Autism Society of Northern Virginia

Elizabeth Roy, Managing Director
Our Mission & Vision

To build community for over 5,000 individuals and families through education, advocacy, & support

We believe that no individual should walk this journey alone.
About ASNV

• Family-led organization: board is comprised of a majority of parents, siblings, and autistic adults; also includes services providers and community members

• Local chapter of a national organization (Autism Society of America)
• Formed in 1969 as a support group primarily serving Fairfax area, have since expanded both geographically and in terms of services

• Current priorities include autistic adults, newly diagnosed families, Hispanic outreach, and social/community building opportunities

• Focus on autism acceptance as a guiding philosophy
Regional Focus

Our territory includes the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford and Warren, and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas and Manassas Park (the shaded region in the map below).
Local Environment: State & County Differences

- VA ranks 39th out of 51 states (and DC) on disability inclusion & services (United Cerebral Palsy, 2016)
- The waitlist for long-term services has over 11,000 people on it and the wait for services averages 8-10 years; over 3,000 people on the wait list are considered critical/urgent need
- Vast differences between various counties in our footprint: population, access to services, insurance, providers, schools
What do we do?

**EDUCATE**

Provide all affected by autism with knowledge, resources, & acceptance
- Lunch Bunch • Autism 101 • Online support group • Monthly Newsletter
- Safety trainings • Resource directory •

**SUPPORT**

Provide resources and community for autistic individuals and their families
- Social nights • YouToo Tennis •
- Mini-grant program • Assistive Technology Program • The Autism Partnership (TAP) Program

**ADVOCATE**

Build a welcoming, inclusive, & supportive region
- Autism Advocate Forums
- Workplace presentations •
- Acceptance Walk • Arts for Autism • Local, state, and federal advocacy

**AUTISM SOCIETY**

Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Northern Virginia
Autism Acceptance

Initiated locally by a previous Autism Society of Northern Virginia autistic board member, Samantha Bodwell, autism acceptance is an unambiguously positive response to the negativity frequently associated with autism.

Autism Acceptance is actively offering autistic individuals the supports they need to be fully included as valuable members of our families, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods and faith communities while valuing autistic individuals for who they are.
The Autism Society of Northern Virginia is here for YOU!

We advocate, inform, and share the journey

Contact us
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