



Autism  
Society



# Autism Society of America

## Programs & Initiatives

The Autism Society is the largest and oldest grassroots Autism organization in the United States. Annually, through our nationwide network of affiliates, we support over half a million people in the Autism community through **advocacy, education, resources, and community programming.**

# Vaccine Education Initiative

## We Provide:



— Parent



# Employment Initiative

Our employment initiative aims to create meaningful job opportunities, improve retention, and break down systemic barriers for individuals with Autism. Employment plays a pivotal role in transitions to adulthood, independent living, socialization, self-worth and confidence.

## The Autism Society is committed to:

- Educating employers to build inclusive hiring models
- Training teams for supportive services & accommodations
- Connecting Autistic employees to job opportunities
- Working to reduce systemic barriers to meaningful employment, training and supports

Through this initiative, we seek to redefine employment for Autistic individuals by embracing a **Fulfillment Mindset, which is recognizing that there are numerous ways for Autistic individuals to achieve fulfillment through employment.**

## This could include:



Continued  
Learning



Passion  
Projects



Job/Career  
Shadowing



Volunteering



Part/full-time Integration into  
Competitive Integrated Employment



Coaching

# Safety on the Spectrum™ First Responder Program

**The Autism Society is developing a gold-standard first responder and criminal justice curriculum, training, and certification program.** This program addresses the need for improved interactions between first responders and the Autism community. Leveraging a "train-the-trainer" approach, the Autism Society will impact positive change at the national, state, and local levels.

The First Responder program will focus on preventative strategies and de-escalation techniques that increase positive and safe interactions between the Autism community and first responders.

**It will be delivered in-person by a training team of:**



**First  
Responders**



**Community  
Leaders**



**Autistic  
Individuals**



**Parents**



**Social  
Workers**

Implementation will be distributed throughout the Autism Society affiliate network, first responder agencies, and surrounding communities.

Safety on the Spectrum™

# Water Safety and Wandering Program

The Autism Society's Water and Wandering Program is a **national effort to increase water safety education and training across the Autism community, in order to decrease the tragic loss of life caused by water and wandering-related accidents.** This program works to not only prevent wandering-related tragedies, but to increase water safety skills among Autistic individuals and their families.

The Autism Society seeks to **develop an adaptive aquatics curriculum** that aims to support instructors and the Autism community nationwide.

## The Autism Society's initiative focuses on:



**Proactive Programming**



**Prevention**



**Improved Responses to Wandering Incidents**

# Safety on the Spectrum™

## Kevin & Avonte's Law Program Overview

Kevin and Avonte's Law honors the memory of Kevin Wils and Avonte Oquendo, two boys with Autism who tragically perished after wandering away from supervised settings. **The law aims to create safer communities for people with Autism, Alzheimer's, and other developmental disabilities.** Since the law was passed in March of 2018, it has increased funding to help reduce the risk of injury or death related to wandering for individuals with Autism.

In late 2022, the Autism Society of America was awarded funding to help support technical training and assistance (TTA) in support of Kevin and Avonte's Law. As part of this role, the Autism Society is leading a national effort to prevent water and wandering-related deaths.

**The Autism Society is committed to proactive programming aimed at:**



**Increasing Public Awareness**



**Education**



**Policy**



# Autism Society National Helpline

**The Autism Society's National Helpline seeks to connect the Autism community with the resources they need, when they need them.** Our trained Information and Referral (I&R) Specialists support approximately 9,000 email and phone inquiries annually, providing guidance on topics to diverse needs throughout the lifespan. **Our community members reach out seeking information on diagnosis, therapies and interventions, family training, mental health, housing, legal advocacy, employment, community inclusion, and more.**

**Our dedicated Information and Referral Specialists educate and empower our community with:**



**Resources**



**Services**



**Local Support**

Additionally, the Autism Society offers Autism Source™, a self-directed, comprehensive database that provides credible information and referrals for targeted support needs. Collectively, our Helpline efforts position the Autism Society as a trusted leader within the Autism community.

For information and referral support, contact our National Helpline at **1.800.3AUTISM** (1.800.328.8476), **info@autism-society.org**, or visit our website at **AutismSociety.org**.





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@AutismSociety



**The connection is you.™**