

# The Nicholas Center

Innovate, Inspire & Include



2022 / 23  
IMPACT  
REPORT



## A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on another successful year at The Nicholas Center (TNC), I am pleased to share that your support has enabled us to advocate for and facilitate community-based learning, living and working for the Autistic individuals we support. Our Core Values – People, Professionalism, Community, Innovation and Integrity are an integral part of our model and inform how we create programming, seek meaningful community partnerships, secure supported employment opportunities and most importantly to operate as a person-centered organization.

In 2022, TNC implemented a new Strategic Framework with assistance from our partners at PwC. This work highlighted the pressing need for investment in our direct-care infrastructure. By year end 2022, TNC had secured \$1.2 million in grants and donations to elevate and retain our workforce and enrich our facilities to best deliver community-based services.

### *The impact of this funding included:*

- Launch of Port Provides – TNC participants serve as meaningful conduits to local pantries – sourcing, packing and delivering fresh vegetables, diapers, meat, cleaning supplies and other necessities to over **2,000** low-income families and seniors living in our communities.
- Increased performance bonus programs agency-wide and opportunity for **12** TNC Direct Support Professionals to participate in coursework and training for specialized credentialing. This resulted in promotion, retention and a higher quality of service delivery for our participants.
- TNC's Supported Employment Program increased paid employment and internships for our young adults by **30%** and helped to expand our network from **11 to 19** community business partners on Long Island and in Westchester.

We believe that Autistic young adults deserve opportunities for continued learning and growth. We pledge to respond to the demands for appropriate services and to put your generous dollars to work to achieve our goals.

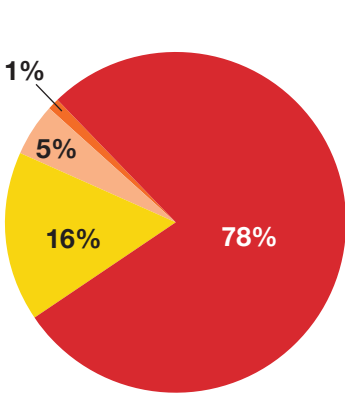
We are optimistic about the year ahead!

*With Gratitude,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Ferrara". The signature is fluid and cursive.

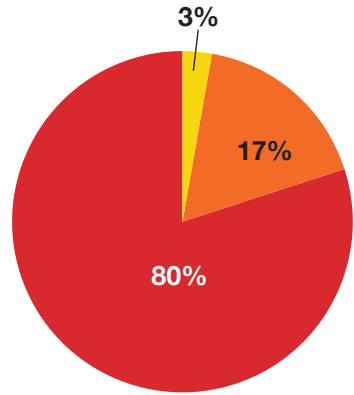
Nicole Ferrara, Executive Director

# Revenue & Expenses | 2022/23



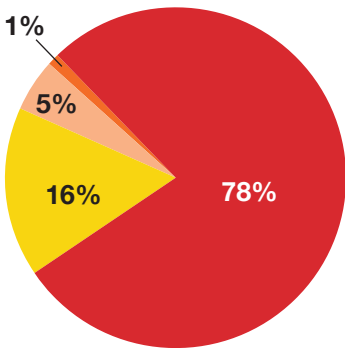
**FY 2022 Revenue**

● Program Service .....	\$3.58M
● Contributions and Grants .....	\$718K
● Special Events .....	\$289K
● Other .....	\$30K



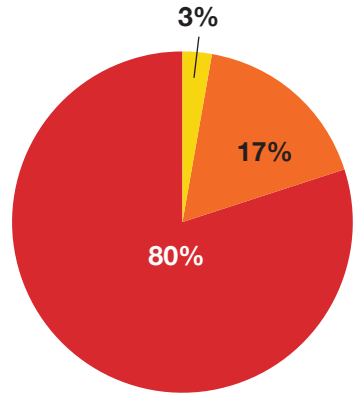
**FY 2022 Expenses**

● Program .....	\$3.33M
● Management and General .....	\$702K
● Fundraising .....	\$134K



**FY 2023 Revenue**

● Program Service .....	\$4.60M
● Contributions and Grants .....	\$908K
● Special Events .....	\$308K
● Other .....	\$67K



**FY 2023 Expenses**

● Program .....	\$4.1M
● Management and General .....	\$861K
● Fundraising .....	\$142K

## GRANTS – Thank you for funding our mission!



The L.B. Research & Education Foundation



FRANK J. ANTUN FOUNDATION



New York Community Bank  
Member FDIC

# By The Numbers

Revolutionizing the way  
Autistic adults learn,  
live and work.

- 2 New York State Locations - Long Island and Westchester
- 12 Months of continuous service per year
- 12 School Districts Partnering with TNC
- 25 Episodes - TNC Podcast - Agents of Humanity
- 25 Individuals employed with TNC's Supported Employment Program
- 39 Community Partnerships
- 82 Individuals participating in TNC's Community Inclusion Program
- 140 Episodes of Nicholas Center News (NCN) - weekly online program
- 145 Autistic adults in TNC Programming/Training
- 2,000 Individuals served via Port Provides Pantry Programs
- 2,800 Issues of TNC Newsletters produced & delivered free!
- 3,200 TNC Followers on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn
- 6,000 Pounds Produce grown/harvested for Plant-a-Row.org
- 6,500 Hours of Vocational Skills Training with TNC Job Coaches
- 10,000 Chocolate items produced in the TNC Chocolate Lab
- 13,000 Hours on-site job support with TNC's Supported Employment Program

\* Numbers as of February 2024.

## THE NICHOLAS CENTER – COMMUNITY PARTNERS



# Community Stewardship

Facilitating meaningful connections and opportunities between our participants and our communities.

Utilizing the community as a “university,” TNC participants and support staff carry our mission into the community everyday - completing tasks, offering service and engaging with local businesses, organizations and neighbors. Individuals gain valuable skills and experience while helping local nonprofits attain their missions.



# Vocational Skills & Training

Helping participants gain, retain and maintain skills needed to lead meaningful lives through gainful employment.

TNC's vocational support and inclusive partnerships and initiatives impact hundreds of Autistic individuals each year. Our professional and credentialed staff support our participants in reaching individual goals and learning new skills.

- **Work Readiness and Soft-Skills Training** – Hands-on and staff supported experiences and vocational training opportunities foster new skills, build confidence and promote independence through verbal, visual and digital cues.
- **Supported Employment Program** offers job seekers and those gainfully employed individualized attention and employment support at work sites in our local communities.
- **Micro-Businesses** – TNC puts job skills into practice with small start-up businesses, including a fulfillment business, a mobile snack and smoothie cart and the Line o' Site golf accessory.



# Expanding Reach

Creating new experiences and marketable skills to foster new opportunities, knowledge and fun!

- **TNC Media Lab** the opportunity to write, produce, interview, record and anchor our online News Program, Podcast and Newsletter.
- **Pantry Programs** – TNC participants order, sort, package and deliver products to local food pantries – serving over 2,000 neighbors each week on Long Island and in Westchester.
- **TNC Chocolate Lab** – TNC participants experience Culinary Arts learning decorative techniques with chocolate!



**The Nicholas Center creates innovative programs and services that allow Autistic individuals to learn, live and work in the community.**

**T**he Nicholas Center (TNC) supports individuals to learn critical life skills, improve social and communication abilities, gain vocational training and employment and engage in meaningful community projects. With a focus on creating inclusive work opportunities, TNC offers on-the-job supported employment and has been instrumental in the creation and success of micro-businesses.



TNC offers a safe and engaging environment with opportunities to socialize and foster vital peer connections.

### **Board of Directors**

Marc Carter, *President*  
Wesley Smith, *Vice President*  
John Bowman, *Treasurer*  
Dale A. Coffin, *Secretary*  
Amy Beyer, *Member*  
Stella L. Spanakos, *Member*

Nicole Ferrara, *Executive Director*

*The Nicholas Center*  
**Innovate, Inspire & Include**

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Apply to Enroll



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