



2021/22

IMPACT
REPORT

*No matter where you are,
we'll meet you there.*

a geneva
centre for
autism

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT



This past year has, again, been one of many challenges for the Geneva Centre for Autism as we continued to manage the many issues that COVID-19 has brought. I am pleased to say that we pivoted well and continued to serve many clients, particularly those who were most in need. Our summer camps went ahead and were full of happy participants.

2021-22 was another year of growth and renewal at the Board. In September 2021, we welcomed our newest member, Linda Kenny. Linda is a CPA and Chartered Accountant. She is currently the Executive Director, Finance, at Diabetes Canada. Linda brings her expertise in financial matters to the Board and strengthens our risk management team.

In February 2022, Board member Hafeeza Bassirullah resigned. We thank her for her many contributions to GCA's growth over the last four years. Her presence is missed.

In 2021-22, the Board put a heavy emphasis on improving its governance and oversight functions. In addition to meeting semi-annually with an expert in NFP/corporate governance, the Board also engaged in a training session on unconscious bias. Oversight of risk has been a focus at the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee, Chaired by Dave Gillespie; oversight of strategy has been a key focus of the Strategy Advisory Committee, chaired by Beata Mehta. Our Real Estate Committee, chaired by Darren Williams, has also been very active during this past year, as

the sale of our building at 224 Merton Avenue closed.

As we come to the end of our current strategic plan period, we are already preparing to develop its successor. We expect that the new plan will be in place by the beginning of the 2023-24 year and it will be posted to our website.

There has been a lot of innovation at the service level in response to the Ontario Autism Program's new funding model. We are pleased that, together with our partners, we were awarded two significant streams of funding to provide services to our families: the Entry to School program, and the Urgent Response Service. You can read more about these exciting new programs in this report.

Sonderly, our training platform for educators, had a very successful year as it expanded its offerings into the field of mental health, particularly as it interrelates with ASD. These offerings will increase as we look forward to at least two new courses in the coming year.

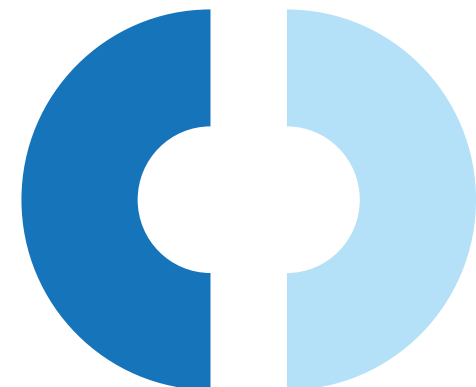
At the GCA Board, we look forward to a positive and productive year and to reporting to you next year.

In the meantime, be safe and be well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judy Welikovitch'.

Judy Welikovitch
President, Board of Directors



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to empower individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and their families, to fully participate in their communities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judy Welikovitch - President
Beata Mehta - Vice President
David Gillespie - Treasurer
Paul Jachymek
Sagar Kancharla
Darren Williams
Wendy Kosky
Marieta Mendoza
Linda Kenny

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Tremblay - President
Nina Valentic - Vice President
David Gillespie - Treasurer
Geoff Wright
Judy Welikovitch
Harry Singh

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Abe Evreniadis - Chief Executive Officer
David Ayanoglou - Chief Financial Officer
Renita Paranjape - Vice President, Programs and Services
Marie Desmarteau - Vice President, Foundation
Kim Takata - Chief Operations and People Officer
Andrew Davis - Director, Sonderly
Bahar MirafTAB - Director, Marketing and Communications
Lin Zhang - Director, Technology and Innovation





4.5 / 5 stars

Client Satisfaction Rate



94%

of clients would recommend GCA



GCA provided support services to over

3,000

children, youth & adults with ASD



Geneva Centre is such a welcoming and supportive environment. The staff are exceptional and nothing seems to phase them despite some challenging days.

[🔗 Our Financial Report](#)

IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS

FILLING THE GAP

The Les and Kae Martin Bursary Program

The lack of programming available for high needs adults is an ongoing problem for families in the autism community. As individuals age out of school and children's services, families and caregivers face the tremendous challenge of providing daily support for adults requiring one-to-one care.

The Les and Kae Martin Charitable Foundation understands that the need for daily support doesn't disappear when an individual turns 18, and together we are committed to expanding access to quality programming for high needs adults with ASD.

Over the past year, the Les and Kae Martin Bursary Program funded:

25

Adults Attending
Summer Camp

15

Adults Attending
Respite Programs

8

Adults Receiving
Transportation to the Centre

40

Unique Clients

27

New GCA Clients

100%

of families felt that their child
was receiving appropriate
individualized support

The staff are well trained and are very engaged with the clients. I know my son is safe and having fun when he is there. The Geneva Centre is my son's favourite place.

- Les and Kae Martin Bursary Recipient





NEW THIS YEAR

The ABA Classroom

In 2021, GCA launched our new ABA Classroom to support children with autism who are experiencing challenges in the transition to school. This unique program uses the principles of ABA to teach school-readiness skills like understanding routines, following group instructions and engaging in conversations.

In response to the incredible success of our first two classes and a demonstrated need among older children, GCA is expanding the program to offer both Junior (ages 4-6) and Intermediate (ages 7-9) ABA Classrooms in the coming year.



Thank you for coming up with endless ideas and tips to make our struggles easier in every practical area of our lives. Thank you for seeing us through the highs and lows. I want you all to know how much of an impact you're making, because sometimes we forget in the day to day how far we've come. You have opened up a whole new world of opportunity to him and to our family.

ON THE HORIZON

Entry to School and Urgent Response Service

This year, Geneva Centre has been working with community partners to develop services in response to the Ontario Autism Program's new funding model. In the coming year, GCA will offer two new services through this initiative.

Entry to School was developed by the Toronto Autism Services Network, a collective of autism service providers and community partners, to prepare preschool-aged children to successfully transition to school through skill building and transition planning supports.

Urgent Response Service delivers wrap-around support for children/youth with autism and their families to prevent escalation of risk or harm. This 12-week funded service provides families with a multi-disciplinary support team including a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA), social worker, psychologist, occupational therapist, pediatrician and respite worker.



BUILDING CAPACITY

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility @ GCA

In 2020, Geneva Centre for Autism implemented a plan to address Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) within the organization. Through IDEA @ GCA, we are taking concrete steps towards fostering an organizational culture that is psychologically safe and accountable to diverse individuals.

Over the past year, IDEA @ GCA has been laying the foundation for a more equitable future through initiatives including:

- Working with HR to review and provide feedback on GCA policies and procedures
- Consultation and discussion with the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) on Cultural Competency and Psychological Safety
- A workshop for the GCA Board of Directors and ELT on Unconscious Bias
- Commissioning a video series on topics including:
 - Microaggression in the workplace
 - Imposter syndrome
 - Privilege and social identifiers
 - Institutional racism
 - Indigeneity

Geneva Centre is grateful for the opportunity to work with consultant Dr. Joseph Smith on the implementation of these critical initiatives.

SONDERLY TRAINING

The past year marked a marvelous milestone for Sonderly. Since its launch in 2019, Sonderly has offered over **150 hours** of training content on autism and applied behaviour analysis to **22,000** users in both English and French. Sonderly's courses are designed in collaboration with educators, clinical experts, and individuals on the spectrum to deliver the latest research and practices for supporting the ASD population.

This year, Sonderly has begun launching training materials in the mental health space. Now more than ever, the need for mental health awareness is essential. At Sonderly, we promote mentally healthy classrooms in grades K-12 by equipping educators with the relevant knowledge and tools they can use to support the mental health needs and well-being of their students and themselves.

Sonderly has also taken the initiative to host free discussion sessions with subject matter experts. The topics range from the stressors and challenges to student mental health, to tips and techniques for educators to enhance the classroom experience.

As the team continues to assess the current trends and client feedback, we are excited to expand their course offerings to build community capacity to embrace neurodiversity and mental wellbeing, and better meet the needs of individuals on the spectrum.



150+

hours of training content



22,000

users in both English and French



SONDERLY

THANK YOU!

Geneva Centre for Autism is grateful to the individuals and organizations that support our work in the autism community. These donations are essential to the development and implementation of cutting-edge programs that are empowering each of our clients to succeed on their own unique journey.

As the leading sponsor of GCA's Annual Golf Classic, BMO has been a champion of the Geneva Centre for Autism for over 20 years. With funds raised this year, we are committed to providing flexible, high quality services that families can depend on in a changing environment.



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

\$100,000+

Ontario Autism Program
Workforce Capacity Fund
The Les & Kae Martin
Foundation

\$30,000-\$60,000

BMO Financial Group
ICON Digital Productions
RBC Future Launch
State Street Community
Support Programme

\$10,000-\$29,999

Access Storage
Autism Speaks Canada
Cardoso Household
CIBC
Els for Autism
Indigoblue Group of
Companies
TELUS GTA Community
Board
The Catherine and Maxwell
Meighen Foundation

\$5,000- \$9,999

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