



ASPERGER/AUTISM NETWORK

Annual Report
2015



Dear Friends,

In 2015, **AANE** continued to focus on our guiding principles: providing support to those with Asperger Syndrome and related profiles, helping them to build meaningful and connected lives, and providing information, education, community, support, and advocacy, all in an atmosphere of validation and respect. Our core value is to act as an inclusive organization with the full participation of those we serve.

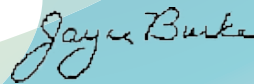
Although we changed our name and our look to reflect changes made in the DSM-5, as well as our expanding geographical reach, we remain the leading organization in the United States providing support and services to the unique population of individuals with Asperger Syndrome and related profiles. Our depth of knowledge and the quality of our supports benefit individuals throughout the lifespan, from those who are three years old to those who are 93 years old.

As we begin our 20th year, **AANE** is uniquely situated to change with the times and to continue growing as the number of people identified with AS continues to increase. We will continue to rely on traditional methods, now augmented by new technology, to continue our mission to empower and enhance the lives of those with Asperger Syndrome, their families, and those who work and live with them.

With sincere gratitude,



Dania Jekel
Executive Director



Jayne Burke
President, Board of Directors

AANE Highlights 2015

- We raised **\$1 million** toward our capital campaign goal of \$1.5 million.
- Our advocacy efforts resulted in major changes in Massachusetts for those with Asperger Syndrome and related profiles.
- We changed our name to reflect the geographical breadth of those we serve and the scope of the services we provide—our logo and new look reflect that expanding mission.
- We updated our tagline—*Empowering Individuals • Building Community*—to reflect our refreshed focus.
- We expanded our partnerships with organizations that are serving similar populations.
- Our new blog, *The Network*, enhances our presence in the Autism Spectrum community.
- We broadened our geographical and educational reach by using multiple social media channels including forums, webinars, Facebook, and Twitter.
- Our clinical staff are acknowledged as world experts; four of them published books or articles: Brenda Dater, *Parenting without Panic*, Dania Jekel and Grace Myhill, “Neurology Matters: Recognizing, Understanding, and Treating Neurodiverse Couples in Therapy,” and Eva Mendes, *Marriage and Lasting Relationships with Asperger Syndrome*.
- To honor our founding director, we renamed our annual conference the Daniel W. Rosenn Annual Connections Conference.

Empowering Individuals • Building Community



AANE Services

LifeMAP provides highly qualified coaches who help adults and teens build their lives, finish school, and gain independence. **LifeMAP** has a specific expertise in providing help to find employment.

More than **280** individuals were supported by a coach.

The **Artist Collaborative** is a group of over 60 artists with AS who have joined together to create a warm and supportive community for each other. Their art, which is for sale, hangs in the **AANE** gallery.



One of the only organizations that provides support to those in neurodiverse relationships, **AANE** has ongoing support groups in eastern and western Massachusetts, an active online forum, and many special events. **795** spouses are served by **AANE**.



More than **900** people attended a conference, seminar, or special event, such as researcher Rosalind Picard speaking about her new wrist band that measures anxiety, a conference focusing on disclosure, and a workshop on sensory sensitivities.

AANE Services



AANE phone and **email support** provides information and consultation to parents, adults, and professionals on such topics as getting a diagnosis, living as a neurodiverse couple, behavior at home, evaluating IEPs, educational success, and employment.

This was the most helpful conversation I've had with anyone about my son. The isolation and frustration of dealing with getting him diagnosed and figuring out how to help us live a better life, mostly alone, has been overwhelming.

Close to **2,000** calls were received from **50** states and more than **30** countries.

Webinars, which can be watched live or as recordings, provide quality content in highly specialized areas such as sexuality, homework, transition to adult life, estate planning, and IEP goals. More than **800** people viewed a webinar.

1,270,235

people visited the **AANE** website to access videos, articles, forums, and our blog.

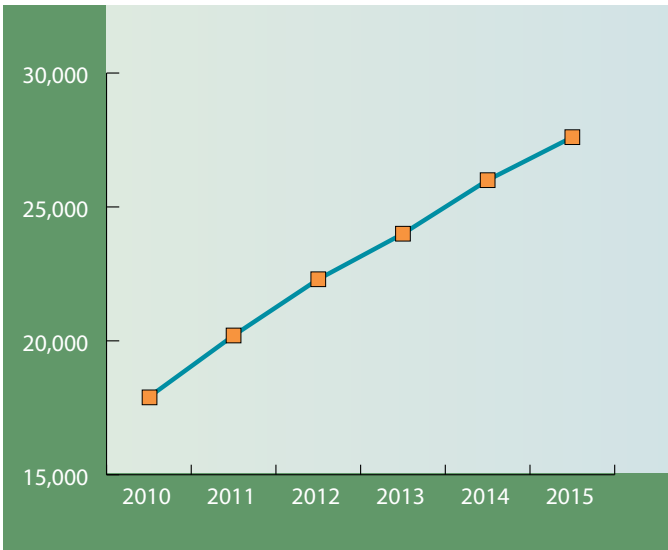


Adult Cohort Groups include special groups for segments of our population such as women with AS, individuals over 50, gay men with AS, and those seeking employment. These groups each serve **15** to **30** individuals.

Grandparents find support at **AANE** via an in-person support group, special events, and an online forum. **429** grandparents are members of **AANE**.

Growth in Numbers

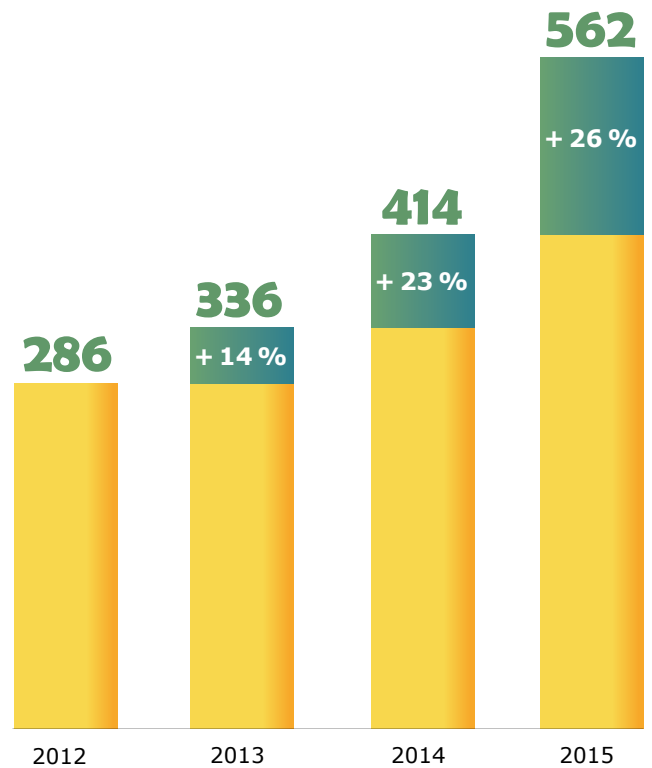
Individuals and Families Served



increased
35%
since 2010

AANE Adult Community

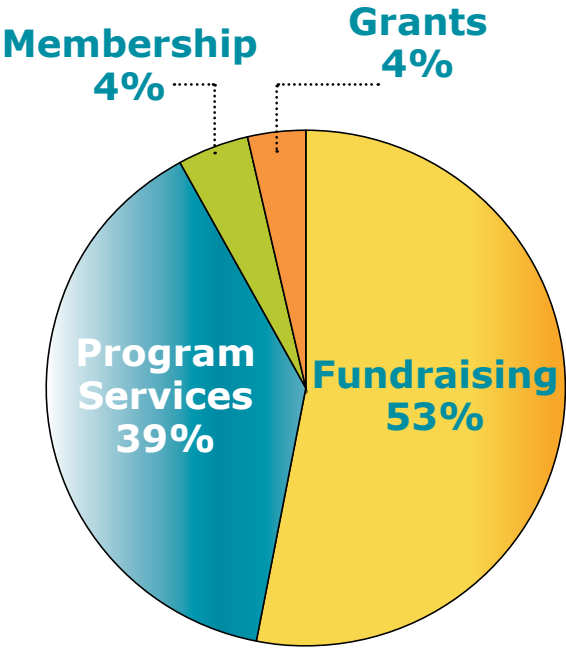
increased
49%
since 2012



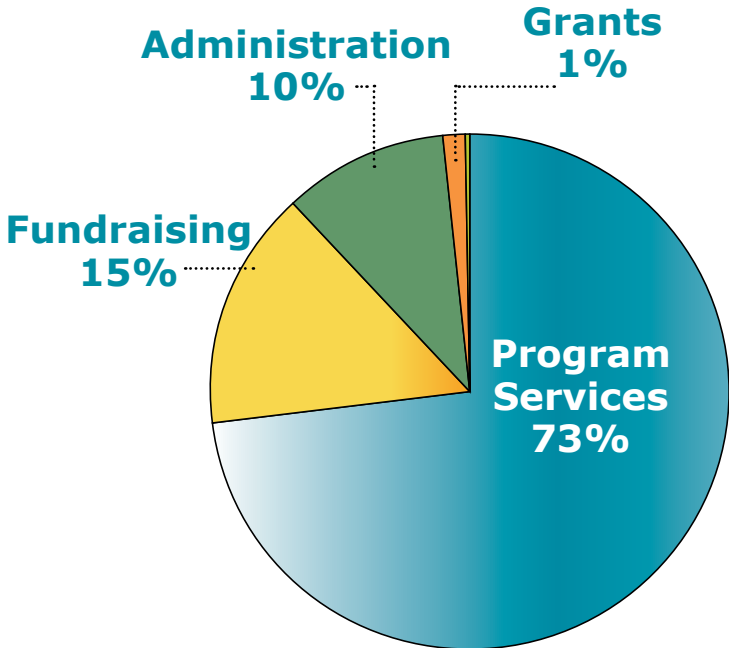
Financial Statement

	Revenue	Expenses
Fundraising	1,044,261	286,989
Membership	83,337	4,929
Program Services	764,706	1,395,538
Grants	70,574	23,745
Administration	0	198,156
Total	\$1,962,879	\$1,909,357

Revenue Sources



Expense Allocations



Thank You

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Thanks to you, **AANE**
has reached
\$1,000,000
toward our
*Here for You Today and
Tomorrow Campaign.*

Thank You

It is through the ongoing support of generous friends and members that we have been able to begin funding many new programs under our *Five Strategic Aspirations*. The generosity of you, our supporters, speaks volumes about your willingness to help our community thrive.

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 and Robert A. Irons, Jr.

Our donors are special—they understand what AS is all about.

Although people with AS have normal to superior intelligence as well as impressive strengths, they struggle in everyday life. People with AS experience challenges in a number of areas, including social interaction, motor coordination, heightened sensitivity to sensory input, and executive functioning. It takes longer for people with AS to develop life skills. With support from our donors, they can find their niche in the world. **AANE** plays a critical—and unparalleled—role in helping people with AS achieve meaningful and productive lives.

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for all the sweet, kind people with Asperger's I know
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in honor of Michael and Susan Steinberg
in appreciation of Jane Scheibel Spigle
in honor of Daniel W. Rosenn, M.D.
in honor of the Staff of AANE
in honor of Ryan Lewis

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The Asperger/Autism Network is a nonprofit organization, founded in 1996. AANE works with individuals, families, and professionals to help people with Asperger Syndrome and similar autism spectrum profiles build meaningful, connected lives. We do this by providing information, education, community, support, and advocacy, all in an atmosphere of validation and respect.

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