

YAASClub 2023 Annual Report

- Young Autistic Adults (18+) Social Club



Young Autistic Adults Social Club

650 Oakdale Dr Medford OR 97501

NonProfit 501C3 id: 93-1709124

www.yaasclub.org



Why YAAS?

False Assumption: People with Autism like to be alone and doing things that only interest them.

Truth:

- 1 in 4 feel socially isolated
- 50% of autistic adults report feeling lonely
- 33% of autistic adults do not leave their house most days
- 67% feel depressed because of loneliness
- When an individual turns 21, resources for autists drop dramatically.

Why YAAS?

Social skills are crucial tools in any person's toolbox for navigating the world, expressing personal needs, and seeking out opportunities. Social situations can be highly subjective and difficult to practice. YAAS Club offers a way for members to be able to work on social skills across a variety of contexts so that members can apply those skills in new situations.

What YAAS offers

- Social engagement with like minded individuals (other artists)
- Teachable moments in a real life setting
- Opportunities to practice active listening and ask open ended questions for better communication
- Learning behaviors that predict important social outcomes like friendships and happiness
- Occasion to explore new activities, hobbies and foods in our local community



What we accomplished in 2023

- Yaasclub started as the brain child of Darus Juarez, a mother of a young autistic adult. Darus found it heartbreaking that her young accomplished son felt so alone in the world with little or no friends. He felt isolated and sad. In searching for activities, Darus felt there was a huge need for more activities for autistic adults and therefore the YAASClub was conceived. The first event was held on May 2nd in Medford Oregon at Kaleidoscope Pizza and was attended by 5 members and 2 support people. Since then, in 2023 we hosted 15 events attended by 139 individuals. We have 46 active members and a mailing list of 107.

2023 at a glance

15 events

139 attendees

48 members

What people are saying about us?

- *Such a need for this in the community.
Thanks for doing this.*

– Parent of Member

- *Opened the world for my granddaughter.
Her first social group that gives her face to
face interaction.*

– Grandparent of
Member

- *My favorite thing about YAAS is I get to
meet new people.*

– Member



Events held in 2023

- Bowling
- Wildlife Images wild animal recovery center
- Ft Vannoy Pumpkin Patch
- Gingerbread Jubilee Community Event
- The Musical: Rent
- Britt Festival
- Festival of Trees Community Event
- Lunch events at: Kaladeiscope Pizza, Wild River Pizza, Misoyas, Red Lobster, Caba Empanadas, Word on the Street Food truck and Olive Garden

Goals for 2024 and beyond

- Hosting of 36 events in Jackson and Josephine County (that is 3 events per month)
- Currently we are hosting 2 events per month either in Josephine or Jackson county. It would be great to expand to 4 events per month, 2 in Jackson county and 2 in Josephine county, to make it more accessible.
- Add a support group that meets once per month for people to come and talk openly about their struggles with autism. In the group we will have a trained therapist to facilitate the meeting.



How you can help... yaasclub.org

1

Businesses can help by offering low cost activities at their business or by sponsoring a specific event. All monies will go directly to the payment of the event you sponsor. Even if your business doesn't have a suitable activity, your donation of even \$500 will go a long way to supporting future events. Our club is a 5013C corporation and your donation is 100% tax deductible.

2

Businesses can donate items that we can auction for funds to support our activity. If you have an item you can donate, please let us know by emailing darus@yaasclub.org

3

Individuals can help by donating their time to help or host an event, helping with writing grants, or simply by making a direct donation. \$50 will support one member for an entire month. \$100 will support 2 people. This is a general rule. Some of our activities are free but others carry a higher price tag like going to community plays and food events.



Please
donate

Our club runs on 100% donations.

If you know an individual with autism, please help us by supporting our club! Your donation is 100% tax deductible. We have a 5013C status and our EIN is 93-1709124.

Write a check to YAASCLUB and mail to 650 Oakdale Dr Medford OR 97501

OR

Go to pay.yaasclub.org to make a direct donation via debit or credit card



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