



Virginia Autism Foundation 2022 Recap & 2023 YTD!

We successfully created and passed Autism legislation to clarify the requirements for licensing of BCBA's in Virginia. **HB1946 -SB1406** passed both the House and Senate unanimously and will insure that providers of services to our Virginia Families will have the training and certifications Virginia requires.

We worked with the Governor's office and leaders in the House and Senate on budget amendments to protect our families in private day schools from rate setting and allowing public schools to set up their own satellite schools to house our children. We are awaiting the final budget to assess and verify our efforts were included in the final budget.

We continue working with Virginia advocates, Leaders in the House, Senate and the Youngkin administration on legislation for the 2023-2024 Legislative session including funding for additional Medicaid waivers, alleviating the waitlist process and allowing school choice where the funding will follow the child.

We participated in the 5th Annual Els for Autism Golf event and will again in 2022 at the Princess Anne Country Club in October in support of Els for Autism, The Virginia Autism Foundation, FACT and Seal Kids.

We Co-hosted events with our friends at TASA and FACT including the October Trunk or Treat, 5K Super Hero's and Villains run and December Holiday Party where all kids received free toys food and entertainment.

We provided grants this year for 35 Project Lifesaver bracelets for families across 8 cities in our area to insure our kids who wander can be located safely.

We provided grants for 10 weeks of swim and paddle board camp sessions in 2022 with our friends Kelli Lee at KelsKids. As well as additional direct requests for swim safety lessons.

We sponsored and participated in the Eliza Hope 4.7 mile Pinecone run May 2022 and 2023

We sponsored and participated in the Virginia Beach Surfers Healing events in 2021/2022/2023

We granted 10 weeks of summer camps at FACT in honor of our friend Billy Zimmerman. Along with 10 weeks of bowling camp, 8 weeks of Sport camp and 8 weeks of Art camp.

We granted Sensory Saturday support as well as individual family sessions for families to join our friends at Our Sensory Farm.

We granted tuition for families to attend equine therapy programs with our good friends at CHATS as well as sponsoring their Sensory Saturday and Holiday events.

We supported our good friends at Plan Bee with financial support of their Bee Hive program



We sponsored the Virginia Association of Behavioral Analysts conference

We sponsored the Faith Inclusion Network Annual Meeting

We contributed directly and coordinated the complete rebuild of a Veteran mom's home who has two sons with Autism and was in need of assistance.

We contributed to our new Virginia Beach ABA school Maverick Learning Center.

We hosted a Christmas food and gift card program and had 30 families stop by to pick up a weeks' worth of groceries, Christmas dinner and shopping gift cards for their children.

We granted families direct financial support upon request and verification of need for day care, therapies, food, gas and other daily living necessities with direct pay to providers and gift card to handle other requests as we received these individual requests from our friends and associates in our Autism community.

Our 2022 Autism Summit on November 11th was our 14th annual event. This year we hosted 725 participants and over 50 vendors where we provided free toys, food and admission for all in attendance. Our Summit is the largest gathering of Autism Service providers in the Mid Atlantic with bubble land, a bounce house, Teeny Tiny Farm Petting Zoo and a host of sensory and children friendly programs. First responders are a big part of our Summit; we were joined by our Virginia Beach Police and Fire departments, our VB Volunteer rescue squad and other first responders. This creates an amazing opportunity for our children to get comfortable with those who so unselfishly serve our communities.

We are grateful for the support of so many throughout our community that contribute so freely and allow us to provide services for our families who have loved ones with Autism. We are glad to be a part of this great community and have you as a contributor and friend.

Mark Llobell - Founder CEO

Melanie Miller – Vice President

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