

2012



ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This past year has been a remarkable one in our shared journey to help families living with autism. As this annual report was being prepared, the results of a new parental survey was released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealing that 1 in 50 school-age children now has a diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder. These numbers show a significant increase from the CDC's previous report, which last year put the prevalence at 1 in 88 children.

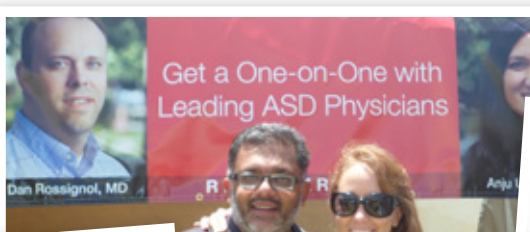
TACA's objective remains to provide education, support, and empowerment to the families of children diagnosed with autism, and to allow all individuals diagnosed with autism the prospect of a best future possible, with the hope of recovery. We continue to provide programs that ensure families affected by autism have access to the support, treatments and therapies they need to live quality lives.

TACA's success would not be possible without the selfless dedication and generosity of over 500 volunteers that every day deliver TACA's mission to families in need. The thousands of donors across the country that continue to support our good work, and the countless unheralded friends that are always there. Because of this extraordinary team of people who believe in our mission, TACA continues to take every step possible to assist families, wherever they are on their journey of autism.

We still have tremendous work ahead of us to ensure that all families living with autism have the tools they need. But with the steadfast commitment of our community, we will continue to fight to provide compassionate support for all children and families living with autism.

With deep gratitude,

Jessi



At A Glance

Year Established

2000

Executive Director

Lisa Ackerman

Employees

18 paid staff members (10 full-time, 8 part-time)

Volunteer Contributions

500 volunteers delivering TACA's mission

Clients Served



Programs Offered

Monthly Meetings & Coffee Talks
Website
Autism Education Events and Conferences
Website, E-Newsletters and Event Listings
Scholarship Programs
Legal Advocacy

Parent Empowerment and Support
Parent Mentor Program
Autism Journey Guides and Blueprints
Education, Outreach and Services in Spanish
Chapter Libraries

Major Annual Events

Real Help Now Conferences (NV & GA)
Gladiator Rock'N Run
Dave & Buster's Golf Tournament

LA Marathon
TACA Family Picnic
Ante Up For Autism

Website

www.tacanow.org

Social Media



www.facebook.com/talkaboutcuringautism



@TACAfoundation

2012

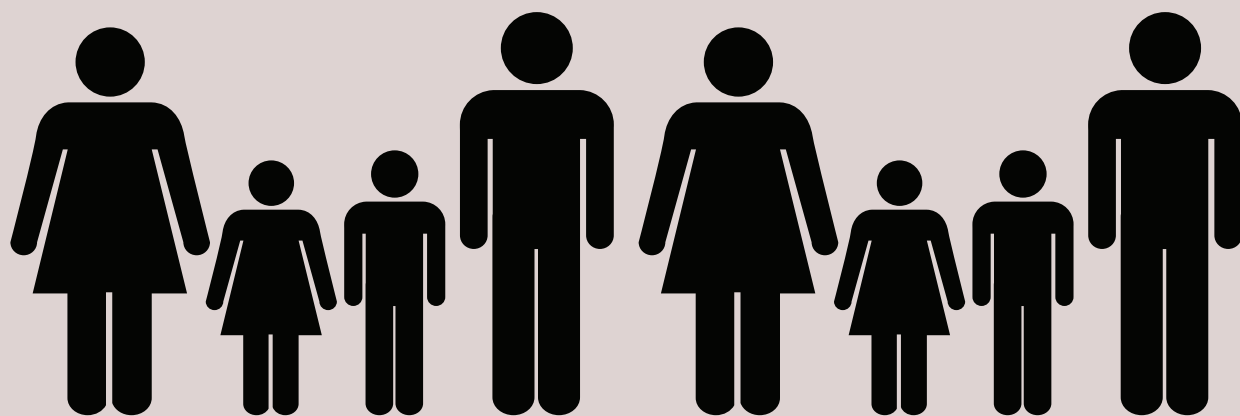
A YEAR IN REVIEW

TACA's programs and services are provided at little or no cost to families.

MEMBERSHIP

31,000 families.

Nearly **3,000** new families joined TACA in this single year.



15,450

requests for support by phone, email and live chat.

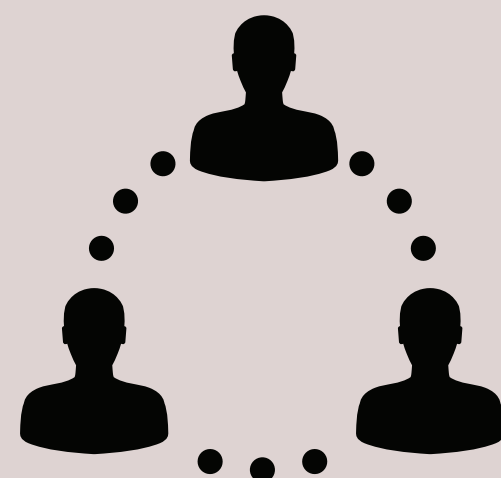
↑
increase from 2011.
59%

550

new families matched with a trained parent mentor.

7

languages.



500 local volunteers delivering TACA's mission.

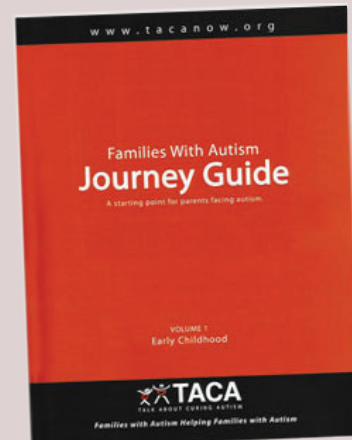
325 Chapter Meetings, and Coffee Talks help deliver education, information, support and a sense of community.



Volume 1 & 2

The Autism Journey Guide became a two volume series

Early Childhood Development
Maturing Child



25 autism community events across the country

10,000

parents and children



51

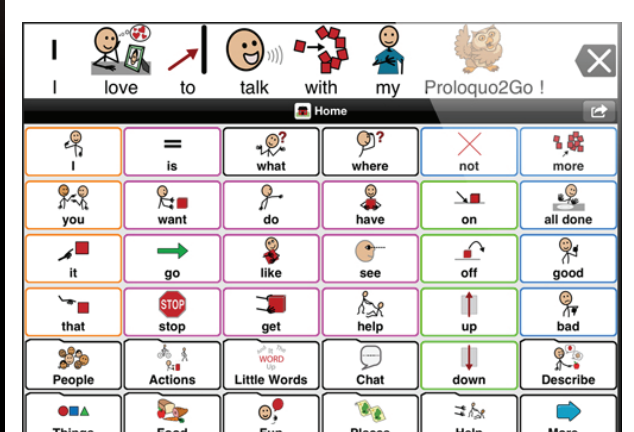
scholarships to families

Collaborations with the Hawaii Autism Foundation and the Philadelphia LibertyMe Foundation.



iPads & Autism: Innovation in Communication

an iPad study for autism



What's Left? GFCFSF Cooking

Brought to you by:

AUTISM Live & **TACA**
TALK ABOUT CURING AUTISM

TACA joined with Autism Live to create **WHAT'S LEFT?** an allergy free cooking class series.



Oakley's ONE ICON

Magazine featured an in-depth article and video of TACA's families and mission.

2,100

attended family picnics in California, Georgia & Maryland

200

received scholarships

1.6 million

page views

1,000,000 visitors



TACAnow blog

125,350 readers
83 posts

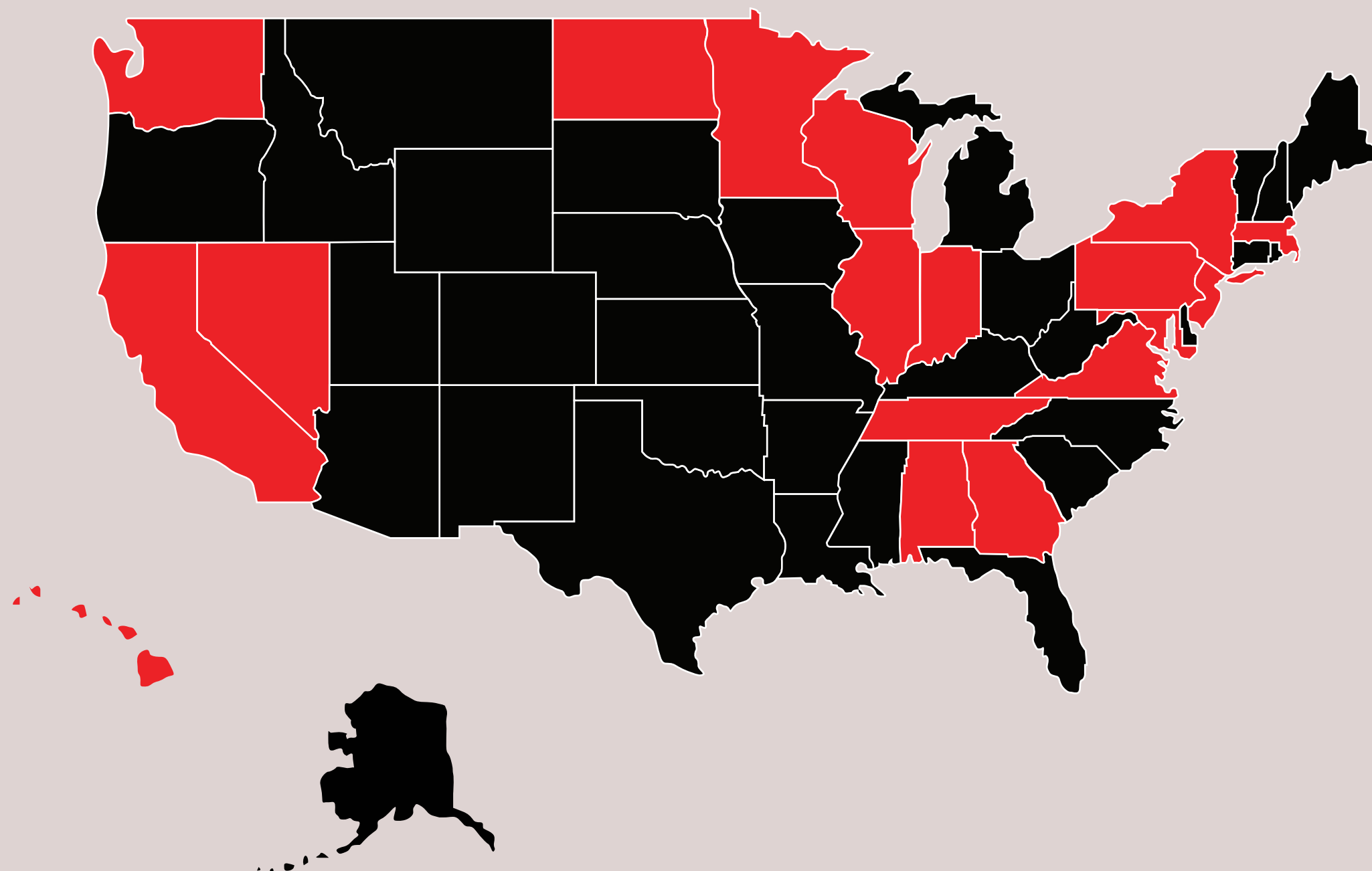


10,000

support articles, tips and news updates published through social media outlets.

Chapters in **18** states

online presence throughout the U.S.



Board of Directors



Glen Ackerman



Lisa Ackerman



Dan Carney



Chad Fitzsimmons



Elizabeth McCoy



Patrick McIlvain

Glen Ackerman
CEO, inhouseIT

Lisa Ackerman
Founder, Talk About Curing Autism (TACA)

Dan Carney
President, Carney Portfolio Management/
Co-Founder Midwest Insurance

Chad Fitzsimmons
Director, Music Initiatives, CBS RADIO.

Elizabeth McCoy
Law Offices of Elizabeth McCoy, Esq.

Patrick McIlvain
Vice President Global Sports Marketing,
Oakley, Inc

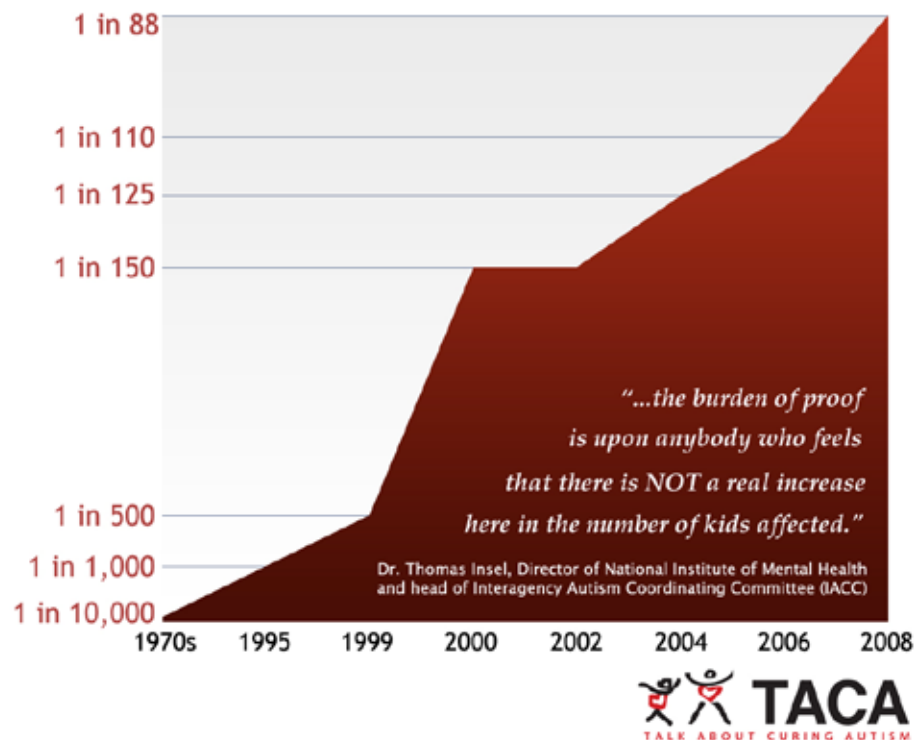
TACA Mission and Vision Statement

Mission Statement

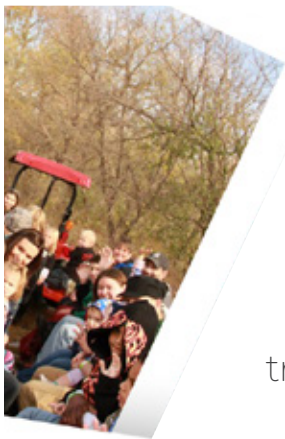
Talk About Curing Autism (TACA) is a national non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to educating, empowering, and supporting families affected by autism. For families who have just received the autism diagnosis, TACA aims to speed up the cycle time from the autism diagnosis to effective treatments. 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 improve the quality of life for people with autism.

Vision Statement

TACA believes in early diagnosis, intensive therapies and medical intervention for children affected by autism. Through 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.



Our Chapters



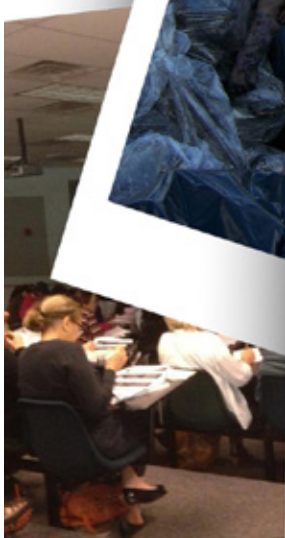
TACA has chapters in eighteen states throughout the United States that provide monthly educational meetings and coffee talks. **Chapter Meetings** feature expert speakers on a variety of autism related topics. Our informal **Coffee Talks** bring together experienced and new parents alike to learn and discuss autism best practices as well as share stories about their children's hurdles and triumphs. At these monthly meetings, parents can receive extra support, discuss autism related topics and meet other families. Coffee Talks for parents are also offered in Spanish in limited locations.

Many of our chapters also hold special events for the family to enjoy.



“ When those parents left yesterday, you could see them holding their heads high and see the confidence in their eyes. They were still fearful of the unknown but now knew they were not alone on their journey. ”

- Mom in California



Support for Families

TACA offers a variety of programs such as the **Mentor Program**, created and instituted in 2003 to fill parents' needs by providing the support of a network that truly understands their challenges, concerns and triumphs. The program matches families with a Parent Mentor, a trained volunteer who is available to provide personal support as well as general information and guidance about a wide range of topics. These might include behavioral and education issues, questions about insurance, government assistance, and biomedical treatments.

Our **Family Scholarship Program** provides several different opportunities for our members to apply for a scholarship depending on availability and their particular need. These are comprised of the Philadelphia LibertyMe Scholarship, Hawaii Autism Foundation Scholarship, and Autism Community Scholarships.

The **Legal Advocacy Program** was created to help parents access the special education system by providing legal consultation, education, and in-person and online training. The program educates parents so that they can self-advocate during the development of the individualized education plan and throughout their child's school career. Services are offered at no cost to parents. The program is also available in Spanish.

Through our **Website**, we provide support for thousands of families each year. Additional assistance is also available via telephone or email. Online, the **Live Chat Program** offers instant support and information regarding the autism journey with experienced TACA Parent Mentors always ready to help.

The **Education and Outreach Program in Spanish** offers information to the Latino autism community including Coffee Talks and workshops in Spanish, parent support, mentoring, printed and online materials. Spanish Coffee Talks are offered on a limited basis, but general support and information in Spanish is offered nationwide.

Autism Youth Ambassadors is a program with the goal of raising awareness about the prevalence of autism. High school students are devoted to bridging the social gap between individuals with and without autism. They work on fundraising and volunteering for families affected by autism, and promote student involvement.

TACA offers many possibilities for a family to find the information needed to help their loved ones.

Educating Families

Our **E-newsletters and Local Event Listings** provide families the latest on autism research, news and education. Our **Autism Journey Guides** provide parents a comprehensive overview of best practices following the autism diagnosis and throughout the autism journey. Guides are available for free to new families attending their first meeting at any of our chapter meetings nationwide. Included in the Autism Journey Guide is our **Autism Journey Blueprints** providing an outline format of the Guide offering parents an easier way to read and learn about autism intervention, therapies and medical treatments.

TACA is proud of its **Autism Education Events** such as our series of Real Help Now Conferences. These are offered in different regions of the nation where parents have the opportunity to hear the latest research, talk to the presenting doctors in person, and compare notes with other parents. We also offer our one-day introductory Autism Journey Seminars for families whose children have just been diagnosed.

Each Chapter also maintains a **Chapter Library** with the latest autism books, CDs, and DVDs that can be borrowed for free. TACA strives to help and support families at any stage of their autism journey.



“ My hopes and dreams for our son are no different because of the autism diagnosis. TACA is helping turn those dreams into reality.

- Dad in Washington, D.C.

”

Collaborations

We are proud of our collaborations with other organizations that help families living with autism. These collaborations include:

American Epilepsy Outreach Foundation - Their mission is to raise the public's awareness of Epilepsy through advocacy and education, as well as provide support for those living with Epilepsy and their families.

Autism Cares - Provides grants for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders during times of crisis or unplanned hardships. TACA has been a member of this collaboration since its founding in 2006.

AWAARE - The Autism Wandering Awareness Alerts Response and Education (AWAARE) Collaboration is a working group of six national non-profit autism organizations whose mission is to prevent autism-related wandering incidents and deaths.

Global Autism Collaboration - Their mission is to network and collaborate with autism organizations worldwide to generate necessary political, legal, and social change to deal with the global autism health crisis.

Hawaii Autism Foundation - Their mission is to educate and help Hawaii families find and fund treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorders. They helped organize and now financially supports the TACA Hawaii chapter.

HollyRod Foundation - The HollyRod4Kids Initiative raises funds to help children with autism and their families access and afford crucial treatments and therapies.

Hope4Hanna - The mission of Hope 4 Hanna is to help create a less challenging road for families dealing with the disorder. Since 2010, Hope 4 Hanna has partnered with Talk About Curing Autism (TACA), ACT Today! and others autism organizations to support local families and programs including; the Family Scholarship Program, Social Skills Classes, Spanish language advocacy and marriage counseling for families.

iPads and Autism - Innovation in Communication - A collaborative study conducted in conjunction with Autism Spectrum Consultants, and funded by the Orange County Community Foundation and the Carney Family, demonstrated that preverbal and non-verbal individuals with autism can improve when working with iPad technology applications.

Train4Autism - Train 4 Autism is dedicated to bringing together a community of athletes, physically active, and socially conscious people who are committed to raising awareness and funds for research and treatment for those living with Autism and their families. Through this collaboration, TACA and over 40 TACA family members participated in the Orange County Marathon to raise awareness and funds in support of our mission.



Supporters

Ante Up For Autism - The 6th Annual Ante Up For Autism co-hosted by singer and actress Kate Voegelé and actor Johnathon Schaech helped take the ante to a whole new level, raising over \$266,000! Over 25 Hollywood Actors, Professional Athletes and Poker Players guaranteed that everyone went all-in for a great cause.



Bikram Yoga Silverlake - Philanthropy has long been a foundation of Bikram Yoga Silverlake. The studio continues its support of TACA with its weekly Saturday donation class, that last year generated nearly \$15,000 to support local families. Helping everyone live a healthy life!

Oakley - Since 2010, Oakley has supported TACA through the sales of TACA branded sunglasses, generating a remarkable amount of awareness, press and funds. TACA and the families we serve are beyond grateful to Oakley for helping families living with autism.



Dave & Buster's Inc - Whether it be supporting the Autism Youth Ambassadors (AYA) Program, hosting children and families living with autism to a day of fun and food, helping raise funds through the inaugural Dave & Buster's Charity Golf Classic or fueling up athletes at Gladiator Rock'N Run events across Southern California, Dave & Buster's has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to TACA and families living with autism.

Gladiator Rock'N Run - This past year TACA traveled the U.S. as the official charity partner of the Gladiator Rock'N Run event. Eleven events were held from coast to coast that helped generate nearly \$100,000 to support TACA's mission.

Volcom - Continues its support of TACA with donations from the sale of their special edition "TACA Between the Lines" T-shirts, hosting of family skate days, and participation and support at various TACA events.



TALK ABOUT CURING AUTISM
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	2012	2011
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$172,577	\$269,643
Investments	\$-	\$-
Accounts receivable, net	98,389	50,040
Inventories	2,000	
Prepaid expenses and other assets	8,271	37,853
Fixed assets, net	28,344	23,833
TOTAL ASSETS	309,581	381,369
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	72,901	69,157
Other liabilities	3,644	6,777
Total Liabilities	76,545	75,934
Unrestricted	226,475	269,192
Temporarily restricted	6,561	36,243
Total Net Assets	233,036	305,435
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$309,581	\$381,369

TALK ABOUT CURING AUTISM
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 and 2011

	2012	2011
REVENUE		
General Contributions	\$788,277	\$643,403
Special event revenue	396,180	540,648
Direct benefit expenses	(125,378)	(177,535)
Net special event revenue	270,802	363,113
Program revenues	25,693	52,808
Product sales	11,185	20,429
Less cost of goods sold	(11,370)	(20,172)
	(185)	257
In-kind contributions	152,073	61,850
Other	(257)	573
TOTAL REVENUE	1,236,403	1,122,004
Costs of services		
Program	919,807	947,213
Supporting services		
Administrative	274,511	293,950
Fundraising	114,484	121,527
Total Supporting Services	388,995	415,477
TOTAL COSTS OF SERVICES	1,308,802	1,362,690
(Decrease)increase in net assets	(72,399)	(240,686)

Donor Honor Roll

\$50,000 +

Oakley Inc.
OxyHealth Corporation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Dan & Vicki Carney
Enzymedica
Gladiator Events
Hawaii Autism Foundation
Michael Reese Enterprises, Inc.

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Keith & Denise Banning
Buchanan Children's Charities
CBS Radio Inc.
Cigna Foundation
Elizabeth C. McCoy, Attorney At Law
Alan & Laura Felzer
Hope 4 Hanna
inhouseIT, Inc.
Intercare Therapy, Inc.
Microsemi
MillerCoors
Miracle Foundation Fund
Norman & Susan Abazoris Foundation
Ready at Dawn Studios
Train 4 Autism
Warne Family Charitable Foundation
Yoga Silverlake, LLC

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Adams & Associates, APLC
Mark Blaxill
Boeing Employees Community Fund of California
Cellpoint
Michael B Condry
Donald L. Schoellerman Foundation
Edison International
Robert & Victoria Erautt
Fairways for Youth
Friends of Hawaii Charities, Inc.

Jimmies Golf
Kirkman Group, Inc.
Tim & Nancy Loskill
Steven Malloy
Lance McBride
New Era Cap Co.
Ride For Autism
The Lloyd & Elisabeth Klein Family Foundation
UPS Foundation
Whole Foods Market

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Glen & Lisa Ackerman
Advanced Brain Technologies
Anheuser-Busch
Arundel Senior High School
Autism Interventions & Resources, Inc.
Autism Spectrum Therapies, Inc.
Scott & Anna Blum
Cafaro Revocable Trust
Todd & Barbara Cornish
Creative Behavior Interventions
David Cross
Patricia Cross
Zack Cross
Dishon and Block
E. Robert & Manjit Erdey
Geneve Charitable Foundation
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation
Heineken USA Inc.
Knights of Columbus
Knopp, Thomas & Lorraine
Madison Monona Lioness
McDermott & Bull, Inc.
MedicAlert
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
Aram Minasian
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney Global
NFL Charities
Ohlin Sales, Inc.
Park Pharmacy & Compounding Center
Dan Rossignol

Robby & Bina Saggu
Specialty Silicone Fabricators, Inc.
The Lapin Foundation, Inc.
Totally Running LLC
Jeffrey L Weber
We-Care.com
Wellness Pharmacy, Inc.
West Covina Firefighters Association

\$1,000 - \$2,499

ACES
Addison, James & LeeAnn
AEG/The Home Depot Center
Allergan Foundation
Alletess Medical Laboratory
Allstate Foundation
Allyn Foundation, Inc.
Applied Behavioral Consulting
Associated Hygienic Products
Autism Society of America - Philly
Autism Spectrum Consultants Inc.
Autism Treatment Center of Newton Square
William Bettencourt
Bikram Yoga Honolulu
Allen Boettcher
Boston Beer Company
Bradstreet Wellness Center, LLC
Brain Treatment Center
Brookfield Women's Club
Capital One
CARD - San Juan Capistrano
Michael Carroll
Cars 4 Causes
Charity Golf International
Chase the Stars
Children's Learning Connection, Inc.
Club Portuguese of Stockton
Robert Corbin
David & Theresa Cotter
Jeff & Anne Cova
Bernard Cowens
Creative Solutions for Hope
Daves Creek Elementary School

Peter Davis
 DBI Beverage San Jose
 Debra Dement
 Erik Dickerson
 Dia Doce
 David Donnelly
 Kevin R. Dupree
 Sally Edwards
 Lyle Erickson
 FreshPoint Southern California, Inc
 Gilman J. Leavitt 2001 Trust
 James Glenn
 Glendora Continental Restaurant, Inc.
 Global Language Solutions
 Google
 Grafton Public School District No 3
 Heavenly Heat
 Heimbinder Family Foundation
 Helios Enterprises LTD
 Arnon Heller
 Hopewell Pharmacy
 Karlsson's Gold Vodka
 Kimberton Whole Foods, Inc.
 Jeffrey Knapp
 Kohl's Department Stores
 Steven & Karen Kuklin
 Laufer Group International, Ltd.
 LearningRx - Orange County
 Lennova
 Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes.
 Lyndon Group, LLC
 Lori Malbrough
 Colleen Markowitz
 Doug McClary
 Michael & Elizabeth McCoy
 Rachel McGonigle
 Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
 National Charity League
 New Belgium Brewing Company
 Newport Brain Research Laboratory
 Next Generation Philanthropy Fund
 One Dish Cuisine, LLC
 Kyle O'Neil
 Janice O'Sullivan
 Ottman Financial Group, Inc
 Jeff & Sheila Ottman

Pediatric Therapeutic Services, Inc.
 Pink's Hot Dogs
 Proximo Spirits
 Jimmy Quevedo
 Darcy Ramler
 Dominic & Cyndy Rondinella
 Rosie Hall Family Home
 S. Mark Taper Foundation
 Sarit Araim, Attorney at Law
 Johnathon Schaeck
 Sheraton Hawaii Bowl
 Sierra Nevada Brewing Co
 Gordon Sims
 Jeffreys Skouras
 Sports Basement, Inc
 Stein Life Child Neurology Medical
 Christopher Tarr - General Cigar
 Melissa Tash
 The California Wellness Foundation
 The Dorsey & Whitney Foundation
 The York Group
 TNS Charitable Fund
 Total i Repair
 Tyku Premium Sake & Spirits
 Wal-Mart Foundation
 Shawn & Lonna Washer
 John Welch
 John Wentz
 Western Digital Corporation
 William Grant & Son's
 Young's Market Company
 Maryland Golf Classic- Bruce Zinck

\$500 - \$999

Justin & Kristen Alderson
 Anaheim Ducks
 Autism Conferences of America, LLC
 Autism Society of Washington
 Vern & Marilyn Bailey
 Bill's Hot Dogs
 Blurb, Inc.
 Barbie Bohan
 Bruce Bothwell
 Peter & Katie Bowen
 Colin & Tricia Boylan
 Brain Balance Atlanta

Ernie & Linda Brodie
 Bryan Family Dentistry PC
 Lucian & Becky Bryan
 Building Bridges Therapy, Inc
 Edgar Carbajal
 Kim Carney
 Danielle Craig
 Darren Darnborough
 Bonnie Darrow
 Ed & Jamie Davis
 John Dawes
 Daniel & Michelle Del Rosario
 Tony Denison
 Robert Deschamps
 Nellie Diaz
 Cynthia Dircks
 Do Something, Inc.
 Elks Lodge - Saddleback Mission Valley
 Ennen Chiropractic, Inc.
 Wm. Ergle
 Lois Erickson
 Essential Communication, Inc.
 Essential Ingredients, Inc.
 Farnum Electric
 Allen & Sheryl Fazio
 Joseph Fillippelli
 Fluor Foundation Matching Funds
 Freed's Boulevard Bakery, Inc.
 Lisa Fujimoto
 Ehsan Gharatappeh
 Grafton Lutheran Church
 Great Plains Laboratory, Inc
 Joseph C. Hadsell
 Eric Haglund
 Isaac Heimbinder
 A.M. & L. M. Higa
 Hops Barley, Inc.
 Impulse Dance Center
 Inland Nephrology Medical Associates
 ISOFP
 J.K Group Inc.
 Jennifer Jones
 Janice Kern
 Daniel Kropp
 David Lazzara
 Holly Lev
 Master Supplements

Stephanie & Pat McIlvain
 Jennifer Miller (DC)
 Richard Moen
 Jacline & Benjamin Moore
 Jay Morgan
 Mulu, Inc.
 Nalbandian, Mari & Steve
 New Beginnings Nutritionals, LLC
 Nordic Naturals
 NourishLife, LLC
 Nova Cool Treats, LLC
 Old Mill High School
 ED Peller
 Pete Moffett Productions, Inc
 Amy Peters
 Stephen Plank
 Robert & Shawn Poole
 Jim & Violette Prentice
 Procon Consulting LLC
 Pure Compounding
 Tiffinni Ranae
 William Reising
 REIT Management & Research LLC
 Shelly Rose
 Rutan & Tucker
 Kevin & Kelly Schmeichel
 JE Schulman
 Megan Singer
 Soroptimist Int of The Amer. River
 Cynthia Stuhley
 Shirley Suda
 Sundberg & Sundberg
 William Swartz
 Timothy & Meredith Tunney
 United Way - Delano Loreeto
 Verizon
 James Vito
 Michael Voorhees
 Lisa Weber
 John Welch
 Stella Wheeler
 John Whelan
 Jorge & Corie Wong
 Tjein Tie Wong

