

Annual Report 2023

Arms Around ASD



Asheville, NC

One Giant Hug For Families



Mission

The mission of Arms Around ASD is to support the autism community through self-care and development of executive functioning skills promoting the growth of the community as a whole.



Arms Around ASD
Asheville, NC

Letter from our Executive Director, Michele Louzon

As with so many other nonprofits and businesses, 2023 was a difficult year for Arms Around ASD. 2023 saw the drying up of “covid monies” and inflation had most American tightening their purse-strings.

Despite monetary constraints, AAASD continued to grow and flourish as our visibility increased and clients got out in the community in record numbers. We were able to offer three sessions of half-day summer camp for adults (they loved it!) and add a variety of new programming as well as multiple massage therapists to our roster (massage is our most popular service). New artists populated Big Hug Boutique walls and shelves and our annual open house/fashion show and fundraiser, Hop to the Movies, were highlights for fun and community.

2023 also saw the beginnings of the AAASD board of directors taking the initiative to move the nonprofit to the next level. In September, the board met for a half-day retreat to tighten up our strategic plan, imperative to get to another level of fundraising.

Year 8 for Arms was low key and that’s perfectly okay. I am so appreciative of staff and 80 volunteers who make sure that Arms Around ASD is THE community hub for the autism and disability community.



Arms Around ASD
Asheville, NC



Programming and Volunteers

ACUPUNCTURE

Jeremy Noble

BELLY DANCING

Haunani Orsillo

BIG HUG BOUTIQUE

Teri Siegel

Alicia Fordham

BIRD WATCHING

Randy Richardson

Susan Richardson

BOUTIQUE/FRONT DESK

Ryan Boblett

Rachel Friel

Melissa Gerhardt

Jen Haines

Kat Mallon

Jeanette Hylton

Jaime Sanborn

Roger Hecht

Misty Keith with Jessica

CHIROPRACTIC

Dr. Taylor Maclean

CRANIOSACRAL/LIFE COACHING

Cherie North

CROCHET CLUB

Emily Taylor

Macy Harbour

DAVIS' DANCE PARTY

Davis

DENTIST

Dr. Charlie Page

DRY BRUSHING

Donna Gray

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michele Louzon

FOOT RUBS

Trinity Johnson

FOR THE LOVE OF ART

Denise Fosco

FRIENDS GROUP

Denise Fosco

Michele Louzon

GAME DAY

Jennifer Campbell

GARDENING CLUB

Babs Mountjoy

HEALTH SCREENINGS

April Thomas, RNP

HULA

Haunani Orsillo

JANITORIAL

Ryan Prager

Kelly Walker

JIN SHIN DO

Mirren McConnell

JYOREI

Elvia Diaz

KARAOKE

Ryan Boblett

LGBTQ+ THERAPY CONSULTS

John Avery

LIFE SKILLS AND SELF ADVOCACY

Lila B.

MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Becky Haschke

Travis Jackson

Haunani Orsillo

Toni Pollack

Steve Lefebvre

Travis Bekina

Shonna Campbell

MEDITATION

Cynthia Greenfield

Catherine Faherty



Programming and Volunteers

MINDFULNESS

Sarah Vallely

MOVE YOUR BODY

Cynthia Greenfield

MUSIC

Kim Rank

Patti Kayser

MYOFACIAL RELEASE

Sam Hatfield

NATUROPATH

Janet Opila-Lehman

PAMPERING – ESTHETICIAN

Mindy Wilson

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

April Thomas

PET THERAPY

Rich Johnston & Sasha

Breeya Barbree & Nico and Kieta
(the cat)

Rob Reuss & Digit and Gizmo

Elizabeth Glatstein & Lulu

Amy Dexter & Sumo

Jarrod & Kristin James and Rusty

Heel2Heal Pet Therapy

REIKI

Eva Garza

Jennifer Dale

RELATIONSHIP COACHING

Amber Lavin

SOMATIC EXPERIENCING

Ranpreet Anthony

STOP-ACTION ANIMATION CREATION

Jake Louzon-Hadley

SUPPORTIVE COUNSELING

Michele Louzon

TAI CHI – QIGONG

Todd Jensen

TALK THERAPY

Clare Bolton

THIS & THAT

Jason Hadley

Sarah Kuhl

Jake Louzon-Hadley

Eddie Turner

Gabriella Bluestone

Dana Dollar

Dag Bergrud

Alicia Fordham

Kim Rank

Evan Fordham

Haiden Bergrud

Nate Wilcox-Pettit

Jake Louzon-Hadley

Isabella Lorenzo

Kaitlin

TRANSITIONS NAVIGATOR

Gretchen Levine

YOGA

Emily Danciu-Grosso

Nani Orsillo

ZUMBA, ZUMBA SENTAO & POUND

Delia Bailey

PR/SOCIAL MEDIA

Catherine Bergrud

Michele Louzon

Cara Carlson



Board Members and Officers

Board President

Jarrold Perkins

Board Secretary

Catherine Bergrud

Board Treasurer

Jason Hadley

Members at Large

Breeya Barbree

Sarah Broberg

Rich Johnston

Kelsey Maldonado

Susan Plemmons

Executive Director

Michele Louzon



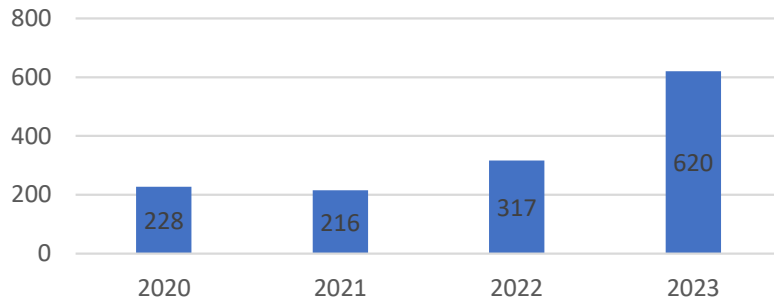
Sponsors and Donors

4imprint	Catherine Bergrud	The Matt & Molly Group
828 Pizza	Chanda McKelvy	Matthew Dotson-Smith
Alessandro Benavides-Nazario	Chisty Thompson	Melissa Gerhardt
Andreas Reinhart	Claire McCulloch	Mellow Mushroom
Ann Skinner	Devil's Foot	Nancy Beck
Anne Wray	First Bank	Orange Peel
Appalachian Vintner	Jeremy Kimmel (Kimmel & Associates)	Party City
Appalachian Vintner	John Freed	PepsiCo
Asheville Brewing	Johnston Family Foundation	Rebecca Rose
Asheville Drag Brunch	Josh & Laura Henri	Renee Melchione and John Sweets
Ava Fisher	Katie Jones	Susan & Michael Maxwell
Beer City Sisters	Kenneth Cato	Takeout Central
BLAINESWORLD	Key Autism Services	Tala and Jeff
Bob & Esther Manewith	Land of the Sky UCC	Vicki Garlock
Bobbie Earp	Leigh Ann Coddington	Wicked Weed
Brittony Miller (Peaberry Press)	Mark Affanato	ZenBusiness
Bug N' Tater	Marta Flynn	Vanessa Byrd of Mosaic Realty
Caroline and Bill Wilhelm	Mary Diffendal	Walmart

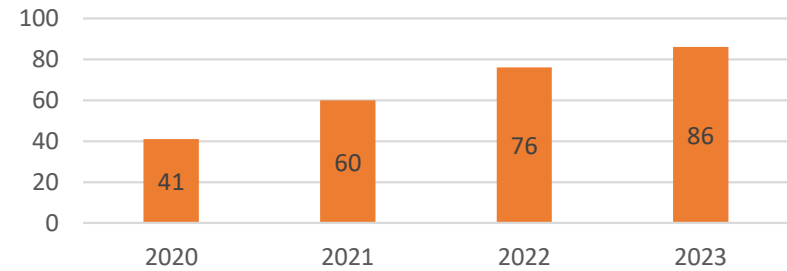


AAASD by the Numbers

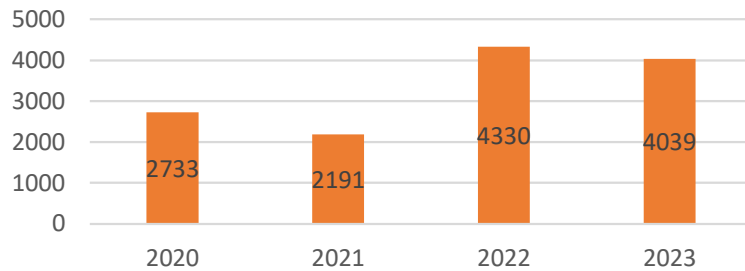
Clients Served per Year



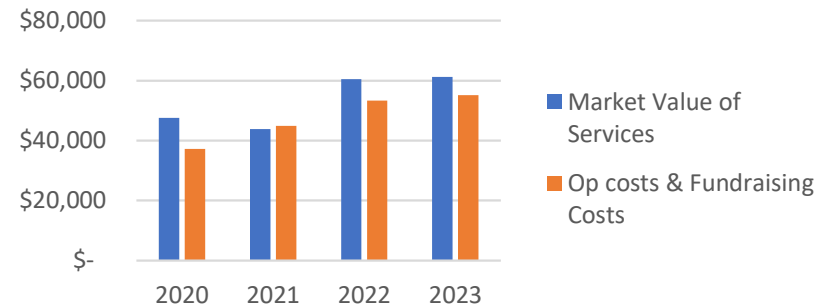
Number of Volunteers



Total Number of Services Provided



Market Value of Services



Donations and Expenses

