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Transitioning Into and Sustaining Jobs in Individuals With Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Abstract — In this presentation, I will explore the nature of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and discuss the implications of these individuals transitioning into and sustaining jobs. I will do this by providing data and presenting education as a solution through my service learning organization, the Autism Society of Greater Cincinnati.

I. INTRODUCTION

The focus of this project is to help connect teens and adults with autism and their families to resources and available funding that will help them gain careers, whether through entrepreneurship or with a corporation. The Autism Society of Greater Cincinnati helps bridge the gap in these individuals through education. Providing families these resources is essential to the success.

II. FINDINGS

Autism Society of Greater Cincinnati helps individuals with autism and their families have a higher quality of life.

This nonprofit organization provides the tools and education needed to be successful.

Introduction

In the United States, more than 3.5 million children have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) ¹ (one in 37 boys and one in 151 girls). ASD is characterized by a group of complex neurodevelopment abnormalities difficulties with social and communication interactions, specific repetitive motions and behaviors.

The term “**spectrum**” refers to the wide range of social, developmental and behavior functions and to the degree individuals with autism are affected. Some have full capability of their daily lives while others require intensive support to perform daily life functions.

Asperger’s Syndrome: One of the major differences between Asperger’s and ASD is, in Asperger’s there is not a delay in speech development. Individuals with Asperger’s seem neurotypical and have normal cognitive development, but have marked behaviors such as problems with social interactions, may have limited eye contact, or seem unengaged. Most individuals have normal cognitive development and have at or above level intelligence.

My project with the Autism Society of Greater Cincinnati allowed me play an integral role in two different charter events, new to the organization to help individuals with (ASD): The “Teen-Adult Program”: a social support group to help teens transition successfully into adulthood, and “The Exploring Entrepreneurs Program”: a collaborative infrastructure with the interest to help adults transition into and sustain jobs.

Organization

Autism Society of Greater Cincinnati is non profit organization formed in 1971, founded by parents and community partners.

Mission: “Improving the lives of all affected by autism. They do this by providing support groups, referral services, community outings and educational programs” ²

Vision: “The Autism Society will improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and their families through its community partnerships with local, state and national leaders, organizations, advocates and family members.” ²

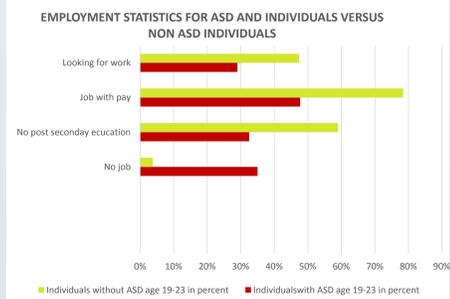
The Autism Society envisions individuals and families living with autism are able to maximize their quality of life, are treated with the highest level of dignity, and live in a society in which their talents and skills are appreciated and valued

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Autism Society of Greater Cincinnati

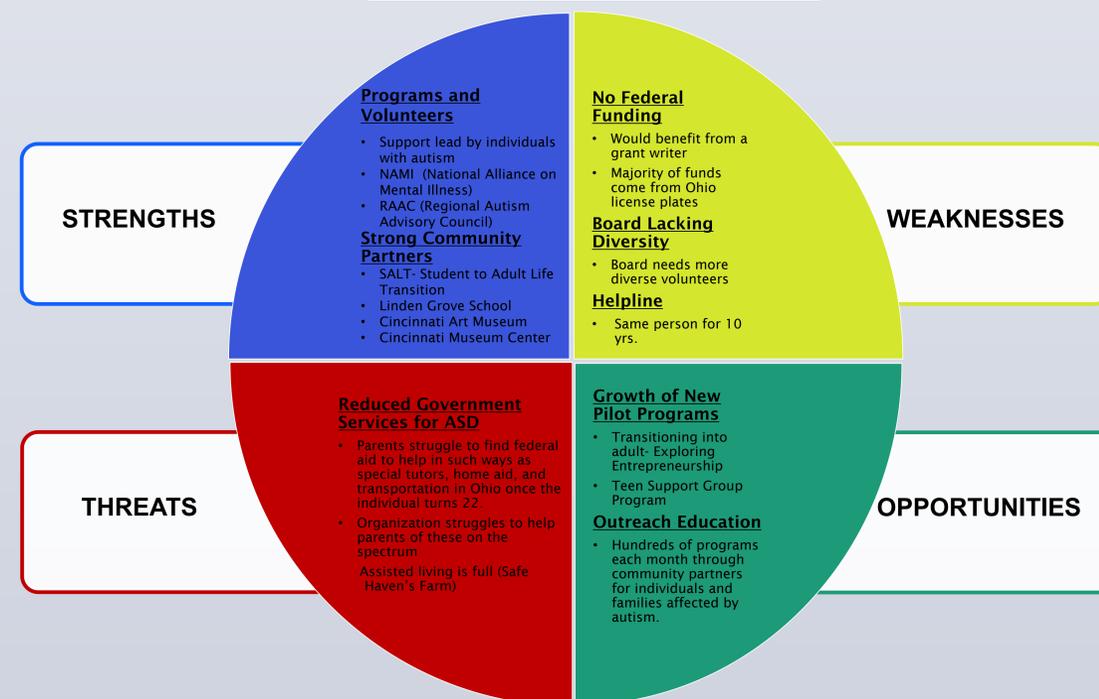
Project Scope

Exploring Entrepreneurship Program

The issue	The Solution	The Support
“35 percent of young adults (ages 19-23) with autism have not had a job or received postgraduate education after leaving high school” (Shattuck)	Provide individuals with ASD transitioning from teen to adult the tools, skills and resources to transition into and sustain a job	Programs partnering with Autism Society of the United States to help achieve success. Job coaching Interview counseling ePortfolios
47.7% of youth with autism spectrum disorders worked for pay in the past two years versus an average of 78.4% for all participants.	Educate caregivers of ASD individuals as to resources and federal aid available.	Entrepreneurship Free Resources SALT Skyward Academy
Autism services cost U.S. citizens \$236-262 billion annually. (Buescher et al., 2014)	Federal funding for individuals qualifying for waiver support through a grant for entrepreneurship	Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Waiver eligible by County
*Derived from the National Longitudinal Transitional Study, (Shattuck) NLTS-2012 is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and is part of the congressionally mandated National Assessment of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA). et al., 2012		



SWOT ANALYSIS



Conclusion

The Autism Society of Greater Cincinnati has multiple partner organizations enabling them to produce hundreds of events and educational services throughout the regions of southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky.

These events and services are a necessity for families that are affected by autism. They help families cope, and in many ways thrive by improving their lives.

Success through Education

- There are many community partners helping to educate and facilitate ways to improve teen to adults transitioning into and sustaining jobs
- There are multiple successful support groups within the organization from preschool to adult. Many of them are run by individuals with autism
- The RAAC is the regional council that helps facilitate and schedule the multiple events

SALT SERIES School to Adult Life Transition
PEPA Preparing, Empowering, and Planning for Adulthood
cincinnati art museum
Autism Family Exploration

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