

CA» Commonwealth Autism January 2023 Newsletter

January 3, 2023 / Vol 3

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM COMMONWEALTH AUTISM!

We hope everyone had a restful and fun end of 2022. We are looking forward to an even brighter 2023! In this issue of our newsletter, we're looking back on the progress Commonwealth Autism has made through our programs in 2022, and how we can strive to further our mission in the future.

We're extremely grateful for the contributions of our supporters as we wrap up our Giving Tuesday and Year End Giving Campaigns, and are excited to continue finding ways to improve autism support services across Virginia!



IN THIS ISSUE...

- Our 2022 in Review
- CA in 2023
- Call for Speakers – 2023 Autism Conference
- Upcoming Events

OUR 2022 IN REVIEW

REFLECTING ON MEMORIES AND OUR PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST YEAR...

In 2022, Commonwealth Autism...

- Helped 400+ individuals throughout Virginia utilize our Information and Resources services to connect with resources in their community.
- Worked with three preschools through our Preschool Inclusion Program in Central and Tidewater areas of Virginia to increase the options for inclusive environments for families with children with ASD.
- Had 250 family members, self-advocates, teachers, and paraprofessionals attend CA's 2022 20th anniversary virtual Autism Conference. Participants were able to interact and learn from self-advocates and paraprofessionals from across the country!



CA ADOLESCENT AND ADULT PROGRAMS

In 2022, CA Adolescent and Adult Programs...

- Hosted and participated in more than a dozen events with community partners.
- Supported over 30 adolescents and adults in navigating the transition to independence.
- Transition Coaching Programs shifted to an apartment living model with extensive support to better prepare adults for the transition from their supportive party home to increasingly autonomous community living.



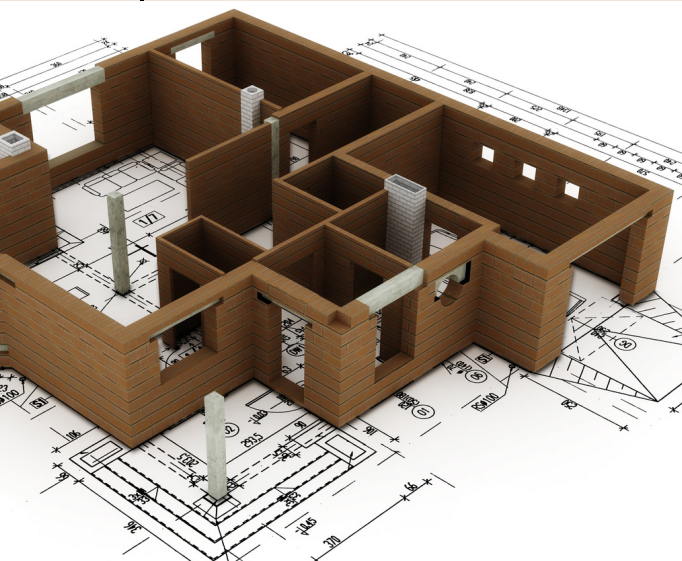
LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023...

OUR GOALS AND THE WAYS
COMMONWEALTH AUTISM IS
SEEKING TO FURTHER OUR
MISSION IN THE NEW YEAR



In 2023, Commonwealth Autism will...

- **Work to reimagine autism information and resources** throughout the state of Virginia. The focus will be on “Navigating the Journey of Autism” for those families and self-advocates. An expansion of current services will include an investment into expanding our footprint to Virginia Beach, Northern Virginia, and Charlottesville. These additional services will focus on extensive Resource Navigation to help individuals overcome barriers during their life journey.
- **Expand our Preschool Inclusion Program** by hiring an Early Childhood Coordinator. This individual will help CA to build capacity and increase the number of inclusive preschools in Virginia
- **Hold our 21st Annual Autism Conference.** The focus of the conference will be “Navigating the Journey of Autism”, covering the barriers and resources throughout the life span of an individual with autism. See page 4 for details and info about how to apply to be a speaker!



In 2023, CA Adolescent and Adult Programs will...

- Pursue an inclusive community space for clients, families, and friends to come together for enrichment activities, educational opportunities, social events, coaching support and more!
- Host a series of educational events and parent support groups, including an in-house sexual health and relationships group for parents and self-advocates.



CALL FOR SPEAKERS! 21ST ANNUAL AUTISM CONFERENCE

MAY 2ND-3RD, 2023

Our annual autism conference is back live and in-person this year! The conference will be held in Richmond, VA on May 2-3, 2023 and the theme will be "Navigating the Autism Journey". We are looking for speakers to cover a wide variety of topics surrounding autism. If you are someone who is interested in applying to become a speaker, please [apply here](#). Additional information will be available in February for registration on attending.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Webinars for Educators: How Can I Afford an Inclusive Preschool?**
 - Available every other Friday starting January 20th, 2023
- **ADOS-2 Virtual Training Workshop**
 - February 8th - 10th, May 5th, 2023
 - May 17th - 19th, August 25th, 2023
- **21st Annual Autism Conference**
 - May 2nd - 3rd, 2023

To register for these events and stay up-to-date on Adult Programs, [check out our Eventbrite](#).

Learn more about Commonwealth Autism:

- Go online to cahumanservices.org
- Call (804) 355-0300
- Follow us @cahumanservices



Scan to visit our
Resource
Database!

