

What is Autism?

Autism is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder that seriously affects the way individuals communicate and interact with others. The symptoms and characteristics of autism can present themselves in a variety of combinations and degrees of severity, from mild to severe. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) refers to a broad definition of autism including Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) and Asperger syndrome.

There is no definitive cause for ASD. Current research suggests an interaction between genetics and environmental factors. Each individual with an ASD is affected differently, but all have common traits of difficulty with communication, learning and social skills.

Is there a cure?

There is no known cure for autism.

Can it be treated?

Effective, structured intervention combining education, support and training can provide people affected by ASD with the skills necessary for successful integration, participation and acceptance in their communities.



I was at a low point in my life, not able to connect with people and failing classes. But since coming to Geneva Centre's Social Group, I have been able to meet people and overcome my nervousness. I am now confident, and going to college once again is a possibility...

Matt Green

NOW I KNOW...

How can I help?

1 Become a Donor

We need your generous support for ongoing programs that would otherwise not be possible. As more children are diagnosed with autism and as thousands are transitioning into adulthood, our need for donor support continues to grow.

Donate

www.autism.net/foundation
(416) 322-7877 ext. 307

2 Become a Volunteer

Our volunteers work at all levels of the organization in leadership, fundraising and program delivery.

Volunteer

www.autism.net/volunteers
(416) 322-7877 ext. 224

3 Become a Member

Benefit from special membership privileges such as discounts on workshop fees and access to our library.

Membership

www.autism.net/membership
(416) 322-7877 ext. 235

Charitable Registration #: 86866 4640 RR0001



Geneva Centre
for Autism

Where hope takes wing

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DID YOU KNOW?



Over the last ten years, incidences of autism have grown by

600%



More children are diagnosed with autism than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined



1 in 110 Canadians will be diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Geneva Centre for Autism

Founded in 1974, Geneva Centre for Autism is a Toronto-based international leader and pioneer in the delivery of clinical intervention services and training. We influence policy, support research and deliver innovative services that make a real difference to children, youth and adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.

Every day of their lives, individuals with an ASD face difficulties communicating, socializing and interacting. Without support, making friends, participating in school or simply buying a ticket for the subway can be tremendously challenging.



Geneva Centre is a place families turn to; a place where they find **hope, support** and, above all, **possibilities**. We are there every step of the way to support individuals at all age levels to reach their full potential.

Canada's autism service leader

Annually

- ▶ **600,000** hits on our leading-edge training and information website
- ▶ **120,000** respite hours provided to Ontario families
- ▶ **4,600** solutions provided through our seven-day-a-week resource service
- ▶ **4,200** Toronto area families supported
- ▶ **2,000** children and youth discover how to navigate the world by learning vital life skills
- ▶ **2,000** teachers and childcare professionals trained and supported to create inclusive classrooms
- ▶ **320** volunteers
- ▶ **260** full and part-time staff



How we help?

Our Services

Children

We develop and deliver a wide range of innovative services that meet the unique needs of children on the autism spectrum. Services are provided by a multi-disciplinary team that includes psychologists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists and behavioural therapists offering:

- ▶ Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI)
- ▶ Behaviour Communication Services
- ▶ Intensive Behaviour Communication Service
- ▶ Skill Building Groups
- ▶ Respite Services
- ▶ Counselling
- ▶ Asperger Specific Programs

Youth & Adults

Our services for youth and adults are guided by an empowerment-oriented approach whereby the unique strengths, abilities and interests of each individual are respected and emphasized. Educational and transition programs are focused on:

- ▶ Job Readiness, Employment and Vocational Transition Services
- ▶ Life Skills Training and Coaching
- ▶ Respite Services
- ▶ Social Groups
- ▶ Person Directed Planning

Families

Our family programs consist of a wide range of information and support services including family education workshops and courses, which enable parents, siblings and other family members to understand and manage the day-to-day issues and challenges of caring and supporting loved ones, through our:

- ▶ Parent Network
- ▶ Parent & Sibling Support Groups
- ▶ Respite Services
- ▶ Parent Training/Education
- ▶ Counselling
- ▶ Annual Family Picnics and Holiday Party
- ▶ Movie Nights
- ▶ Service Coordination

Vision: Successful Community Inclusion.

Mission: To empower individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, and their families, to fully participate in their communities.



Professionals

We are recognized as an international leader in the field. Our learning opportunities for professionals include consultations, workshops, training for educators, childcare providers, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and others through our:

- ▶ Biennial International Symposium
- ▶ Annual Summer Training Institute
- ▶ Customized In-Service Training
- ▶ Workshop and Certificate Courses
- ▶ Provincial Training Initiatives
- ▶ Canada's largest autism reference & lending library

www.autism.net