



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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From the Founder & CEO

In 2024–2025, over 1,000 families turned to the SAAAC Autism Centre, each carrying their own hopes, questions, and milestones. To be part of their journey is both a privilege and a responsibility we hold with care.

This year’s growth is not just about scale, it’s about trust. Families are coming to us not only for services, but for community. They are seeking support that is culturally attuned, responsive to their realities, and grounded in dignity. And we are answering that call with programs that evolve, partnerships that deepen, and a vision that continues to push beyond what’s expected.

We have also continued to prioritize visibility. Our musical and art exhibition was more than a celebration—it was a statement. It showed what becomes possible when autistic individuals are not only included but centred, supported, and celebrated.

Throughout this report, you’ll see numbers that signify progress and reach. But behind each number is a family, a story, a turning point. And at the heart of every story is a community willing to listen, to show up, and to believe.

To our staff, volunteers, funders, and families, thank you. You are part of a movement that is changing what autism support can be: more inclusive, more human, and more connected than ever before.

Warmly,



Geetha Moorthy
Founder & CEO



Our Mission

Making autism services equitable for all Canadians.



Board of Directors

We are deeply grateful to our Board of Directors for their leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to building a more inclusive future. Their guidance helps shape SAAAC's strategic direction, ensuring that our programs remain impactful, equitable, and community-rooted.



Glenn De Baeremaeker
Board Chair



Dr. Chris Pasarikovski
Director



Dr. Praveen Rayar
Director



Tony Balasingham
Director



Dr. Biruntha Sritharan
Director



Dr. Jonathan Weiss
Director



Nishan Duraiappah
Director



Thanuja Karunamoorthy
Director



Ajantha Ganeshalingam
Director



Erasiah Kobikrishna
Director

Amma, Where Are You?



In October 2024, we brought Amma, Where Are You? to the stage—an original musical inspired by the true story of SAAAC mother Sivamany and her autistic daughter Maathumai.

Twenty-two autistic performers and visual artists explored themes of loss, love, and healing through community. What made this production extraordinary was the collaboration behind the scenes: over 50 volunteers, including students, caregivers, and staff, donated their time, talent, and energy to bring this story to life.

Over 600 people experienced this powerful journey, while artwork sales generated more than \$5,000 in direct support for our artists.

This production proved that inclusive arts create connections that extend well beyond performance:

600+

Audience

22

Autistic performers and artists

\$5,000

Artwork sold

50

Volunteers

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, for believing in the power of inclusive storytelling. Their support allowed us to showcase not only a story of resilience, but the incredible talents within our own community.



CARES Across Canada



Expanding Mental Health for Caregivers

Since 2017, we've watched caregivers in Ontario discover they aren't alone. Through CARES—our 8-week, evidence-based mental health program—nearly 300 families have found their strength again.

CARES creates safe space for caregivers of autistic individuals to learn practical skills, share their experiences, and connect with others who understand their journey. We believe that when caregivers show up for themselves, they can better show up for their loved ones.

This year, we knew it was time to expand beyond Ontario's borders.

Canada Cares

With generous support from the Sonor Foundation, we launched Canada CARES — a national initiative expanding our program to underserved communities across the country.

Four organizations received funding and training to bring CARES to their regions:

- Autism Yukon in Yukon Territory
- Canucks Autism Network Society in British Columbia
- Children's Community Network in Northern Ontario
- ErinoakKids Centre in Southern Ontario

These partnerships represent the beginning of truly accessible mental health support for caregivers nationwide.



Thank You to Our CARES Partners:

- Sonor Foundation
- Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
- Autism Ontario





The Goodness Gift

Fair, inclusive employment.

Goodness Gift is one of the most dynamic initiatives at SAAAC. It's our social enterprise that provides associates hands-on training and mentorship in the gifting industry—from creating beautiful products like candles and cards to managing fulfillment and packaging, activities.



Immersive Work Experience

Associates gain hands-on skills in warehouse logistics and order fulfillment at our dedicated facility.



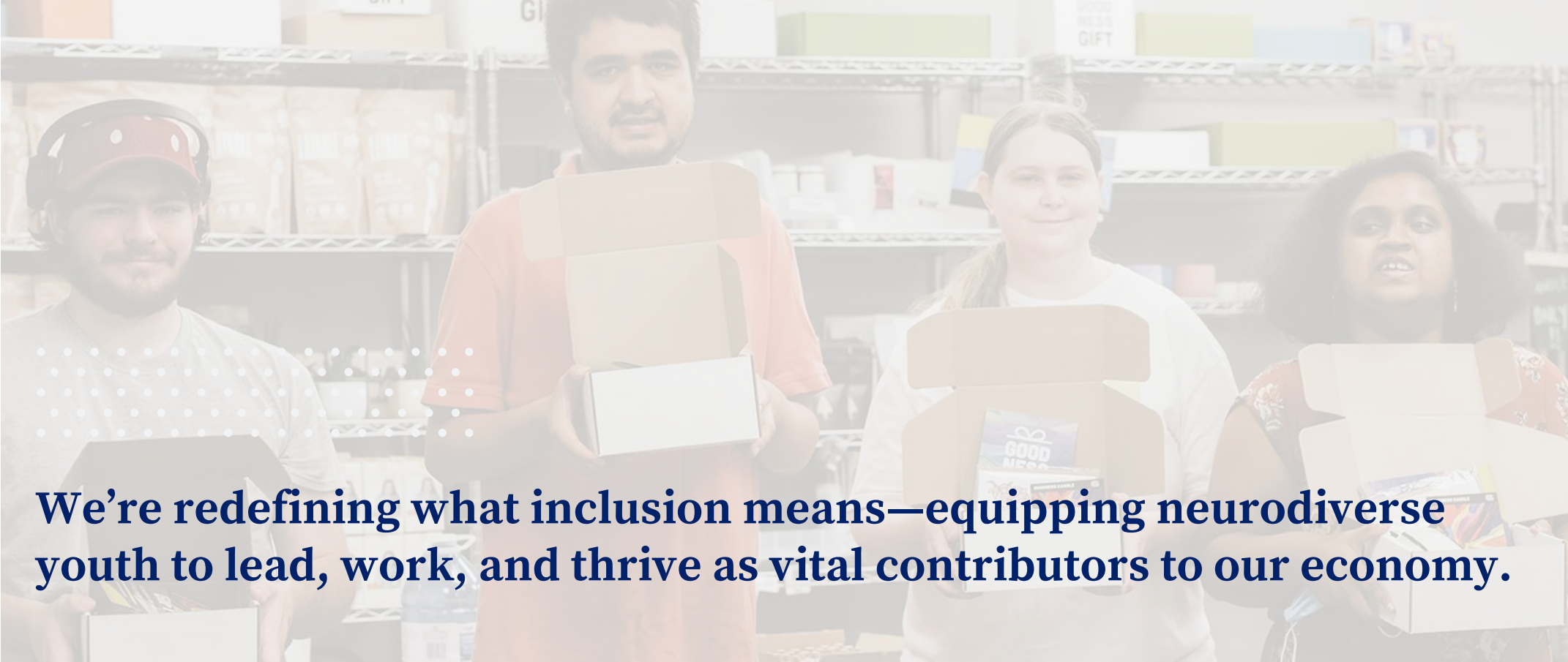
Creative Production Opportunities

Youth contribute to the making of unique products—from candles to art-based creations—fostering creativity and craftsmanship.



Employment Pathways

We actively support associates in transitioning to external employment opportunities after their time at Goodness Gift.



40
Neurodiverse Youth Trained

Developed skills through hands-on, inclusive employment programs

11
Youth Employed

Connected to meaningful jobs with IKEA, Toronto Zoo & more

9
Employment Partners

Businesses joined our mission to build inclusive workplaces

Sparks Incubator

15
Entrepreneurs Supported

Participants received tailored coaching and resources to help transform their unique ideas into viable, values-driven small businesses.

5
Businesses Launched

From florals to food, five ventures have launched or grown—each driven by creativity, community, and the spirit of independence.

100+
Mentorship Hours

Participants accessed over 100 hours of hands-on mentorship, learning essential skills in marketing, finance, and product development.

SPARKS Incubator **Ignites** Neurodivergent Entrepreneurial Dreams

Traditional employment doesn't work for everyone. That's why the SPARKS Incubator empowers autistic and neurodivergent individuals—and their families—to build their own businesses.

From mentorship to marketing, SPARKS offers personalized, community-rooted support to turn ideas into income. Five small businesses have already launched or grown through this innovative program, proving that inclusive entrepreneurship is a game-changer.

At SAAAC, we believe success should be as diverse as the people who dream it. With SPARKS, we're making that future real.



At SAAAC, we believe inclusion means leadership—and SPARKS is helping neurodivergent entrepreneurs lead the way.



“ The future is brighter when we invest in everyone’s potential.



Scan to learn more



Volunteering at SAAAC



160 volunteers

From students to professionals, our diverse volunteers brought empathy, energy, and expertise to every aspect of SAAAC's programming.



11,704 hours contributed

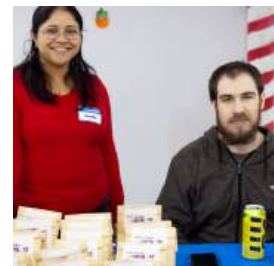
Our volunteers donated thousands of hours—making a difference in therapy sessions, events, administration, and family support services.

Volunteers are the engine of our mission.

At SAAAC, volunteers are more than helpers—they're changemakers. Whether supporting therapy sessions, translating for families, or mentoring youth, their impact is deep and lasting.

In 2024–2025, over 160 volunteers gave their time and heart to uplift our community. Their efforts are a living example of what's possible when compassion meets action.

From every corner of our centre, their contributions remind us: inclusion isn't a solo journey—it's something we build, together.



Toronto Autism Services Network

SAAAC Autism Centre is proud to be part of the Toronto Autism Services Network—a coalition of seven expert organizations working together to deliver high-quality, family-centred autism services. United by a shared vision, the network provides a single access point to coordinated, evidence-based supports for children and caregivers.

80 families supported

Urgent Response Services helped families manage challenging situations quickly, providing timely strategies and support tailored to their needs.

112 School Starters

Children aged 3–6 gained foundational skills for success in school through structured, supportive Entry to School programming.

62 Early Learners

Young children aged 12–48 months received early intervention and caregiver training through the Caregiver-Mediated Early Years programs.

254 Families Reached

Through the TASN Network, SAAAC delivered consistent, accessible, and impactful support to 254 families across the Toronto autism community.



In 2024–2025, this wraparound model helped hundreds of families navigate autism services with greater ease, consistency, and compassion—building a more equitable system of care across Toronto.





Early Support, Lasting Impact

Reducing Delays. Empowering Families.

Accessing timely autism support shouldn't be a privilege—it's a right. That's why SAAAC delivers early intervention programs that meet families where they are, breaking down systemic, cultural, and logistical barriers.

Our Mobile Developmental Outreach Clinic (M-DOC) brought developmental screenings to trusted community spaces in Scarborough and Thorncliffe. Through these clinics, families received developmental screenings, referrals to specialists, and a clear path to further intervention. In 2024–2025, 73 children were screened, 56 referred, and 36 received diagnoses. Many families from M-DOC were referred to Caregiver Skills Training (CST)—a low-barrier program for caregivers of children aged 2–9 with developmental concerns. No diagnosis is needed.

This year, 25 caregivers learned practical tools to strengthen communication, social skills, and daily routines with their children. **Together, M-DOC and CST ensure families are supported from first concern to meaningful care.**



73 Children Screened

- Community-based assessments held in Scarborough and Thorncliffe enabled early identification and access to care.

69 Families Supported

- Case managers provided personalized guidance through referrals, services, and next steps.

25 Caregivers Trained

- Hands-on strategies delivered virtually and in person—no diagnosis required to access support.



Low-to-No Cost Support

Removing Barriers. Expanding Access.

At SAAAC, we know that cost is one of the biggest barriers families face when accessing autism support. That's why we're committed to delivering low-to-no cost programming that meets the diverse needs of our community.

Through strong partnerships and strategic investments, we continue to expand our wraparound services—from fitness and case management to oral health care.

In 2024–2025, we deepened our commitment by expanding movement-based programs, growing our case management team, and partnering with Smile Lab to launch the Ithayam Clinic—a sensory-friendly dental hygiene service for autistic children and youth, founded by a former SAAAC volunteer.

 Movement Matters 70 children & youth building movement skills Subsidized at just \$5 per class, our fitness programming helps families build healthy routines while fostering inclusion and confidence through movement.	 Case Management Support 242 families navigating funding & services Our team provided hands-on support to help families access funding and connect with critical local resources—all at no cost.	 Dental Program 54 families served in pilot with Ithayam Clinic Founded by SAAAC alum Laksha Keshan, this sensory-friendly dental hygiene program reimagines oral health care with comfort, compassion, and inclusion at its core.
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Donors



The incredible work of the SAAAC Autism Centre would not be possible without the generosity and dedication of its donors. These compassionate individuals, families, organizations, and corporate partners have played a vital role in helping SAAAC continue to provide high-quality, accessible services for children, youth, and adults with autism. Their support has allowed the Centre to offer critical programs in communication, life skills, mental health, and employment readiness—empowering individuals with autism to lead fuller, more independent lives.

Each donation, no matter the size, contributes to a larger vision of inclusion and opportunity for all.

\$250,000+

Northpine Foundation
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services

\$100,000 – \$149,999

United Way Greater Toronto

\$75,000 – \$99,999

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
Ontario Trillium Foundation

\$50,000 – \$74,999

Square Capital Management
Azrieli Foundation

\$25,000 – \$49,999

Unity for Autism
Holman Community

\$10,000 - \$24,000

Anew Building Corporation
Canadian Tire Jump Start Program
Els for Autism
i2 Developments (Brampton) Inc
Sivagnanam Sritharan
Srinarayanathas Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Boston Pizza Foundation
Tamil Christian Church of Canada
Tony Balasingham
Vancouver Foundation

Financial Overview

At the SAAAC Autism Centre, transparency is a core value. We understand the trust our community places in us through their generous contributions. Whether from individual donors, business leaders, foundations, or government partners, every contribution reflects a belief in our mission to build inclusive, thriving communities.

We are sincerely grateful for this support. In return, we remain committed to delivering impactful programs, maintaining strong operations, and improving the lives of the families we serve.

Our complete financial overview is available through the Canada Revenue Agency’s charitable organization directory. All consolidated financial statements for SAAAC were independently audited by Truster Zweig LLP Chartered Accountants.



Financial Report

REVENUE	2024-25
Receipted donations	\$ 250,771.00
Non-receipted donations	\$ 129,426.00
Gifts from other registered charities	\$ 488,902.00
Government funding	\$ 4,217,043.00
All other revenue	\$ 3,530,896.00

\$8,617,038
TOTAL REVENUE

EXPENSES	2024-25
Charitable programs	\$ 7,306,251
Management and administration	\$ 1,289,338
Fundraising	\$ 116,806.
Gifts to other registered charities and qualified donees	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 1.00

\$8,595,590
TOTAL EXPENSES

