

# TACA

## Talk About Curing Autism

### Autism Youth Ambassadors



# Open House Overview

- Introductions
- TACA Founders: Lisa & Glen Ackerman
- AYA Founders: Ralph Ma & Manoj Kanagaraj
- Tools you can use
- Administrative
- Q&A



# TACA Founders: Lisa & Glen Ackerman

- In this section we will chat about:
  - What is Autism?
  - Who is TACA?
  - Why TACA?
  - 2012 TACA Events & efforts



# What is Autism?

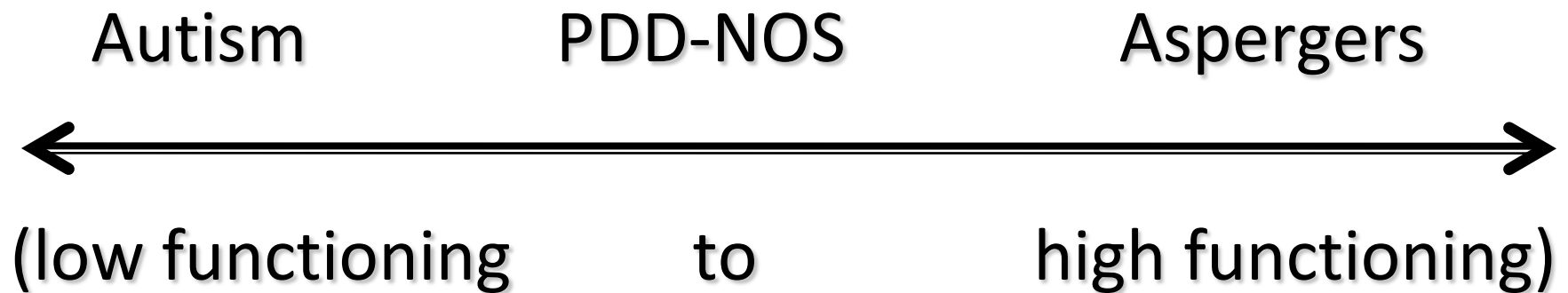
- Autism is a devastating neurological and biological disorder that typically affects children between the ages of 18 months to five years of age.
- 1 in every 91 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with Autism
- It is estimated that there are almost 2 million people in the United States alone living with an autism spectrum disorder.
- Autism rates are rising world wide.



# The Autism Spectrum

# Autism is a spectrum disorder affecting each individual uniquely

Some are severely affected, cannot speak, require constant one-on-one care, and will never be able to live alone. Others have less severe symptoms, can communicate, and will eventually acquire the necessary skills to live independently.



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REAL  
HELP  
NOW 

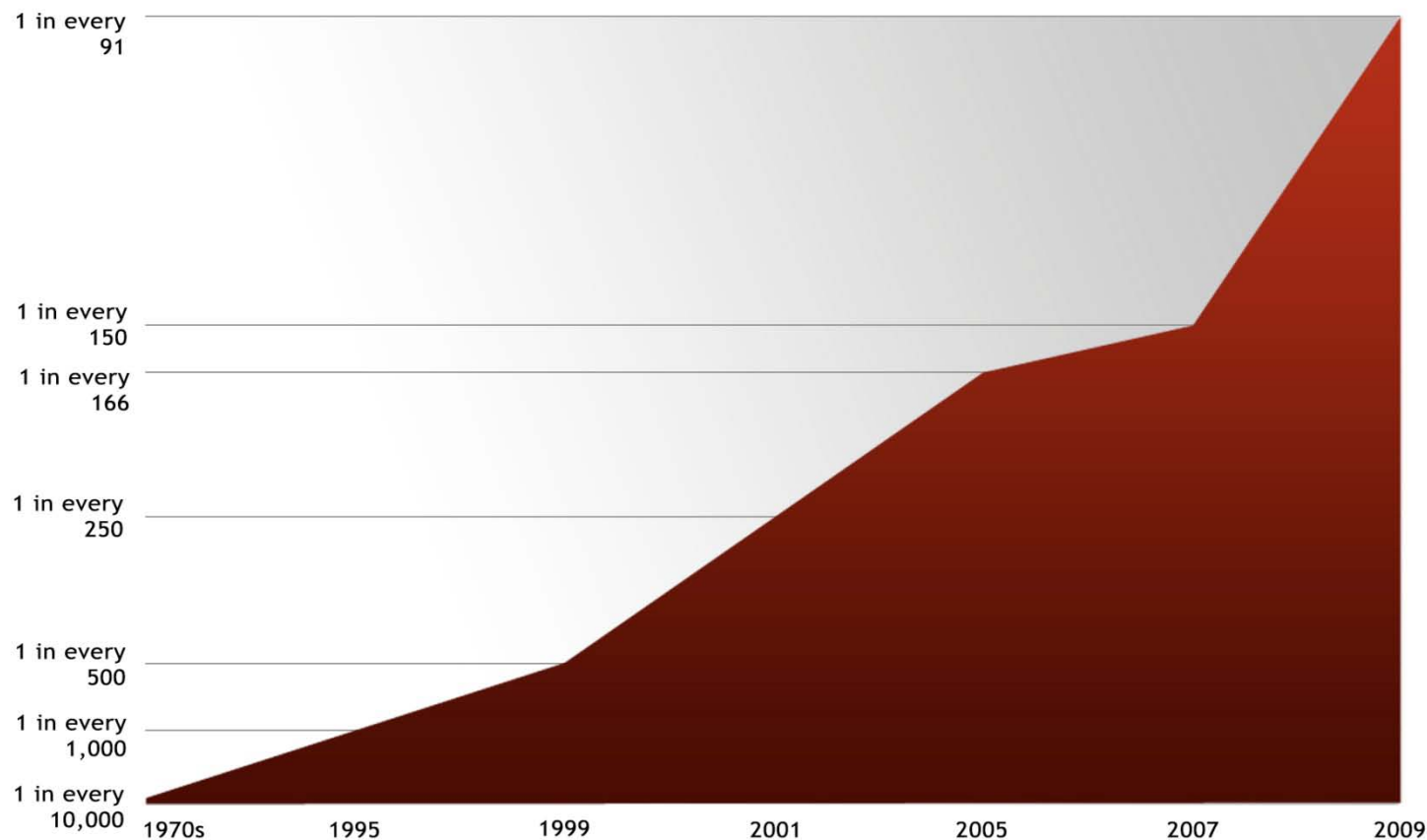
# Autism affects individuals abilities in five key areas:

- 1) Communication (verbal & non verbal)
- 2) Social skills
- 3) Behaviors
- 4) Learning
- 5) Medical issues



# 1 in 91 is TOO MANY

Autism U.S. Prevalence Rates  
(incidence of autism in U.S. children)



# About TACA





# The TACA Mission

A 501(c)3 non profit foundation



TACA is Real Help Now for children with autism and their families.

- Education
- Empowerment
- Support



# TACA History

- Started in 2000 with 10 families
- Now providing services to more almost 28,000 members across the country.
- TACA is adding on average 500 new families a month.
- TACA is one of the only foundations providing day to day support to families living with autism.  
**REAL HELP NOW..**



# TACA Mission

Talk About Curing Autism (TACA) is a national organization dedicated to educating, empowering, and supporting families affected by autism.

For families who have just received the autism diagnosis:

- TACA aims to speed up the cycle time from the autism diagnosis to effective treatments.
- TACA also helps strengthen the autism community by connecting families to the professionals who can help them, thereby providing children the best future possible.



# TACA Outreach & Programs

95% of TACA's programs and services are provided  
at no cost to families.



# TACA Programs

- Support for families who have just received the autism diagnosis
  - Autism Journey Guide & DVD (request one today)
  - New Parent Orientation Seminars
  - Content Rich Web Site
  - Newsletters and Blogs (sign up on-line, get connected)
- Online support via Live Chat
- Monthly educational meetings in 28 locations around the country
- Support and visibility for professionals delivering services to the TACA Community

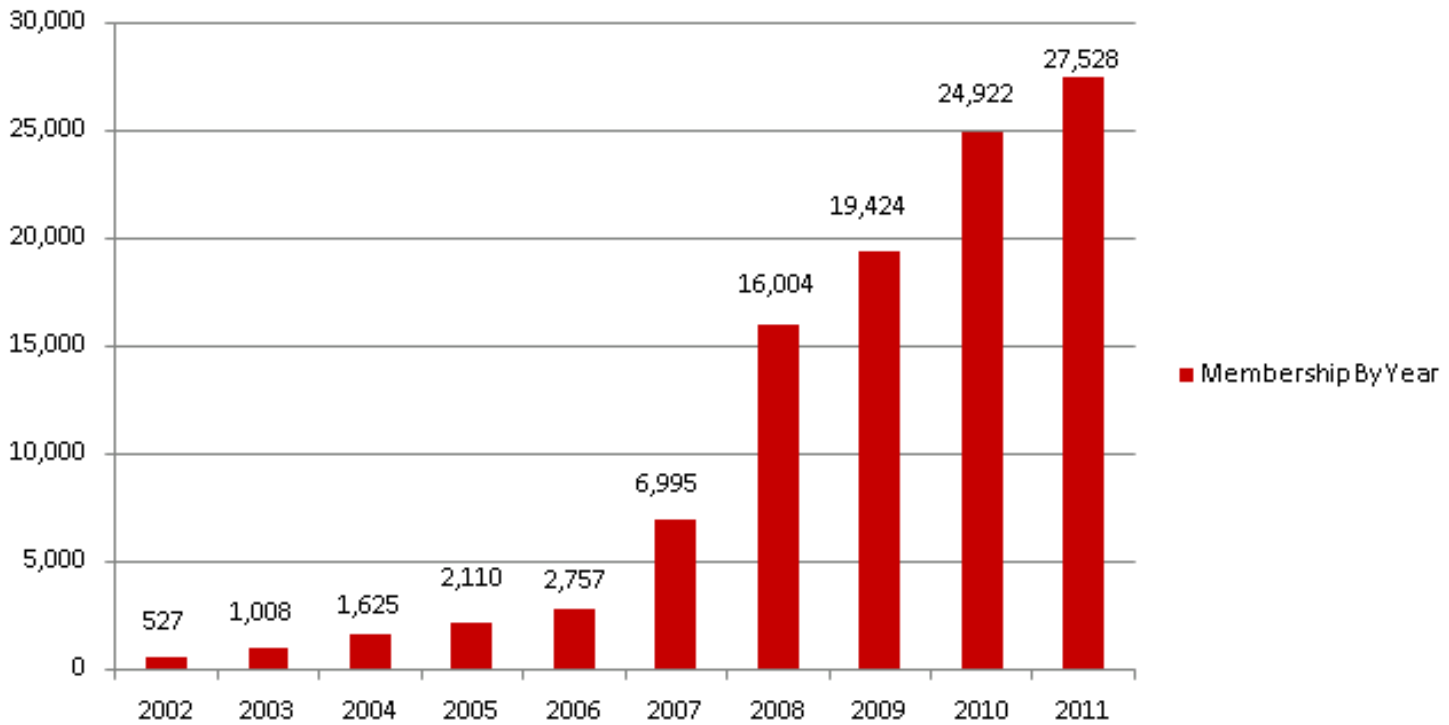


# TACA Programs

- Parent Mentors
- Loaner Libraries
- Social events for families
- Parent Education Seminar Series
- Financial Support for Families
  - Families in Crisis funding via Autism Cares
  - Medical Treatment Scholarships
  - Independent Assessment Scholarships
- Support available for Spanish speaking families
- Advocacy training, content, and individual consulting



## TACA Membership Growth



*As of October 31, 2011*



# Education and Support Meetings

TACA conducts monthly meetings at 27 locations across the country. These meetings feature educational speakers on important topics and allow family members to connect with one another while they stay on top of the latest information in the autism world.

TACA Chapters - Strategic Planning



NOTES:  
TACA has 26 Chapters in 17 states and in  
Washington, DC

7-7-09





# Why TACA

- Autism is ubiquitous
- Organizational Purpose
- TACA:
  - Families Helping Families
  - Facilitating connections in the community
  - REAL HELP NOW
  - Resources we bring to you
  - Get creative / Have Fun
  - What can we do for you?
- Deciding what team to play for



# 2012 Efforts

## Volunteer....

### at these

## TACA Special Events



# April Autism Awareness

# APRIL 2012

TACA will be hosting several efforts for your participation during autism awareness month

Including: Autism Youth Ambassador Jamboree at Oakley's Headquarters



# TACA Family Picnic

## June 2012

TACA depends upon volunteers for help with our work. The TACA family picnic is a great way to get involved and at the same time show your support for families affected by autism.

**Help in one of the following ways:**

- Set up
- Registration
- Food distribution
- Staff a kid activity
- Clean up





# “Taking Down Autism One Step At a Time”

## 10 k & 5 k Run/ Walk

Tentative date: October



# In planning: Gladiator Rock n Runs!

- 2012 Events planned for LA, OC and SD
- More info on this effort soon





# Autism Youth Ambassadors Founders: Ralph Ma & Manoj Kanagaraj



# AYA Founders Ralph & Manoj

## ■ In this section:

- How did AYA start?
- AYA Goals
- A short video
- Fundraising and autism awareness ideas
- Volunteering





# GOALS:

- Be a friend to a child with autism
- Autism Awareness
  - Be present in the community
  - Recovery is possible
  - TACA is here!
- Fundraising
  - Help raise funds at your school activities
  - Participate in a TACA activity



# Shout out to Natalie Cernius!

- Creator of Friday Night Clubs in honor of brother Andrew
- Happening 2x's a month in Newport Beach and South Orange Co. Irvine
- How to sign up and get info:  
Natalie Cernius - email:  
[opusnumber4@gmail.com](mailto:opusnumber4@gmail.com)



# Tools you can use: Trang Nguyen

## ■ In this section:

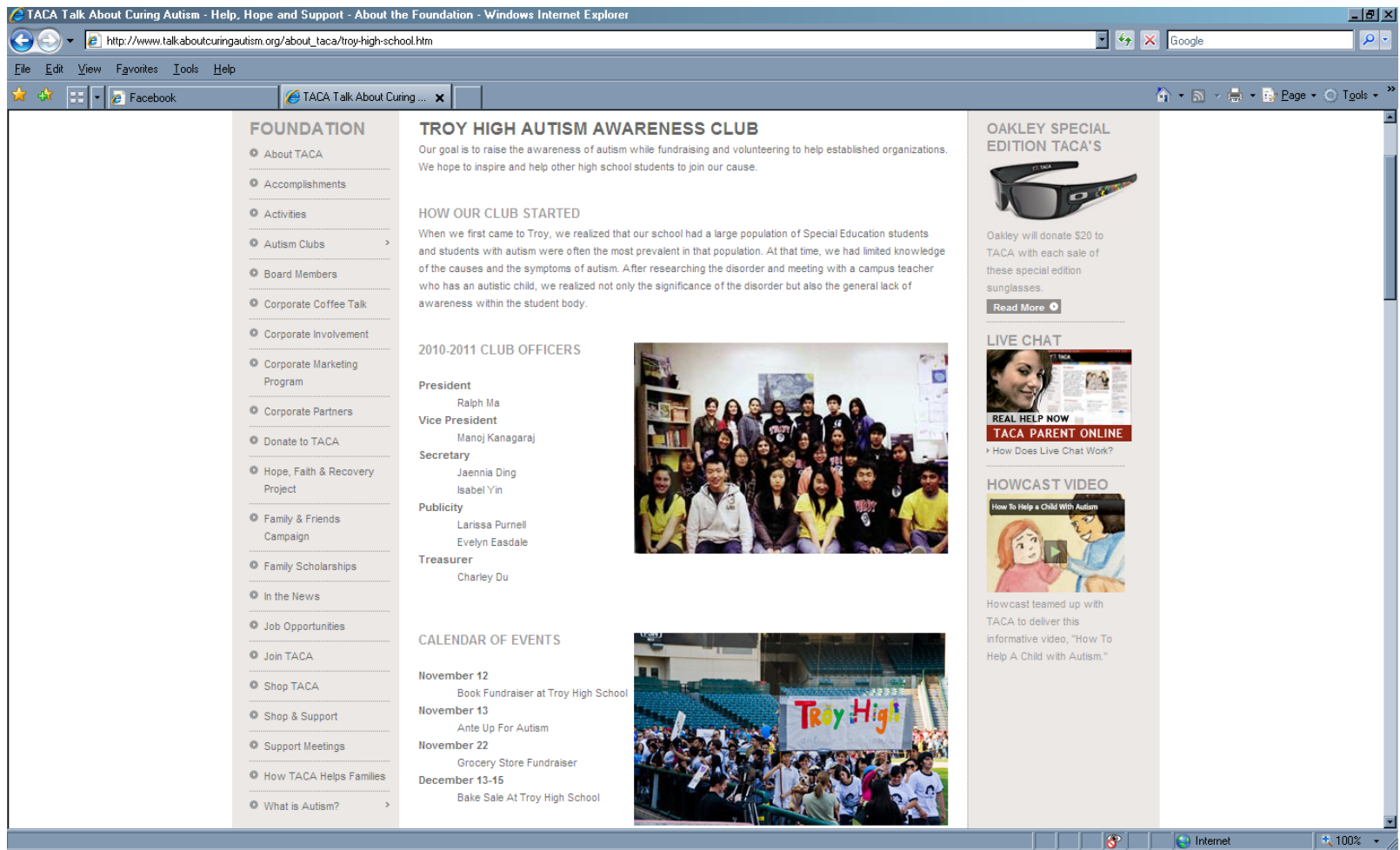
- Printed materials
- TACA Autism Youth Ambassador Club Awareness Web Page
- Who to contact at TACA for help



# BROCHURE:



# TACA WEBSITE:



# Administrative: Trang Nguyen

- How to get support for your group
- How to sign up for which activities
- How volunteer hours sign off works
- Your web page – how to send TACA updates (and what to send!)



# Words cannot express our gratitude



# Q&A? Bright ideas? Comments?

## Open Discussion

