THE PROMISE OF INCLUSION

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

autism charlotte

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THE PROMISE OF INCLUSION

MISSION:
Helping children with autism achieve their full potential

VISION:
Facilitating **tolerance**, **acceptance**, and **involvement**, and helping to transition Charlotte-Mecklenburg into a model autism-inclusive community

VALERIE M. ISEAH
CEO

SHANNON DONNELLY
Board Chair

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO & BOARD CHAIR

Autism Charlotte is committed to helping children with autism achieve their full potential. Our programs and services address their academic, social, and developmental needs, but also teach, engage, build awareness, and help to eliminate the public stigma too often associated with autism. We believe that every child with autism has special gifts, talents, and a unique contribution to make to society. Through the work of our dedicated staff, board, interns, volunteers, collaborative partners, and our very generous donors, Autism Charlotte is bringing children with autism out of the shadows of isolation and helping to level the playing field towards their developmental, academic, social, and economic success.

The most recent data (2018) released by the Centers for Disease Control show that 1 in 59 school-age children in this country is impacted by autism, a 15% increase since 2014. Autism is the single most prevalent childhood disease faced in this country today and is more common than childhood diabetes, cancer, and AIDS combined. In North Carolina, the number is even more staggering, with over 6,000 of those children living right here in our local community.

Autism is a life-long disorder, and although treatable, it is not curable. Autism Charlotte is unique among those that serve the autism community in that we are a local organization, helping local families, and focus our efforts exclusively on creating inclusion-based opportunities and programs. The ultimate success of our work is that we make a significant community-wide social impact by enabling those affected by autism to be productive, included members of our society, while offering a life-changing experience for their peers and members of our community.

Since 2006, Autism Charlotte has steadily increased our local impact, and in 2018 served a record-breaking 547 children with autism. While this increased impact is substantial, the unmet need remains tremendous. Our Promise of Inclusion demands that we do more. Autism Charlotte is strategically aiming to increase our impact through programmatic innovation, community-wide engagement, education, and advocacy, and we look forward to an even more impactful 2019.

We are tremendously grateful to you for your support and all that we have accomplished together to date. In 2019, we need your support and involvement more than ever. Children with autism in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community are counting on us to keep our promise!

Valerie M. Iseah, CEO
Shannon Donnelly, Board Chair

Our Board

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

SHANNON DONNELLY, Chair
US Bank

BRENT SIMMONS, Vice Chair
Octagon

CHRISTINA CALDWELL, Treasurer
Business Owner

JORDAN DULL, Secretary
Mechanix Wear

KIMBERLY COBB
Attorney

ROBERT ROBINSON
CVS Caremark

TANU GULATI
Community Volunteer

JIM MANGANO
Audi of Charlotte

SCOTT HEBERTON
Wells Fargo

VALERIE ISEAH, CEO
Autism Charlotte

FOUNDING MEMBERS (2006-2018)

Lori Schleicher

Isabel Owen

Marjorie Serralles-Russell

Lee James

Michelle Nebrig

WE ARE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO OUR FOUNDERS FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE. AUTISM CHARLOTTE'S CURRENT AND FUTURE SUCCESSES WILL FOREVER REST ON THE STRONG FOUNDATION THEY BUILT.

2018 IMPACT

547

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH AUTISM SERVED IN 4 CORE PROGRAMS

114
EXTENDED LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT
(ages 5-18)

90
PATHS
(ages 12-22)

303
UNIVERSITY AUTISM OUTREACH
(ages 3-22)

40
iCAN BIKE
(ages 8-18)

242 **COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED**

> THERE ARE OVER 700 STUDENTS IN THAT SCHOOL, AND IN 3 YEARS I HAD NEVER HEARD ANOTHER STUDENT REFER TO MY SON BY NAME. THE DAY I PICKED HIM UP FROM YOUR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM AND HEARD ANOTHER CHILD SAY, 'HAVE A GOOD WEEKEND RYAN,' WAS ONE OF THE BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE. I LITERALLY BAWLED WHEN I MADE IT TO THE CAR.

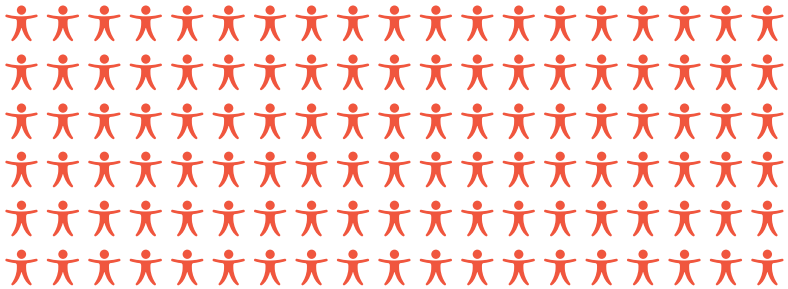
-Michael, Extended Learning & Development Parent

Extended Learning & Development

Afterschool and summer program focused on academic, self-help, and social skill development.

1 2 3 4 5 6

7
COMMUNITY SITES



114
CHILDREN SERVED
(ages 5 to 18)

100%
SHOWED MEASURABLE PROGRESS IN COMMUNICATION

Delivered in partnership with

cms Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

the YMCA FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT® FOR HEALTHY LIVING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
Greater Charlotte

PATHS

Teaches executive functioning skills to help tweens, teens, and young adults prepare for a successful transition to adulthood.

2
COMMUNITY SITES

Queens University of Charlotte

UNC Charlotte

80%
Participants' parent reported increase in confidence and responsible behavior

86%
Participants demonstrated increased knowledge

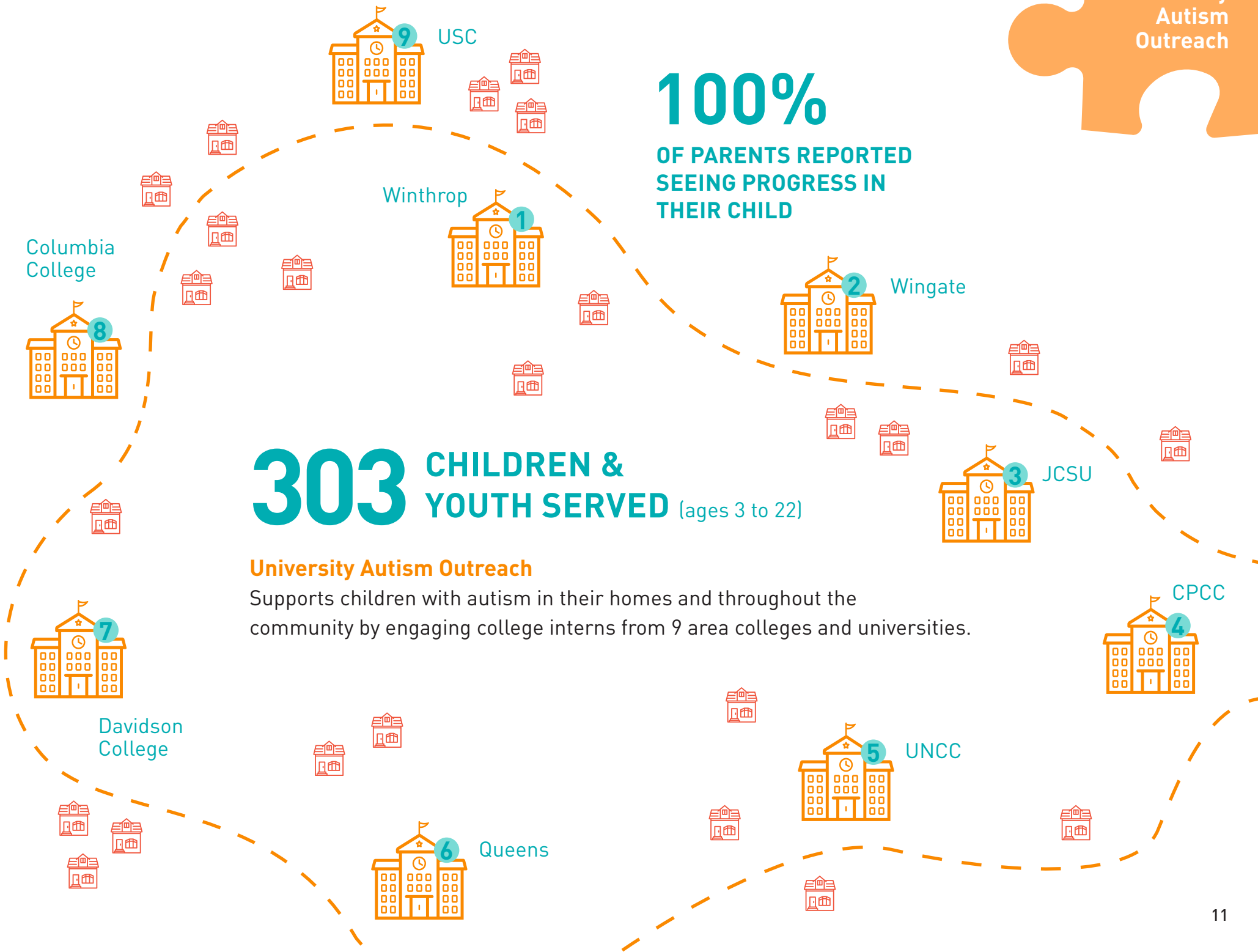
90
YOUTH SERVED
(ages 12 to 22)

BRANDON WAS LOCKED INSIDE AND HEADED DOWN THE WRONG PATH. THE PATHS PROGRAM REALLY GOT HIM TO OPEN UP AND HEADED ON THE RIGHT TRACK. NOW HE'S A 2ND YEAR COLLEGE STUDENT, DOING WELL, AND VOLUNTEERING IN THE PATHS PROGRAM. WHO WOULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED ALL THIS WAS EVEN POSSIBLE?

-Camille, PATHS Parent

IT HAS BEEN SO AMAZING SEEING HOW MOLLY HAS CHANGED AND MATURED IN SUCH A SHORT TIME. WHAT A GIFT FOR MY DAUGHTER!

-Kimberly, University Autism Outreach Parent



100%

OF PARENTS REPORTED SEEING PROGRESS IN THEIR CHILD

303 CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVED (ages 3 to 22)

University Autism Outreach

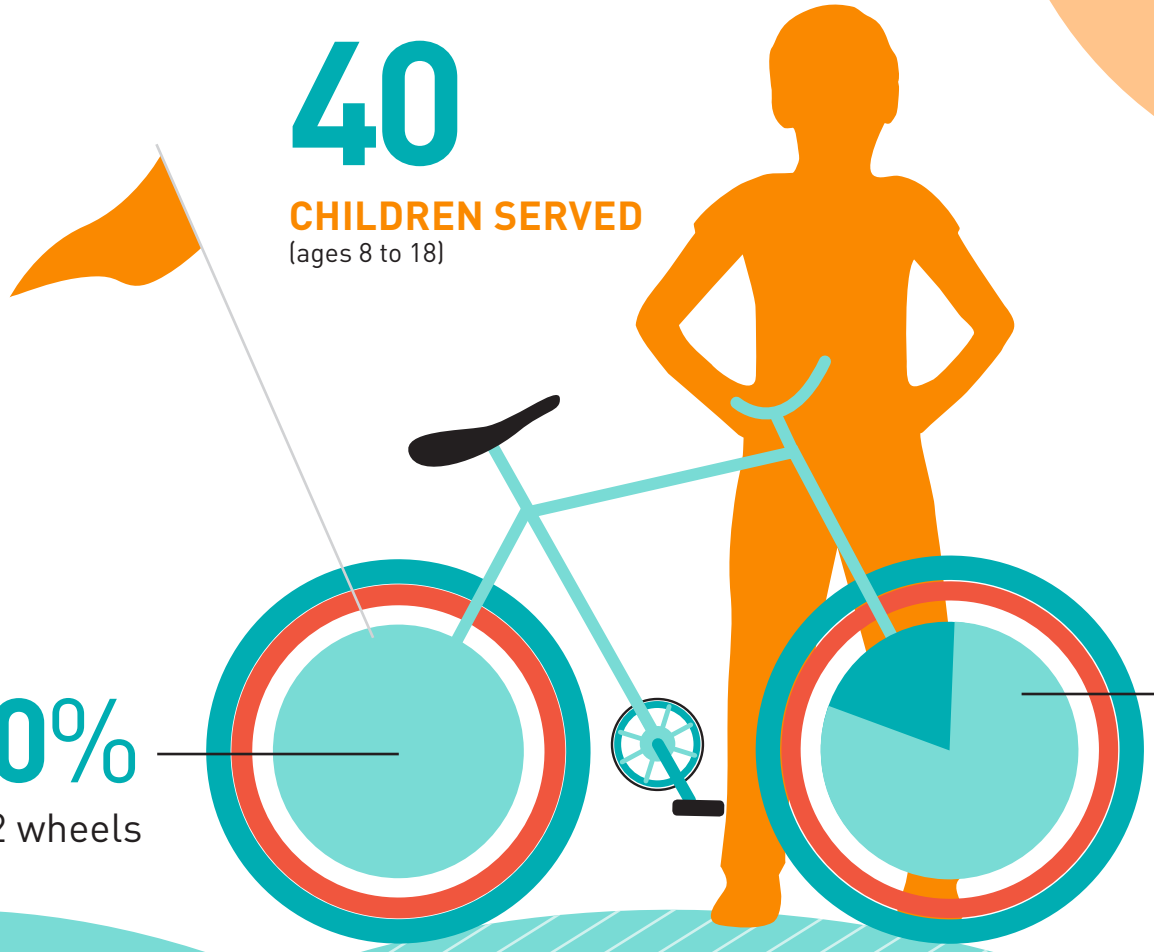
Supports children with autism in their homes and throughout the community by engaging college interns from 9 area colleges and universities.

iCAN BIKE

Builds **confidence**, **self-esteem**, and **independence** by teaching children with autism and other disabilities how to ride a traditional 2-wheeled bike.

40

CHILDREN SERVED
(ages 8 to 18)



100%
were up on 2 wheels

80%
were able to ride completely independently

"SEEING MY SON TRY SOMETHING SO DIFFERENT AND SUCCEED WAS SIMPLY AMAZING TO WATCH!"

-Erin, iCan Bike Parent

Major Stakeholders (2018)

CORPORATE

Audi of Charlotte
Banking on Our Community
McGuireWoods LLP
Winston & Strawn LLP
US Bank

FOUNDATIONS

Cobb Foundation
John N. Goddard Foundation
The Leon Levine Foundation
US Bank Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation

IN-KIND

Alfred Williams
Diamonds Direct
McGuireWoods LLP
Mythic
Spectrum VoIP

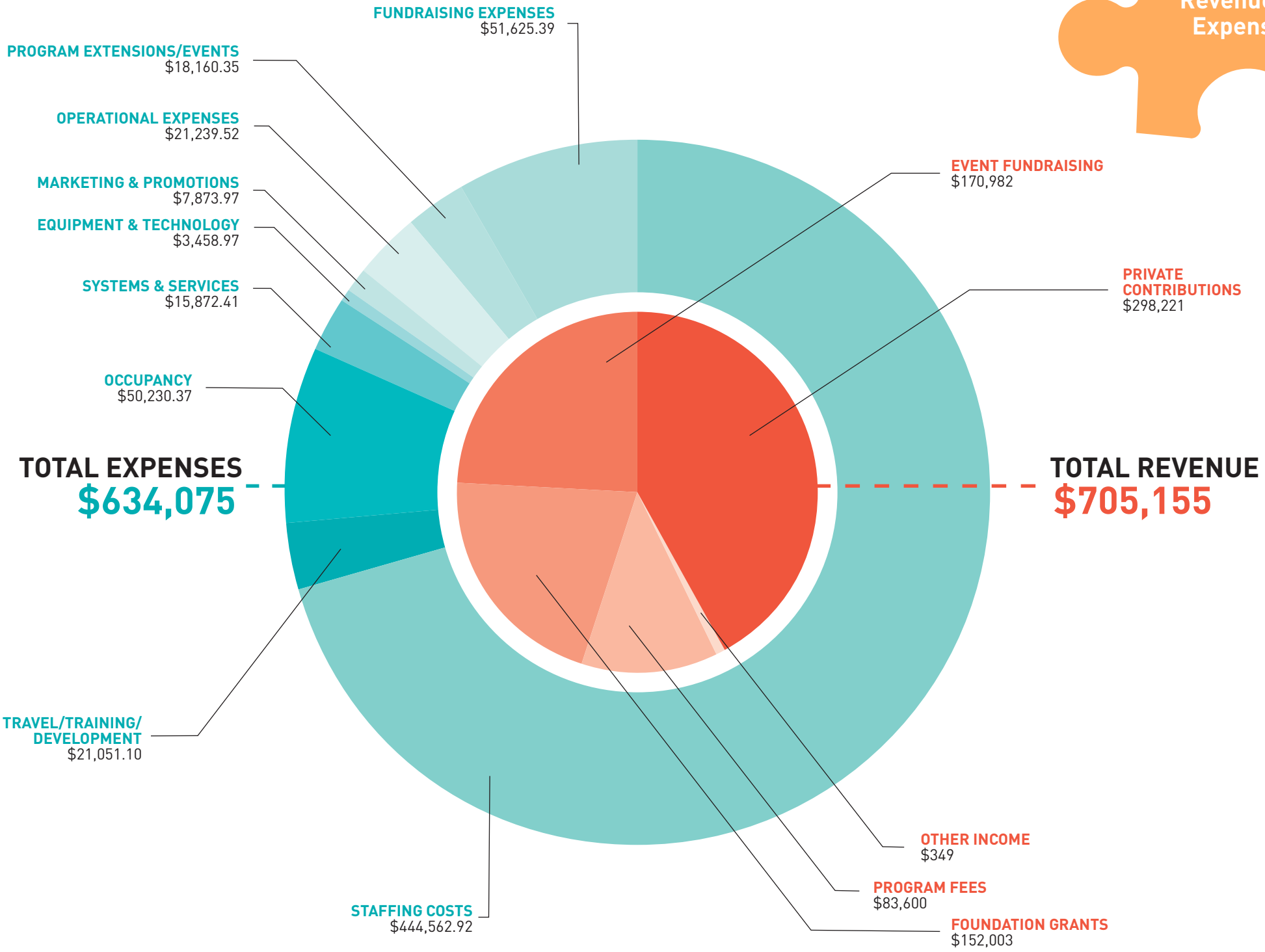
INDIVIDUALS

Trip & Christina Caldwell
Mrs. Gretchen Carpenter
Jack & Kim Cobb
Phil & Amy Colaco
Susan Devore
Meredith Dolhare
Ken & Shannon Donnelly
Eric & Martha Eubank
Jay & Olga Faison
Tim & Jenifer Gelorme
Mrs. Grey Hamilton
Scott & Carey Ellen Heberton
Mr. Charles James
Mrs. Sharon Kranys
Graydon & Linda Miller
Mark & Michelle Nebrig
Tom & Anna Nelson
Matthew & Grace Savage
Keith & Lori Schleicher
Dr. Dick & Brenda Wing
Russell Bryan & Jenny Lilian Semans
Koortbojian Rev. Trust

PARTNERSHIPS

Autism Spectrum Disorder Collaborative
Central Piedmont Community College
Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department
Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools
Columbia College
Davidson College
Johnson C. Smith University
Mecklenburg Children's Alliance
North Carolina Center for Non-Profits
Queens University
Share Charlotte
University of North Carolina Charlotte
University of South Carolina
Winthrop University
Wingate University
YMCA of Greater Charlotte

Revenue & Expenses



Thank you for helping to make our mission possible!

YOU ARE AUTISM CHARLOTTE!

autism charlotte

autismcharlotte.org