



South Carolina Autism Society

Together We Can Solve The Puzzle

Main Office

806 12th Street
West Columbia, SC
29169-6142

803-750-6988 Office
800-438-4790

803-750-8121 Fax

Email
scas@scautism.org

Web
www.scautism.org

Satellite Offices

Charleston

4 Carriage Lane
Suite 302
Charleston, SC 29407
843-870-1650 Office/Fax

Coastal

1508 Azalea Drive
Suite 801
Surfside Beach, SC
29575
843-650-0129 Office/Fax

Upstate

5 Century Drive
Suite 132
Century at Keith
Greenville, SC
29607-1578
864-241-8669 Office
864-241-8667 Fax

Mission Statement

Enabling all individuals with autism spectrum disorders in South Carolina to reach their maximum potential.

Autism Weekend of Prayer April 26-27, 2014

The South Carolina Autism Society is inviting you to join us in bringing Autism Weekend of Prayer to South Carolina. We are reaching out to places of worship throughout the state to help bring awareness to the faith community.

South Carolina's Autism Weekend of Prayer coincides with Autism Sunday and international Day of Prayer for Autism and Aspergers Syndrome, initiated in 2002 by Ivan and Charika Corean of the United Kingdom. Their son, Charin has an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The aim of Autism Weekend of Prayer is to encourage all religions and denominations to become aware about the issues that parents, caregivers and people with Autism Spectrum Disorder face.

Ivan Corean has stated: "faith communities have a huge role to play in reaching out to the socially excluded, the vulnerable and the downtrodden. I would urge churches to go out to the community and reach out to parents, caregivers and all people with Autism and Aspergers Syndrome".

With your help, we would like to spread the word to all places of worship, and ask them to join us in South Carolina's third annual Autism Weekend of Prayer.

According to the centers for disease control, the occurrence rate for autism spectrum disorder is 1 in 88. Over 52,000 individuals in South Carolina have Autism Spectrum Disorder. With the occurrence rate this high, every family is affected through relatives, friends or neighbors. It is hard to imagine any congregation not touched by autism.

Included in this packet is information on autism, suggested prayers that can be duplicated for your service and bulletin, and posters to promote this special day. Please feel free to use any of this information to support Autism Weekend of Prayer. We also invite you to view our All Are Welcome faith inclusion program at <http://www.AllAreWelcome.info>.

Additional information on autism is available on our website at www.scautism.org. Please feel free to call the South Carolina Autism Society as well with any questions at 800-438-4790, or email us at scas@scautism.org

On behalf of individuals with autism, we thank you for your efforts to bring Autism Weekend of Prayer to South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Kim Thomas
President & CEO

Sample Prayers for Autism Weekend of Prayer

Pray for all people with autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

- Pray for greater awareness of the condition.
- Pray for better public services in health, education, specialist speech therapy and respite care.
- Pray for tolerance and understanding towards people with autism and Asperger's Syndrome.
- Pray for access to training and jobs for people with autism and Asperger's syndrome.
- Pray for the sick, the elderly the shut-in.
- Pray for parents and caregivers of children and adults with autism and Asperger's Syndrome.
- Pray for national governments that they will provide public services and listen to the voices of disability communities.
- Pray for teachers in mainstream schools and special schools that they will think of real educational strategies to help children with autism and Asperger's Syndrome.
- Pray that governments will build, staff and resource specialist autism school or autism units with sensory rooms to support children who need specialized, structured help.
- Pray for medical professionals as they reach out to all people with autism and Asperger's syndrome.
- Pray for the improvement of communication and social skills for children and adults with autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

A Prayer of St. Francis for Autism

by Tim Tucker

Lord, let thy peace fill me up until I overflow;
that where people cannot speak, I may be their advocate;
that where anyone is rejected,
I may extend my arms in welcome;
that where parents are heavy burdened,
I may offer a word of comfort;
that where our children struggle,
I may lift them up and cheer;
that where some see disability,
I may reveal to them extraordinary gifts;
that where others judge,
I may share with them my deep gladness;
and that where any are overlooked,
I may help the lights of all to shine.
O Giver of These Gifts,
grant that I may not so much seek to be reassured
as to reassure;
to be praised, as to praise;
to be accepted, as to accept;
for it is in all our uncertainty that we are inspired to hope;
it is in great challenges that we discover our greatest joys,
and it is in our community of wanderers that we find the way
home.
Amen.

A Prayer for the Autism Community

Gracious Father,
Thank you for giving us your Son
To teach us and forgive us.
He suffered and died for us,
And while he was on this earth
He healed the sick
And touched the lives
Of everyone.

We now commit the lives
Of all autistic people in our nation
Into Your loving care.
We ask you to lay Your hands on them
And give them Your peace.
Give them the power of the Holy Spirit
To make them whole.
In Jesus Name, Amen.

From a Child -

Jesus,
Thank you
That you are there for me
There are many things I'd like to do better-
Like speaking and writing.
I ask you to help me.
You have already helped me in many ways.
Sometimes I see the world in pictures -
I like to draw, to watch TV.
I like to do many more things,
Which I can't do.
So please lay your hands on me
And bless me.
Be with me Lord Jesus
At home and in school.

Thank you for my parents, my family,
My teachers and support workers
And all those who are helping me.
Thank you Jesus, Amen.

Vernon Corea was a pioneering broadcaster with Radio Ceylon/SLBC and the BBC. His grandson was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder in the United Kingdom. Vernon Corea fully supported the Autism Awareness Campaign. He was present at the first ever service for autism at St. Paul's Cathedral in London in 2002 Autism Awareness Year. He wrote these prayers remembering people with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome all over the world.



South Carolina Autism Society

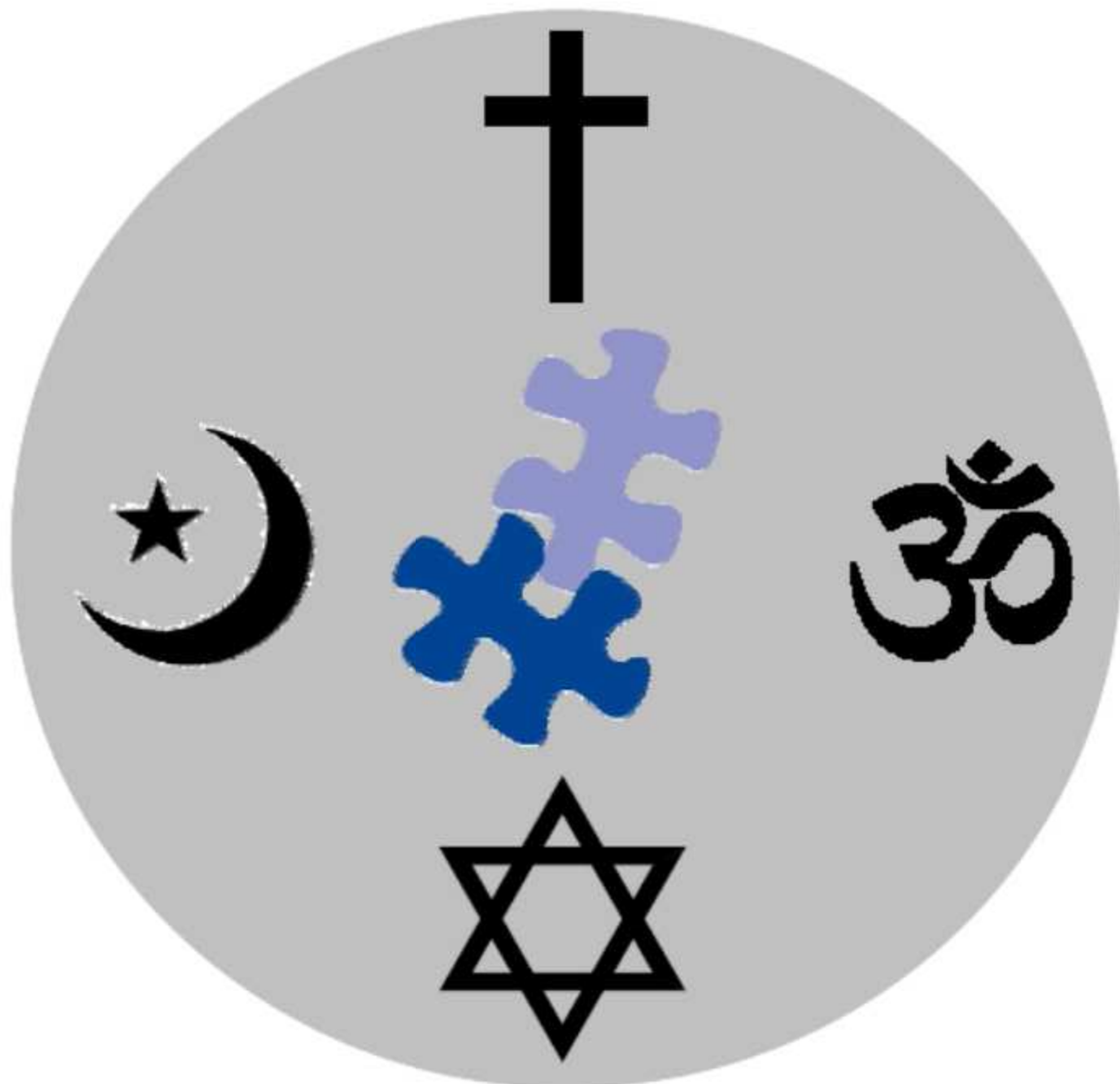
Together We Can Solve The Puzzle

The purpose of the South Carolina Autism Society is to enable all individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) to reach their maximum potential.

www.scautism.org

Autism Weekend of Prayer

April 26-27, 2014



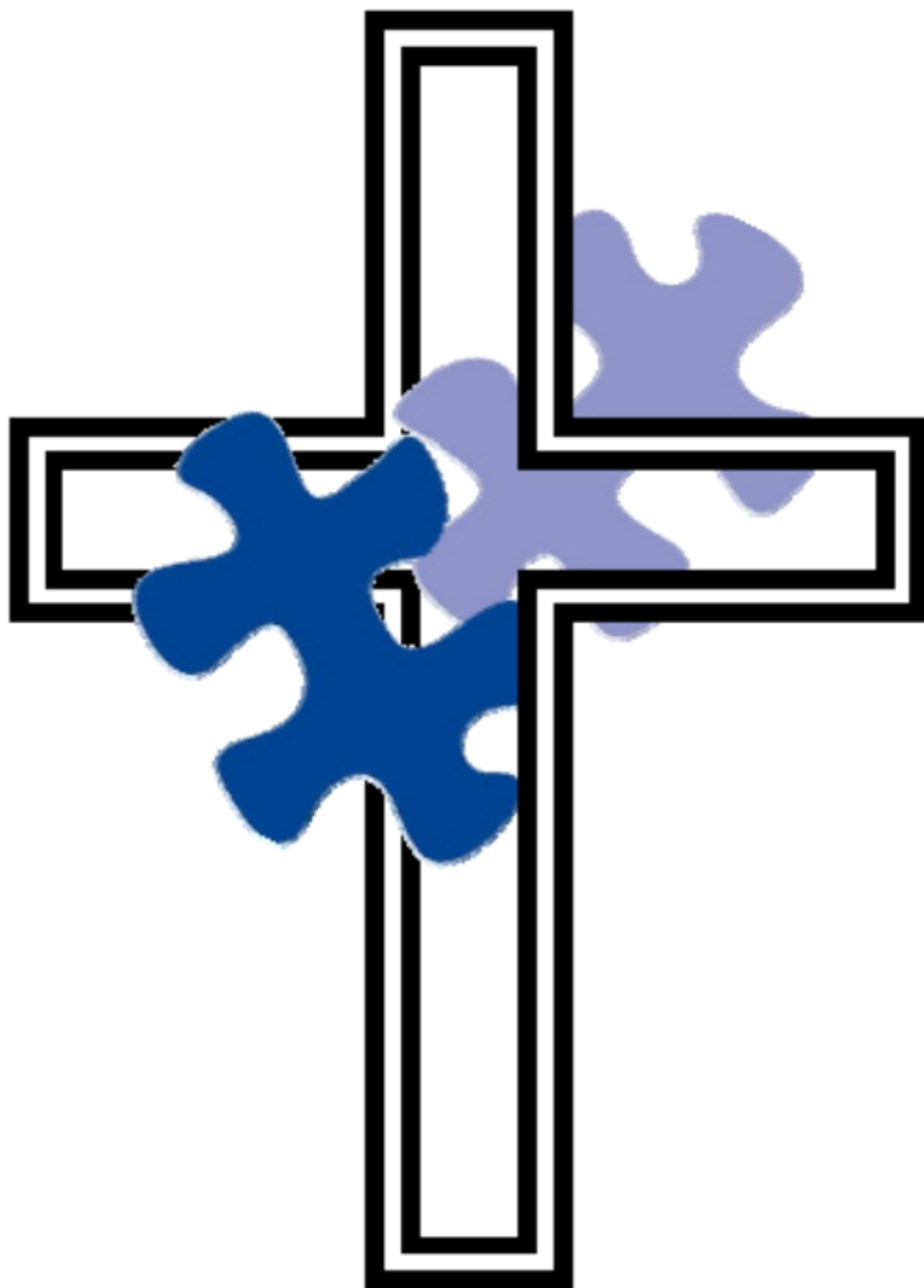
The intersecting of Autism and Faith

"two sets intersect if and only if they have at least one common element"

For more information on autism, visit www.scautism.org or call 800-438-4790

Autism Weekend of Prayer

April 26-27, 2014



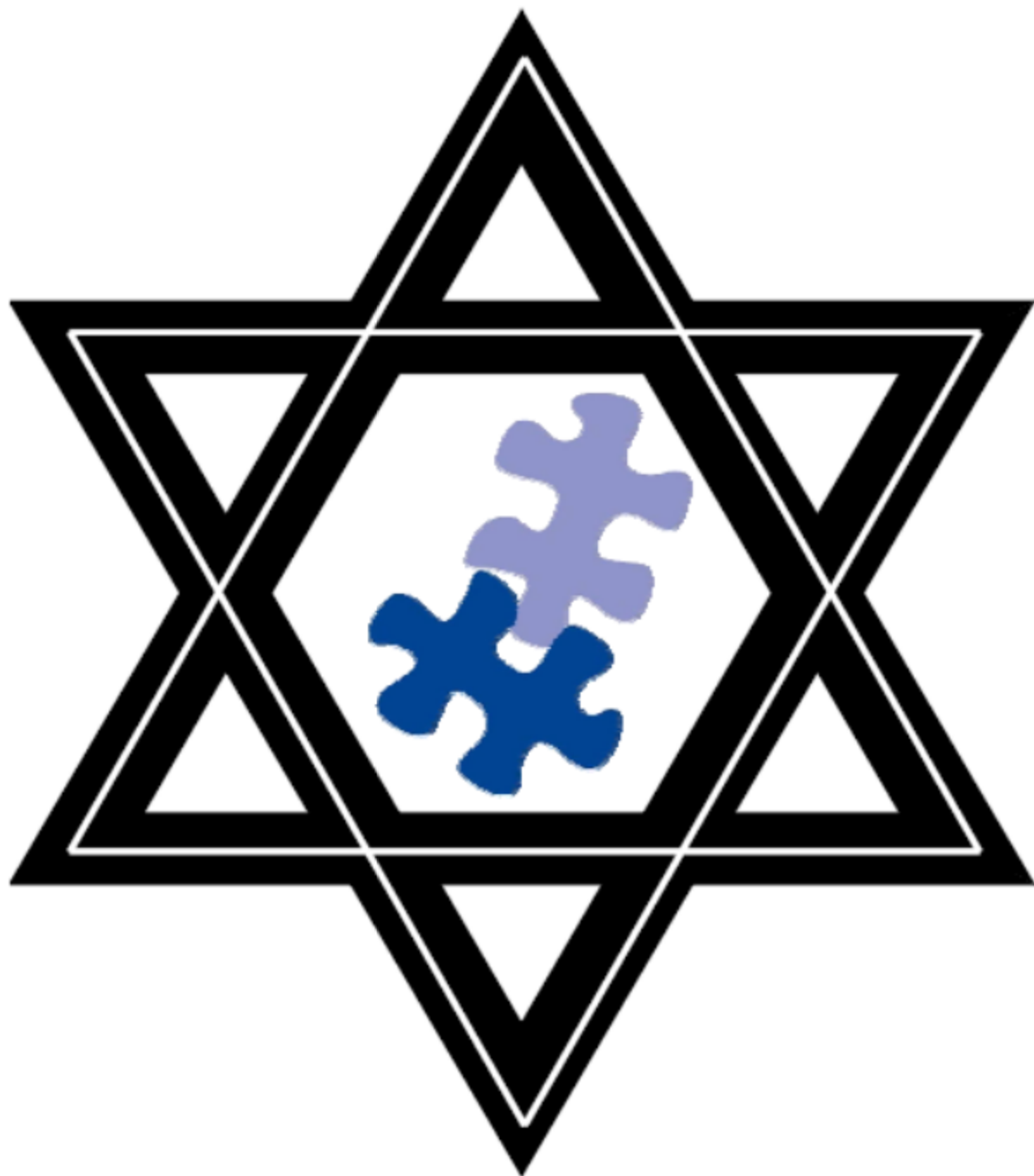
The intersecting of Autism and Faith

"two sets intersect if and only if they have at least one common element"

For more information on autism, visit www.scautism.org or call 800-438-4790

Autism Weekend of Prayer

April 26-27, 2014



The intersecting of Autism and Faith

"two sets intersect if and only if they have at least one common element"

For more information on autism, visit www.scautism.org or call 800-438-4790



South Carolina Autism Society

Together We Can Solve The Puzzle

The purpose of the South Carolina Autism Society is to enable all individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) to reach their maximum potential.

What is autism?

Autism is a developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. Autism Spectrum Disorders are the result of a neurological disorder that affects functioning of the brain. These disorders occur in at least one in every 88 individuals and can occur in different forms, which are sometimes called "autism spectrum disorders."

It is four to five times more common in males and occurs in all social and ethnic groups. Family income, lifestyle and education do not affect the chance of occurrence.

Autism interferes with the development of the brain in reasoning, social interaction and communication skills. People with autism typically have deficiencies in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions and leisure or play activities. The disorder makes it hard for them to communicate and relate to others. They may resist changes in routine, exhibit repeated body movements (hand flapping, rocking, etc.) and have unusual responses to people or attachments to objects. Sometimes aggressive or self-injurious behavior occurs.

About 2,500,000 people in the U.S. (over 52,000 in South Carolina) have some form of autism, but some experts believe this could be a conservative figure. Its prevalence rate places it as one of the three most common developmental disabilities. Yet the majority of the public, including some professionals in the medical, educational and vocational fields, are still unaware of how autism affects behavior. Progress is being made in developing more effective teaching methods and other interventions for individuals with autism.

Affects individuals in every country and region of the world; knows no racial, ethnic, nor economic boundaries

Uncertain cause and currently no cure

Third most common developmental disability with a prevalence rate of at least one in every 88 individuals

Impaired social interaction, expressive and receptive communication, and imagination

Symptoms can range from mild to severe

More common in males than females

Facts About Autism Spectrum Disorders

- One in every 88 individuals has autism.
- Over 52,000 individuals in South Carolina have autism with many cases still undiagnosed.
- 80% of all individuals with autism learn to talk.
- Early diagnosis and intervention are essential.
- Each person with autism is a unique individual with his or her own strengths.

STRIDES FOR AUTISM

Upstate: Saturday, April 5

Midlands: Saturday, May 3



8 am registration, 9 am walk
fun-walk, resource fair, and family-fun activities.

<https://scautism.org/strides/>

What is the South Carolina Autism Society?

Mission Statement

The purpose of the South Carolina Autism Society is to enable all individuals with autism spectrum disorders to reach their maximum potential.

Programs

- **Information and Referral:** Providing information to parents and professionals about autism and available services.
 - **Advocacy:** SCAS provides advocacy on all levels from the individual level on up to the system change level.
 - **Autism and Informed Response:** Training for emergency responders (law enforcement, EMS, fire fighters, etc) on autism, using parent volunteers.
 - **Parent-School Partnership:** PSP seeks to assist children with autism in receiving the best education possible by helping to build relationships between the school and the parents.
 - **Service Coordination:** Is an expansion of the society's existing programs of information and referral and advocacy. SCAS will provide service coordination to individuals with autism spectrum disorders.
-

Provides

- Information and referral services
 - Information source for current treatment options and national trends in research
 - Regional support groups
 - Continued involvement in advocacy with governmental agencies and state and federal lawmakers
 - Opportunity to network with people who have common interests and concerns
 - Annual informational meeting
 - Interagency collaboration
-

How You Can Help

We have come a long way in our knowledge about autism and the education and treatments that best help children with autism spectrum disorders. Nonetheless, there is still much work to be done. **You can make a difference** by volunteering your time or resources to the South Carolina Autism Society. You can join even if you don't have a family member with autism, but want to help out in some way. A financial contribution might cover the costs of printing materials or long distance telephone calls to support a family living in a remote part of our state.

If you know someone who would benefit from our services, please call today. We will be happy to help.

Membership Levels

BASIC: Individual (\$10); Family (\$20)

SUPPORTING: Individual (\$35); Family (\$50)

BENEFACTOR: Individual (\$75); Family (\$100)

FULL-TIME STUDENT: Individual (\$10)

Contact us

806 12th Street, West Columbia, SC 29169, Phone (803) 750-6988 / (800) 438-4790

5 Century Drive, Suite 132, Greenville, SC 29607, Phone (864) 241-8669

4 Carriage Lane, Suite 302, Charleston, SC 29407, 843-870-1650

1504 Azalea Drive Surfside Beach, SC 29575, 843-650-0129



Email Address scas@scautism.org

Website www.scautism.org