

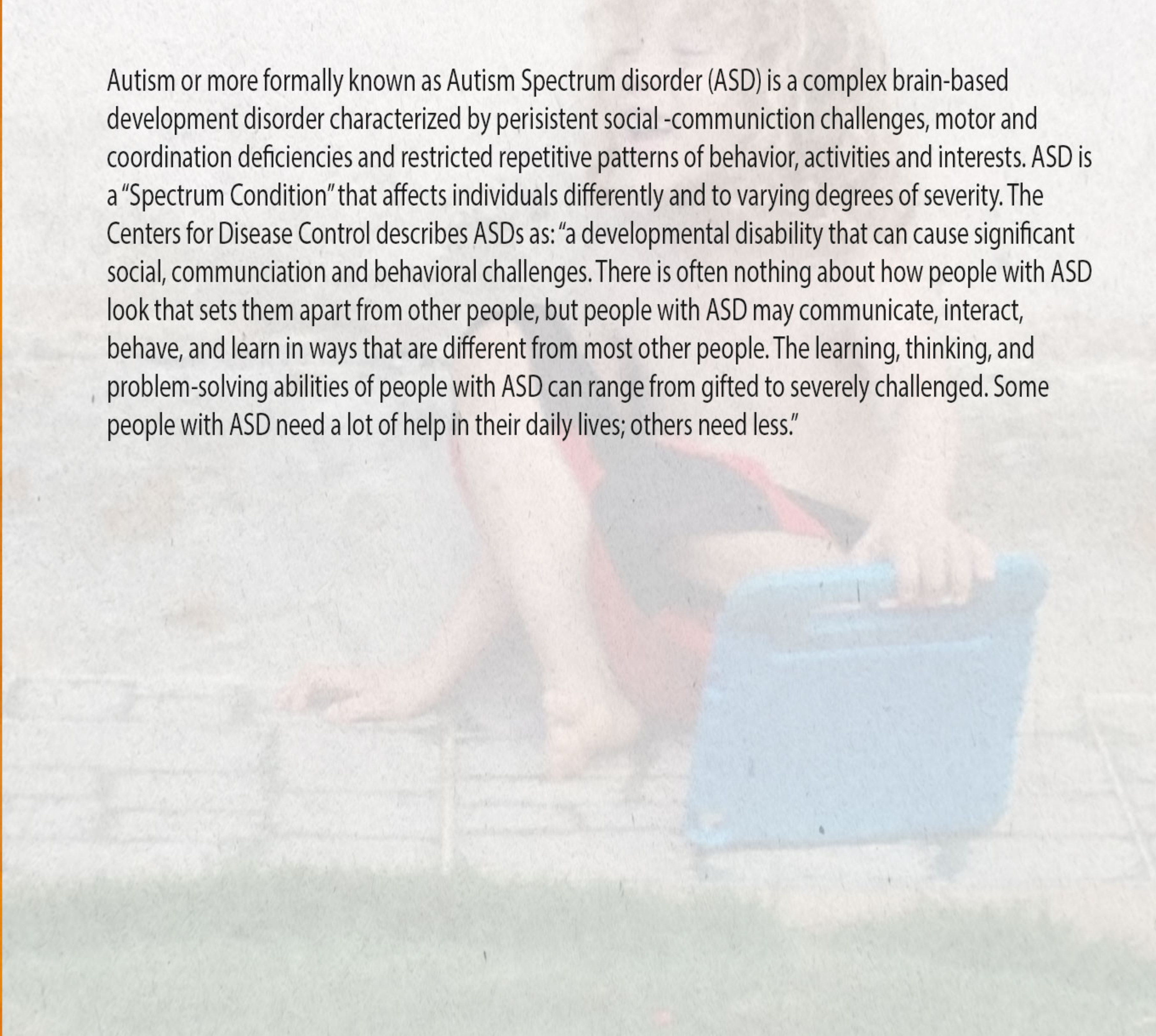
GIVING FOR A GREAT CAUSE



*Friends of Families
With Autism*

WHAT IS AUTISM

Autism or more formally known as Autism Spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex brain-based development disorder characterized by persistent social -communication challenges, motor and coordination deficiencies and restricted repetitive patterns of behavior, activities and interests. ASD is a "Spectrum Condition" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees of severity. The Centers for Disease Control describes ASDs as: "a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. There is often nothing about how people with ASD look that sets them apart from other people, but people with ASD may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from most other people. The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged. Some people with ASD need a lot of help in their daily lives; others need less."



AUTISM FACTS

- 1 in every 68 births in the US is an autistic child (ADDM Autism Prevalence Report 2016). This is approximately 2 million individuals in the US and tens of millions worldwide.
- There is NO prevalence in race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic groups.
- More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined.
- ASD is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the United States.
- If a parent already has a child with autism, they have a 2% - 18% chance of having another child with autism.
- Approximately 25% of individuals with ASD are nonverbal.
- Lifetime costs for caring for 1 individual with autism can be as high as \$2.4 million who also have intellectual disabilities (JAMA Pediatrics Journal).
- When an autistic child turns of age (21), they lose all government Medicaid and assistance and have to reapply which can take decades depending on the state of residence.
- As of 2016, approximately 50,000 autistic children are aging out of Medicaid a year and there is a 12,000 waiting list in NY and waiting lists with periods exceeding a decade in states like Texas, Ohio, and Florida.
- The average death rate in individuals with autism was 36 years younger than the general population, 36 years of age compared to 72 (CUMSOPH Period: 1998 - 2014)