

# The Nicholas Center

Innovate, Inspire & Include



2021 / 22  
IMPACT  
REPORT



## A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I'm excited to share how your help has made a difference in the lives of people we serve and their families. This report showcases a myriad ways we live our mission each day - providing meaningful vocational training, supported employment, paid jobs and productive service projects that provide opportunities to engage with nonprofits and businesses in our local communities.

The Autistic adults whom we serve learn hard and soft skills needed to gain and retain jobs, including our **Supported Employment Program**, matching jobs to individuals with at-work support. Opportunities for self-expression include a **Media Lab** - podcast, newsletter and weekly news program aired on YouTube - all designed and produced by our participants. **Port Provides, Powered by The Nicholas Center** allows for our participants to gather, pack and distribute personal care and cleaning items to 1,400 in-need neighbors. We serve as agents of change by advocating at local, state and federal levels - speaking on behalf of Autistic adults and the professional staff who support them.

The staggering statistics remain:

**1 in 54** children diagnosed with Autism

**60%** are non-verbal or have limited functional speech or social skills

**30%** (or less) will attend college and fewer will secure jobs

We believe young adults with Autism deserve opportunities for continued learning and growth, even after the school bus stops coming.

We remain true to our promise to respond to the demands for appropriate services for Autistic young adults and to put your generous dollars to work to achieve these goals.

As Co-Founder and Executive Director, I graciously invite you to give generously to The Nicholas Center. Our program requires **\$400,000** in private funding each year after State applied funds.

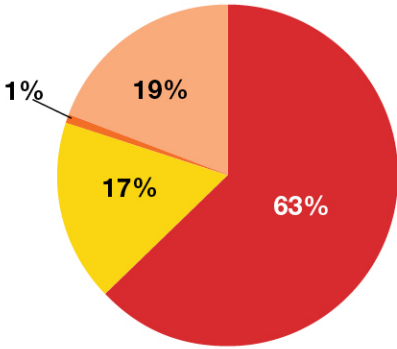
We are honored to give you an opportunity to be part of this life changing work.

*With Gratitude,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Sugrue'.

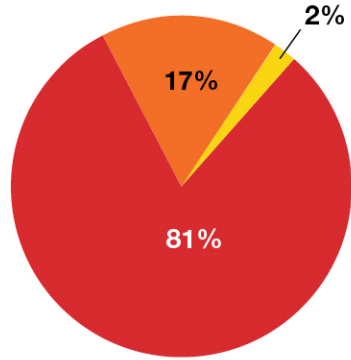
Nicole Sugrue, Co-Founder and Executive Director

# Revenue & Expenses | 2021/22



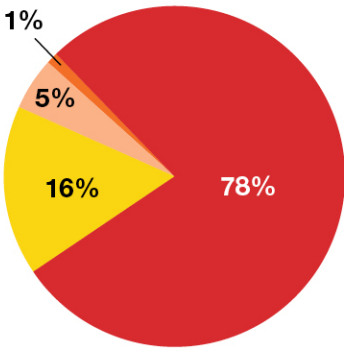
**FY 2021 Revenue**

● Program Service .....	\$2.4M
● Contributions and Grants .....	\$637K
● Special Events .....	\$7K
● Other .....	\$718K



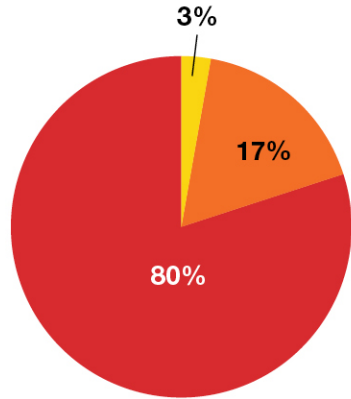
**FY 2021 Expenses**

● Program .....	\$2.5M
● Management and General .....	\$538K
● Fundraising .....	\$57K



**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

## GRANTS – Thank you for funding our mission!



The L.B. Research & Education Foundation



FRANK J. ANTUN FOUNDATION



New York Community Bank  
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# By The Numbers

Revolutionizing the way  
Autistic adults learn,  
live and work.

- 2** New York State Locations – Long Island and Westchester
- 4** NICE Committee meetings per year - Nicholas Center Improvement Committee (comprised of Autistic individuals)
- 11** School Districts Partnering with TNC (**30** students participating in vocational skills training)
- 12** Months of continuous service per year
- 25** Individuals employed with support
- 30** Community Partnerships
- 82** Individuals participating in TNC's Community Inclusion Program
- 122** Episodes of Nicholas Center News (NCN) – weekly online programs
- 6,500** Hours of Vocational Skills Training with TNC Job Coaches in work settings per year
- 13,000** Hours of on-site TNC support to individuals in their place of work per year
- 145** Autistic adults
- 1,400** Individuals served via Port Provides, Powered by The Nicholas Center – personal care items & cleaning supplies for neighbors-in-need.
- 2,400** Nicholas Center Newsletters produced & delivered free!
- 2,750** Followers on TNC Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn (and growing!)

*\* Numbers as of February 2023.*



*April 2022 - TNC celebrates our 2nd location in Pleasantville, NY!*

# Community Engagement

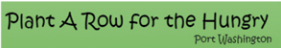
Facilitating important connections and opportunities between our participants and communities.

The Nicholas Center participants and support staff carry our mission into the community - completing tasks, offering service and engaging with local businesses, organizations and neighbors. Individuals gain valuable skills and experiences while helping local non-profits attain their mission. Including:

- Plant-a-Row for the Hungry
- North Shore Animal League of America
- United Way of Westchester
- Hillside Food Pantry
- Twin Pines Co-Op
- Spectrum Enterprises



## THE NICHOLAS CENTER – COMMUNITY PARTNERS



# Vocational Skills & Training

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

The Nicholas Center's vocational supports and inclusive partnerships and initiatives have had an impact on the lives of hundreds of Autistic adults who face 85% unemployment and under engagement when school services end at age 21. Our professional and credentialed staff support our participants in reaching individual goals in both gaining and maintaining competitive employment.

- ▶ **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 and digital cues.
- ▶ **SEMP** – Supported Employment Program offers job seekers and those gainfully employed, individualized attention and employment support at workplaces in our local communities. Placements include: a screen print shop, a bake shop, music store, business office, market, thrift store and a library.
- ▶ **Micro-Businesses** – Putting job skills into practice at Total Fulfillment, a packaging & fulfillment business, mobile snack business, Crusin' Cantina and Line of Site golf accessory.



# Expanding Reach

Connecting our participants with support staff and peers to foster new experiences, opportunities, knowledge and fun.

- ▶ **TNC Media Lab** – offers the opportunity to write, produce, record & anchor the news. *NCN - Nicholas Center News* (122 episodes!), *Navigator Newsletter* (12 per year) and *Agents of Humanity* podcast hosted by 4 individuals with Autism. All media programs and newsletters are available to the public and distributed by our TNC team!
- ▶ **Port Provides, Powered by The Nicholas Center** – Serving 1,400 in-need neighbors each week with personal care items and cleaning supplies.
- ▶ **NICE Committee (Nicholas Center Improvement Committee)** – offers participants the opportunity to let their voices be heard regarding ways to best support them and our mission. Suggestions from the group are shared with our Board of Directors.





The Nicholas Center creates innovative programs and services that allow Autistic individuals to learn, live and work. Acting as agents of change, the organization inspires and encourages communities to be inclusive to all.

#### Board of Directors

Amy Beyer, President  
Wesley Smith, Vice-President  
John Bowman, Treasurer  
Stella Spanakos, Member  
Marc Carter, Member  
Dina DeGiorgio, Member  
Dale A. Coffin, Member

#### Co-Founders of The Nicholas Center

Stella L. Spanakos  
Nicole Sugrue  
Patrick Bardsley

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

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