



GENEVA  
CENTRE  
FOR  
AUTISM

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

# IMPACT REPORT

2023 | 2024





Judy Welikovitch



Jennifer Tremblay

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**MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT**

Happy 50th Anniversary! Over the decades we have innovated and grown and we celebrate all of our accomplishments and our clients, supporters, and staff who made it possible. GCA is on strong financial footing and continues to innovate with new programs and evidence-based methodologies that serve thousands of clients.

This past year was marked by significant innovation. We successfully completed year 1 of our three-year strategic plan, an operational framework focused on growth. These strategies support our mission to enable people on the autism spectrum to learn, live, and engage in their communities. We are doing this by fostering a thriving organizational culture, expanding our reach and impact, and strengthening our overall capabilities.

We launched 2 groundbreaking programs: Essential Skills ABA, helps children navigate real-life scenarios, and the Autism Workforce Development Hub, which bridges the gap between employers and neurodiverse employees, thus ensuring mutual success. The positive feedback underscores the need for these initiatives within the autism community and points toward their continuing success.

Sonderly continues its impressive impact on facilitating inclusive classrooms and financial contribution towards expanding GCA's programming capacity. With a 27% growth in course enrollments, almost 11,000 educators are now better equipped to support their neurodiverse students. Our new course, "ADHD in the Classroom", was particularly successful.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank all who have supported the GCA and its vision of a world where people on the autism spectrum are accepted, able to access beneficial opportunities and achieve their personal best.

We are proud of our legacy and excited about the future.

Judy Welikovitch  
President, Board of Directors

**MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT**

We are pleased to share that the Geneva Centre for Autism Foundation has continued to grow this past year. With a stable and experienced team leading the efforts our growth trajectory has been remarkable. We are excited about what is ahead for the Foundation, including our biennial Symposium this Fall.

We continue to be amazed by the generosity of our donors and partners. This generosity has activated even more funding for the Centre to strengthen the depth, breadth, and impact of programs and services

A special thank you goes to our corporate funders, and the many individuals and foundations who share our commitment to creating opportunities in education, employment, and community engagement for all individuals with autism. Your generosity and dedication are truly inspiring and motivate us to do even more.

I am honoured to serve as Board President and work alongside our talented and dedicated staff and Board members.

Jennifer Tremblay  
President, Foundation Board of Directors

# IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

OUR MISSION IS TO ENABLE PEOPLE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM TO LEARN, LIVE AND ENGAGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

WE WILL DO THIS BY PROVIDING LEADING-EDGE AND INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING.

## LES AND KAE BURSARY PROGRAM

Served 136 high-needs adults  
50% higher than last year

"I've never seen my son have such a big smile other than when going to programs at Geneva Centre!"

## NEW AUTISM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT HUB

22 job seekers enrolled in pre-employment training  
86% of job seekers completed group training

"Thank you! This course is a great intro and should be part of the onboarding process at our organization."

## SONDERLY TRAINING

98% of learners recommend Sonderly training  
10,911 Sonderly course enrolments  
27% higher than last year

"Thank you for providing us with useful information to help me improve my teaching practices in the classroom and school. You have inspired me to be a better teacher."



**2,743**  
**CLIENTS SERVED**

11% HIGHER  
THAN LAST YEAR



**15,690 HRS**  
**RESPITE CARE PROVIDED**



**267**  
**NEW CLIENTS**

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## SUMMER CAMPS HOT SUMMER ADVENTURES

**252 CLIENTS SERVED,**  
ranging from age 4 to adult,  
embracing the fun and  
excitement of summer days.

### SUMMER CAMPS

GCA may have started out as a simple summer camp, but our camp program is anything but simple now.

Thanks, in part, to ParticipAction, our clients enjoyed trips to SkyZone trampoline park, weekly private pool rentals, and visits to museums, High Park, Riverdale Zoo, movie theatres, parks and more.

We take pride in getting our clients out into the community and ensuring their caregivers know that their loved ones are well cared for.

"The staff member who worked with my son was amazing. She worked so well with him and made his camp time so enjoyable." -

*GCA Camp parent*

## RESPIRE

RELIEF FOR CAREGIVERS

**241 CLIENTS SERVED,**  
190 of whom received funded or  
subsidized programming.  
The program grew by 153% & 15,600  
hours of respite care were provided.

## RESPIRE

98% of caregivers recommend GCA, and 75% report that they experienced reduced stress. We are proud to make a meaningful impact on GTA families.

Clients such as Pavlina and her son, Michael, found a supportive community with us. Michael thrived in the respite program, enhancing both his communication skills and his confidence and Pavlina thrived with a chance to recharge. Pavlina highlighted the staff's dedication.

"The staff at Geneva Centre were nothing short of incredible. I was so impressed with the program that I chose to send Mikey there throughout the year."

"Thank you so much for continuing to support my young man with understanding, dignity and respect. It's so refreshing to know he's enjoying himself while being well cared for." - *GCA Parent*

"It's one of the best respite places in Toronto. This last session, my son's support staff was particularly wonderful. She went out of her way to meet my son's needs and he really enjoyed his time at Geneva Centre."

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## AUTISM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT HUB

GCA INNOVATES FOR MUTUALLY SUCCESSFUL WORKPLACES

**SERVED 20 JOB SEEKERS,**  
trained 322 people leaders and secured 11 employer partners in its first year. 97% of trainees would recommend the course.

### AUTISM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT HUB

This innovative program was developed to support mutual success for neurodiverse employees and their employers.

Thanks to a grant from the Government of Ontario, GCA and Sonderly launched the Autism Workforce Development Hub (AWDH) in October 2023.

In the program's first year, the impact has been incredible and our work was celebrated with renewed funding from Ontario's government.

"I wanted to join an organization that truly cared in the development of their job seekers and finding placements that fit right with them, all while educating people like myself more on the topic of neurodiversity." - AWDH Employer Partner

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

A GAME CHANGER FOR LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

**2,100 PROGRAM HOURS DELIVERED**

Launched in winter 2023 and tailored for children ages 7-10.

### ESSENTIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

Launched winter 2023, GCA introduced our Essential Skills program, designed to foster independence and inclusion in daily activities at home and in the community. Tailored for children aged 7-10, including those non-verbal or with limited communication skills, our program has already been a game-changer.

We simulate real-life scenarios like household chores, haircuts, and doctor's appointments, preparing children to navigate these experiences with confidence. Parents have already told us of the changes they are noticing in their children. We are making a difference.

"We are so happy to see the progress the kids have made in this program. One parent shared with us the incredible news that their child sat through a full 30 minute haircut, something that was a real challenge before. And another excitedly told us how their child is now cooperating during nail trimming and toothbrushing." - Clinician at Geneva Centre for Autism



DESIGNED FOR  
EDUCATORS.  
DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS.  
DELIVERED FROM EXPERIENCE.

## 169 HOURS OF TRAINING CONTENT

27% increase in course  
enrollments.

7 new courses launched.

18% more revenue.



### SONDERLY TRAINING

Collaborating with educators, clinical experts, and individuals on the spectrum, Sonderly's training builds the skills within the educational community that allow for greater acceptance and support for neurodiverse students.

Achieving a 98% recommendation rate from users highlights the quality and relevance of Sonderly's offerings. Participants particularly value the real-life examples and practical strategies offered. One said:

"I'm so pleased with the presentation and content of the courses I have taken through this program. I feel more confident and well versed in the many areas of ASD as a result of the brilliant material your courses cover."

We launched seven live and on-demand new courses, saw 10,911 course enrollments across a range of topics, and reached 117 organizations. This growth in offerings and user base has empowered more teachers to create safer and more inclusive school environments for our community.

The expansion resulted in an 18% revenue increase from last year. These funds directly support capacity growth at Geneva Centre for Autism, enabling us to offer more programs for autistic children and adults.

Our priority remains to support educators in building neuroinclusive classrooms, so those on the spectrum can thrive. We are proud that our world-class training is having a direct impact.

# ON THE HORIZON



## **GENEVA CENTRE FOR AUTISM OPENS IN THE EAST 3036 DANFORTH AVE.**

We are thrilled to share exciting news about our new location at 3036 Danforth Avenue. This expansion marks a significant step in broadening our service offerings.

Scarborough is a very underserved community with many young families who will welcome programs close to home.

Programming, starting with Entry to School, will start September 2024.

## **INCLUSIVE EduHub ONLINE, FREE, LEARNING RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS BUILDING INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS LAUNCHES SEPTEMBER, 2024**

Sonderly is launching a free resource for Canadian educators in September 2024, to sharpen their skills with neurodiverse students and promote inclusivity in the classroom.

Neurodivergent self-advocates, educators and other experts will deliver practical, on-demand multimedia content: videos, worksheets, articles and more. The resource will serve as an entry point for educators new to inclusive learning. And it will keep seasoned educators up-to-date with current best practices.

The INCLUSIVE EduHub is part of Sonderly's commitment to advancing a culture of respect and inclusivity in education.

Thank you to the Government of Ontario for the funding grant.

# THANK YOU

Geneva Centre for Autism is deeply grateful to the individuals, foundations, and organizations who share our vision for a world in which people on the autism spectrum are able to access beneficial opportunities in order to achieve their personal best. We could not provide these opportunities without your generous contributions, especially those from longstanding champions like the Les and Kae Martin Foundation, and BMO, the presenting sponsor of our Annual Golf Classic for 25 years.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and belief in our mission. Together, we are making a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.

We look forward to continuing this journey of impact and growth with you by our side.



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