

## FAMILIES OF AUTISM COMING TOGETHER

*Because People with  
Autism are People First*

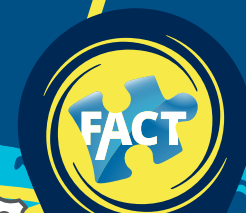
### FIND US & CONNECT:

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Virginia Beach, VA 23452

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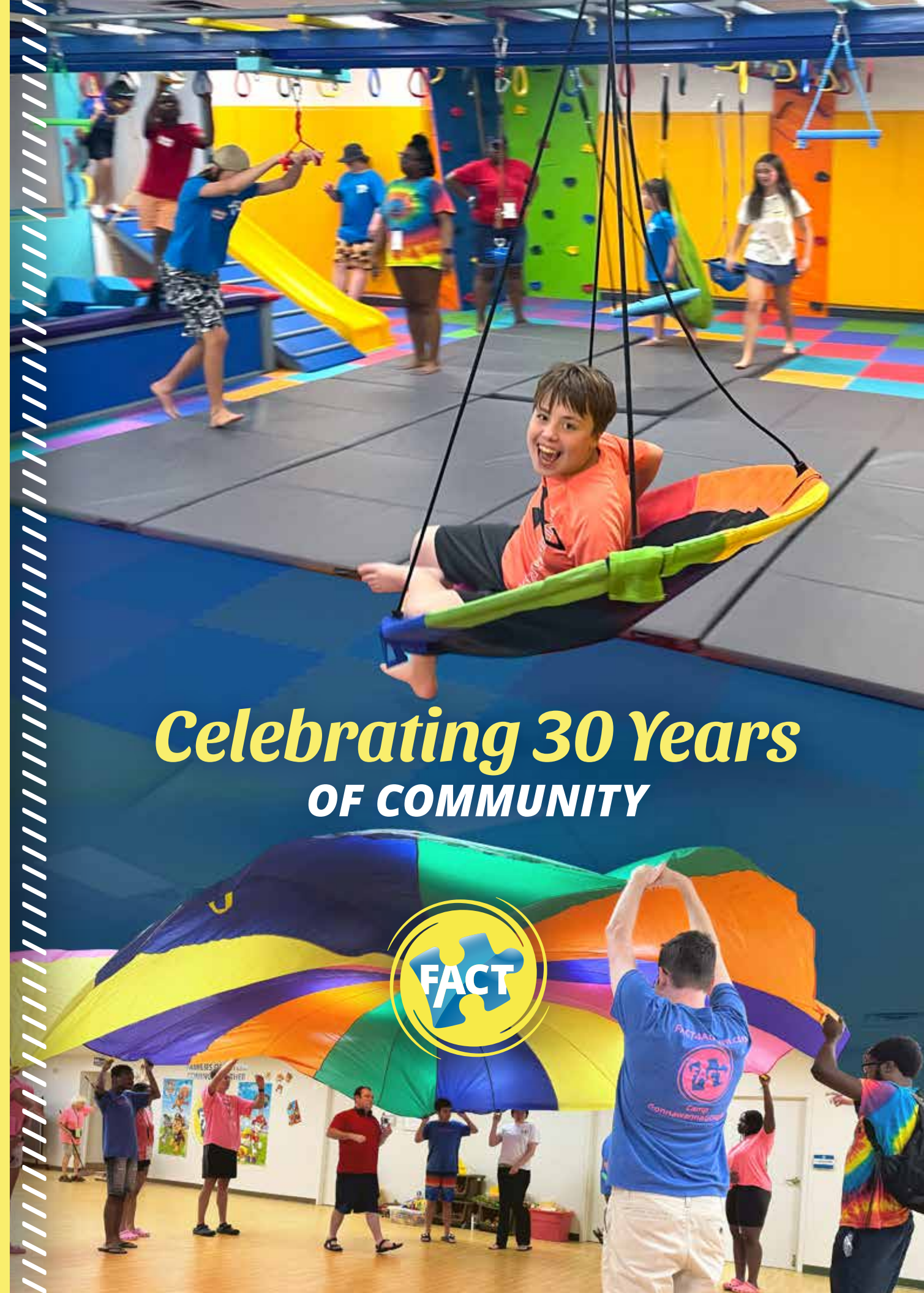


**SCAN HERE TO VIEW & SHARE  
OUR ANNUAL REPORT ONLINE.**

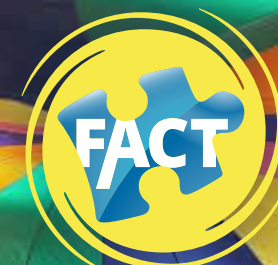
Thank you to all the amazing  
people over the last 30 years who  
made FACT what it is today!

<https://FACT4Autism.com/Stories-Statistics>

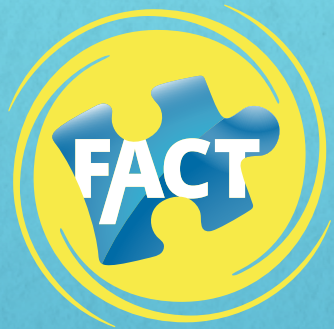
FAMILIES OF AUTISM COMING TOGETHER | VIRGINIA BEACH, VA



***Celebrating 30 Years  
OF COMMUNITY***







FAMILIES OF AUTISM  
COMING TOGETHER

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*Director of Operations*

Sheri Bragg  
*Director of Programming*

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*Program Manager*

Daniel Keeton  
*Assistant Program Manager*

Sarah Ciardella  
*Employment Specialist*

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*President & Founder*

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*Chief Executive Officer*

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Dare Ruffin

Patrick Duhaney

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Steve Van Horn

Tyler Brooks

Duncan McDuff

Dear Friends,

Words cannot begin to describe the **extraordinary impact the generosity of our community** has had on so many **autism families in Hampton Roads** over the last **30 years**. What started in 1996 with five autistic kids at a one-week summer camp in our Board President's kitchen has grown into a **Community for a Lifetime** for hundreds of autistic individuals and their families. Over the last few years in particular, FACT has seen remarkable growth – serving 404 autistic individuals in 2024, a 63% increase since 2021, with program registrations rising 98% to 1,574. Thanks to YOU, **FACT found a home in our new Autism Resource Center**, allowing us to **expand programs and serve more autistic individuals of all ages and ability levels** than ever before.

Peer influence has a profound, long-lasting effect on an individual's outlook for the future, and FACT's goal is to ensure those influences are positively motivating. Surrounded by **positive role models and inclusive community activities**, our participants gain confidence and experience meaningful "firsts" – swimming, joining a team, attending a dance, or making a friend. **These moments open doors to opportunities** such as employment and college, while building a lasting sense of belonging.

As we **celebrate 30 years of community**, we could not be more excited for what the future holds and all the families FACT will continue to help thanks to your support.

Sincerely,

*Tyler Williamson*

Tyler Williamson, Chief Executive Officer

SCAN HERE TO LISTEN:  
Hampton Roads Chamber Podcast:  
*Learning from the Best with  
Tyler Williamson from FACT*

<https://tinyurl.com/FACT-HRChamberPodcast-2025>



***“We really want autistic individuals to have a place where they can feel at home, be themselves, have friends, and be part of the community.”***

– Tyler, FACT Chief Executive Officer







“Having friendship means to me hanging out with people.”

– FACT Participant



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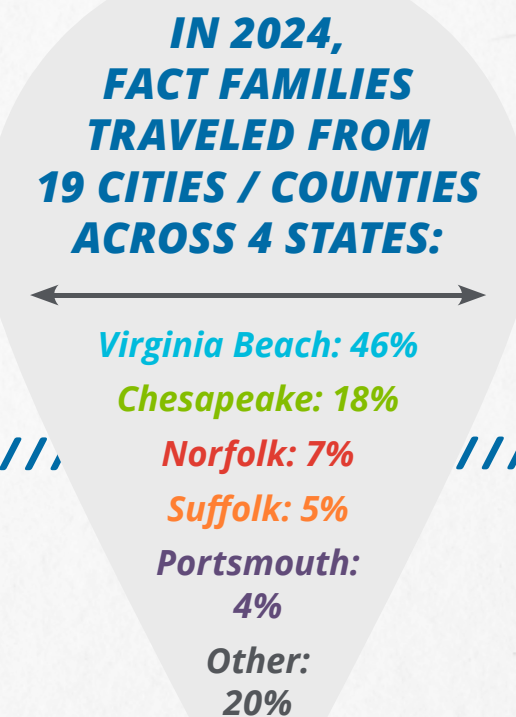
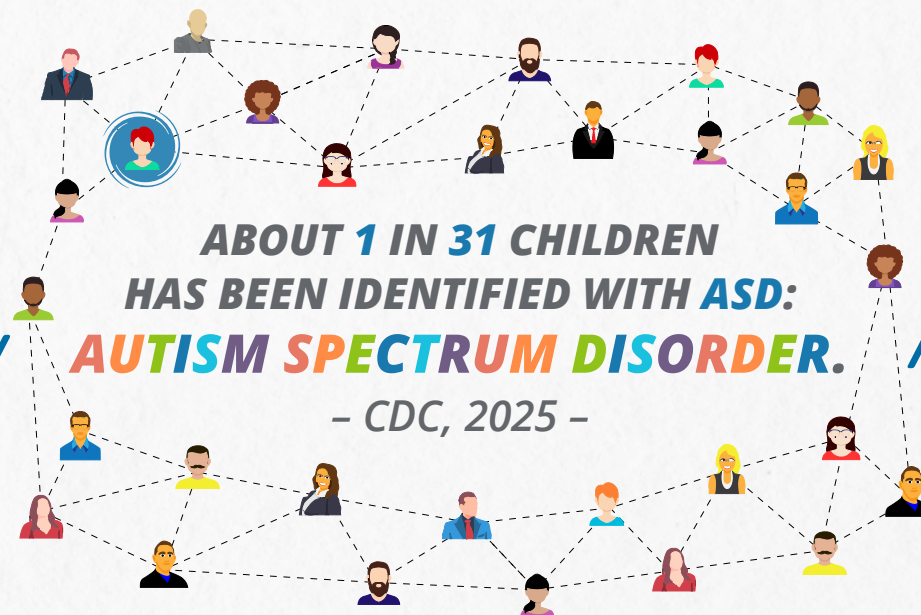
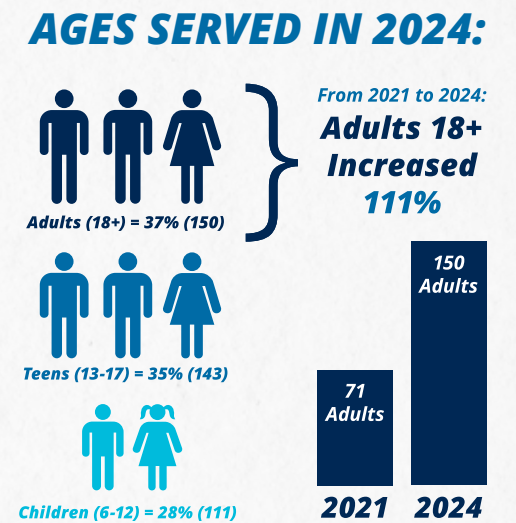
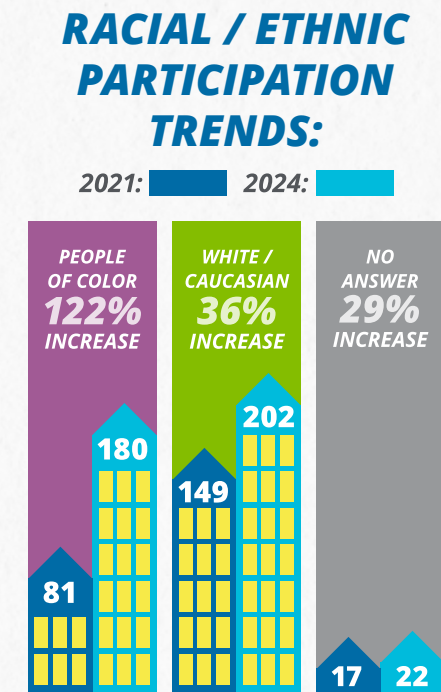
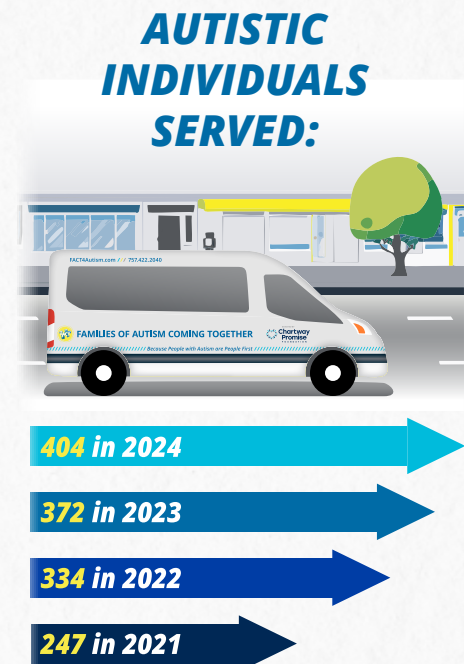
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“We believe everyone should have something fun to put on their calendar.”

– Sharon Slipow, FACT Founder & Autism Parent

SCAN HERE TO WATCH:

Parenting Unscripted:  
FACT on Autism  
by Wavy TV 10

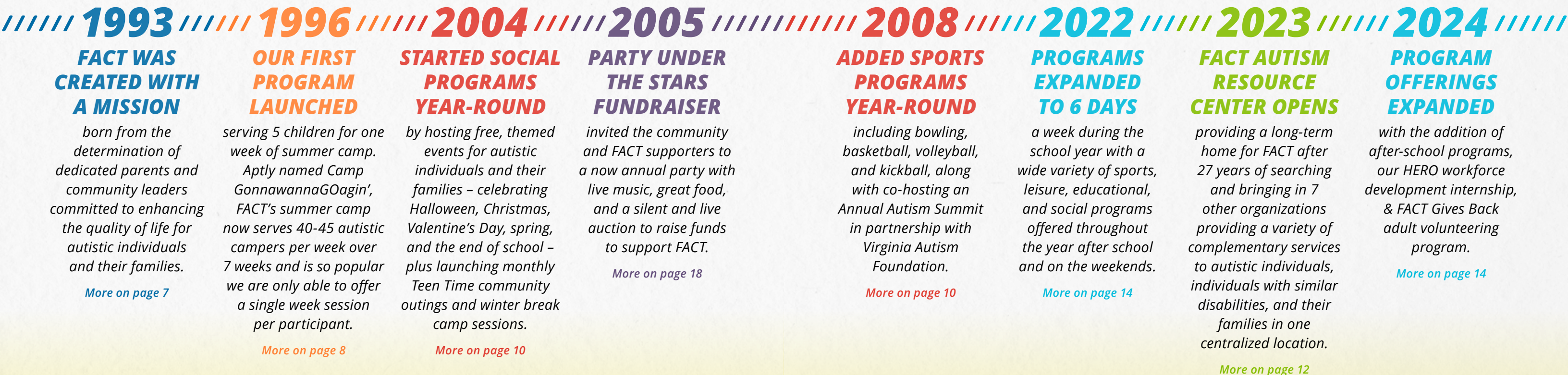
[https://tinyurl.com/  
FACT-ParentingUnscripted-2025](https://tinyurl.com/FACT-ParentingUnscripted-2025)



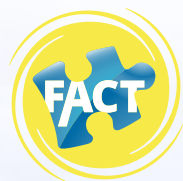
## THE FACT STORY

For 30 years, FACT has been offering **social and recreational programs** in Hampton Roads that **motivate autistic individuals** to become **engaged with peers and the community**. We provide a place where all autistic individuals, no matter their behaviors, can be themselves, have fun, learn new skills, and make friends. Our programs enhance social and communication skills by **utilizing similar-aged non-disabled peers** as well as **employing a highly trained staff**.

To help **foster acceptance of autistic individuals**, many of our programs involve **community outings** and focus on social integration. **Communication skills acquired** simply by providing **positive and natural peer interactions** prove to be the **most impactful type of social interventions**. Our mission since day one? **Improve the quality of life for autistic individuals and their families** in the Hampton Roads area... **Because People with Autism are People First**.







# Camp GonnawannaGOagin'®

***“It’s Disneyland for kids with autism.”***

– FACT Parent’s Description of Camp GonnawannaGOagin’



**2,192**  
COMMUNITY  
OUTINGS

in 2025

**Camp GonnawannaGOagin’** is FACT’s largest and longest running program, serving autistic kids in Hampton Roads for 30 years. In 2025, we hosted **7 week-long summer day camp sessions** in Virginia Beach. **Autistic individuals ages 6 and older** are eligible to attend, and we generally take **40 – 45 autistic individuals each week**.

In addition to our autistic campers, we also bring in about **20 neurotypical volunteers each week from ages 10-17 who we refer to as “inclusion campers.”** These inclusion campers do all the fun activities with our autistic campers, including various field trips to Ocean Breeze, the Children’s Museum, Virginia Zoo, beach, local pools, etc.

**We pair a similar-aged autistic camper and an inclusion camper.** This allows the autistic individual to learn not only how to socialize and communicate with other autistic individuals, but also their neurotypical peers. Similarly, inclusion campers learn how to socialize and communicate with autistic individuals. **This integration increases awareness and acceptance of autistic individuals throughout the community.** Many inclusion campers go on to become staff at camp and lifelong advocates and allies for the autism community.

In addition to being our **longest running and largest program**, **Camp GonnawannaGOagin’ is also our most expensive, with demand and need continuing to grow.** FACT does charge tuition, but it only covers about 24% of the total cost of camp, which was \$321,739.12, or \$1,174.23 per camper, in 2025. Through generous donations and grants in 2025, we were able to supplement the \$244,088.50 in costs not covered by tuition and continue to provide a 7th week of camp, allowing 274 autistic individuals to attend (the most in our history). Despite serving more campers than ever before and limiting participants to one week per camper, the lottery filled immediately, and more than 50 autistic individuals did not get in off the waitlist.



## 2025 CAMP COSTS:

- \$400/week (regular tuition)
- \$300/week (75% for military families and families with more than one child on the spectrum)
- \$200/week (50% low-income)
- \$40/week (10% Chartway Promise Scholarship families)
- Tuition only covers 24% of the total cost of camp each year (\$1,174.23 per camper in 2025)
- FACT needs approximately \$260,446.67 through donations and grants to be able to offer 7 weeks of camp again in 2026



**SCAN HERE TO WATCH:**  
Summer Camp Documentary by ODU Students

<https://tinyurl.com/FACT-SummerCampDoc-2022>





# YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS

During the school year, **FACT** offers three categories of evening and weekend programs: **social, sports, and leisure programs** that provide structured and natural opportunities for communication in an integrated setting with non-disabled peers modeling targeted behaviors. Unlike most programs, **FACT does not turn anyone away for behavioral reasons** (such as aggression/elopement) and provides opportunities from age 6 through adulthood.

**FACT's Social Programs** are **monthly community outings** to places like the Aquarium, Circus, Jungle Golf, Hunt Club Farm, Virginia Beach parades, etc. These are designed to foster peer interactions in a community setting to increase social and communications skills of autistic individuals; increase community integration skills; foster confidence and feelings of self-worth for autistic individuals; and raise awareness and acceptance of autistic individuals in the community.

**FACT's Sports Programs** are **8-week programs that run once a week in the evenings or on weekends** (basketball, soccer, bowling, etc.). Each league provides a supportive atmosphere where players can increase their knowledge about the sport, teamwork, and one another. Our goal is for every participant to experience the fulfillment of being part of a team and challenging themselves.

**FACT's Leisure Programs** are **similar to the sports programs but are for non-sport activities** that our participants may be interested in (art, baking, coding, drama, drumming, karaoke, etc.).

FACT provides **sports and leisure programs six days a week** so there is a program for everyone's interest.



**100+**  
**ASD INDIVIDUALS**  
**PARTICIPATING**  
**EACH WEEK**  
in 2025

*“Sometimes you wanna go  
where everybody knows  
your name and they’re  
always glad you came.”*

– Cheers Theme Song, Written by  
Gary Portnoy & Judy Hart Angelo



**SCAN HERE  
TO WATCH:**  
Autism Programs  
Spotlight by  
Studio Center

<https://tinyurl.com/FACT-ProgramsOverview-2024>



# THE GRANDEST OF OPENINGS



## AUTISM RESOURCE CENTER

Opening in June 2023, FACT's Autism Resource Center is a **21,900 square foot, state-of-the-art facility** where FACT and 7 other organizations provide a **variety of complementary services to thousands of autistic individuals and individuals with similar differing abilities** in a single location – centrally located

in Virginia Beach off I-264, making it easily accessible for families from around the region. **Collaborating, cooperating, and cohabitating with an array of other nonprofits**, FACT's Autism Resource Center provides a supportive, loving, and nurturing environment for these individuals and their families throughout their lifetime.

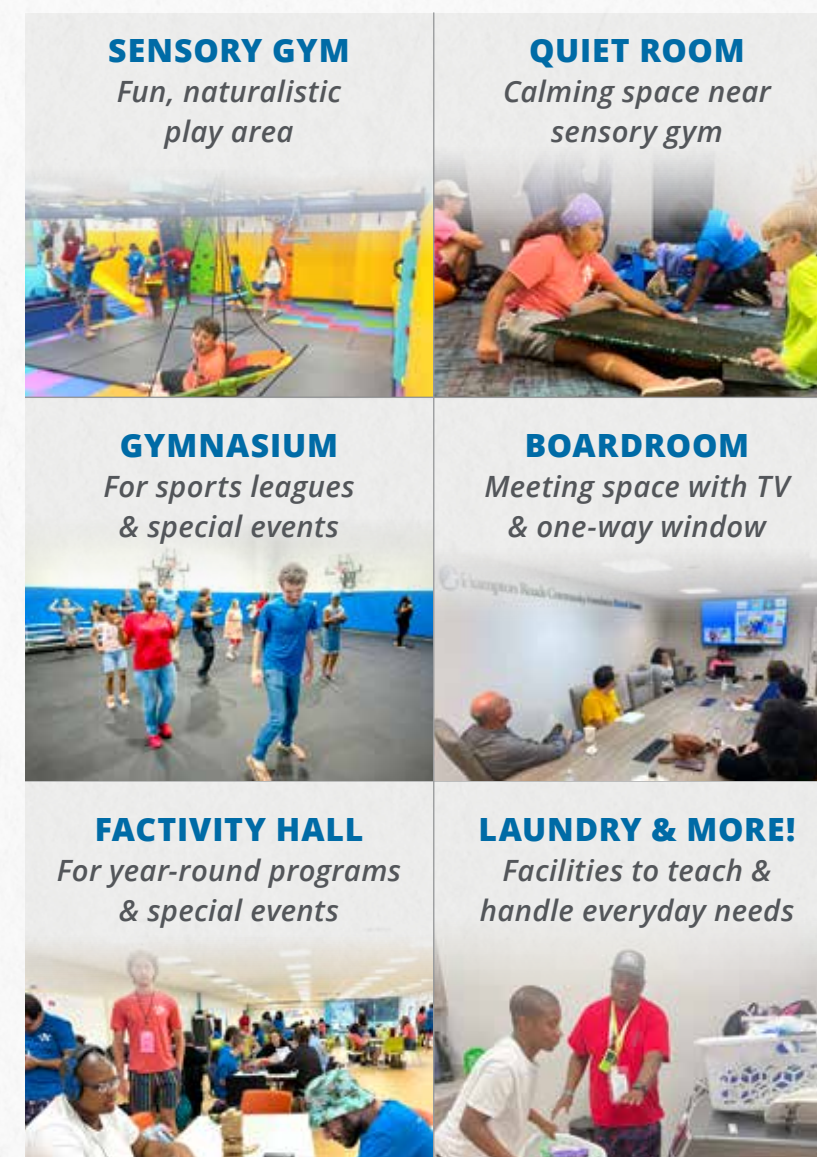


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**FACT AUTISM  
RESOURCE CENTER  
FACILITY  
PARTNERS**

## BENEFITS OF COMING TOGETHER

The new Autism Resource Center **expands FACT's services** beyond our core 6+ autism population to include younger children and those with other disabilities through **strategic facility partnerships**. The center provides **comprehensive lifetime support with**: social/recreational programs; speech and occupational therapies; sensory gym rentals for ABA therapies; life skills training; employment opportunities; educational resources; parent support; psychotherapy; and community integration spaces.



### SENSORY GYM

*Fun, naturalistic play area*

### QUIET ROOM

*Calming space near sensory gym*

### GYMNASIUM

*For sports leagues & special events*

### BOARDROOM

*Meeting space with TV & one-way window*

### FACTIVITY HALL

*For year-round programs & special events*

### LAUNDRY & MORE!

*Facilities to teach & handle everyday needs*

### SCAN HERE TO WATCH:

Facility Feature by WAVY TV 10

<https://tinyurl.com/FACT-AutismResourceCenter-2023>

**HOST YOUR PARTY, EVENT  
OR PROGRAMMING WITH US!**



## FACILITY PARTNERS

**Aid Another**

AidAnother.com • 757.718.7926

**Autism Society  
Tidewater Virginia**

TidewaterASA.org • 757.461.4474



Commonwealth  
Autism

CommonwealthAutism.org  
757.447.6761

**easterseals**  
PORT health

EastersealsPORT.com  
757.938.3511



**FAMILIES OF AUTISM  
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FACT CampGonnawannaGOagin™**  
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312.340.8109

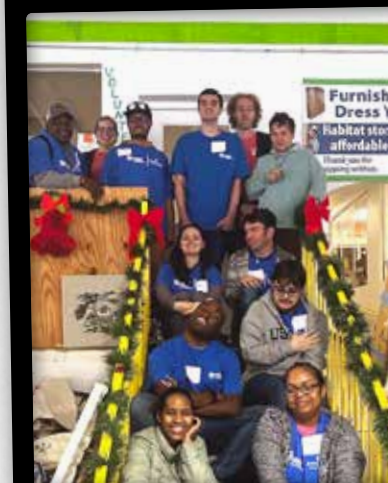
**Sentara**

Sentara.com • 757.346.1324

**Social Butterflies Club**  
SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

SocialButterfliesClub.com  
757.524.2471





# EXPANDING OUR REACH

## with FACT Gives Back, HERO Internships & Portsmouth Pickups

In 2024, FACT was able to add crucially needed programs to specifically reach two underserved autism populations: adults and autistic students in Portsmouth.

### FACT GIVES BACK

Services for **autistic adults**, particularly ones with behavioral challenges, fall off a cliff when they age out of school. Many of our adults sit at home with nothing to do and no purpose. This can lead to serious health issues such as weight gain, loneliness, and depression. It also places a heavy burden on caregivers.

The FACT Gives Back program is **designed to provide these adults with a sense of purpose, community, and belonging**. This program allows autistic adults of all ability levels to get together regularly. These adults work with FACT staff on life/vocational skills, coping skills, and interpersonal skills development. This program **fosters community integration** as we utilize our transportation to go out and **volunteer at other nonprofits and give back to the community**. FACT Gives Back provides a crucial outlet for **socialization**, increased **mental health**, and improved **life/vocational skills**.

Our FACT Gives Back **participants have put in thousands of community service hours** with so many amazing local nonprofits. Whether putting together boxes of food for



those in need at the Foodbank with volunteers from Sentara, gardening at the Hermitage Museum, helping out at the Salvation Army's food pantry, making a parade float for Habitat for Humanity with volunteers from Chartway Credit Union, helping sort free Christmas gifts for foster youth with The Friends of Foster Care, or just cleaning up our local beaches, **our amazing autistic adults are happy to have fun with their friends and give back to their community**.

Participants have excelled at various vocational and life skills throughout their time in FACT Gives Back. **A couple have already gone out and gotten jobs in the community with their increased skill set and confidence**. Additionally, a number of them did so well we brought them on as employees in our HERO Internship.

Kathleen Peterson, Director of Development & Communications at Habitat for Humanity SHR on

### FACT GIVES BACK WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

Over the past year, we've had the privilege of working alongside FACT Gives Back, welcoming their **enthusiastic volunteers to our Norfolk ReStore bi-weekly**. Their team exemplifies dedication, attention to detail, and a genuine passion for the work they do. It's clear that the participants are fully engaged and eager to contribute to our mission, **providing them with invaluable life skills while enhancing our community**. FACT individuals bring a special energy to our retail team that uplifts everyone involved. These interactions not only foster joy but are also instrumental in breaking down barriers around autism, and **promoting understanding and acceptance throughout our community**.





**10**  
**FACT HEROS**  
**IN FIRST**  
**CLASS**



## HERO INTERNSHIP

Lack of employment is one of the biggest gaps facing autistic adults across the United States. FACT's HERO Internship – which stands for “**Helping Employees Reach Outcomes**” – is a **workforce development** initiative to create job opportunities for autistic adults and set them up for success and economic opportunity in Hampton Roads. This internship seeks to create a safe and inclusive workforce environment where **autistic adults receive education** and **on-job training** to develop the necessary tools to succeed in employment opportunities.

Throughout their time in the HERO internship, FACT provides **training on vocational and life skills** to help individuals who need more **hands-on training** learn skills such as answering telephones, customer service, running a gift shop, managing money, processing payments, cleaning, and time management. FACT's Employment Specialist assesses the HEROs interests and skills. Toward the end of the internship, **FACT works with outside employers and the HEROs to help them try to secure independent employment** in a field of interest.

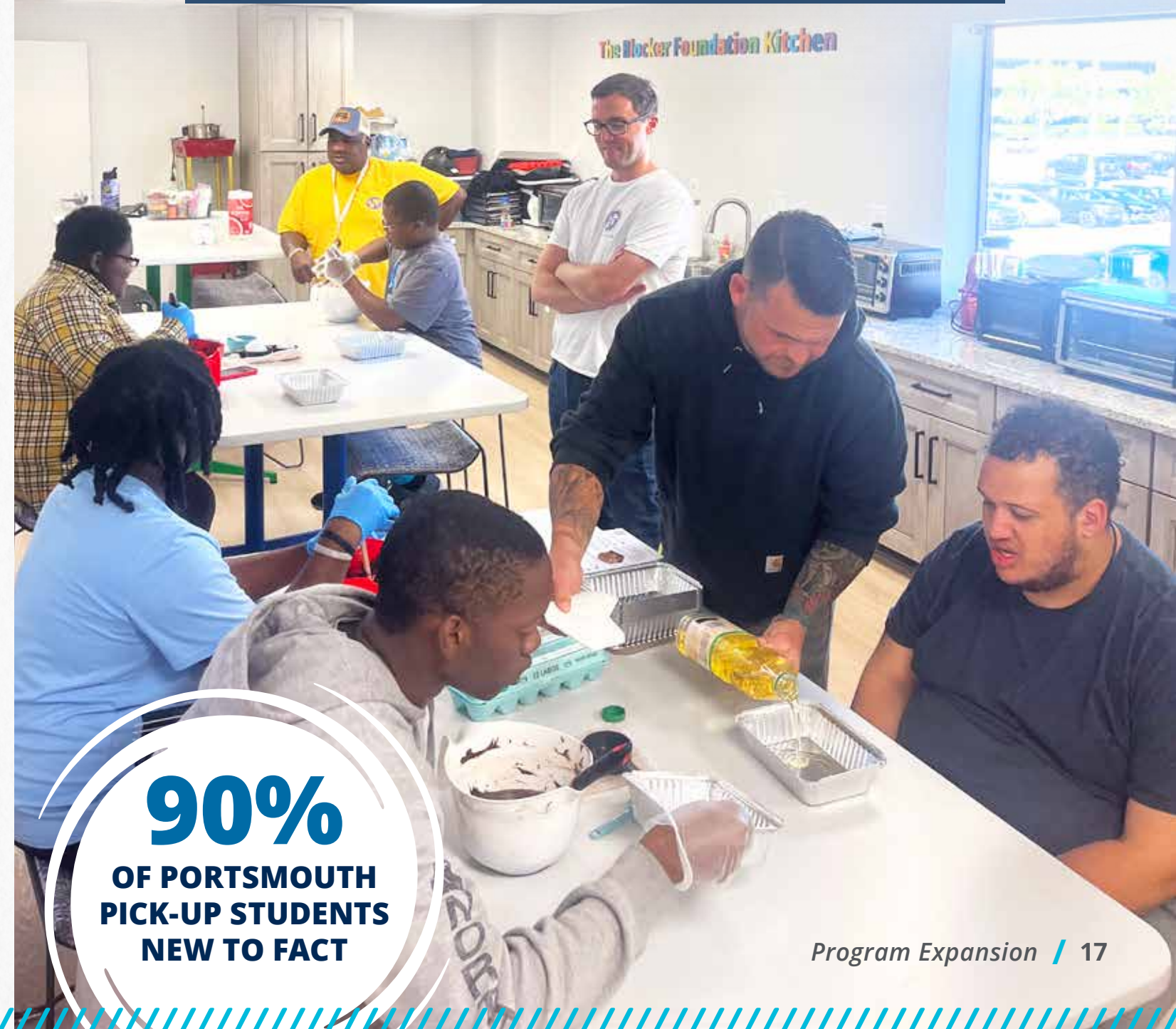
## PORTSMOUTH PICK-UP PROGRAM

In 2021, only one FACT participant was from Portsmouth. Realizing **Portsmouth was underserved**, we looked for solutions and in 2024 we launched our Portsmouth After-School Pick-Up Program, eliminating transportation and monetary barriers for Portsmouth families. **FACT's consistent after-school programming allows students to form lasting friendships and bonds.** They play basketball, celebrate birthdays, learn life skills, and support each other. This program has also proved to be a **powerful motivator for our students** with parents using it as positive reinforcement for good behavior. FACT also reinforces good behavior with celebrations when they get good grades or reach a special milestone. For these students, **this program is their community** – helping them build skills, confidence, and independence.

## A PORTSMOUTH PICK-UP PROGRAM STORY:

About two months into the start of this program, **one student asked if he and the other students could bake some chocolate muffins for his birthday in FACT's kitchen.** FACT staff got all the materials together and taught them how to bake. The students loved it so much we made it a weekly occurrence where **they get to learn valuable**

**skills in the kitchen** and enjoy the fruits of their labor at the end of each session with their baked goods. One of the students who started this school year finally, after weeks of convincing, stepped into the kitchen and started baking. **His mother is so happy because now he bakes at home and helps her in the kitchen.**



**90%**  
**OF PORTSMOUTH**  
**PICK-UP STUDENTS**  
**NEW TO FACT**



**SCAN HERE TO WATCH:**  
FACT Gift Shop & HEROs Program News Feature by Wavy TV 10

<https://tinyurl.com/FACT-GiftShopAndHEROs-2025>



**20**  
**YEARS OF**  
**PARTIES RAISING**  
**CRUCIAL FUNDS**  
**FOR FACT**  
*since 2005*



**SCAN HERE  
TO WATCH:**  
**Party Under  
the Stars 2022  
Fundraiser by  
Studio Center**

<https://tinyurl.com/FACT-PartyUnderTheStars-2022>

## *Our Annual Fundraiser* **PARTY UNDER THE STARS**

What began as a small springtime garden party in the backyard of **FACT's Founder, Sharon Slipow**, has grown to over 400 guests and has moved in recent years to larger venues and **will be held at The Dome on May 16, 2026.**

Guests enjoy a **top shelf open bar**, delicious food from an array of **local chefs**, and a **live band** in a beautiful venue in the Oceanfront area of Virginia Beach while bidding in our **AMAZING live and silent auctions**, throwing in for our **Diamonds Direct and Chef's Night Off raffles**, and having the best time with our most dedicated supporters.

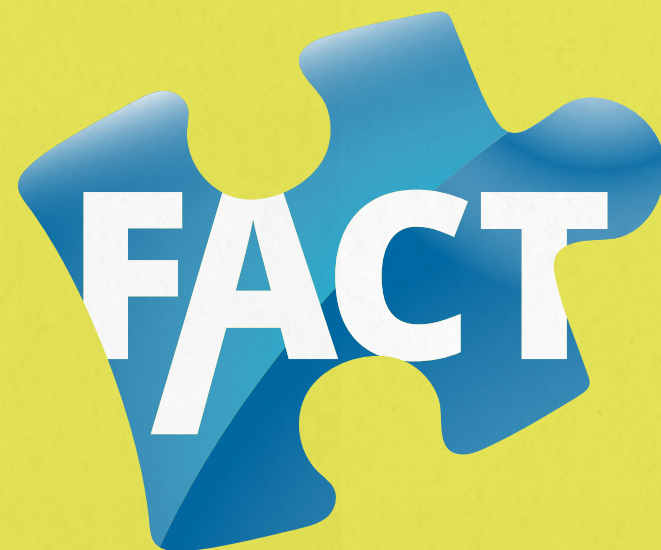
Approximately **83% of FACT's total expenses are covered by donations and grants every year.** About **75% of Party Under the Stars income goes directly to programs.**

Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability, and demand for services is greater than ever as shown by **FACT's 64% increase in autistic individuals** served over the last three years. **Registration fees** for all of our camps and programs **only subsidize a fraction of the actual cost** for staffing, activities, transportation, materials, and administration. BeneFACTors contribute the balance of the cost through grants, donations, and the Party, as well as offering need-based financial assistance for all camps and most programs.

This event is always a blast for all who attend and **provides crucial funding (\$300,000+) to support year-round social and recreational programs** for **more than 400 autistic individuals!** Your support of this annual event and FACT is essential to our mission, is deeply appreciated, and makes a huge impact in the lives of so many in our community.







***“NEVER, EVER  
UNDERESTIMATE  
THE POWER OF  
HAVING FUN!”***

**Families of Autism Coming Together**  
**[FACT4Autism.com](http://FACT4Autism.com)**





## Double the fun with **THE GUNTHER BROTHERS**

Logan and his brother William have grown tremendously since they **first joined Camp GonnawannaGOagin' at ages seven and six**. For their parents, **FACT was the first place outside of school** where they **felt safe leaving their boys**, a place that **truly understood them**.

Like many kids on the spectrum, **both face behavioral challenges**. William was born to run and keeps you on your toes because if you blink, he might be gone on some new adventure. Logan struggles when he's upset, which can lead to physical aggression. But at Camp GonnawannaGOagin', **no one is turned away because of behavior**. Our staff are trained, supported, and dedicated to helping every child succeed.

On Logan's very **first day**, he **struggled to separate** from his parents. **Staff calmly created a safe space** just for him, **closing the sensory gym** so he had **time and space to process his emotions**. Within an hour, he was **ready to join the fun**. Later that week, Logan surprised everyone. He hopped out of the car, waved, and shouted, "Goodbye, Parents!" marching proudly into camp. "I'm HERE!" he declared, diving into play with his friends. Although Logan still has occasional challenges at **camp**, it has become the **main event on his calendar** each summer that he looks forward to!

Logan and William's progress reminds us why we do what we do, because **every child deserves a place to belong, grow, and shine**.

## Langston's journey to **COMMUNITY & PURPOSE**

After experiencing the loss of his mother and other immediate family members in New Orleans, **22-year-old Langston moved to Virginia Beach in 2024** to live with his cousin who stepped up to give him a new home. During his initial months here, Langston struggled to find connection and purpose. That changed when **Langston's cousin discovered FACT** and **signed him up** for our **new adult program, FACT Gives Back**.

At first, **Langston was shy and reserved**. But with each session, **his confidence grew**. Now, his bright smile lights up every room. He's known for his signature bro hug, his fearless dance moves, and the joy he brings to everyone he meets, including his best buddy Cameron who he met at FACT.

**Langston developed valuable life and job skills** through FACT's programs. His growth and dedication stood out so much that we asked him to come work for us in **FACT's new HERO employment internship** for autistic adults.

Whether he's at FACT to work or play, **Langston embodies our mission** of **building a lifetime of community, independence, and belonging** for autistic individuals. He's not just a participant; **he's part of the FACT family**.



**“At FACT, we grow with you – our participants no longer age out of FACT programs!”**

– Edna Vega,  
Director of Operations







## Opportunities from a **VOLUNTEER TO A CAREER**

FACT programs don't just transform the lives of our autistic participants; they also **profoundly impact our neurotypical volunteers who grow up as peer buddies in our programs. Tianna is a great example.** Her only connection to autism is through volunteering for FACT since she was 12. **What began as helping at a summer camp became a lifelong passion that shaped her future.** Now a **neuroscience major pursuing the Child Policy Research Certificate at Duke University** with the goal of bridging neuroscience and policy to help create a more inclusive world, Tianna shared:

*"I am truly grateful and blessed for all that FACT has given me. Under your leadership and through the opportunities offered by FACT, I have found a sense of purpose, a stronger desire to give back, and appreciation for different kinds of diversity. Volunteering at FACT has truly sparked my curiosity about neuroscience and has created a foundation for my current career choice. Thank you sooo much for offering volunteering opportunities to youth like me. I thank and appreciate you, your campers, and their families beyond any words that I could express!"*

We are so proud of Tianna for her **compassion, commitment** to the autism community, and **dedication** to creating a more inclusive world.



## Unstoppable Mom with **A VISION FOR INCLUSIVITY**

More than 30 years ago, **Sharon Slipow** refused to accept a world without opportunities for her autistic son, Logan. Along with a few other determined parents, she dreamed of building a community where autistic children could belong, grow, and be celebrated. That dream became **FACT, now a cornerstone of the Hampton Roads community.**

From five campers in 1996 to 400+ autistic children and adults served in 2024, **FACT's growth mirrors Sharon's unstoppable spirit.** As Board President, she helped expand FACT to seven weeks of summer camp, 30 hours per week of year-round social and recreational programs, and supported employment for autistic adults.

None of this would exist without her **tireless fundraising.** Sharon founded and still organizes FACT's signature *Party Under the Stars*, which recently celebrated 20 years of raising vital funds. Through thousands of volunteer hours, she has **helped raise millions to ensure no one is turned away from FACT** for financial or behavioral reasons.

And she's still dreaming. **Her vision inspired FACT's new Autism Resource Center**, a 21,900 sq. ft. home where eight autism organizations now work side by side to serve the community. One of FACT's newest initiatives, *FACT Gives Back*, was inspired by "Logan's Run," a mother-son food drive that showed how giving back can build confidence and connection.

**Driven by love for her autistic son Logan and a belief in inclusivity for all,** Sharon is proof that one unstoppable mom can change an entire community.







Nolan, pictured above, joined FACT at 6 years old and has lit up our lives ever since. For 4 years, we've watched him grow – running, climbing, playing, engaging with others, and loving every minute!

## As the saying goes – **IT TAKES A VILLAGE...**

FACT is **built on community** and nothing we do would be possible without the support of our amazing FACT Family! In 2024 alone, FACT had:

- **404 Autistic Participants**
- **225 Volunteers**
- **218 Different Donors** (individuals/organizations)
- **99 Dedicated Staff** (full, part-time, & seasonal)
- **7 Additional Autism Resource Center Providers** who supported hundreds of families and individuals with disabilities.



## **FUNDING SOURCES**

**DONATIONS  
& GRANTS:**  
**82.52%**

**MERCHANDISE,  
RENT, & OTHER:**  
**9.57%**

**PROGRAM FEES:**  
**7.91%**

These summarized statements do not include all disclosures of the format required by generally accepted accounting principles. Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

## **OPERATING EXPENSES**

**PROGRAMS:**  
**89.84%**

**ADMINISTRATION:**  
**7.18%**

**FUNDRAISING:**  
**2.98%**



## How does it all **ADD UP?**

FACT has grown exponentially over the last couple years thanks to YOU! From 2021 to 2024, FACT experienced:

- A 63.56% increase in autistic individuals served,
- A 275% increase in hours per week of year-round social and recreational programs,
- The addition of 80 hours per week of paid, supported employment for autistic adults in FACT's HERO (Helping Employees Reach Outcomes) workforce development internship, and
- A 148.12% increase in operating expenses to support this growth.

**This rapid growth was only possible thanks to the generosity of our wonderful community!** Your support allowed us to expand our social, recreational, and vocational programs, equipping participants not only with practical skills but with the confidence and communication tools they need to lead more independent, fulfilling lives. The impact on their personal growth, especially in social engagement and self-expression, cannot be overstated.

**“My relationship is special with each child. They are all one of a kind and never cease to amaze me.”**

– Olivia Fisher,  
Former Camp Counselor



# Raising the Roof, **TOGETHER**

Thanks to our generous Capital Campaign donors, FACT's new Autism Resource Center is now a vibrant hub where autistic individuals and their families can thrive. This state-of-the-art facility allows us to expand programs, including our popular

summer camp, and offer new services in a fun and supportive environment. These generous donations help us create a place where **every individual** on the spectrum – no matter their ability or care needs – has something fun to put on their calendar.



## AUTISM RESOURCE CENTER DONORS

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Caroline Willcox & Dan Einwechter  
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*Because of our generous capital campaign donors, we are now able to house not only all things FACT, but also 7 other partners, with all of us providing vital services for our autism and greater community.*

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*Having the ability to provide transportation is essential to both our year-long programming and annual summer camp.*

## VEHICLES DONORS

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## PROGRAM DONORS

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# Thanks to everyone **SUPPORTING OUR MISSION**

From all of us at FACT, thank YOU for your extraordinary generosity! **Your donations are an investment in the future of hundreds of autistic individuals striving to grow, connect, and thrive in Hampton Roads.**

Thanks to your generosity, FACT can continue to provide countless opportunities for social, recreational, and vocational programs for autistic kids and adults of all abilities and support needs! **Your support helps ensure that autistic children and adults have access to experiences that foster joy, growth, and belonging.**

Thank you for making such a powerful difference and impact in our community!



**“FACT helps me  
live a happy life.  
FACT is my family,  
and so are YOU!”**

– Aaron Rolon,  
FACT participant  
for last 15 years

## FACT 2024 DONORS

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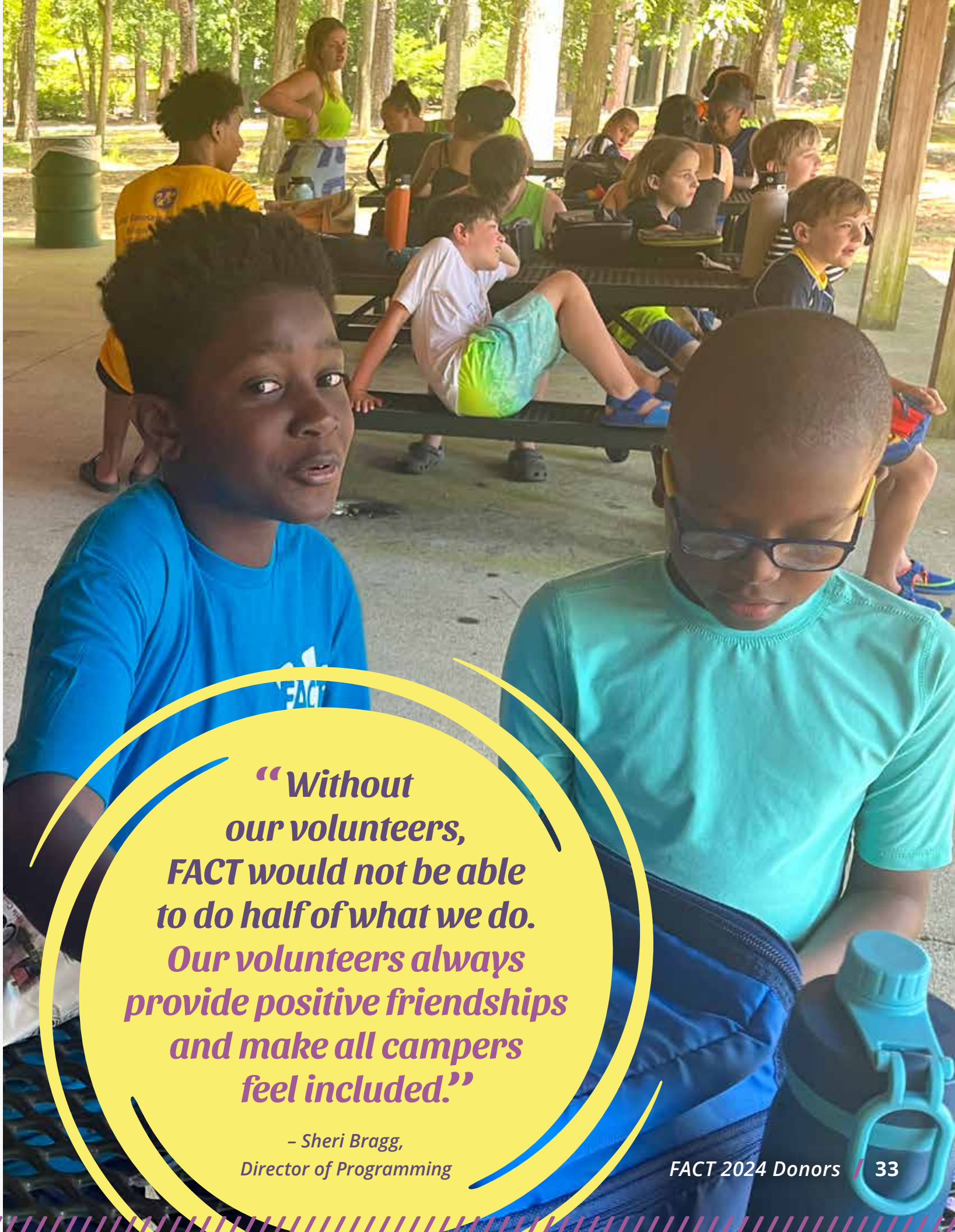
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*“Without  
our volunteers,  
FACT would not be able  
to do half of what we do.  
Our volunteers always  
provide positive friendships  
and make all campers  
feel included.”*

*– Sheri Bragg,  
Director of Programming*





Our heartfelt thanks for

TRIBUTES

TO HELP LIGHT OUR WAY

2022

In Honor of the Slipow Family:

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In Loving Memory of  
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and Leona Bernstein:

Janet & Stanley Meyers

In Memory of

McKinley Hammer:

Hammer Family

In Honor of Andrew Boland:

Michael Boland

In Honor of Ben Feinman:

Barbara Weyman





# Working together to **SERVE FACT'S COMMUNITY**

## MEET THE STAFF

FACT currently has six full-time staff, 15-20 year-round part-time staff, and 30-40 seasonal staff during summer camp. FACT also brings in 125-150 neurotypical volunteers ages 10-17 each year to be inclusion campers and buddies for our autistic participants in Virginia Beach.



## MEET THE BOARD

The FACT Board of Directors is made up of a dedicated group of individuals with a broad array of backgrounds and experiences, including family members of autistic individuals and business leaders in Hampton Roads.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Sharon Slipow**  
*President & Founder*

**George Metzger**  
*Treasurer*

**Saunders Bohan**  
*Secretary*

**Tyler Williamson**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

### BOARD MEMBERS

Larry Slipow

Tom Bohan

Dare Ruffin

Patrick Duhaney

Toby Adamson

Steve Van Horn

Tyler Brooks

Duncan McDuff



**Tyler Williamson**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Tyler's younger brother Brian was one of the first campers at Camp GonnawannaGOagin'. A former counselor and board member, he practiced law for six years before becoming FACT's CEO in 2020. He now leads operations, programs, fundraising, and events.



**Sarah Ciardella**  
*Employment Specialist*

Sarah enrolled her autistic son in FACT in 2021. Inspired as a parent, she joined as a camp counselor in 2023, discovering a passion for supporting autistic youth and adults. In 2025, she became FACT's Employment Specialist, helping employees build skills, pursue passions, and thrive in the HERO internship.



**Edna Vega**  
*Director of Operations*

Edna started out as a helpful, engaged parent volunteer and has become a dynamic component of our team. She tracks income and expenses, maintains databases, manages the office, and assists with special projects and events.



**Jessie Pitts**  
*Program Manager*

Jessie began as a camp counselor in 2008 and now manages FACT's programs. A gifted communicator, he builds strong connections with autistic children and adults and is a vital support to families throughout the year.



**Sheri Bragg**  
*Director of Programming*

Sheri began volunteering with FACT at age nine and has been part of the team ever since. An experienced special educator, she took on this role in 2019 and now designs, leads, and oversees all programming with professionalism and unwavering compassion.



**Daniel Keeton**  
*Assistant Program Manager*

Daniel joined FACT as a counselor and part-time staff in 2021 and became full-time Assistant Program Manager in 2024. He works closely with participants and families to ensure every individual is engaged, included, and thriving in our programs.



# *Follow us and stay* **CONNECTED**

Stay connected with us and **be part of a growing community** rooted in **acceptance, inclusion,** and **belonging!** By following us on social media and subscribing to our updates, you'll **hear directly from the heart of our mission** through the **voices and stories** of our autistic children, teens, and adults that celebrate individuality, joy,

growth, and meaningful participation in community life. **Our channels highlight everyday moments** offering an authentic look at how connection and opportunity can empower autistic people of all ages. Follow along to learn, to celebrate, and to **help us continue building communities where everyone is valued for who they are.**

## **BE IN THE KNOW & SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!**

Our weekly email is a great way to keep up-to-date and learn about all the great things going on at FACT. Visit our home page and click "Stay Connected" to sign up.



757.422.2040

info@FACT4Autism.com

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***“The only way people are going to learn about inclusion is if you’re out in the community and they see it first hand.”***

*– Tyler, FACT Chief Executive Officer*

