



ST. ANDREW'S  
AUTISM CENTRE

---

# Donor Impact Report

# 2022

# ST AN DREW'S A UTISM C ENTRE

## 04.

About This Report

## 05.

About Us

## 06.

2022 In Numbers

## 07.

SAAC Services

## 14.

How You Can Help

## 15.

Donation Methods

## 16.

Acknowledgements

“

OUR VISION IS TO ENABLE  
PERSONS WITH AUTISM TO  
LEAD DIGNIFIED AND  
MEANINGFUL LIVES.



# ABOUT THIS REPORT



Dear friend,

This report is dedicated to you, our donor, for what you have enabled us to do.

As you may know, our vision is to enable persons with autism to lead dignified and meaningful lives. It is a vision that we take very seriously, and one that we are deeply committed to. We believe that every person with autism deserves the highest quality of life possible, and that's why we work tirelessly every day to provide the education, training and care that they need.

But none of this would be possible without the incredible generosity of all of you. It is because of your kindness and support that we are able to continue this important work and make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

Autism lasts a lifetime. No one should take that journey alone.

Your generosity ensures that no one with autism is ever alone.



# ABOUT US



St. Andrew's Autism Centre (SAAC) was established in 2005 to meet a growing need to serve individuals on the autism spectrum. **Our vision is to enable persons with autism to lead dignified and meaningful lives.**

We achieve this by enriching their lives and that of their families through quality education, training and care, distinguished by Christian love and compassion. Today, we serve 450 persons with autism across the lifespan through our special education school, day activity centres, and Singapore's first residential home for persons with autism.

At SAAC, we hold our values of love, integrity, growth, honour, and teamwork very close to our hearts. We believe that everyone deserves to live a life filled with purpose and meaning, and we strive to make that a reality for our beneficiaries and their families.



# 2022 IN NUMBERS

## 460

Children and adults with autism served.



**Special Education School 75%**



**Day Activity Centres 20%**



**Residential Home 5%**



## \$1.71 million raised

83% of donations goes towards programmes that directly serve our beneficiaries.

Your generosity enabled us to deliver quality programmes that enhance the quality of life for our beneficiaries.

## 186

Number of beneficiaries trained in vocational skills.



Number of beneficiaries equipped with daily living skills.

## 183

## 27

Number of caregivers empowered.



Number of beneficiary families on financial assistance.

## 86

## 2,866

Community engagement hours by our beneficiaries.



Training hours clocked by our allied professionals.

## 16,263

# SAAC SERVICES

7 - 18 years old



**School  
(Siglap)**

18 years old and above



**Day Activity Centre  
(Siglap & Sengkang)**



**Adult Home  
(Sengkang)**

Occupational  
Speech /  
Behavioural  
Therapy

Psychological  
Services

Case  
Management

Parent  
Support  
Group

Autism  
Advocacy

We are the only Social Service Agency (SSA) in Singapore offering lifespan support for persons with autism.



# GIVING A VOICE TO THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK.

Imagine if you couldn't tell someone when you were feeling sick, what you needed or even what you wanted to eat. Wouldn't that be frustrating?

For a lot of the people who come to St. Andrew's Autism Centre and are on the moderate to severe end of the autism spectrum, it's difficult for them to communicate with others, especially if they are non-verbal or have limited verbal abilities. That's why we use something called **Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)** with them. It's a way for them to communicate and have a voice even if they can't speak.



One of our students, Jovan, who is nine years old and attends St. Andrew's Autism School, has been using AAC for just 2.5 months, but we can already see the progress he's making. Before, he would communicate by pointing or using single words, but now he's making a real effort to express himself more fully by using more words or longer sentences on his AAC board.

Jovan's teacher, Amanda Poon, says that since he started using AAC, she's been able to get to know him a lot better. "Now we know when Jovan is hungry and wants more snacks, what his favourite foods are, and even when he likes or dislikes something," she said.



She recalled a time when they couldn't figure out why Jovan was crying, but then she took out his AAC board and asked him "what's wrong?" Using the board, he pointed out "I want orange." It was a breakthrough moment and they realised how well the communication system was working for him, helping him to organise his thoughts and express his needs and wants.



## About AAC

AAC is one of the most powerful tools we have in enabling our beneficiaries with autism to lead dignified and meaningful lives. Research has shown that it can boost communication and even verbal speech for persons with autism.

AAC is also a way for our caregivers and teachers to teach and model various communicative functions, like requesting, greeting, commenting, protesting, asking/answering questions, and describing emotions. Did you also know that each AAC board is customised to the user, as every individual with autism has his/her own unique communications needs and challenges?

Since he started using AAC at home, Jovan has made similar progress in his communication skills. His mom is really happy that he can now ask for what he wants by using the board instead of crying or throwing a tantrum.

**Your generosity helps fund tools like AAC, giving the gift of communication to persons with autism and their families.**



# GETTING TO CLASS, CHAIR BY CHAIR.

When 21-year-old Sze Min first came to the St. Andrew's Autism Centre, she refused to go to class. Day after day, her coaches at the Day Activity Centre had to cajole and even carry her chair by chair in the hope that she would get to class. Zann Soh, one of our coaches, found it challenging, especially when she was the one who had to lift Sze Min. But she persevered and kept a hopeful attitude.



Over time, Zann and her fellow coaches learned to tweak their approach to better suit Sze Min's needs. Sometimes words of encouragement and praise worked, other days Sze Min had to be motivated with her favourite snack - potato chips. They also learned to be patient and give her extra time to process information or instructions to reduce her resistance and improve her overall engagement.



After eight months, they finally had a breakthrough. Now, a year later, although challenges remain, Sze Min goes to class and participates in the daily activities on her own volition.

For Zann, coaching Sze Min taught her to be more patient and understanding, expanding her understanding of the diverse abilities of those they serve. Each client is special in their own way, and the coaches need to take the time to notice and appreciate their unique qualities and abilities.



Zann has formed a unique bond with Sze Min, even though there is often minimal response when she interacts with her. But she still finds herself talking to her all the time, believing that even when she does not respond, she is listening to her.



## Giving our beneficiaries the best care possible.

Sze Min's story is one of perseverance, patience, and love.

At SAAC, we take the care of our students, clients, and residents seriously. That is why we spare no effort in seeking out candidates who possess both competence and compassion. And we make sure that as an organisation, we give our teachers, coaches and care staff the training they need so that our beneficiaries receive quality care.

**As a donor, your giving helps us hire and train staff in order to deliver the best care possible to our beneficiaries.**



# A PLACE TO CALL HOME.

Growing up, 28-year-old Stella never had a permanent home. Her mother passed on when she was young and her father struggled to care for her while trying to earn a living.

As a result, Stella had multiple stays in the Institute of Mental Health and other residential homes before eventually enrolling in our residential home, St. Andrew's Adult Home (SAAH) in September 2019.

Despite having her own challenges in communicating with others and regulating her emotions, Stella is a strong visual learner who enjoys craftwork.

Our resident psychologist, Serene Chen, works with Stella's support network such as her father and her care staff at SAAH to align intervention strategies for Stella. Stella has since come a long way and her improvement has been very encouraging for those caring for her.





## Leaving no one behind.

In 2019, we officially received the St. Andrew's Adult Home building from the Ministry of Social and Family Development. This is Singapore's first residential home for persons with autism, and it enables us to continue looking after individuals whose caregivers may no longer be able to care for them.

**Your donations help give Stella and others in similar situations a place to call home, and a safe environment where they continue to grow and flourish.**



# JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Here are some other ways you may support our work. Please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to find out more.



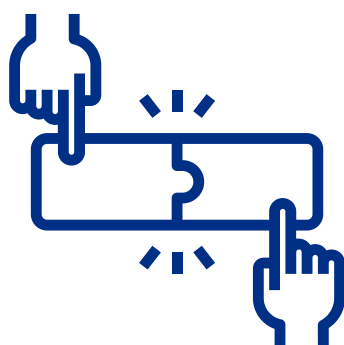
## FUNDRAISE

By organising a fundraising campaign on our behalf, you can help us raise awareness and funds to support our cause.



## VOLUNTEER

At the heart of volunteering at SAAC is getting to know a person who is wired differently from the rest of us. Embark on a journey to befriend people who have autism and see life through their eyes. Your gift of time can change their lives (and yours).



## PARTNER US

We invite you to partner us in making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Make enriching their lives part of your CSR. Together, we can provide essential support, resources, and opportunities to create a brighter future for individuals with autism and their families.

# DONATION METHODS

If you'd like to continue donating towards our cause, these are the various ways you may do so.

## 01 by PayNow

- scan the QR code with your preferred banking app.



## 02 by Cheque

- Write your cheque to **"St. Andrew's Autism Centre"**
- For tax deduction purposes, please include your full name, NRIC/FIN/UEN and contact details at the back of the cheque.
- Mail it to **1 Elliot Road S458686**

## 03 by Bank Transfer

- Name of Bank : DBS Bank Ltd
- Name of Account Holder : St. Andrew's Autism Centre
- Account Number : 003-932012-4
- Bank Code : 7171
- Swift Code : DBSSSGSGXXX

## 04 via our website

- via [www.saac.org.sg/donate-now](http://www.saac.org.sg/donate-now)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was possible because of what you have enabled us to do. It is through your giving that we are able to continue providing a good quality of care to persons with autism. This ensures that each and every person with autism who comes through our doors is given the support and care they need and deserve.

We are honoured to have you as our partners in this journey, and we want you to know that your support has made a real difference in the lives of the people we serve. Your generosity has given us the means to create positive change and transform lives, and for that, we are truly grateful.

---

## GET IN TOUCH

The Fundraising Team  
St. Andrew's Autism Centre  
1 Elliot Road, S458686

[giving@saac.org.sg](mailto:giving@saac.org.sg)

Enya Tan  
[enya\\_tan@saac.org.sg](mailto:enya_tan@saac.org.sg) | 6517 3826

Calvin Lee  
[calvin\\_lee@saac.org.sg](mailto:calvin_lee@saac.org.sg) | 6517 3832



[@sg.SAAC](https://www.facebook.com/saacsingapore)



[@saacsingapore](https://www.instagram.com/saacsingapore)



[@standrewsautismcentre](https://www.linkedin.com/company/standrewsautismcentre)