

Celebrating 8 Years!



A Letter From The Executive Director



Dear Friends and Supporters,

When my son was diagnosed 19 years ago, there was nothing I wanted more than the assurance for his safety and a life filled with happiness and purpose. Being told that he would have a lifelong disability was a very painful experience; and one which I was never taught how to endure. Autism can be very isolating, as our loved one may behave in ways that make others very uncomfortable. Parents often choose to elect out of social settings and even notice invitations to events become less and less. Nevertheless, families move forward to learn new things, make different connections, and lay the groundwork for their child's future life. More often than not, parents like myself will go through this very complicated journey alone; never asking for help and doing much of the work on their own. Thankfully, with your support, this no longer has to be the case.

Nicholas Center was created to lessen the weight on the hearts and minds of parents; and be a safety-net for young adults with autism who have no place to turn, when mandated school programs end. Our services are available fifty-two weeks a year and come at no cost to families. In this report, you will read about the extraordinary opportunities being afforded despite being heavily reliant on public dollars. Some of these activities include playing in a rock band, starting a community newspaper, helping our veterans, volunteering in food pantries and animal shelters, beautifying our storefronts and shorelines, and so much more. Most importantly, our participants have developed meaningful friendships. They socialize with one another way past our operating hours. A few have become housemates and live independent from their families. Many are working and most are fully integrated into community life. Unfortunately, as our public funding becomes more limited and restricted, so do our resources to maintain our services. This is why private funding received through donors and grants are so critical to the quality of service we can provide.

Will you please support our efforts in helping individuals with autism and their families? I wouldn't normally ask; but the work that is becoming accomplished is simply too important not to. My son Adem turned 21 last year and he is leading a safe, happy, and fulfilling life. I couldn't have asked for a better outcome, and it's all because of supporters like you. Please come in for a tour so you can see all of the incredible work being accomplished, and meet the many people whose lives you have touched. Enjoy reading about some of our accomplishments, as they are yours to celebrate! We look forward to another great year!

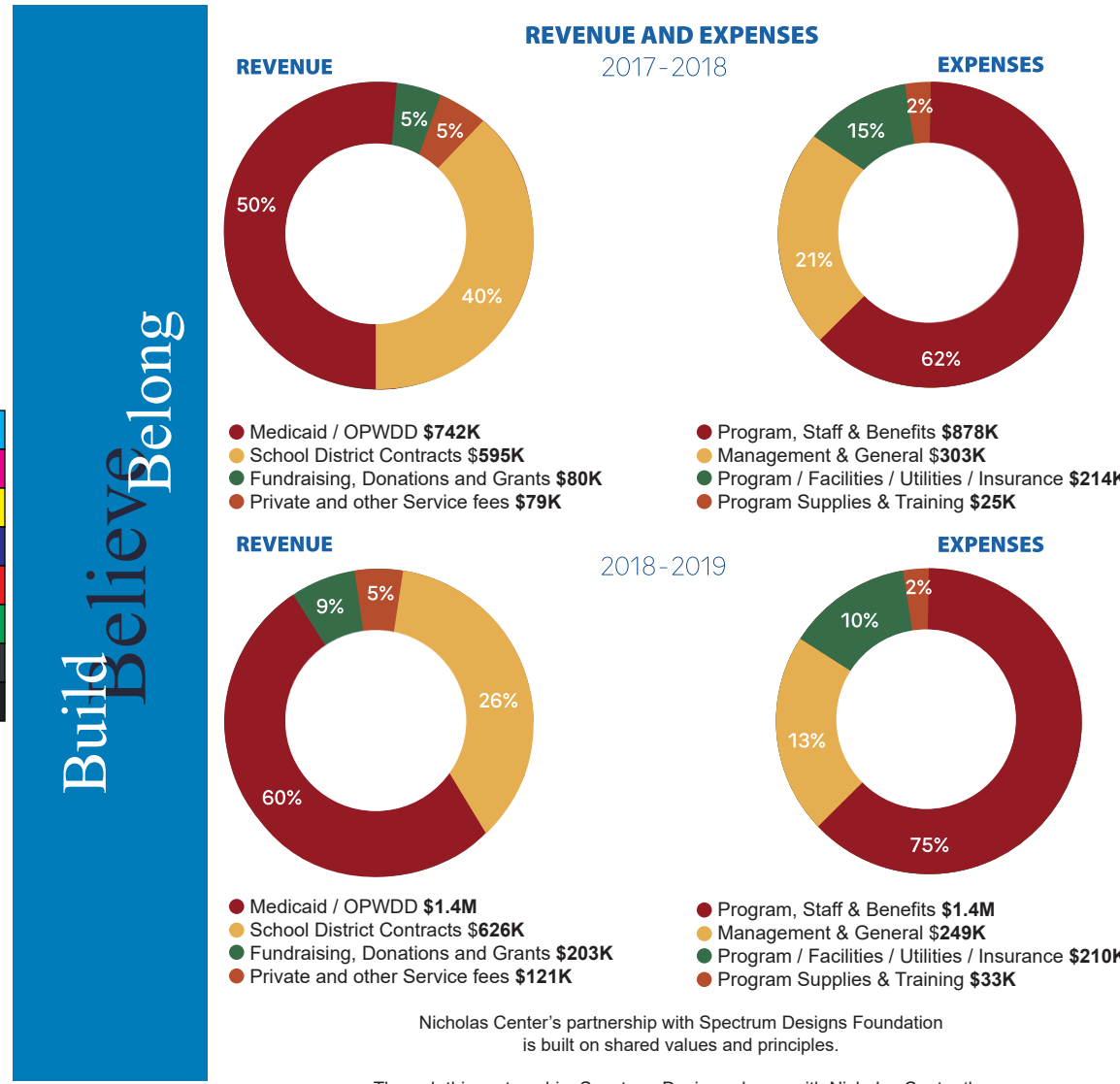
Regards,

Nicole Sugrue

Nicole Sugrue
Co-Founder & Executive Director



(L-R Co-Founders: Patrick O Bardsley, Nicole Sugrue, Stella Spanakos)



An Innovative Solution to a Growing Need

Nicholas Center and its partner agency, Spectrum Designs is providing meaningful solutions to the unmet needs of young adults with autism. Together, we are expanding opportunities to individuals with autism and related disabilities to Westchester! Opening April 2020.

As we head towards another successful year here at Nicholas Center, we ask for your support. As a non-profit, everything we are able to do happens because of the generosity of neighbors and friends like you! We hope you will consider supporting our ongoing mission and allow us to continue helping individuals with developmental disabilities.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

-Winston Churchill

NICHOLAS CENTER

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Registered 501 (c) (3) Tax ID 45-2022370



2018 - 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Our MISSION

To support individuals with autism in leading full and productive lives in the community.

Nicholas Center Team is Active & Engaged

- 99** # of Individuals supported in 2018 - 2019
- 59,000+** Hours of support delivered in total across all services
- 22** Community Partners
- 19** NC participants that became employed!
- 97%** Satisfaction rating among participants.
- 1** Film that told our story, screened in 12 film festivals, even at the U.S Capitol.
- 1st** Star Gators Summer Jam concert in Sunset Park
- 300,000+** Products printed by our participants

Board of Directors

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Amy Beyer
President | Wesley Smith
Vice President |
| John Bowman
Treasurer | Patrick Bardsley
Secretary |
| Stella Spanakos
Member | |

Community Involvement



“Creating Opportunities”

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Navigator News

A monthly Newsletter filled with bits of information that brings the whole community together! Our individuals learn journalism, research, copy, editing and design. They distribute the publication throughout the community. www.navigatortnews.org



Work Readiness and Soft Skill Training

An introduction to the world of work includes skills training in various industries. Nicholas Center is committed to establishing partnerships with businesses, which open doors to potential employment opportunities. We have partnered with Spectrum Designs and other businesses to provide a wide array of work related opportunities.



NC Purchases a Van Keep Port Clean

Nicholas Center partners with Port Washington Business Improvement District to provide enhanced sanitation services. Our paid work force keeps downtown Main Street beautiful.

Perhaps the most important responsibility that the Nicholas Center has, is facilitating relationships between the individuals we serve and others. Having our own transportation has opened many doors for our participants to take part in activities and contribute to the community.



“Exceeding Expectations”

PROGRAMS CREATED

Wellness Center

Nicholas Center promotes healthy and active lifestyles through sports, fitness, nutritional education, relaxation and recreational programs.



Vocational Center

Nicholas Center provides hands on skills and classroom instruction to help participants learn the skills necessary in achieving competitive employment and improve their work related goals.



EXPANDING SERVICES

We Celebrate

Our music program, provides new opportunities for our participants to express themselves. Our Star Gators Band performs semiannually in various community events.



Back to Rock!

Our Holiday Party is an annual tradition. Participants look forward to this celebration all year. It brings them great joy to dance and mingle with their peers.



Main Street

A collection of customized “community - centered” gifts, from “Main Street with Love.” These gifts provide meaningful work opportunities for our young adults and teens with autism all while celebrating the local establishments that have embraced our mission.

There is no better community of support than these special organizations. Thank You for investing in our life changing work.

Grants



SCALING OUR IMPACT

Nicholas Center received approval to deliver its services to families in WESTCHESTER in 2020