A Year of Empowerment

2018

NEXT FOR AUTISM
ALWAYS INNOVATING
2018 was a year of strategic planning as well as empowerment at NEXT for AUTISM.

Our leadership looked back at 15 years of program building and planned forward. The process challenged us and affirmed our commitment to always ask, “What’s next for autism?”

A Letter from
Ilene Lainer, President & Co-Founder

This year, we focused our energies on creating opportunities for adults, the fastest growing segment of the autism community. Whether disseminating our job training program to additional states, helping to put more people with autism into the workforce, or creating a curriculum to encourage participation in communities, our work reinforced our belief that people with autism have the potential to live fulfilling, productive lives when supported by excellent services and connected to their communities.

I’m proud to announce that three leaders have joined our staff. Dr. Patricia Wright, VP of Program Development, is a well-regarded expert in service delivery to people with autism. She recently managed the design of a statewide system of support for children with autism in Hawaii and has served as the National Director of Autism Services for Easter Seals. Larry Worth, VP of Corporate Consulting, leads the team that launched our new service, employment consulting to corporations to develop opportunities for people with autism. Amy Wallace, VP of Finance and Administration whose core work is to build the infrastructure NEXT needs to support its outstanding programmatic work, joins us after a career at the New York Times Company. With these additions, our staff has doubled in one year, empowering us to build program capacity.

None of this growth would have happened without your generous support of NEXT for AUTISM. I hope that you’ll share my excitement and pride as we look towards 2019. As an organization, we know that we cannot continue to innovate without you as our partners. On behalf of our dedicated board of directors and talented team, thank you for joining NEXT for AUTISM and seeing us through 2018!

Ilene Lainer
President & Co-Founder
2018 was a year of

PROGRAM GROWTH

We empowered and integrated people with autism at work and in communities.

Introducing

Corporate Employment Consulting

Our New Disability Inclusion Experts help corporations enhance their employment practices so that people with autism may join the workforce and thrive.

The team has worked with companies nationally to design and implement employment programs which lead to higher productivity, greater retention rates, lower training costs and a positive return on investment. We look forward to expanding this NEXT for AUTISM line of services in 2019.

Please contact us at info@nextforautism.org if you know of an organization interested in working with our consultants to employ adults with autism.
National Expansion

Project SEARCH Autism Enhancement Employment Training

Now in 8 Institutions in 8 States

This program and curriculum, facilitated by a NEXT for AUTISM specialist, is creating employment opportunities for young people with autism across the country.

The Arc Westchester, NY
Drexel University, PA
The Y.A.L.E. School, NJ
University of Washington, Seattle
University of California, Irvine
The New England Business Associations, MA
Friendship Community Care, AR
Northwestern University, IL

So proud of all of our graduates who have entered the work world!

100% Employment Rate
Among 2018 graduates of the NewYork-Presbyterian White Plains site in partnership with The Arc Westchester.

88% Employment Rate
In other Autism Enhancement Sites, compared to the national average of 55% of employment post high school for young people with autism.
Celebrating 5 years of the Center for Autism And The Developing Brain

At the time of its launch, CADB was among the first of its kind to offer comprehensive diagnostic, treatment and clinical research for individuals with autism of all ages and their families. Five years later, still operating as a clinical center and research hub of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and its affiliate medical schools at Weill Cornell Medicine and Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, CADB sees patients from 16 states and 11 countries.

Launching Community Living

The NEXT for Going Out curriculum, which teaches people with autism to successfully and safely participate in communities, is ready for field testing with our partners at The Arc Westchester. We look forward to incorporating this new curriculum into our community living program. NEXT for NEIGHBORS scheduled to open in 2019.

Thriving NYC Autism Charter Schools

The school in Harlem and its new sister school in the Bronx continue to expand and serve a growing number of students. Very much a training center for educators from around the world, the schools actively work with organizations and businesses to include students in the surrounding community.
NIGHT OF TOO MANY STARS GRANTS

Your contributions support autism programs across the country.

DONATE HERE

27 States Represented

We’ve funded a wide range of initiatives.

- Education
- Arts
- Recreation
- Transition Services
- Vocational Training
- Community Living
- Mentoring
- Safety
- Parent Training

16 Organizations Applied for the NEXT for Safety Initiative

We received exciting ideas, including some for how best to engage law enforcement and ensure the safety of people with autism.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The NEXT for AUTISM family of supporters grew larger!

Our community expanded this year more than ever, as new supporters across the country learned about NEXT for AUTISM’s work.

An amazing group of friends got together on FACEBOOK and spontaneously raised funds for @NEXT4AUTISM. They even made T-shirts for the occasion!

Twitter Followers Doubled @NEXTforAUTISM

Events last year welcomed donors & supporters from 31 states

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Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center
Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
Community Living Opportunities
Hunter College at City University of New York
Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
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