The Autism Project is a “Hub of Hope” that connects people with a spectrum of needs to the education and resources that support meaningful, purposeful lives.

JANUARY 2020
OPERATION: DISCONNECT TO RECONNECT

APRIL 2020
IMAGINE WALK & FAMILY FUN DAY

2020 SPONSORSHIP
The Autism Project is a unique collaboration of parents, professionals and community members who provide quality support, training and programming that is accessible to all children and adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, their families and those who work with them.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 59 children had a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by age 8. ASD is the fastest growing developmental disorder in the United States. Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) are a group of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. People with ASDs handle information in their brain differently than other people.

Autism Spectrum Disorders are “spectrum disorders.” That means ASDs affect each person in different ways and can range from very mild to severe.
You can have a positive and lasting impact on the health and well-being of children and their families.

Your support of the 2020 Operation: Disconnect to Reconnect and 2020 Imagine Walk will enable The Autism Project to maintain and expand programming, trainings and support needed to meet the growing needs of those we support! You can make a difference in the lives of those in your community we support by becoming a 2020 Sponsor.

“When we look only above the surface, we tend to blame the child, the parent, or the caregiver. Looking below the surface opens new pathways for seeing the child’s behaviors as adaptations to an array of emotional and physiological needs, resulting in more compassion and less blame.” - Dr. Mona Delahoucke, PhD
YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS US TO:

Answer the call of newly diagnosed parents.

Inform and educate newly diagnosed families and caregivers what tools and resources are available for them.

Provide informative training for parents, professionals and caregivers.

SUPPORT FROM 2019 SPONSORS HELPED US TO:

Host
2 Weeks of Camp WANNAGOAGAIN!

Consult in
21 Schools Districts

Train
2500 Professionals

Spend
1070 Hours Consulting

Provide
31 Weeks of Social Skills Groups

TRAIN
2886 Parents
2886 Professionals
2886 Caregivers

SUPPORT
1145 Parents

SUPPORT
448 Professionals

SUPPORT
100 Grandparents/Other

CALL
Make Over
5000 Support Calls

ALLOWED US TO PROVIDE:

- Support for Families
- One-on-One Parent Meetings
- Navigation of Resources
- Parent to Parent Training
- Community Outreach
- Multilingual Parent Support
JANUARY 26, 2020

OPERATION: DISCONNECT TO RECONNECT

Was created as a way to bring awareness to an issue affecting so many today!

THE CRISIS
We are in crisis as technology increasingly replaces human interaction.

Positive social connections with people at all stages of life help ensure healthy development, both physically and emotionally. Our society’s increased screen time directly relates to major difficulties developing the ability to:

- Interact with others
- Regulate emotions and behaviors
- Solve problems
- Communicate effectively

If we are spending excessive time consuming digital media, we are missing out on important unstructured free time that is critical for our cognitive and social emotional development, well-being and problem solving skills.

Parents have heard that they should be limiting their Childrens’ screen time, and this is true. But studies show that too much time spent on phones, TVs and laptops has adverse effects on adults also, from weight gain to poor sleep and brain atrophy.

Modeling healthy device usage yourself — Children learn by example — and encouraging offline social interaction and physical activity will encourage healthy family habits when interacting with technology.

OUR GOAL
To spread awareness, provide alternate activities and raise money while connecting with those around us!

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

- Become a sponsor
- Pledge to disconnect from your phone and electronics!
- Ask others to join you in the effort by pledging or supporting you by donating for each hour disconnected!

Example:
8 Hours at $5 an hour = $40 donation

Your involvement is critical to our success and solving this issue.

Thank you for your help!
The Autism Project’s Annual Imagine Walk and Family Fun Day for Autism is one of the largest walk events in Rhode Island and is held in conjunction with National Autism Awareness month, ensuring tremendous visibility for our cause and our Walk, throughout the month of April. Walk attendance and outreach has increased each year, with over 8,500 participants. The Imagine Walk attracts family members young and old, educators, health care professionals and others working to support those with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Funds raised through the Imagine Walk go directly towards programs, services and trainings for children, teens and adults living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families and/or caretakers. The Imagine Walk is The Autism Project’s largest fundraiser of the year and has generated over $2 million dollars in support of transforming the lives of children and adults with Autism.

We hope you will join us in 2019 and be a part of the transformation!

Date: April 26, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Location: Goddard Memorial State Park, Warwick, Rhode Island
Expected Attendance: 8,500 +

The Imagine Walk kicks off at 10:00 a.m. and is enjoyed by thousands of individuals and teams as they walk through beautiful Goddard Park. The walk is followed by a Family Fun Day event that features an assortment of activities designed for children and teens with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as for other members of their family.