

Autism Society of Greater
Wisconsin Network & Brand
Overview



### The Autism Society



The Autism Society is the largest and oldest grassroots Autism organization in the United States.

The Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin is an affiliate of the Autism Society of America. Our mission, vision and outcomes model align with the national model.

#### **Our Mission**

We create connections, empowering everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully.

#### **Our Vision**

Creating a world where everyone in the Autism community is connected to the support they need, when they need it.

# **Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin Autism Society of Autism** Society of Southeastern **South Central** Wisconsin Wisconsin

# Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin Local Chapter Network

- Central WI
- Fox Valley
- Northeast WI
- Lakeshore
- West Central Region

Total reached in 2023: 7,614

#### Our Values

Dignity, where the value and self-determination of every individual is upheld

Equity, where everyone with Autism achieves the highest possible quality of life

Inclusion, where every person is integrated into society without barriers or exceptions in a collaborative environment

Diversity, where everyone is respected for their unique and individual differences

Integrity, where we conduct ourselves with honor, truth, and respect in our thoughts, words, and actions



Our mark symbolizes many foundational values of the Autism Society.

A symbol for community, strength, equality, diversity, pathways and of course, connection.

The single threads of the Autism Society brand mark represent individuality and unique experiences that are simultaneously interconnected and woven to the greater community.

#### **Our Manifesto**

Because the experience of Autism is not one thing. Because it is many things. And because the connection between those experiences is you.

Because we see you. The way you think. The dreams you hold. The talents you bring. Because you can't be categorized into neat little diagnostic boxes. Because you break the mold.

Because sometimes you're quiet. Because sometimes you need help reaching for where you belong. Because sometimes what happens is not always right or fair or just. Because there are keys to every door that looks locked.

Because no matter how you were born, the person you are is infinite—and you are the only you there is.

Because Autism is not going away, neither are we.

The Autism Society. The connection is you.™

# Organizational Information



#### **ASGW Team**



**Katie Hess Executive Director** 



**Kelly Brodhagen**Resource Specialist/
Office Manager



**Amber LeFevre Program Manager** 



Marin McClowry
Health Equity Project
Coordinator



**Denielle Everson Program Assistant** 



Katie Drida
Development &
Communications Coordinator

**ASGW Core Service Areas** 

- Advocacy
- Community Building
- Education
- Information & Referral
- Support



# Advocacy

- Autism Acceptance Day at the Capitol in April
- Survival Coalition Member
- Policy Statements/Letters
- Meetings with Elected Officials



# Community Building

- Autism Friendly Communities
   Program
- Sensory Friendly Vaccine Clinics
- Accessible Vaccination Trainings

"Getting this done in a <u>low stress</u>, guilt free environment! <u>It alleviated my own stress as a parent</u> too, about being judged for my child's behavior. I appreciate the patience my children were shown, and getting to play afterwards helped create a more positive memory of the event, which will hopefully help the next time a vaccine is needed. This clinic was a game changer for my family. Thank you so much for putting it together!"

-Sensory Friendly Vaccine Clinic Participant when asked about the most valuable part of the event



#### Education

- Annual Conference
- Fall/Winter Workshop
- Mental Health Trainings

This is the highlight of my spring! It amazes me the breadth and depth of information out there and the willingness of people to share their knowledge and experiences! What a treasure this conference is.

2022 Conference Participant







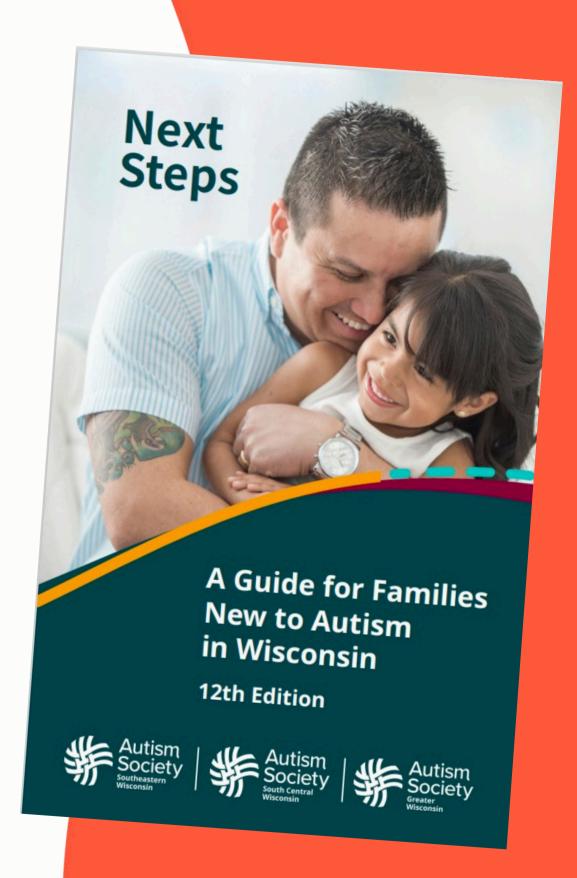
#### Information & Referral

- Next Steps Program
- Resource Guide
- Phone, email, and Facebook Messages

"...we were having a rough morning.

After dropping the kids off at school I felt a bit hopeless and yet, I also felt that there had to be a resource out there to help with our specific needs. I simply googled "Autism, Appleton, WI", and found the Autism Society...I nervously called and was greeted by Kelly and her friendly demeanor. After chatting with Kelly for about 40 min I felt such a relief and was brought to tears at the end of our conversation.

I felt like I found the beginning of our path, and in addition, some direction on where to go on this path! I'm not ready to put on full "hiking gear" to navigate said path, but I feel like I'm wearing the right shoes! ... I'm also relieved that there is someone compassionate that really cares."



## Support

- Respite Care Nights
- Monthly Virtual Events
  - Dads' Virtual Support Group
  - New to Autism Support Group
  - Teen Hang Out
  - Stop Motion Movie Club
  - Adult Support Group
  - Trivia Nights









#### **Katie Hess**

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