



AUTISM SUPPORT OF KENT COUNTY

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



WE DID SOME OTHER GREAT STUFF TOO!

We held a Walk for Autism with over 600 attendees

We had the 14th Annual Golf for Awareness Event with a full flight of golfers.

We held the 2nd Ride for Autism with bikers riding between 25 and 100 miles.

We collaborated with many other nonprofits who serve people with special needs.

We offered resources and a listening ear to over 450 people via calls, texts, and emails.

We participated in an inclusion design workshop with Steelcase.

We held informational workshops for parents and caregivers:

- * Speech Therapy Options
- * Safety Presentation by the Kent County Sheriff's Department
- * Legal and Financial Planning

Our Services

WE REMAIN THE MOST ACTIVE AUTISM ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE! Our focus is on making life better and more productive for people with autism by sharing resources, being here for families, offering social programs, providing opportunities for connection, and by giving people with autism the chance to grow, learn, make friends, and become the best they can be.

2022 WAS FILLED WITH SO MUCH TIME TOGETHER!

- 47 Clubhouse Gatherings
- 30 Young Adult Level 1 Group Events
- 18 Teen and Young Adult Social Group Events
- 12 Family Events
- 10 Support Groups
- 5 Hiking Group Outings
- 4 Gatherings of the New Autistic Adult Meetup Group
- 4 Performances of the Full Spectrum Players Theater Group
- 1 Sensory Friendly Performance at the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre

AWARENESS. SUPPORT. KNOWLEDGE. CONNECTION.



WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT THE WORK THAT WE ARE DOING:

FROM A PARENT: "The friends my son has made at Clubhouse has given him a kind of confidence he needed to begin to express himself. He has been opening up to me so much more as well, such a joy to see. I can't thank you enough for inviting him into this group. It gives him a safe place to learn, connect, and blossom. He hasn't had any friends since 8th grade, so this just made my whole year!!!!"

FROM A GRANDPARENT: "Most individuals on the autism spectrum struggle socially. They tend toward isolation and seem lost in their own little worlds. Our grandson is no exception. We are extremely grateful for the opportunities and events that ASK has made available to him. He participates willingly in social events and has even formed a few friendships; something that has proven difficult for him over the years. The ASK Theater Group in particular has been a godsend. We have seen him come out of his shell and perform (in public) with great enthusiasm. ASK has become one of the charities we regularly support and would encourage any additional support that can be made available."

FROM A YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT: "Puzzle Partners young adult group has been very important to my social life and well-being. I have had the opportunity to have new experiences and make new friends. The positive impact Puzzle Partners has made on my life is incredible, and I am lucky to be a part of it."

FROM A PARENT: "ASK leadership, staff, and volunteers continually strive to improve and expand inclusive programs. Their heart for our special community is immeasurable, their work is excellent and we could not be more appreciative."

FROM A YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT: "ASK has given me a tremendous sense of belonging, thanks to the meetings and events I have had the privilege of attending. Since I became a member, I've become so accepting of how my autism is a part of me, no matter how much society has told me to suppress it."

FROM A YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT: "I have a good life but Autism Support of Kent County has given me something that has made it even better. Friends. Friends like me. I am incredibly grateful for these friends and ASK."

FROM A YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT: "The people at Theater Group appreciate me as I am and accept me as part of their family."

FROM A YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT: "ASK is my second home. I am loved and listened to and my identity is respected. I am thinking of trying to get a job and a driver's license now, too."

FROM A YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT: "People listen to you at ASK and care about the things you care about. We have fun here, and I have friends for the first time."

