

**g** geneva  
centre for  
autism

2019/20  
**IMPACT**  
REPORT

## MESSAGES

# FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

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This past year, GCA's goal has been to deliver innovative programs that are accessible to all families and budgets. While the province is still clearing the backlog for the childhood budget, GCA has been proactively speaking and listening to our families in the community to deliver flexible programs until they receive their childhood budget.

This report highlights some of the most in need programs we delivered last year and we continued to redevelop and deliver those programs in form of the remote services after the COVID19 closure. Our project ImPACT is an evidence-based parent-mediated intervention program based on best practices in early intervention. This program is designed for young children with social communication delays. Our behaviour consultation program allows families and service providers to access Applied Behaviour Analytic (ABA) services. A BCBA works with client(s) to create a customized roadmap that could be implemented and evaluated effectively.

And lastly, we are proud to launch Sonderly an e-learning platform. Sonderly is GCA's learning division for educators and practitioners, launched on Oct 2019 and has served over ten thousand users since. This e-learning platform will continue to expand with the goal of increasing public awareness and education of neurodiversity and inclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judy Welikovich'.

Judy Welikovich

President, Board of Directors



## **OUR MISSION**

Our mission is to empower individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and their families, to fully participate in their communities.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Judy Welikovitch - President

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Kathy Shaw, Chief Financial Officer

Renita Paranjape, Senior Director, Programs and Services

Kim Takata, Director, Human Resources



# IMPACT



**87%**

of families would recommend  
Geneva Centre for Autism



GCA provided support services to over

**3,000**

children, youth & adult with ASD



We trained over

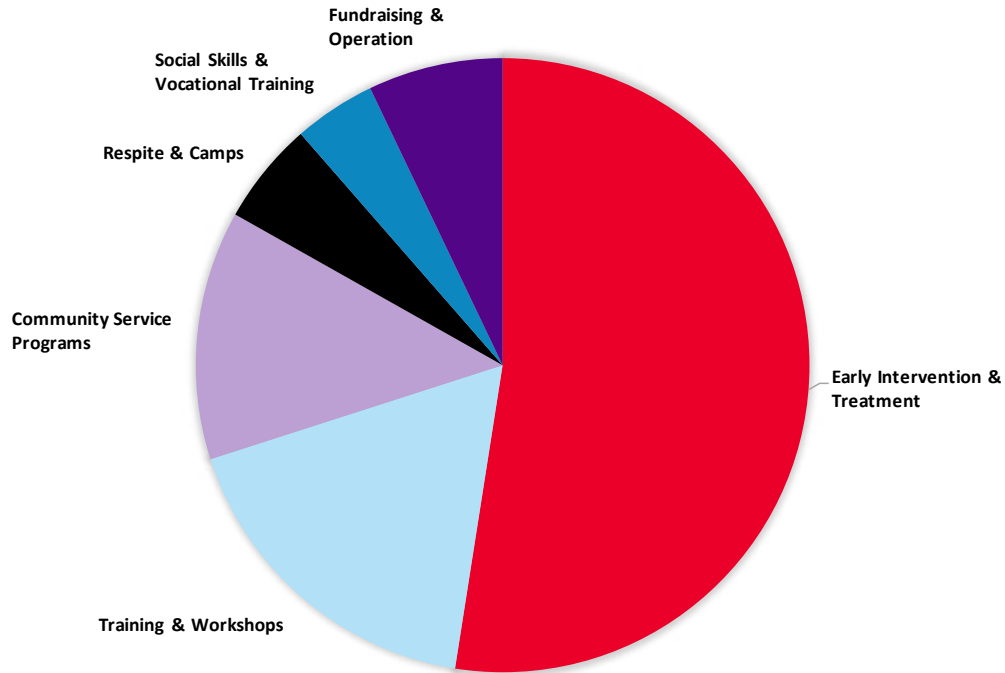
**10,000**

educators & professionals

# BY THE NUMBER

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Geneva Centre for Autism invested the generous funds in the following programs to support children, youth and adults with ASD:



CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Early Intervention & Treatment	\$6,356,516
Training & Workshops	\$2,128,158
Community Service Programs	\$1,588,880
Respite & Camps	\$655,125
Social Skills & Vocational Training	\$523,649
Fundraising & Operation	\$860,269

# BEHAVIOUR CONSULTATION

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The Geneva Centre for Autism has been offering the Behaviour Consultation Service for several years. This service equips families and service providers within the Greater Toronto Area and beyond to access Applied Behaviour Analytic (ABA) services with a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA) from the comfort and convenience of their own home or agency environment.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we had to redesign our programs to make it accessible virtually. Families can meet with a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA) and receive coaching in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) strategies that address individualized needs, virtually. A BCBA works with client(s) to identify goals, complete applicable assessments, create an individualized Behaviour Support Plan (BSP) and Safety Plan (as needed), and provide training and implementation of ABA strategies, as well as program monitoring and evaluation.

The remote program has proven to be very successful. We are thrilled that families are benefiting from the program and we are able to support their needs during these uncertain times. The Geneva Centre for Autism will continue to create and develop innovative programs to meet and support the needs of our families.



# SOCIAL SKILLS

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Physical distancing has been challenging for all of us, but for children, youth, and adults with autism, the sudden interruption of social and recreational activities has been particularly isolating. GCA's Social Skills programs have always been important to our clients and became even more critical during the pandemic. Recognizing the need to keep our clients engaged in social activities with their peers, our staff launched virtual social skills programming to bridge the gap.

Adapted from our onsite Social Skills programs, our Remote Social Skills groups for children use virtual games, role-playing, and group activities to practice the relevant skills. These programs were generously funded by The Peter Gilgan Foundation, The Rotary Club of Toronto Charitable Foundation and The George Lunan Foundation.

With the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, we also offered PEERS® online, a virtual social skills program for socially motivated youth and young adults to learn the skills necessary to make and keep meaningful friendships while staying socially engaged and connected to their peers.

Since GCA began offering Remote Social Skills programs in April, we have supported over 200 children, youth and adults with autism to continue the development of critical social and communication skills during the pandemic.

“ I really want to give kudos to Geneva Centre for what they've done. It's a terrible thing that we have to go through this and it's even harder on these kids. My son's only outlet was school, those were the only friends he had, and then to be locked up at home for so long... For a child like mine, these programs gave him an opportunity to forget all of that. It gave him something to do and something to look forward to.

-Lorraine, GCA Parent (Remote PEERS)

# PROJECT IMPACT



The sudden closure of schools and service agencies due to the COVID-19 pandemic created a host of new challenges for parents in the autism community, as well as children. Without school, therapy or respite care, parents were forced to take on new roles as teachers, therapists and 24/7 caregivers and were desperate for skills and training to support their children through pandemic.

GCA responded to this new community need by providing free remote parent training for families in the autism community. Project ImPACT (Improving Parents as Communication Teachers) is an evidence-based, parent-mediated intervention program based on best practices in early intervention. The goal of the program is for parents to feel more confident in supporting their child's development, and for children to have more opportunities to practice social communication goals in the home. Parents participate in group sessions as well as one-to-one coaching sessions to support their family's individual needs.

With support from the Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, Els for Autism and the Alice and Murray Maitland Foundation, 24 families in the GCA community had the opportunity to complete this program at no cost.



*With the pandemic upending life as we knew it, I was looking for strategies and guidance around setting up learning opportunities for my son, diagnosed with ASD 6 months prior to starting Project ImPACT. Spending all this time at home with him made me feel like I should have been doing so much more with him, in lieu of the social time he gets at daycare, or ABA, or in-person speech therapy – but I just didn't know where to start. Thanks to what I learned in project ImPACT, I feel a lot more confident about how best to set us up for success for social interactions, and expanding play together.*

-Lindsay, Project ImPACT Participant



# SONDERLY

## AUTISM TRAINING PLATFORM FOR PROFESSIONALS

The past year marked another milestone for the Geneva Centre for Autism with the launch of its learning division - Sonderly TM, on October 28th, 2019. Sonderly has since served over ten thousand users with over 100 hours of online autism courses, available in both English and French. Purely based on the Applied Behavioural Analysis curriculum, the e-learning platform's courses have been designed by collaborating with teachers and school divisions across the country.

Sonderly's main aim is to deliver core foundational training as well as the latest research findings and intervention techniques to educators and teaching professionals. Focusing on their mission statement – "Democratize the knowledge and skills that have typically been accessible only to trained professionals," Sonderly seeks to better equip teachers and teaching assistants with practical and accessible tools in a classroom setting. Sonderly courses focus on providing educators to help individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder to have a successful experience at school.

Educators have the greatest impact on the lives of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. For children with autism, transitioning into school can be a challenge. At Sonderly, educators are empowered with practical and efficient methods to help children transition successfully into the school system. Providing individuals on the spectrum and their families with effective tools to fully participate in their communities is an important objective for Sonderly.

The online platform continues to expand with new courses being added to translate the latest clinical and academic information into practical tools rather than providing only theoretical knowledge for educators.



**SONDERLY**



**130+**

Available Training Hours



Content Available in  
**French and  
English**

# THANK YOU!

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Over 3,000 families in Toronto rely on Geneva Centre for Autism services to achieve the best outcomes at home, work, and in the community. Thanks to the generous support of individuals and organizations, GCA is able to support children, youth, and adults with autism to grow and participate in the community.



Our Annual Golf Classic turned 20 last year and was our most successful tournament to date raising over \$120,000 for children, youths and adults with ASD. The success was a testament to our long term partnership with BMO. Thank you for being a champion of the GCA for over 20 years.



# THANK YOU!

**\$100,000+**

Ontario Trillium

**\$30,000-\$60,000**

Beutel Goodman Charitable Foundation  
BMO Financial Group  
Les & Kae Charitable Foundation  
State Street Corporation

**\$10,000-\$29,999**

Access Storage  
Frederick & Douglas Dickson Foundation  
Harvey E Foster Foundation  
Langar Foundation  
Storage Vault  
The Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation  
The Peter Gilgan Foundation

**\$5,000- \$9,999**

Cadillac Fairview  
CIBC  
ELS for Autism Canada  
Jenn Tremblay  
RKG Holdings Holdings  
St. Andrew Charitable Foundation  
The Bank of Nova Scotia

**\$2,500-\$4,999**

Alex Feness  
Intrepid Quantity Surveying Inc.  
John & Michelle Visser  
Nick & Lorraine Grella  
Timberlinx Inc  
Tridel Corporation  
Turner and Townsend  
William Coffin

**\$1000-\$2,499**

Alanne O’Gallagher  
Bryen Daly  
Caesario Dasrat  
Cowan Insurance Group  
Ebrahim Bulbulia  
Enterprise Holdings  
Fidelity Investments  
IBM  
Indigoblue Financial Group Inc  
Kelly Smith & Kevin Donovan  
Leila Burden Nixon LP/AD  
Prakash Bector  
Raj & Beata Mehta  
RBC  
Rescon Financial  
Roger Nainby  
Sandy Harrington  
Starlight Investments  
Tanner Financial  
Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund

**\$100-\$999**

Abe Evreniadis  
Agnes Lan  
Alexandra Aversa  
Ali Singh  
Andrew Baker  
Aqueduct  
Brian G Nicklee  
Bryant Ramdoo  
Buchanan Public School  
Calire & Kenneth Maclean  
Catherine Poulos  
Christina Danos  
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David Peckham  
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Sarah Khan  
Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation  
Tanya Nesterenko  
TD  
Thomas Anthony  
Trace Fire Protection Inc.  
Wendy Lopez



[www.autism.net](http://www.autism.net)



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