

The Nicholas Center

Innovate, Inspire & Include



2023 / 24
IMPACT
REPORT



A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on another remarkable year, I am filled with gratitude for your support and inspired by the resilience of our community. Despite economic and workforce challenges, our commitment to empowering individuals with Autism remains steadfast and stronger than ever.

Our Achievements

This year, we've made significant strides in our mission:

- **Workforce Development:** expanding our Supported Employment Program, increasing paid employment & internships from 20 (in 2023) to 43 (in 2024).
- **Business Partners:** community network growth from 16 (in 2023) to 23 (in 2024) in Long Island and Westchester.
- **Community Impact:** Port Provides and TNC Provides now serves 3,500 low-income families and seniors with essential supplies and fresh produce. TNC Chocolate Lab expanded from a vocational program to a business offering 31 individuals training in Culinary Arts and retail management.
- **Service Delivery & Quality of Life App:** With our focus on innovation, development and exploration, we looked to new technologies to enhance our programs and support individual needs. Our year-long strategic planning process invited invested community partners, families and staff to develop a comprehensive future plan for TNC.

Overcoming Challenges

This past year presented unique obstacles, particularly in workforce staffing and financial constraints. We invested in our Direct Support Professionals, offering enhanced training programs and performance incentives – resulting in staff retention and improvement in service quality. Through strategic partnerships and generous support, we secured \$1.4 million in grants and donations.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to:

1. **Innovate** our programs to meet the ever-evolving needs of Autistic individuals.
2. **Advocate** tirelessly for inclusion and acceptance in workplaces and communities.
3. **Support** and elevate our dedicated staff.

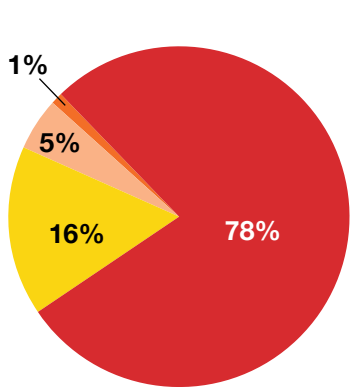
Thank you for participating in our mission. You are instrumental to our progress and success!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Nicole Ferrara
Co-Founder & Executive Director,
The Nicholas Center

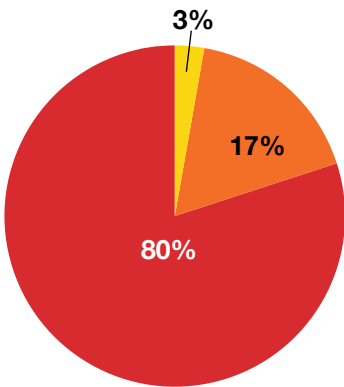


Revenue & Expenses | 2023/24



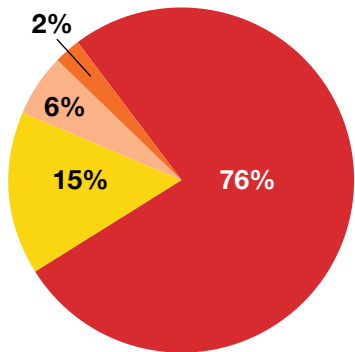
FY 2023 Revenue

Program Service	\$4.60M
Contributions and Grants	\$908K
Special Events	\$308K
Other	\$67K



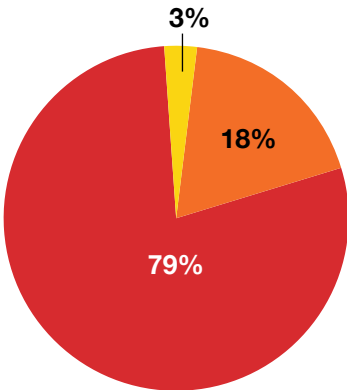
FY 2023 Expenses

Program	\$4.1M
Management and General	\$861K
Fundraising	\$142K



FY 2024 Revenue

Program Service	\$4.30M
Contributions and Grants	\$865K
Special Events	\$337K
Other	\$127K



FY 2024 Expenses

Program	\$4.2M
Management and General	\$974K
Fundraising	\$155K

GRANTS – Thank you for funding our mission!



The L.B. Research & Education Foundation



Syd & Jan M. Silverman Foundation



Peter & Jeri Dejana FOUNDATION



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New York Community Bank
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By The Numbers

Revolutionizing the way
Autistic adults learn,
live and work.

- 2** New York State locations – Long Island and Westchester
- 12** Months of continuous service per year
- 13** School Districts with 46 students attend TNC
- 43** Individuals employed via TNC's Supported Employment Program
- 45** TNC Podcast interviews
- 82** Individuals in TNC's Community Inclusion Program
- 93** Community Partnerships in Port Washington & Westchester
- 160** Episodes of Nicholas Center News
- 163** Autistic individuals supported at TNC
- 2,800** TNC Newsletters produced & delivered free in our communities
- 3,500** Individuals supported at local food pantries via Port Provides & TNC Provides
- 3,600** TNC followers on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn
- 8,529** Hours of Vocational Skills Training with TNC Job Coaches
- 10,000** Chocolate items produced at the TNC Chocolate Lab

** Numbers as of February 2025.*

THE NICHOLAS CENTER – COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Community Stewardship

Facilitating meaningful connections and opportunities between our participants and our communities.

Utilizing the community as a “university,” TNC participants and support staff carry our mission into the community everyday - completing tasks, offering service and engaging with local businesses, organizations and neighbors. Individuals gain valuable skills and experience while helping local nonprofits attain their mission.

Partners include: Plant-a-Row for the Hungry, Hillside Food Outreach, North Shore Animal League America, Jacob Burns Film Center, Twin Pines Thrift Shop, United Way & Spectrum Designs Foundation.



Vocational Skills & Training

Helping participants gain, retain and maintain skills needed to lead meaningful lives through gainful employment.

TNC's vocational support, inclusive partnerships and initiatives impact hundreds of Autistic individuals each year. Our professional and credentialed staff help our participants reach their goals and learn new skills.

- **Work Readiness and Soft-Skills Training** – Hands-on and staff supported experiences and vocational training opportunities foster new skills, build confidence and promote independence through verbal, visual and digital cues.
- **Supported Employment Program** – Offers job seekers and those gainfully employed individualized attention, internships and employment support at work sites in our local communities. 43 individuals are currently employed.
- **Micro-Businesses** – TNC puts job skills into practice with participant operated micro-businesses, including a fulfillment business, Cruisin' Cantina mobile snack & beverage cart and the TNC Candle Lab.



Expanding Reach

Creating new experiences and marketable skills to foster new opportunities, knowledge and fun!

- **TNC Media Lab** – offers the opportunity to write, produce and conduct interviews – NCN News, TNC Newsletter and TNC Podcast.
- **Pantry Programs** – TNC participants order, sort, package and deliver essential supplies to local food pantries – serving over 3,500 neighbors each week on Long Island and Westchester.
- **TNC Chocolate Lab** – offering vocational training in Culinary Arts and retail management at our TNC Chocolate Lab gift shop.



The Nicholas Center creates innovative programs and services that allow Autistic individuals to learn, live and work in the community.

TNC supports individuals to learn critical life skills, improve social and communication abilities, gain vocational training and employment and engage in meaningful community projects. With a focus on creating inclusive work opportunities, TNC offers internships, pathways to employment, on-the-job support and participant operated micro-businesses that put learned job skills to work!



TNC offers a safe and engaging environment with opportunities to socialize and foster vital peer connections.

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Nicole Ferrara, *Co-Founder & Executive Director*

The Nicholas Center
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