



# Autism Communities

Building Community for the Neurodiverse

## Five-Year Strategic Plan



[autismcommunities.org](https://autismcommunities.org)

2024–2029





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## A Message from our Board Leadership

Established in 2016, Autism Communities has helped young adults living with autism open up an exciting new chapter in their lives by facilitating their move into neighborhood apartments along the south shore of Suffolk County. To witness the success of our residents and to see them thrive in their independence motivates our work each day.

As we grow our organization and expand our model, we are now poised to broaden our reach to individuals affected by both Autism and/or Intellectual Developmental Disabilities. This repositioning allows us to serve a greater range of those needing creative and long term housing solutions.

Our five-year Strategic Plan outlines the next chapter in Autism Communities history and charts an ambitious path forward in our mission to facilitate inclusive and sustainable housing for neurodiverse individuals on Long Island. Although bold, we know our goals can be realized with the passion and dedication displayed by our Board Members, staff, residents, families and community partners. Together we will attain our enduring vision to “inspire a world built without barriers”.



*Doreen A. Jaggs*  
**Doreen Jaggs**  
Chairwoman



*Paul Pedretti*  
**Paul Pedretti**  
Chairman Emeritus



# Overview



Autism Communities is committed to fostering a culture of inclusion in neighborhoods across Long Island. We are dedicated to advocating for neurodiverse individuals in their desire to live independent and fulfilled lives.

In this spirit, we partner with the families of neurodiverse young adults seeking to secure inclusive housing. We support the family in identifying housing options where their loved one will be empowered to live independently with the necessary support provided through their self directed budget. Our first residents moved into their homes in the Fall of 2020 and their success continues to inspire and motivate our commitment.

Today, 1 in 36 children are diagnosed with autism and 80% of adults with autism live at home and receive support from a family caregiver. Our mission and strategic plan are now more important than ever. We remain dedicated to emerging as a leader in the development of creative, sustainable housing options for neurodiverse individuals.







# Our Mission

**To facilitate inclusive housing for neurodiverse individuals that is sustainable through our innovative programs and services.**

# Our Vision

**“To Inspire a World Built Without Barriers”**



# Our Core Values

**R.E.A.C.H.**

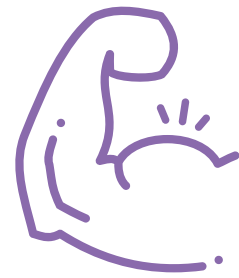
*For a Promising Tomorrow*

Autism Communities is committed to serving and empowering the neurodiverse community of Long Island. Our Core Values are at the heart of everything we believe in and do, guiding our commitment toward an inclusive society.



*Respect*

We respect each other's unique needs and strengths, recognizing how all abilities enrich our society.



*Empowerment*

We seek to empower neurodiverse individuals to thrive independently in their community, pursuing and achieving their dreams.



*Advocacy*

We advocate for collective positive change, creating an inclusive and uplifting society.



*Compassion*

We inspire compassion beyond ourselves, striving toward a supportive and integrated community.



*Hope*

We nurture hope through intentional acts of kindness, embracing each other in our path toward a promising tomorrow.





## Our Strategic Plan is guided by the following foundational principles:



We will enhance the quality and scope of the programs and services we offer neurodiverse individuals through strengthening and developing relationships with community partners and donors.

We will enhance the opportunities for families, volunteers, residents and participants to contribute meaningfully to the growth, progress and sustainability of Autism Communities.

We will expand our presence in the neurodiverse community, developing a flexible and sustainable housing program.

We will expand our social and educational programming for neurodiverse individuals and their families, offering opportunities for social connections, information sharing and skill development.



We will effect the lives of neurodiverse individuals, creating positive change through advocacy and commitment to an inclusive and empowered society.





# Our Strategic Pillars





# Operations

## Overview

- 🏠 **Further Develop Staff and Leadership Teams**
- 🏠 **Formulate an Ongoing Comprehensive Marketing Strategy**
- 🏠 **Increase Community Partnerships**
- 🏠 **Enhance Current Housing Model for Future Sustainability**








# Programs & Services



## Overview

-  **Expand Club AC's Social and Educational Programs**
-  **Develop a Corps of Volunteers**
-  **Establish Direct Support Programs**





# Fundraising






## Overview

- 🏠 **Develop Progressive Fundraising Strategy**
- 🏠 **Implement Annual Fundraising Event Schedule**
- 🏠 **Enhance Grant Awards**



# Housing

## Overview

-  **Further Develop Relationships with Families, Builders and other Community Stakeholders**
-  **Enhance our Housing Access Plan: H.A.P.**
-  **Develop Flexible Housing Options**







# Our Board



**Doreen  
Jaggs**  
Chairwoman



**Margaret  
Curran-Rusch**  
Treasurer



**Mark  
Gregorio**  
Board Member



**Allison  
Kleinman**  
Board Member



**Rob  
Manger**  
Board Member



**Mike  
Sanchez**  
Board Member



**Rob  
Sanchez**  
Secretary & Legal Counsel



**Steven  
Visco**  
Board Member



# Our Advisory Board



**Paul  
Pedretti**  
Chairman Emeritus



**Trish  
Calandra**



**Grace  
Pedretti**





*Thank you!*

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