



Autism Communities

Building Community for the Neurodiverse

Five-Year Strategic Plan



2024-2029



autismcommunities.org

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A Message from our Board Leadership

Established in 2016, Autism Communities has helped young adults living with autism open up an exciting new chapter in their lives by facilitating their move into neighborhood apartments along the south shore of Suffolk County. To witness the success of our residents and to see them thrive in their independence motivates our work each day.

As we grow our organization and expand our model, we are now poised to broaden our reach to individuals affected by both Autism and/or Intellectual Developmental Disabilities. This repositioning allows us to serve a greater range of those needing creative and long term housing solutions.

Our five-year Strategic Plan outlines the next chapter in Autism Communities history and charts an ambitious path forward in our mission to facilitate inclusive and sustainable housing for neurodiverse individuals on Long Island. Although bold, we know our goals can be realized with the passion and dedication displayed by our Board Members, staff, residents, families and community partners. Together we will attain our enduring vision to “inspire a world built without barriers”.



Doreen A. Jaggs
Doreen Jaggs
Chairwoman



Paul Pedretti
Paul Pedretti
Chairman Emeritus

Overview



Autism Communities is committed to fostering a culture of inclusion in neighborhoods across Long Island. We are dedicated to advocating for neurodiverse individuals in their desire to live independent and fulfilled lives.

In this spirit, we collaborate with area developers to provide access to affordable housing in which the individual can reside with the support of staff hired through their self directed budget. Our first residents moved into their homes in the Fall of 2020 and their success continues to inspire and motivate our commitment.

Today, 1 in 36 children are diagnosed with autism and 80% of adults with autism live at home and receive support from a family caregiver. Our mission and strategic plan are now more important than ever. We remain dedicated to emerging as a leader in the development of creative, sustainable housing options for neurodiverse individuals.





Our Mission

To facilitate inclusive housing for neurodiverse individuals that is sustainable through our innovative programs and services.

Our Vision

“To Inspire a World Built Without Barriers”



Our Core Values

R.E.A.C.H.
For a Promising Tomorrow

Autism Communities is committed to serving and empowering the neurodiverse community of Long Island. Our Core Values are at the heart of everything we believe in and do, guiding our commitment toward an inclusive society.



Respect

We respect each other's unique needs and strengths, recognizing how all abilities enrich our society.



Empowerment

We seek to empower neurodiverse individuals to thrive independently in their community, pursuing and achieving their dreams.



Advocacy

We advocate for collective positive change, creating an inclusive and uplifting society.



Compassion

We inspire compassion beyond ourselves, striving toward a supportive and integrated community.



Hope

We nurture hope through intentional acts of kindness, embracing each other in our path toward a promising tomorrow.



Our Strategic Plan is guided by the following foundational principles:



We will enhance the quality and scope of the programs and services we offer neurodiverse individuals through strengthening and developing relationships with community partners and donors.

We will enhance the opportunities for families, volunteers, residents and participants to contribute meaningfully to the growth, progress and sustainability of Autism Communities.

We will expand our presence in the neurodiverse community, developing a flexible and sustainable housing program.

We will expand our social and educational programming for neurodiverse individuals and their families, offering opportunities for social connections, information sharing and skill development.



We will effect the lives of neurodiverse individuals, creating positive change through advocacy and commitment to an inclusive and empowered society.



Our Strategic Pillars



Operations



Overview

- 🏠 **Further Develop Staff and Leadership Teams**
- 🏠 **Formulate an Ongoing Comprehensive Marketing Strategy**
- 🏠 **Increase Community Partnerships**
- 🏠 **Enhance Current Housing Model for Future Sustainability**

Programs & Services



Overview

- 🏠 **Expand Club AC's Social and Educational Programs**
- 🏠 **Develop a Corps of Volunteers**
- 🏠 **Establish Direct Support Programs**

Fundraising



Overview

- 🏠 **Develop Progressive Fundraising Strategy**
- 🏠 **Implement Annual Fundraising Event Schedule**
- 🏠 **Enhance Grant Awards**

Housing



Overview

- 🏠 **Further Develop Relationships with Builders and other Community Stakeholders**
- 🏠 **Enhance our Housing Access Plan: H.A.P.**
- 🏠 **Develop Flexible Housing Options**



Our Board



Doreen Jaggs
Chairwoman



Stephen Brodsky
Board Member



Margaret Curran-Rusch
Board Member



Mark Gregorio
Board Member



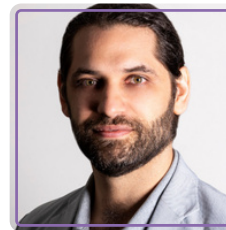
Allison Kleinman
Board Member



Rob Manger
Board Member



Mike Sanchez
Board Member



Rob Sanchez
Board Member



Steven Visco
Board Member



Our Advisory Board



**Paul
Pedretti**
Chairman Emeritus



**Trish
Calandra**



**Grace
Pedretti**



**Debra
Solomon**



Our Staff

Debra MacKenzie
Director of Operations





Thank you!

For further inquiries and information:
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