

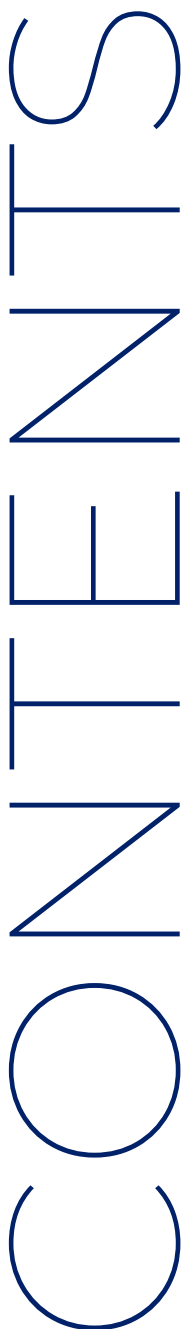


SAAAC
AUTISM
CENTRE

2022 - 2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

22-23

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reflecting on this past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the resilience and dedication of our SAAAC Autism Centre community. Despite the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, we have emerged stronger, proudly providing 100% in-person services to our families.

I am profoundly grateful for our transformational partnerships that have greatly enhanced SAAAC's operations. Through the Toronto Autism Services Network (TASN), we are impacting thousands of lives with critical programming, from urgent response support to early years intervention and school transition. Our partnership with United Way Greater Toronto addresses unemployment, the lack of transitional supports after high school for autistic youth, and helps families access critical early interventions. These collaborations have enriched our knowledge and impact.

This year, we established a vibrant art studio, allowing individuals with developmental disabilities to explore their talents and showcase their work. Highlights include participation in the Conlins Road Cycle Track Art Project and the Toronto International Film Festival. Goodness Gift, our thriving social enterprise, continues to support individuals with autism through meaningful employment and career development. With full-time job coaches, we have created pathways from our adult day program to Goodness Gift, fostering independence and growth.



Together, we will continue to build a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to making autism services equitable for all Canadians. Together, we will continue to build a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,

Geetha Moorthy

Founder & Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Glenn De Baeremaeker
DIRECTOR

Ajantha Ganeshalingam
TREASURER

Sady Mahendran
DIRECTOR

Tony Balasingham
DIRECTOR

Dilani Gunarajah
DIRECTOR

Erasiah Kobikrishna
DIRECTOR

Dr. Chris Pasarikovski
DIRECTOR

Nishan Duraiappah
DIRECTOR

Dr. Meera Mather
DIRECTOR

UNITED WAY PROGRAMS

We are immensely thankful to United Way Greater Toronto for their generous commitment to donate \$150,000 annually over the next three years through their Community Program Grant stream.



This generous, sustained support has empowered the SAAAC Autism Centre to implement three vital programs designed to uplift caregivers, autistic youth, and autistic workers within our community.

Caregiver Skills Training

- 36 caregivers supported: In its first year, our CST program, developed by the World Health Organization, empowered 36 caregivers of children aged 2-7.
- Enhanced skills: Caregivers learned techniques to improve their children's social communication, play skills, and overall development.
- Targeted impact: Focused on high-needs communities in Scarborough, particularly newcomers facing barriers to diagnostic and early intervention services.

UNITED WAY PROGRAMS

Living'N'Learning

- 45 students served: Over the past year, this program prioritized the health and well-being of young adults on the autism spectrum.
- 20 fitness sessions & 3 nutrition workshops: Included practical activities like food demos and label-reading exercises for caregivers.
- Improved outcomes: Participants reported enhanced physical activity levels, social skills, and caregiver knowledge of health topics.



Goodness Gift

- 21 participants employed: Provided part-time, supportive employment opportunities for young adults on the autism spectrum, including 11 new individuals.
- \$31,344 in wages paid: Participants learned job skills for the logistics and supply chain management industry.
- Skill development: Training included e-commerce platforms like Shopify, inventory management with Microsoft Excel, self-advocacy, stress management, safety, hygiene, and financial literacy.



PROGRAM EXPANSION

A Big Year for Adult Programming at SAAAC

This year marked significant growth and development for our adult programming at SAAAC, allowing us to better serve and empower our community.

OVERVIEW

Expanded Team:

- Grew from 2 to 6 staff to provide more support to 12 adult students.

Goodness Gift Enhancements:

- Hired 3 full-time job coaches to support 21 Goodness Gift employees.



NEW INITIATIVES

Client-Centered Processes:

- Developed new processes focusing on individual personal goals.

Vocational Building Activities:

- Introduced activities such as pasta lunches, selling hot chocolate and snacks, which helped participants develop skills in payment processing, customer service, food preparation, and teamwork.

Community Engagement:

- Hosted ten events where participants sold food items and crafts to SAAAC staff and community members. These events provided real-world experience in handling transactions, preparing food, and collaborating in a team environment, enhancing their vocational skills.

DONATION

Historic Donation:

- The Tamil Church of the Living Saviour donated **\$153,000** to support adult training and employment at our Centre.



Tamil Church of the
Living Saviour



THE TORONTO AUTISM SERVICES NETWORK

YEAR 02

In 2021, the SAAAC Autism Centre joined six other esteemed organizations to form the Toronto Autism Services Network (TASN), providing high-quality services to children with autism and their families. The network ensures coordinated, comprehensive support through a single access point, delivering key programs mandated by the Ontario Autism Program:

- Caregiver Mediated Services: Teaching caregivers therapeutic strategies tailored to their child’s needs.
- Entry to School Services: Preparing young children for school by providing early critical services.
- Urgent Response Services: Offering up to 12 weeks of support to stabilize urgent situations and prevent crises.

Year 2 Results:

Urgent Response Services (URS): 124 children and youth supported	Entry to School: 87 children served	Caregiver Mediated Early Years (CMEY): 30 families helped
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Being part of TASN is a great honor, allowing us to work alongside incredible autism service providers in the region. We have learned a lot from our partners, and the collaborative nature of the project has significantly grown our organizational knowledge and experience.



Celebrating Art: New Spaces and Achievements at SAAAC

This year, we established a brand-new art studio and classroom at our recently acquired property at 1870 Birchmount Road.

Our mission is to provide full access to arts programs and resources, facilitating the inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities into Toronto's arts and cultural ecosystem.

OUR GROWING ARTS PROGRAM

ART PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

New Facilities:

Studio space, art materials, exhibition opportunities, and career development for beginner, emerging, and established artists with developmental disabilities.

100 Artists:

The hub will serve up to 100 young, emerging artists over the course of the year.

Community Partnership:

Collaborating with families and communities to create greater social, educational, economic, and cultural opportunities for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

STREETARTTORONTO - PARTNERSHIP

- Participated in the Conlins Road Cycle Track Art Project which beautifies concrete barriers for pedestrian, cyclist, and TTC passenger safety.
- **Featured at the Toronto International Film Festival.**



Goodness Gift: Transforming Lives Through Employment

A Year of Growth and Impact

It was an incredible year for Goodness Gift, our social enterprise that creates and curates high-quality gifts by employing individuals with autism. Our team worked hard, learned new skills, and formed valuable partnerships, making a significant impact on both our participants and the broader community.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

21 individuals with autism employed part-time

Sales Revenue:
\$283,146

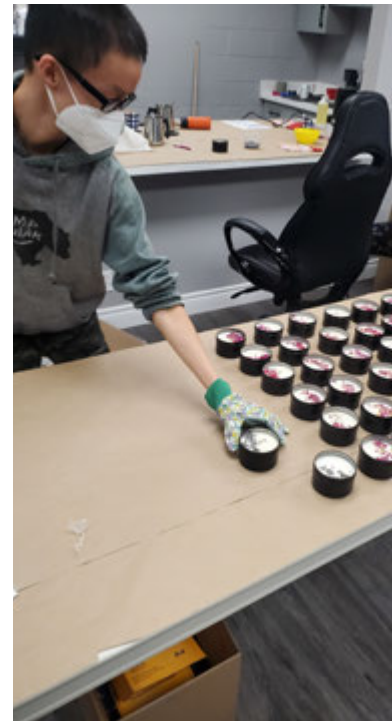
TRAINING AREAS:

- Logistics and Fulfillment: Learning packaging and shipping processes.
- Soft Skills and Workplace Competencies: Developing communication and teamwork skills.
- Production and Craftsmanship: Creating artwork for products in the Creators Collection.
- Customer Service and Sales: Engaging with customers at vendor booths and community events.

PROGRAM IMPACT:

- Partnership with Autism Ontario: Contributed to the Culturally Inclusive Resource Kits project.
- 3300 Kits Delivered: Across Canada to diverse families.
- 3300 Packages Handled: Inventory management, packing, and shipping by Goodness Gift.

This year's achievements have set a solid foundation for the future of Goodness Gift, paving the way for continued growth, innovation, and empowerment of individuals with autism in our community.



EARLY CONNECTIONS AUTISM SERVICES

SAAAC and AlphaBee, with a combined 40 years of experience serving children and youth with ASD, have partnered to deploy the JASPER model through Early Connections Autism Services.

What is JASPER?

JASPER stands for Joint Attention, Symbolic Play, Engagement, and Regulation. It is an evidence-based intervention model developed at UCLA designed to enhance social communication skills in children with autism through both online and in-person training.

Program Highlights

- Target Audience: Children with ASD up to 48 months old.
- Training Approach: A 12-week hybrid model combining hands-on, in-person support from a Masters-level therapist with online group training.
- Families Served: 186
- Caregiver Success: Nearly 84% of caregivers passed the Knowledge Test and received a Certificate.

Generously supported by the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS), the program empowers caregivers with effective, easy-to-learn strategies that have a lasting impact on their child's development. We deeply appreciate AlphaBee's support in this partnership and look forward to growing our collaboration to benefit more families in the future.

Caregiver Testimonial

"The JASPER course has really benefitted me as I feel more equipped to engage with and communicate with my child. Working on the strategies provided by my coach has helped me in managing my child's rigid behavior, modeling behavior that I want my child to engage in, sustaining her engagement at play, and communicating more while at play."

SAAAC LABS

Empowering Autism Service Providers

Ontario's new needs-based system has created a competitive marketplace for autism services. Funded by the Ontario Autism Program's Workforce Capacity Grant (Innovation Stream), SAAAC Labs provided go-to-market training for emerging autism centers. SAAAC was selected for this initiative due to our innovative, start-up mentality and enterprise thinking, which has made us competitive in Toronto's autism service landscape in a short period of time.

01

Program Overview

- SAAAC Labs: Mission-based incubator for autism service providers.
- 4-Week Virtual Program: Intensive MBA-style training for emerging organizations.
- \$15,000 Seed Funding: Given to each participant.

02

Program Impact

- 26 Applicants: From across Ontario.
- 3 Selected Providers: Brenna Lanktree and Associates, Counseling Services of Belleville and District, Elemenoe.

03

Key Training Areas:

- Efficient backroom functions
- Family engagement
- Governance Boards
- Partnerships

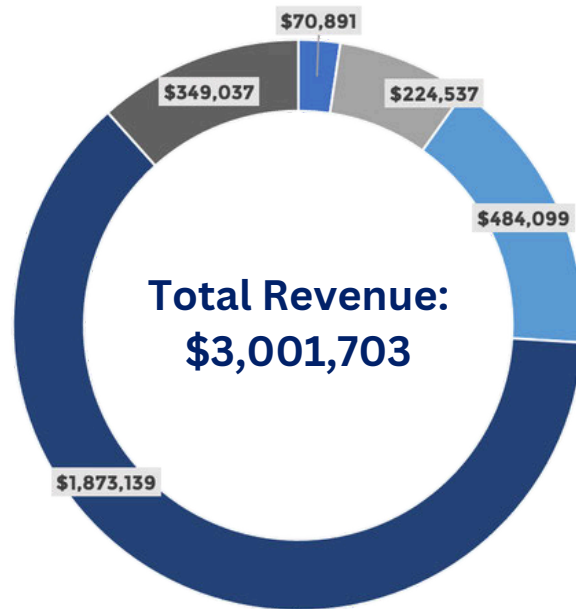
Watch graduates' presentation [HERE](#)

FINANCIALS

Reporting period ending: 2022-03-31

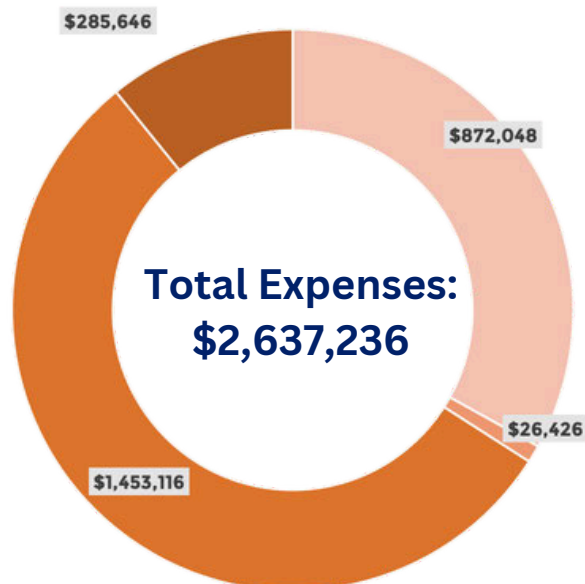
Revenue

- Fundraising
- Donations
- Programs & Other Income
- Grants
- Government Assistance



Expenses

- Program Costs
- Consulting + Professional Fees
- Salaries and Benefits
- Other



All figures consolidated for SAAAC were audited by Truster Zweig LLP Chartered Accountants.

DONOR BREAKDOWN

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors for their generous support, which has been crucial in advancing our mission. This year, we are proud to highlight some of our major donors. Your contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of the families we serve.

Donor	Donation
Tamil Church of the Living Saviour	\$150,000
Ajantha Ganeshalingam Mayuran Tharmapalan Sivagnanam Sritharan Tony Balasingaham Tarion (Gift in Kind) Ajax Paint Centre (Gift in Kind) Geetha Moorthy	\$5,000 - \$10,000
Dr. Baheerathan Thurairajah Dr. Vijayakala Sivathevan Joseph Vijayaraj Maheswaran Srivamadevan Yogendran Moorthy Yohan Balasingham Fellowes Canada Ltd Asian Cash And Carry Vasanthan Supermarket 3303128 Canada Inc. V. Vijayaratnam Medicine Professional Corporation Dr. M. Selvananthan Medicine Professional Corporation Eptcon Ltd Ronald & Lakhmi Solomons	\$1,000 - \$4,999



1M+

Ministry of Children, Community & Social
Service

100K - 150K

United Way of Toronto

50K - 99K

MLSE Foundation
The Sonor Foundation
Holman Community
Els for Autism
Unity for Autism

10K

Kiwanis Toronto
KPMG



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