





# **CA Board of Directors**

Doug Garrou - Chair Harry Alferink - Treasurer John Harrington - Secretary Laura White Don Busick Nikia Dower

# 20 IMPACT 21 REPORT



Our mission is to innovate, operate, and model services that support diversity, equity, and community inclusion for Virginians with developmental disabilities and autism.

# **VISION**

CA envisions a Virginia where all individuals have the opportunity to be securely included across the broad spectrum of our community through quality education, health care & housing access, civic activities, and employment.

Dear Community Partners,

As we reflect on our efforts during 2021, we celebrate our collective resilience and ability to bounce back and move forward even during difficult times. Yes, we had our fair share of unexpected curve balls, but we didn't let that change our mindset and determination. Our team rallied around our sense of purpose which is building a Virginia where those with autism and developmental disabilities are securely included in community through education, health care, housing access, civic activities, and employment.

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### Creating Change Today

We work directly with people and their families to develop and demonstrate services based on best practice interventions and remain connected to our "why."



# **Enabling Change Tomorrow**

We equip community partners with the tools and capacity to serve.

# Advocating for Future Change

We build awareness among policy makers of the issues, their fiscal impact, solutions, and their return on investment.

In 1990, The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed, to help ensure people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. Though we've made progress, many people with autism and developmental disabilities still face significant barriers to community inclusion. The report that follows highlights our efforts to close gaps that still exist around resource navigation, early diagnosis and education and the transition to adulthood.

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**Jessica G Philips, M.A., BCBA, LBA** President & CEO



# **Financials**

Total Income: \$1,924,204 Program Expenses: \$1,137,355 Management & General Expenses: \$243,672 Fundraising Expenses: \$13,560 Net Assets: \$4,046,814



# We continue to advocate for policy changes to strengthen the early childhood sector.

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We are supportive of the bipartisan efforts to consolidate child care accountability through the Virginia Department of Education and we're pleased that <u>background check portability</u> passed during this year's General Assembly session. Many thanks to our community partners and Delegate John McGuire for their efforts.



In the coming year we'll do our part to support the launch of <u>Ready Regions networks</u>. So that all early learners including those with developmental disabilities such as autism have access to quality learning opportunities. We continue to advocate for policy changes to close gaps around autism resource navigation.

We hear daily from individuals and families who are struggling to access information, resources, and services. But at the same time, we see progress and potential in some of the new ways that providers, insurers, and policymakers are addressing the needs of individuals with autism and their families. We're committed to doing our part to finding sustainable solutions.



Help us continue to **Advocate for Change** 

We engaged stakeholders to seek information and feedback about opportunities to expand insurance funding for autism case management and resource navigation services in Virginia. As our <u>briefing</u> highlights, next steps include connecting with payers, addressing the lack of data currently available and eventually pursuing a legislative strategy.

# **20 IMPACT** WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE **21** REPORT



# **Creating Change**

#### We are closing service gaps around autism resource navigation:



- Finding information and resources is especially difficult for the Hispanic and Latinx community. This year we launched a language line to provide translation and interpretation services and we translated and distributed autism resources in 3 additional languages.

We gathered stakeholder feedback on options to improve resource navigation.

In the coming year, we plan to use the feedback we received and leverage technology to help people get the information they need through additional channels like chatbots or texting

#### We are closing service gaps for transition age youth and young adults:



This year we launched a new service! Our Readiness program supports teens who live at home with a parent or a supportive party, who want to live independently. This program focuses on building skills and encourages participants to take ownership of personal responsibilities in preparation for their transition out of the home. We're looking forward to enrolling our first clients and growing this program in the coming year.



#### Watch how we're **Enabling Change**

#### We are closing service gaps for young children:



We are working to drive down the age of diagnosis but need more professionals who are equipped to assess and diagnose. This year we offered ADOS diagnostic training to over 25 providers across the state and provided funding to our partners at Virginia Tech to provide no-cost assessments to underserved communities in the Southwest

We're building inclusive communities. This year we also launched our preschool inclusion program in the central region with Precious Time Child Development Center. Our goal is for kids with autism to learn alongside typically developing children. Our partnerships allow for:

- Inclusion: Children with ASD and other developmental disabilities learn alongside neurotypical friends.
- Fun: Children participate in play-centered activities in a social environment.
- Development: Parents and students work with highly trained specialists.
- Community: Families connect with others with similar challenges.



By 2024, we'll replicate these supports in 4 regions across the Commonwealth.

