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
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
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.

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.

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
- In 50 states with hope, help and information
- Educated over 2,000 at conferences
- Awarded more than 1,400 unique website page views
- Distributed 4,058 journey guides
- Supported 30,000+ people at family & outreach events
- We have responded to a total of 47,916 support calls & emails
- We had 524 coffee talks, meetings & webinars educating 6,800+
- We have 1,000 awesome volunteers who logged in almost 25,000 hours to continue to help people and deliver our message
- Launched Hope & Help Facebook support group
- Over 800 mentor/mentee matches
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
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.

“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
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

volunteer coordinators

Coordinator Spotlight

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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.

“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
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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 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

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.
revenue breakout by type

- Contributions - Individuals: $309,706 (14%)
- Contributions - Corporate: $387,120 (17%)
- Campaigns: $348,546 (15%)
- Special Events (Net): $623,732 (27%)
- Grants: $119,310 (6%)
- Major Gifts/Planned Giving: $119,310 (5%)
- Programs: $140,408 (6%)
- Other Income: $3,319 (0%)
- In-Kind: $236,795 (10%)

expense by breakout type

- Programs: $349,734 (17%)
- General & Admin: $161,731 (8%)
- Fundraising: $1,552,009 (75%)
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.
We would like to recognize and thank our generous contributors.

$95,000 & up
- Arylessence Foundation, Inc
- Julia and Dolf Berle
- JTS Health Partners

$20,000-94,999
- Keith and Denise Banning
- Benjamin Bequer
- Dan and Vicki Carney and Midwest Insurance
- Devto Support Foundation
- Happy Family Brands
- HB Police Officers Foundation
- William and Dana Hiatt
- Houston Enzymes
- The Inna Kassatkina Irrevocable Trust and Norman and Inna Jones
- IonCleanse
- Ira Hermann, CLU, ChFC, and Capstone Partners, Financial and Insurance Services, LLC
- O.L. Halsell Foundation
- Orange County Community Foundation
- Rossignol Medical Center and Rossignol Family Shoyoroll Corporation
- Teach a Man to Fish Foundation
- Josh and Courtney Ungaro
- Warne Family Foundation
- Kim Yang-Uk
- Wright Ford Young and Co.

$10,000-19,999
- Andrew Abraham
- Anonymous
- Astra Charitable Fund and Gupta Family Foundation
- Autism Learning Partners
- Body Bio
- Crisi and Paul Hosea
- Don and Margaret Jervis
- Elizabeth C McCoy, Attorney at Law, a PC
- Glen and Lisa Ackerman
- Isodiol
- KRE Associates and Kreidler Family
- Manny and Leyla Khoshbin
- Mario Dozzo Foundation
- Nancy Rogers Revocable Trust
- Ride For Autism
- Rob and Kate Adams

$5,000-$9,999
- Adams & Associates, APLC and Adams Family
- Autism Spectrum Consultants
- Beacon Day School
- Benjamin and Marion Bregi Charitable Foundation
- Biorey, Inc.
- Brad Armstrong
- Caught Fish Foundation
- Chris Bull and Sally Edwards
- Cortica
- Darren and Jen Schuler
- Dewey and Karen White
- Dick and Patty Chatham
- DirectEmployers Association Inc.
- EEG To Go
- Employees Community Fund of Boeing Calif
- Fair Ways for Youth
- Great Plains Laboratory
- Greg and Carla Matthews
- Gregory and Cara Shelton
- Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation
- Iliad Neurosciences Inc.
- Intercare Therapy
- J&J Foundation
- Jim and Becky Renaud
- John Heffernan
- Leyda Bequer
- Lifetrients
- Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes
- Live Nation
- Melinda and David Setchel
- Microsemi
- Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
- Miracle Foundation Fund
- New Beginnings Nutritionals
- NME Fund
- OxyHealth Corporation
- SaunaSpace
- Seeking Health Educational Institute

$2,000-$4,999
- Alan and Rebecca Aronson
- Allstar Air Conditioning
- Andrew Abraham
- Astra Charitable Fund and Gupta Family Foundation
- Autism Learning Partners
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$1,000-$1,999
- Alan and Rebecca Aronson
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$500-$999
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$500 & up
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- Rob and Kate Adams
Spectrum Awakening
Speech and Language Development Center
Steve and Laurie Duncan
Therapeutic & Behavior Service of Indiana LLC
Ulmont Smith
United Exchange
Variety - The Children’s Charity of Southern California
Wes and Zahra Filipek

$2,500-$4,999
Alfred Lutter
Amazon Smile
American Advisors Group
American Advocacy Group
Amy Simons
Back In Motion Family Chiropractic
Bay Equity LLC
Behavior Support Solutions
Biomic Sciences, LLC
Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP
Center for Autism and Related Disorders
Chubb Bermuda Insurance LTD
CommerceWest Bank
CompuVac Industries
Craig and Jody Johnson
Creative Behavior Interventions
David Batta
Dr. Bob and Cheryl Sears
Edward Eaton
Elemental Superfood
Erik Anderson
Eugene and Judy Opittek
Fifth Generation Inc.
First Harvest Foundation Trust
Healing Autism Academy
Jackson Hunt
Jerome A Fink Foundation
Justin and Alexis Slagle
Kevin and Kyte O’Neil
Laurie Chrispen
Luca Jacobellis
Martin Rinker
Neuro Needs, LLC
NFL Foundation
Norman and Susan Abazoris Foundation
Ohsiek Family Charitable Fund
Quynh-Anh Nguyen
Reza and Kate Jahangiri
Robby and Bina Saggu
Shawn Washer and Lonna Washer
Silver Spring Sagl
Speyer Family
Stephan Piotzker
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The Lapin Foundation, Inc.
Villa Entertainment Group LLC
Wealthcounsel LLC

$1,000-$2,499
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Gerry Bullerdick
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Greg Persky
Guerin Catholic High School
Hartel Investments
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Jay Laub
Jennifer Brown
Jeremiah Jacks
Joan Huizenga
Jonathan and Celena Hallstead
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Justin Frame
Kamran and Shelly Emami
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Kathleen Marcus
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Kimberton Whole Foods, Inc.
Kitaro Watanabe Fund
Knights of Columbus, NJ
Kristin Stoley
Kyung Hoon Kim
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Lee and Diana Leslie
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Peak Achievement Training
Pediatric Therapeutic Services, Inc.
Precision Chiropractic
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Rickey Biddle
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Steve Tullius
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The George Center for Music Therapy, Inc.
The Ultimate Gym, LLC
Tim and Nancy Loskill
Tony and Patience Shutts
True Health Naturals Inc.
UnitedHealth Group
Vanguard Charitable
Walk the Talk Fund
Walkabout Health Products
Wellness Integrative Naturopathic Center, Inc.
Wilderness Hotel & Resort, Inc.
Windes, Inc.
We are families with autism helping families with autism.