen’s school. Families receive weekly 1:1 intervention sessions, a weekly parent training session, program management, and supervision from a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Goals are developed in coordination with the family and focus on increasing independence by targeting appropriate language, social, and adaptive behavior skills.

Psychology services help teens and adults better manage stress and/or anxiety and depression through 1:1 counseling and/or group support and are provided by a licensed psychologist. Diagnostic assessment and evaluation is available, and programs include the PEERS Social Skills Program, which builds social skills for teens through weekly classes and parent training; and the Young Women’s Empowerment Program, which combines 1:1 counseling sessions with a weekly group that meets to discuss and build self-advocacy, finance and relationship skills.

Some of SARRC’s most popular programs for adolescents and adults are modified and condensed to one-week during the summer months, and are available for tweens (ages 10-13); teens (ages 13-17); and adults (ages 17+). Programs include CommunityWorks, Social Skills, Employment (including Project Launch for teens), Technology, Movies, Music, Leisure and Life Skills (such as cooking, transportation, time management, etc.). Also, a four-night overnight camp, held at Whispering Hope Ranch, is available for teens and includes arts and crafts, hiking, games and social-skills development. Finally, SARRC’s Geek Tech Summer Camp is a one-week program available for teens and young adults to experience college life (e.g. attending classes, living in the dorms) and learn technology skills at the University of Advancing Technologies.

The Education and Training Program disseminates current, research-based information related to the development, characteristics and treatment of ASD across the lifespan. SARRC staff, as well as local, national and international experts, design trainings for both specific and broad audiences, including individuals with ASD; parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members; teachers, paraprofessionals, and school administrators; and habilitators, behavior analysts, psychologists, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, mental health professionals and medical professionals. Informational trainings focus on improving awareness, knowledge and understanding, whereas individualized, intensive trainings target correct application of assessment or treatment procedures and capacity-building projects focus on provider, school, district or statewide implementation.

This outreach program is designed to educate elementary school staff and pediatricians to “ThinkAsperger’s” when they see subtle social impairments in very young children. If undetected, subtle social impairments may lead to more serious social deficits and a lifetime of struggle. After interviewing parents of individuals with Asperger’s, SARRC developed an educational program and screening questionnaire to help teachers and pediatricians recognize these impairments and refer 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.

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 that 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 eat lunch with a student with autism daily so that social skills and conversation can be easily taught and facilitated.
FRIEND® Summer Camp
SARRC partners with existing summer camps (e.g. YMCA) to include children with ASD (ages 3-12) with their typically developing peers and improve social skills. The FRIEND Summer Camp provides one-to-one facilitators to ensure that children with ASD can successfully participate throughout the day and across structured and unstructured activities. Facilitators receive training in behavioral intervention and inclusive strategies to target communication, appropriate play and social interactions. Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays during the months of June and July, and children with ASD are required to attend camp for at least one four-week session.

School Consultation
SARRC's educational consultants contract with schools and districts to improve the educational programming of students with ASD in public, charter and private schools. Consultation services include didactic in-service training; in-vivo teacher and/or paraprofessional training; general classroom observation and recommendations; Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBAs) and Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs); classroom structure and/or environmental design; access to the common core curriculum; curricular modifications and/or accommodations; and inclusive best practices to support students in general education classrooms. While consultation and training is generally provided for school personnel, the focus is always on achieving the best possible outcomes for students.

Physician Outreach Program
SARRC's Autism Spectrum Disorders Screening Kit enables physicians to effectively screen for autism spectrum disorders during developmental checkups. The kit includes parent questionnaires, presented in English and Spanish, scoring templates and referral materials to assist with timely referrals and earlier diagnoses. Training meetings are held monthly and include all medical personnel who are interested in learning more about autism.

ConnectMe
There are no approved drugs to treat the core symptoms of autism, Asperger's Disorder or Pervasive Developmental Disorders Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS). More research is needed to learn how to safely and effectively treat children with these ASDs. The ConnectMe program is evaluating the safety, tolerability and effectiveness of an investigational drug on social interaction and communication skills in children ages 6 to 12.

LUMINEZ Study
The LUMINEZ study is evaluating the safety and effectiveness of a digestive enzyme in mitigating some of the symptoms associated with autism, including irritability, in children ages 9 to 12. There are no blood draws required, and no pills to swallow.

Fragile X Syndrome
This voluntary research study for adults ages 18 to 45 is testing how well an investigational medication works to treat behavioral symptoms associated with Fragile X Syndrome. SARRC is also participating in a new research study for adults ages 16 to 50 with Fragile X Syndrome to determine if an investigational drug is an effective treatment for symptoms associated with Fragile X. The study will also assess safety and tolerability of the investigational drug.

Coming Soon
In the next six months we will begin recruiting for two new studies of medications to treat symptoms associated with ASDs. One study is for children, ages 4 to 12, targeting hyperactivity and noncompliant behavior. The second study is for males, 13 to 45, and is investigating safety and efficacy of a new product.

For more information on any of these programs or services, please contact SARRC directly at (602) 340-8717.
### Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2012 *(unaudited)*

**Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Term Assets</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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**Liabilities**

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<td>Long Term Liabilities</td>
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**Net Assets**

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<td>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</td>
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<td>Permanently Restricted Net Assets</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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**Total Liabilities and Net Assets**

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<tbody>
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<td><strong>$13,682,851</strong></td>
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### Statement of Activities for the Period End December 31, 2012 *(unaudited)*

**Support & Revenue**

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<tbody>
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<td>Individuals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations &amp; Foundations</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Governmental</td>
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<td>Program Fees</td>
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<td>Interest, Dividend &amp; Market Change</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</strong></td>
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**Expenses**

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<td>Salaries, Benefits &amp; Professional Development</td>
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<td>Contract Labor &amp; Professional Fees</td>
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<td>Business Travel</td>
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<td>Occupancy &amp; Communication</td>
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<td>Postage, Printing &amp; Marketing</td>
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<td>Program Expenses</td>
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<td>Special Events Costs</td>
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<td>Amortization and Depreciation</td>
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<td>Other Operational Services</td>
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<td>In-Kind Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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**Unrestricted Surplus**

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**Temporarily Restricted Surplus**

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**TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**

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*Note: Approximately 65 percent of change in net assets is made up of grants and pledges to be received over the next five years.*

**Expense by Department**

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<td>Education and Training</td>
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<td>Community Preschool</td>
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<td>Program Services 13-Adult</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Development/Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Expense by Department</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A copy of the fully audited financial statements will be available after June 30, 2013 by contacting Sean Husmoe, Finance Director, 480.603.3295.
2012 SARRC MILESTONES

OPENED the Beneficial Beans Café located inside the Scottsdale Civic Center Library in July 2012. The café provides training and employment opportunities for adults with ASD while offering a full espresso menu, fresh-brewed Beneficial Beans coffee, fresh-baked pastries and snacks.

AWARDED a grant from the Arizona Department of Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to assist 30 individuals with ASD in establishing a home-based baked goods business to increase their earning potential and help them become self-supporting members of the community.

OPENED the doors of our beautiful new JumpStart Training and Resource Center and a fourth classroom in our Community Preschool thanks to a generous in-kind donation through the Arizona Builders’ Alliance’s 2012 Leadership Development Forum.

SELECTED as the 2012 charity recipient of Valley Partnership’s 25th Anniversary Community Project, which helped to greatly expand and enhance our adult GardenWorks program and create a garden for our preschool.

MADE significant contributions to the national autism research landscape by working with 87 participants in eight different pharmaceutical trials. SARRC continues to be among the top most productive sites for autism research in the U.S.

COMPLETED the validation study of our ThinkAsperger’s screening questionnaire for Detecting Asperger’s Very Early (DAVE). SARRC screened more than 600 students in seven charter schools. DAVE identified Asperger’s Disorder in approximately 2 percent of those students, and confirmed the diagnosis in a representative sample.

BEGAN a statewide capacity-building project—the Po’okela Project—in Hawaii by establishing 5 model classrooms based on current research and best practices; providing training for teachers and educational assistants; and providing specialized training for project coaches who train teachers and staff throughout the state.

CONVENED a Dental Education Program Committee, made up of parents, SARRC staff and individuals from Affiliated Pediatrics, A.T. Still University, Arizona Dental Foundation, Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation, First Things First-DES Division-Child Health and Phoenix Children’s Hospital to create dental resource guides for individuals with autism, autism service providers, and dentists in an effort to expand dental care for those on the spectrum.

PROVIDED individualized intervention and educational experiences to nearly 1,200 children, teens and young adults with ASDs; support services to more than 3,000 parents, family members, typical peers and community members; and training and education to 3,000 educational and medical professionals.
SARRC Mission

To advance research and provide a lifetime of support to individuals with autism and their families

1,874 volunteers

70

100

Average number of children from birth to 12 years on waiting list for JumpStart, Community School and Home-Based programs.

Approximate number of teens and adults on waiting list for SARRC programs.

10 new program offerings for tweens, teens and adults

- Tweens (10-12) summer camp
- Employment 101/102
- Life Skills 101 (teens); Life skills 201/301
- Rising Entrepreneurs® program
- Women’s Empowerment Program
- 1:1 ABA Transition Program for teens and young adults
- Psychology Services
- PEERS Social Skills Program for teens
- Summer Series for Teens
- Adventure Club

NEED:
Funding for DOZENS of scholarships throughout the year for children, teens and adults with autism.

1,284 phone consultations to help families with their most pressing questions.

- 116 participants in clinical trials
- 401 children enrolled in programs
- 679 teens and adults enrolled in programs

9 Board Certified Behavior Analysts
When we finally know we are dying, and all other sentient beings are dying with us, we start to have a burning, almost heartbreaking sense of the fragility and preciousness of each moment and each being, and from this can grow a deep, clear, limitless compassion for all beings.

Sogyal Rinpoche

As a pioneer and leader in autism programs and services, SARRC epitomizes the values and character of Sherwood E. Denton.

We are proud to support SARRC’s mission in his memory.
Thank you to the entire team at News/Talk 92.3 KTAR and the generous Action for Autism sponsors for making a lifetime of firsts possible for individuals and families impacted by autism. For the sixth year, your leadership and community outreach efforts have been instrumental in educating the community about autism and generating support for vital SARRC programs. Many thanks also for the tremendous support we received from KTAR listeners who called in with pledges to become our Action Heroes.

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