



2018

Annual Report



“TACA showed me that I am not alone, that there are resources, treatments and support. Most of all, I regained a sense of fun and hope.”

-TACA Parent

dear friends



In 2018, TACA reached new heights. Thanks to all the support TACA receives, we were able to increase program investment 12%. Thanks to this investment, we had the ability to respond to more than 47,000 calls/emails from parents and caregivers reaching out for help. We were able to distribute over 4,000 Journey Guides to new families and educate over 2,000 people at conferences. We had the ability to host family outreach events where over 30,000 people received support from TACA. We are so grateful to have been able to answer every knock on our door.

We strive to be a beacon of hope for families living with autism in as many ways as we can. In 2018, TACA launched the Facebook group Hope and Help for Autism. This private group is a safe place for the autism community to support each other, ask questions, and most importantly find different ways to help and spread hope. With nearly 6,000 members in all 50 states, this group has grown into a strong resource for TACA families. I am so inspired by this community of strength and perseverance. TACA families are true warriors.

Autism rates continue to rise dramatically. In 2018, the rate of autism soared to 1 in 59 children diagnosed with autism, yet autism is the least funded disability in America. With the growing number of families looking for guidance, we will continue to strive to support families and children affected by autism.

The TACA team is truly a team to be thankful for. In 2018, TACA had over 1,000 volunteers who logged in 25,000 hours to continue to help families living with autism. We are so appreciative of our volunteers' kindness and dedication to the cause. We are incredibly grateful for our friends and supporters that give to TACA through in-kind products, services, or monetary donations to offset our costs so we can continue meeting the growing needs of families living with autism. Most importantly, we appreciate your friendship and support to help families with autism thrive.



Lisa Ackerman

TACA Executive Director & Co-founder,
Mom to Jeff & Lauren, Grandma to Will
and Wife to Glen



mission

Talk About Curing Autism (TACA) is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) 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 helps to strengthen the autism community by connecting families and the professionals who can help them, allowing them to share stories and information to help improve the quality of life for people with autism.

vision

TACA believes in early diagnosis, intensive therapies and medical intervention for children affected by autism. With early intervention, medical treatment unique to each person's needs and necessary support services for families, many children can improve greatly and some can recover from their autistic symptoms. We believe the future is not defined for many children affected by autism. Hope and recovery is possible.



what we provide

TACA has been providing services since 2000 and all of the programs and services are provided at little or no cost to families.



better individual
Quality of life



better family
Quality of life



independence



develop skills



improved health

Programs and Support Services Offered:

- Autism Journey Guides
- Autism Youth Ambassador Program
- Educational Conferences and Events
- Family Events
- Hope and Help Facebook Group
- Parent Mentor Program
- Parent Resources
- Scholarship Programs
- Spanish Outreach
- Webinars
- Weekly Meetings and Coffee Talks



quick look

year established **2000**

executive director **lisa ackerman**

employees **18 paid staff**
(12 full-time, 6 part-time)

volunteer contributions **1,000 volunteers**

hope, help, and information **in 50 States**

www.tacanow.org

 /talkaboutcuringautism

 @tacanow

 @tacafoundation

2018 accomplishments

 **68,427**
INBOXES

 **175,820**
FOLLOWERS

WE HAVE RESPONDED
TO A
TOTAL OF **47,916**
SUPPORT CALLS & EMAILS



  WE HAD **524**
COFFEE TALKS, MEETINGS
& WEBINARS EDUCATING **6,800+**

OVER
800
MENTOR/MENTEE
MATCHES



WE HAVE **AWESOME**
1,000 VOLUNTEERS
WHO LOGGED-IN ALMOST **25,000** HOURS
TO CONTINUE TO HELP PEOPLE AND
DELIVER OUR MESSAGE

IN 50
STATES **WITH HOPE, HELP**
AND INFORMATION



SUPPORTED
30,000+ PEOPLE
AT FAMILY & OUTREACH
EVENTS



DISTRIBUTED
4,058
JOURNEY GUIDES



EDUCATED OVER
2,000
AT CONFERENCES

AWARDED MORE THAN
 **\$150,000**
IN SCHOLARSHIPS

1.4 MILLION
UNIQUE WEBSITE
PAGE VIEWS



LAUNCHED
HOPE & HELP
FACEBOOK
SUPPORT GROUP  



Josh and Courtney

Josh and Courtney

ORGANICS
HappyFAMILY

ungaro

Josh and Courtney

TACA
TALK ABOUT CURING AUTISM

ORGANICS
HappyFAMILY

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TACA
TALK ABOUT CURING AUTISM

HappyFAMILY

TACA
TALK ABOUT CURING AUTISM



board of directors

- Patrick McIlvain
- Robby Saggu
- Elizabeth McCoy
- Glen Ackerman
- Lisa Ackerman
- Erich Kreidler
- Kim Yang-Uk
- Keith Banning
- Dan Carney

physician advisory

We are honored to have the following Board-Certified pediatricians and medical specialists serve as Physicians Advisory Board Members

- Dr. David Berger
- Dr. Richard Frye
- Dr. Elizabeth Mumper
- Dr. Nancy O'Hara
- Dr. Dan Rossignol
- Dr. Cindy Schneider
- Dr. Robert Sears
- Dr. Anju Usman







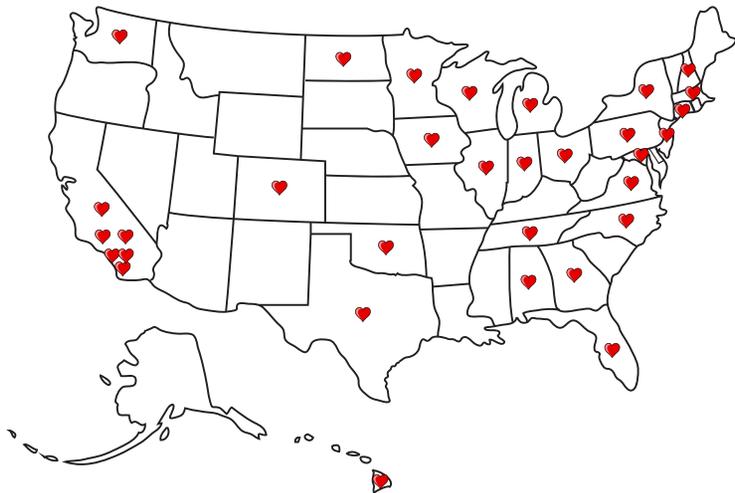
key programs and services

**TACA provides education, support and
hope to the autism community**

chapters

“This coffee talk was amazing!
There was a lot of great
information and it’s so therapeutic
to be able to share with others
who understand! I love my chapter
and our TACA Coffee Talks!”

- TACA Parent



TACA has 32 Chapters across the United States providing families affected by autism with education, resources and support. Chapters hold educational coffee talks, family events, meetings, and seminars. All chapters are run by volunteer coordinators.



volunteer coordinators

Coordinator Spotlight

Christi O'Neal, Georgia Chapter Coordinator, was inspired to join TACA because it's built around a community of people wanting to help. Christi's son, Eric, was diagnosed with Autism at the age of three. Christi and Eric struggled with the diagnosis and she felt isolated and hopeless. She felt she had to learn an abundance of college level information to guide her son to success. She needed to be well versed in the latest medical research, speech therapy and more. She became a team coordinator for her son and it was overwhelming. She needed more support. Christi found TACA and the fountain of support she was searching for. She knew she wanted to be a part of the TACA community. After a few years of involvement with TACA, Christi became the Georgia Chapter coordinator. Now, her son is thriving. She strives to help other families and children prosper.

"A chapter coordinator's job is to set the direction for the chapter, come up with the ideas for the meetings and events, and find new talent. It's our job to coordinate support and build a community."

- Christi O'Neal



"Finding TACA made me feel... needed. I began attending... of new research, new treatm... might help Luke. These me... our lives... CA... KING AUTISM

...ndson and his fam... A therapy, dietary... have led to amp... mostly because of

"We were so very lucky that friends conn... a call and a caring TACA member called... me about her grandson with autism and h... finally felt empowered, like I could do son... sit around, read about autism and wa... family finally had hope, which is the f... am no longer afraid of the future,

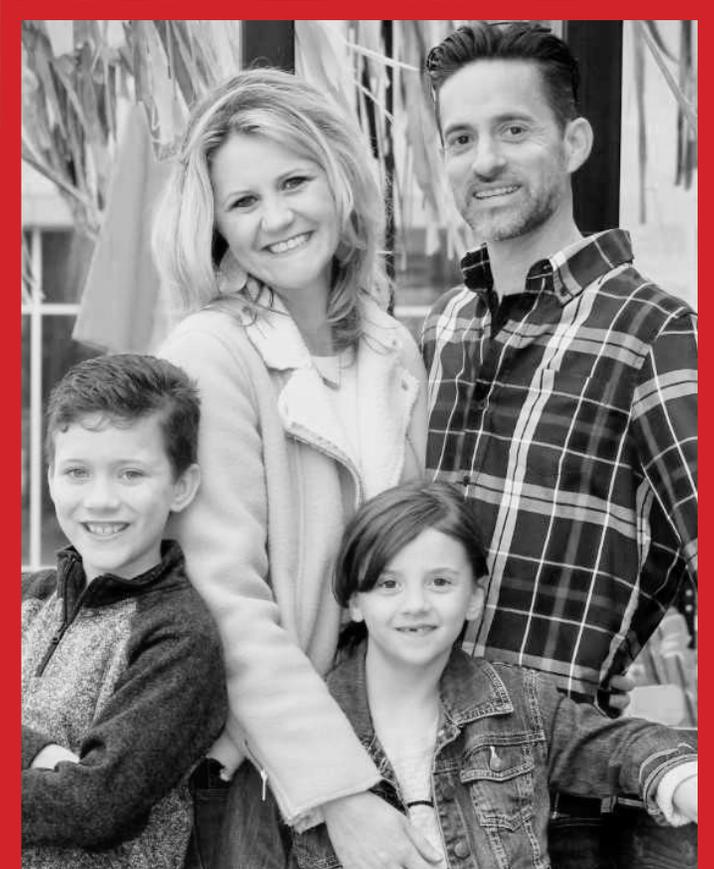


mentor program

**"A Mentor is a parent who has been in the trenches and wants to reach their hand in to help others dig out."
- Kara Ward, TACA Mentor**

Mentor Spotlight

Kara's son was diagnosed when he was three. She was told from the beginning there was no hope, there was nothing she could do. However; as a "Mama Warrior," that answer wasn't good enough. Shortly after she found TACA, she immediately received resources and hope from other TACA parents. It was life changing for Kara to find parents walking through what she was walking through. They shared their wisdom and held her hand along her journey. Kara stayed involved and connected with TACA. At the age of seven, her son had recovered. In her heart she wanted to give back and help other warriors find their strength. Kara has now been a mentor for six years and has helped 40 parents on their journey.



conference



TACA Autism Conferences gave thousands of parents and professionals an opportunity to be educated in the latest research, treatment options, and therapy for individuals with autism. Over 2,000 attendees were able to walk away with education and inspiration for their autism journey.

“We had an amazing day at the TACA conference, we learned a lot! I cried many tears hearing stories of both children who were injured and children who were healed. We are so excited that our son has a great new doctor to help us along this journey. We are grateful to TACA for this day! TACA is a charity that is so helpful to autism families!”

- TACA Parent



hope and help (facebook group)

Hope and Help for Autism is a private, moderated Facebook Group for TACA members to look to for support. TACA launched the Hope and Help Group this year and has already gained nearly 6,000 members in all 50 states.

“This TACA group is amazing! The level of knowledge that supports the real medical issues underpinning autism is blowing me away. There is very little interest in my local community of ASD families, so to be able to reach out to other communities and discuss treatments that improve quality of life is amazing! I am so excited for the wealth of information to help my kid. You guys made my week!”
- TACA Parent



**“This is the first thing we’ve
been able to do as a family in
years, I’m so grateful!”
– TACA Parent**

family events

TACA Family Events give families affected by autism a unique opportunity to have fun and connect in a safe and friendly environment with a like-minded community.

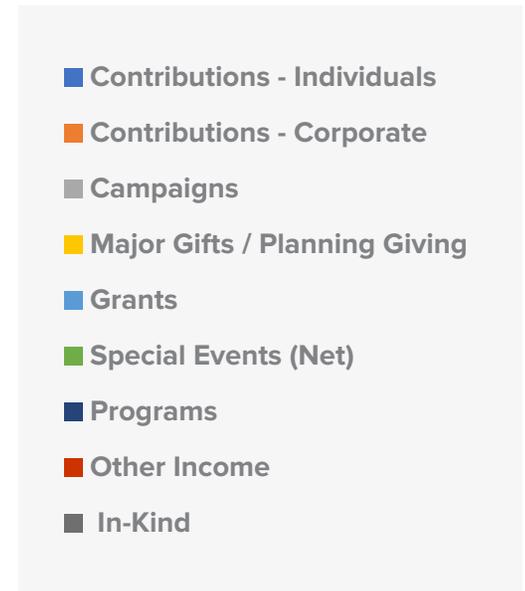
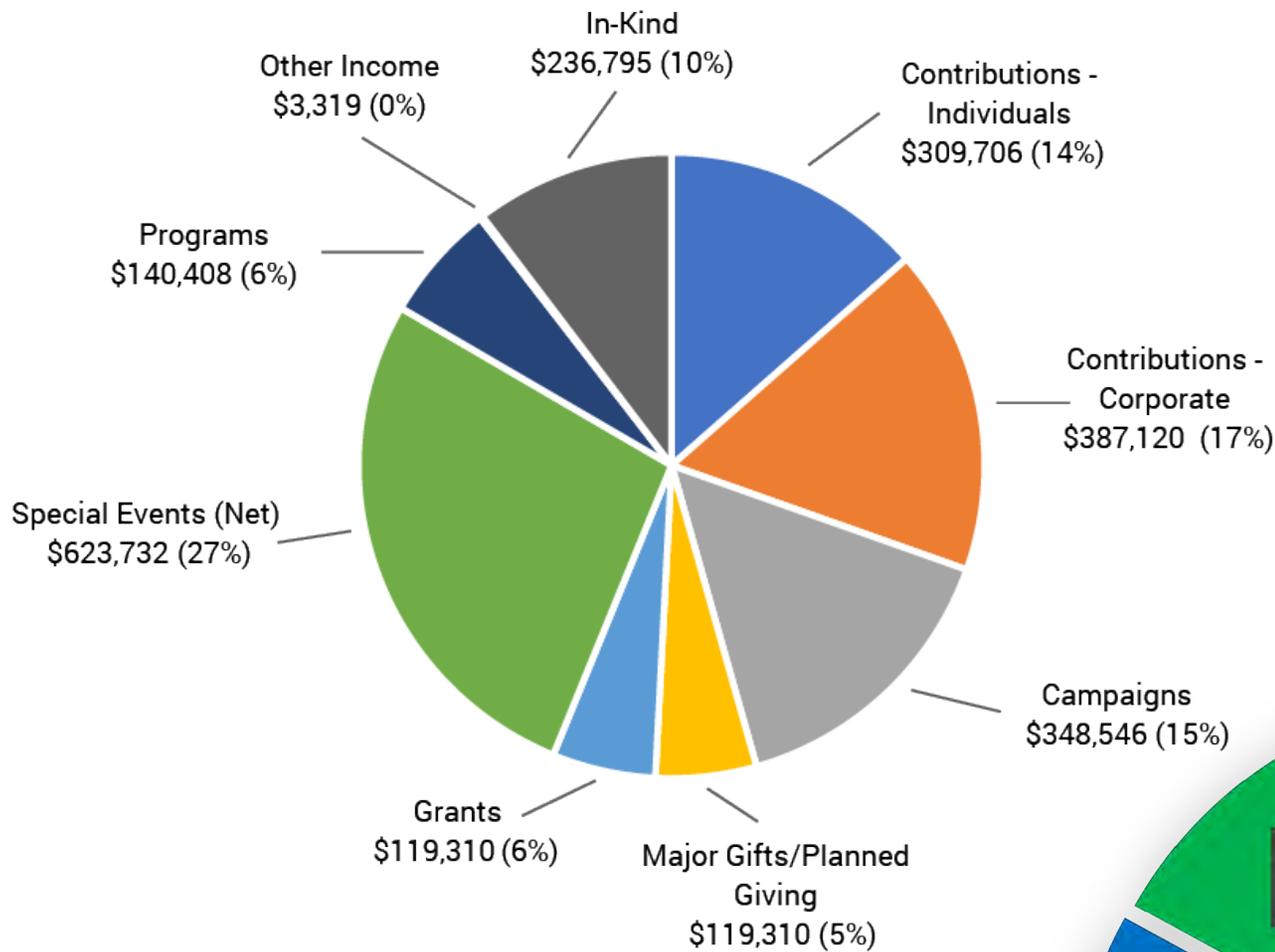




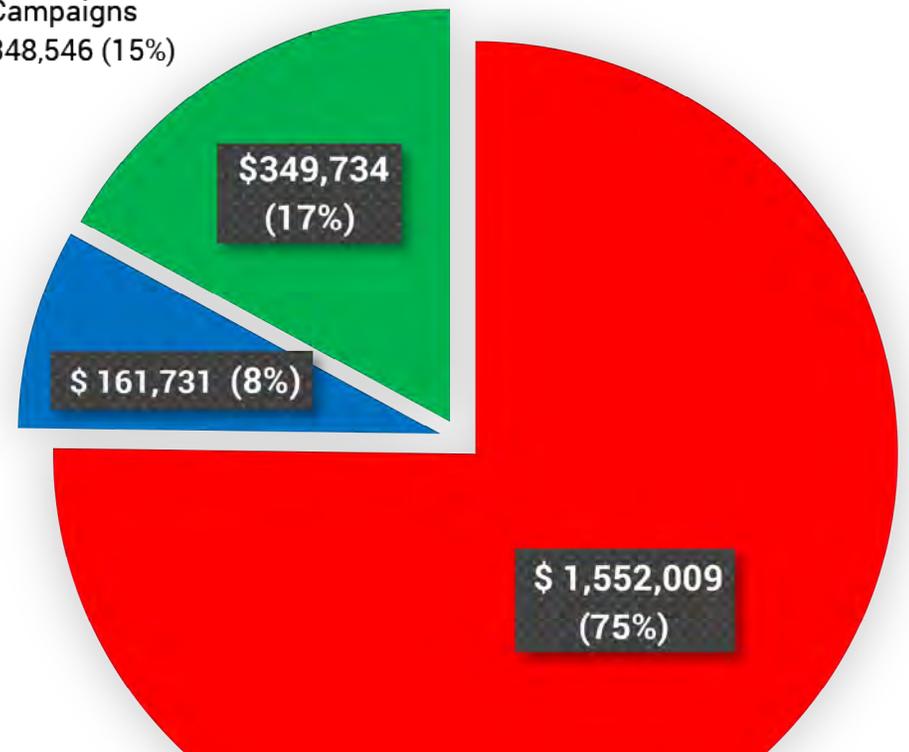
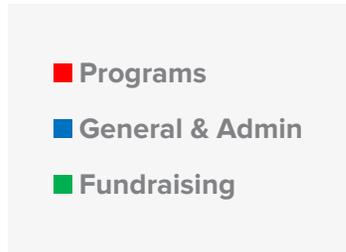
GENUINE
CUSTOM - QUALITY

2018

revenue breakout by type



expense by breakout type





donor spotlight

Berle Family

Talk About Curing Autism (TACA) is pleased to share that Dolf Berle, CEO of Top Golf, and his wife Julia have made a transformational gift to the foundation of \$100,000. They share TACA's goal to reach and support over 100,000 families by 2020.

How has autism played a role in your life?

One of my best friends in life is Dan Carney. Our kids were born around the same time. The plan was for them to grow up and be friends and play sports together. When his son was diagnosed with autism, our plans changed. I wanted to be supportive of Dan and his family. If the situation was turned, I guarantee you Dan would support me. I started with supporting Dan, but through the years and education, I've really grown to support the cause.

Why do you feel it's important to support TACA?

TACA is made up of families with autism helping families with autism. It really made an impact on me because TACA is all about the volunteers. I can raise money and I can get involved, but the real impact is all these women that volunteer their time and do everything. It blows you away, especially at conferences. If one or two people have a question all these volunteers will jump in and answer. There is a wealth of information they have to offer. The founders of TACA have done a great job in really delivering what someone would need after the autism diagnosis. These people know because they lived it, the volunteers have lived it. TACA really is people affected by autism helping people affected by autism.

What is your favorite program or support service TACA offers?

If your child is diagnosed and you go to the TACA website, you have everything you can imagine. It's a roadmap to get started. That alone is a tremendous use of the money. We live in a digital age. When families get diagnosed with autism, they google search for help. Once they get to our website and see what we have to offer, we can help them. That's the greatest thing. That website gives people the information they want, and that leads them to Coffee Talks, programs, and all that TACA offers.



donor spotlight

Keith Banning

Keith has been a TACA Board member for 5 years, prior to joining, he was a huge TACA supporter. Keith is a Senior Vice President/Certified Financial Planner who runs a wealth management group at Morgan Stanley. Keith and his wife, Denise, reside in Newport Beach, California with their two boys Ryan and Ben.

donor honor roll

We would like to recognize
and thank our generous
contributors

\$95,000 & up

Arylescence Foundation, Inc
Julia and Dolf Berle
JTS Health Partners

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We are families with autism helping families with autism.

