

Who are we?

- Established in 1973, ASO is a province-wide volunteer organization committed to creating acceptance and opportunities for all people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs). We organize ourselves through 29 chapters in cities all across Ontario
- We have a 12-member Board of Directors from across Ontario and complete much of our work through volunteer committees
- We do not receive regular financial support from the government; rather, we raise funds for our work through individual, corporate and private donations, and other fundraising activities that focus on autism awareness

Who are our members?

All types of people who are connected to people who have ASD: families, professionals, businesses and supportive friends

What do we do?

Awareness: We help people in Ontario to understand:

- the importance of early diagnosis and intervention
- the numbers of people being diagnosed in Ontario is increasing
- what is needed to teach children with ASDs
- the stress experienced by families living with autism
- how to help people with ASDs
- the need for research in ASDs
- the tremendous need for more treatment and support services

Research: last year ASO established its own **ASO Autism Research Fund** to directly support autism research in Ontario and Canada. This past year we raised **\$80,000** for our fund. A \$20,000.00 ASO Studentship Award has been announced through OMHF.

Education & Support:

Families and professionals are supported through our 29 local chapters. We do this by:

- creating videos and **educational materials**
- offering **public workshops**, training and information about autism in local communities
- **connecting families** with other families
- helping families find what they need **in their own community** to help their child with ASD
- **staying informed** about programs, issues and provincial matters that affect people with ASD
- talking with **provincial leaders, media** about ASDs
- offering **parent relief** programs through summer camps, March Break and holiday events

Get involved. Support your local ASO Chapter!

**ASO Key Activities
2002/2003**

**Toonie for Autism Day
Campaign**

Last Friday of every April



Cycle for Autism

September/October



Recent ASO Publications

- **2002 Ontario Budget Recommendations**
(Submission to Ontario's Minister of Finance)
- **Autism Newslink** - ASO's quarterly provincial newsletter
- **Ontario Human Rights Commission on Education and Disability**
- **Navigating the Special Education System in Ontario**. A handbook for parents of children with autism spectrum disorders

ASO's VISION

Acceptance and opportunities for all individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders

MISSION

To ensure that each individual with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society

6 KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

Advocacy and Support
Research
Best Practices
Government Relations
Public Awareness
Governance



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Society
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