

SEE THE ABLE NOT THE LABEL

A Capital Campaign to Complete Kareem's Mission
Autism Community Center



Opening Hearts, Minds & Doors for Central Pennsylvania's
Autism Community



OUR STORY & PURPOSE

When six-year-old Kareem, nonverbal and full of light, spoke his first four words, they were:

“Jesus. Ollie’s. Target. Kohl’s.”

Each word represented a place where he felt safe, welcomed, and understood. For his mother, Hagir Elsheikh, those words revealed something deeper: how rare it is for children on the autism spectrum to experience true belonging in everyday spaces.

That realization became the foundation of Kareem’s Mission—a commitment to create a place where children on the autism spectrum are seen for their abilities, supported for who they are, and welcomed without condition.

Kareem’s Mission was born from lived experience, not theory. What began as one family’s determination to find answers has evolved into a purpose-built Autism Community Center designed to support children and families across Central Pennsylvania.



WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

Autism affects 1 in 35 children, yet access to affordable, inclusive, community-based services has not kept pace with rising diagnoses. Families across Central Pennsylvania face long waitlists, limited local options, and high costs, often during the most critical years of a child's development.

Kareem's Mission exists to close that gap.

The Autism Community Center provides a safe, welcoming environment where therapy, creativity, play, learning, and community come together under one roof. It is designed not only for children but for caregivers who need respite, connection, and support.

While the center is rooted in Cumberland County, its reach is intentionally regional serving families across Central Pennsylvania's multi-county mix of urban, suburban, and rural communities, where limited providers, long waitlists, and transportation barriers too often leave caregivers with few practical options close to home.

Kareem's Mission is at a pivotal moment. Portions of the center are already open and serving families, but essential work remains. The need is clear. The vision is ready. What is required now is the capital investment to move from partial operation to full capacity.

This is not a future state project. It is a ready-to-launch solution at the moment families need it most.



COMPLETING WHAT HAS BEGUN



Kareem's Mission is no longer an idea; it is becoming a place.

The Autism Community Center is located on the campus of Central Penn College in Summerdale, Pennsylvania. While early programming is underway, critical construction elements, safety upgrades, and specialized equipment are still needed to ensure the space is fully functional, secure, and accessible.

This capital campaign is focused on completing what has already begun—bringing the center fully online so it can meet growing demand and deliver comprehensive, inclusive services without delay.

By acting now, donors help ensure that children and families are not asked to wait another year—or another generation—for accessible autism support.





THE CAMPAIGN GOAL

Kareem's Mission seeks to raise \$500,000 in capital and in-kind support to complete construction, fully equip the Autism Community Center, and bring the facility to full operation.

This goal is intentionally realistic and grounded in remaining, clearly defined needs. Capital investments will directly support:

- **Final construction**
- **Safety and accessibility upgrades**
- **Specialized sensory, therapy, and learning equipment**
- **Program and community spaces essential for daily operations**

By focusing on achievable progress, this campaign delivers immediate, tangible results, ensuring the center opens fully and sustainably without overextending resources.



A CENTER BUILT FOR ABILITY

When complete, the Kareem's Mission Autism Community Center will serve hundreds of children and families each year through thoughtfully designed spaces and programs that promote:

- Sensory regulation and emotional safety
- Inclusive play and physical development
- Creativity, learning, and self-expression
- Caregiver support, respite, and connection
- Community education and autism inclusion



Sensory Art Room

Every element of the center is intentionally designed to meet children where they are, empower families, and strengthen the broader community.

This is a place where ability is recognized, potential is nurtured, and inclusion is practiced every day.



Music / Podcast Room



Sensory Gym



Music Room



HOW YOUR GIFT WORKS & CALL TO ACTION

Every dollar given to this campaign is directed toward completing and equipping the Autism Community Center for lasting impact.

Your gift supports:

- **Safety & Accessibility:** Padding, security systems, adaptive equipment, and environmental safeguards
- **Sensory & Therapy Rooms:** Evidence-informed tools that support regulation and engagement
- **Movement & Play Zones:** Structured spaces for physical development and safe expression
- **Caregiver Spaces:** Areas for respite, connection, and parent education
- **Teen & Community Programming:** Technology, media, and training that promote inclusion and independence

By supporting this campaign, donors are not funding a concept—they are completing a center already in motion.

Your investment does more than finish a building. It establishes a permanent standard of care, dignity, and opportunity for Central Pennsylvania's autism community.

Now is the moment to lead.

Together, we can complete Kareem's Mission and ensure that every child is seen for their ability, not their label.



KAREEM'S MISSION ORGANIZATION

Capital Campaign Naming Opportunities

- Kareem's Mission Center – \$250,000
- Adaptive Gym / Therapy Space – \$75,000
- Lobby / Reception Area – \$50,000
- Main Gathering / Community Room – \$50,000
- Administrative Suite – \$50,000
- Youth Activity Room – \$40,000
- Counseling / Support Services Room – \$35,000
- Therapy Room-\$35,000
- Family Engagement Room – \$30,000
- Zen / Quiet Therapy Room– \$30,000
- Parent Support Café – \$30,000
- Food Pantry / Kitchen – \$25,000
- Volunteer / Staff Workroom – \$20,000
- Podcast Room – \$15,000
- Music Therapy Room – \$15,000
- Conference Room A “Justin`s Journey”– \$15,000
- Conference Room B – \$15,000
- Art Therapy Room – \$15,000
- Media Studios (3 available) – \$10,000
- Storage / Supply Room – \$5,000

Donor Recognition

All naming opportunity donors will be recognized in the space they have selected.

All donors contributing \$2,500 or more will be honored on a permanent recognition wall in the Community Center.

