



## **Cannabis-Inclusive Autism Care Model Business Proposal**

### **PROBLEM:**

1. **ESTABLISHED NEED:** In the US, we lack dignified living options for our growing population of children/young adults with Autism, leaving parents to fill this role for longer than they may feel capable. It's common for Autism parents to express fear of dying before their child, citing the nightmare status of current options available to provide lifelong Autism care and support. The few programs that are available entail years-long waitlists, and offer little to no focus on resident's quality of life or promoting optimized function.
2. **EXPECTED GROWTH:** Autism prevalence has continued rising unabated in the US, and has increased from 1 in 10,000 in the 1970's to 1 in 59 as of 2014 (school age). Stephanie Seneff, PhD, a renowned Autism researcher, predicts Autism will impact 1 in 2 live births by the year 2025. It's estimated that 50% of children with Autism suffer a behavioral crisis upon entering puberty, a common catalyst for resulting out of home placement due to safety concerns. This problem is expected to continue growing with increased Autism prevalence, which justifies pursuing a care home model that offers improved behavior management efficacy and quality of life outcomes.

### **SOLUTION: AUTISM SAFE HAVEN**

**INSPIRATION:** Nurse Janna Champagne, BSN, RN is mother to Ginny, a teen girl with Autism expected to require lifelong and intensive caregiving supports. Janna chose a unique path for treating her daughter, including cannabis and natural alternatives to pharmaceuticals, with heavy focus on quality of life/optimized function, and use of other researched Autism supports. Janna speaks for every parent faced with subpar options to care for their child with Autism, and understands first-hand the desperate need for improved care and supports. Janna's mission is to create a model that facilitates a natural progression of decreased involvement from Autism parents/families allowing an optimal child to adult transition process. Janna is a prominent advocate for Autism families in the US, and her daughter's success story was widely distributed when it published on the cover of a nationwide magazine in 2017. Inspiration for Phase 2 Expansion: The Legacy Village <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OwzmH2PcUw&feature=youtu.be>

**PROGRESS:** Janna owns a home in Medford, Oregon, which has undergone significant remodeling to provide a safe and supportive, behavior-resilient environment. This includes security measures (6' fence surrounds the property), tempered glass/unbreakable windows, behavior-proof walls, disability safety features, all without compromising it's appearance as a home vs a commercial facility. Janna aspires to raise funding to complete the remodel, and convert this house into the first model of Autism Safe Haven homes, fulfilling our mission to provide optimal Autism care. Support for this program has launched initiatives in both California and Oregon, offering a desperately-needed proactive behavioral management approach, using cannabis and other research-supported interventions to guide care for those with Autism.

**COMPETITION:** Currently, the standard for care homes primarily utilizes physical restraints and pharmaceuticals, while lacking appropriate caregiver training, which has resulted in multiple home failures (and even physical harm to residents). In addition, results of the current "crisis response" paradigm include elongated ER stays, and use of polypharmacy, including those with unknown long term effects or safety considerations. The short term effects we do know are justification enough to seek safer alternatives (extrapyramidal symptoms).

**SCIENCE:** Cannabis provides a safer and often more effective alternative to harmful pharmaceuticals for managing symptoms in tens of thousands of children with Autism in the US. It is commonplace for Autism patients to reduce their child's reliance (or wean completely) from harmful pharmaceuticals, meanwhile improving quality of life and function with cannabis added to their daily regimen. Mounds of research exists supporting cannabis as safe and effective interventions for treating Autism, exemplified further by tens of thousands of case studies and real patient outcomes.

**INTEGRITY:** As a medical professional, Janna took an oath to provide objective education to patients regarding the risk versus benefits of ALL possible medical options, and facilitate fully-informed medical decisions and patient autonomy. The safety profile of cannabis is unsurpassed, and when approached objectively, cannabis should often be considered as a first resort for medical interventions to address Autism behaviors. Janna's nurse specialties, including cannabis and substantial knowledge of alternatives to pharmaceuticals, have helped thousands of patients optimize their quality of life and function. The time has come to duplicate these outcomes, and create a superior model of care options for this disenfranchised population. The need for an improved approach for meeting the needs of our growing population of Autism patients is evident, and a private model utilizing insurance and government-funded supports provides sustainability and improved quality of life for residents.

**We can do so much better for these families.**

**DETAILS:** Our goal is to launch phase 1: The first model care home in Medford, Oregon, where the necessary resources are readily accessible. Phase 1 includes launch, research of the outcomes (compared with standard home models), ensuring model sustainability, and duplicating. Once completed, we will implement to phase 2 which entails expanding on this initial home model, to include creation of an all-inclusive community with a center for services, including job skills training and housing for families. This opens extensive opportunities for research, comparing outcomes/justifying an improved approach.

**GOAL: Provide Optimal Quality of Life and Function**

**Integrations Include:**

Caregivers Trained on ABA/Behavior Plan Approach

Research-supported Autism Supports: IDEAS

Create Nursing Agency to Administer Meds/Oversee Cannabis Protocols

**Process:**

*Phase 1:* Individualized & Proactive Behavior Management & Care

Research Outcomes compared with other models, duplicate once proven sustainable

*Phase 2:* Culinary and Job Skills Training, All-Inclusive Community Supports (Phase 2)

Family housing, Socialization & Community Involvement (Phase 2)

**Collaboration Needs:**

Funding/Fundraising Supports

Collaboration with Current Housing Projects Considered

**Thank you for considering our project for a donation**

**501c3 pending, fiscal sponsor established to ensure tax deduction**

**For More Information, please visit our website: [www.autismsafehaven.org](http://www.autismsafehaven.org)**

## **Resources:**

ABA for Autism:

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2013R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/13979>

IDEAS for Autism: Benton, Laura & Johnson, Hilary & Brosnan, Mark & Ashwin, Emma & Grawemeyer, Beate. (2011). IDEAS: An interface design experience for the autistic spectrum. Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems - Proceedings. 1759-1764. 10.1145/1979742.1979841.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/221515450 IDEAS An interface design experience for the autistic spectrum](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/221515450_IDEAS_An_interface_design_experience_for_the_autistic_spectrum)

State of Current Autism Housing Solutions: <https://blog.theautismsite.greatergood.com/are-generic-homes-suitable-for-adults-with-autism>, [https://medicalkidnap.com/2020/02/14/california-parents-sue-riverside-county-25-million-for-death-of-disabled-daughter-in-foster-care/?fbclid=IwAR1UC0tW1De6Sr80-s\\_AYKUhw5majBAHdAgaR2SjvbTnbHqqvOVIX6VA4](https://medicalkidnap.com/2020/02/14/california-parents-sue-riverside-county-25-million-for-death-of-disabled-daughter-in-foster-care/?fbclid=IwAR1UC0tW1De6Sr80-s_AYKUhw5majBAHdAgaR2SjvbTnbHqqvOVIX6VA4)

Autism Epidemic Growing (Stephanie Seneff prediction):

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/inspectrum/201409/autism-apocalypse-2025>

## **Cannabis Resources:**

Janna's Press Kit Website, including background, interviews, and overview of her industry roles: [www.jannachampagne.com](http://www.jannachampagne.com)

## **Cannabis for Autism Resources:**

**Whole Plant Access 4 Autism Research Citations:** <https://wpa4a.org/science/>

**Mother's Advocating Medical Marijuana Autism (MAMMA):** [www.mammausa.org](http://www.mammausa.org)

Janna's daughter's story including research supporting cannabis for Autism: [www.integratedholisticcare.com/news](http://www.integratedholisticcare.com/news)

## **Donations: Planned Use**

1. Remodel/Launch Phase 1 (Medford home), conversion to first site of Autism Safe Haven
2. Launch Business Structure: (solid collaborations may alleviate immediate need):
  - Nurse Agency LLC
  - Caregiver Agency LLC
  - Foundation- “Reverse Mortgage” model, Real Estate Acquisition assets
  - Research Outcomes Data Collection: Cost TBD (Grants available/being pursued)