



ST. ANDREW'S  
AUTISM CENTRE

# DONOR GUIDE



# 2025

Your giving makes a difference.

# AUTISM LASTS A LIFETIME.

At St. Andrew's Autism Centre (SAAC), we believe that every person with autism deserves the highest quality of life possible. Our vision is to **enable persons with autism to lead dignified and meaningful lives.**



SAAC currently serves those with moderate to severe autism, many of whom require lifelong support. Autism does not have a cure, and families often face much uncertainty about their children's future - they are often unable to care for themselves, secure employment, or participate significantly in the community. At SAAC, we provide quality education for 7 to 18 years old, and essential long-term care, structured programmes and a safe environment for those beyond 18 years old.

## In 2024, we have touched the lives of 471 SAAC beneficiaries and their families.



**316**

Special School  
Students



**121**

Day Activity Centre  
Clients



**34**

Adult Home  
Residents



**46%**

Beneficiaries trained  
in vocational skills



**100%**

Beneficiaries served to  
experience dignity and  
meaning in life



**16%**

Beneficiaries on  
financial assistance

# POST-18 CLIFF REALITY

For individuals with autism, turning 18 is not just a milestone—it often marks the beginning of uncertainty. Many essential services provided during childhood, such as structured education, therapy, and social support, diminish significantly upon reaching adulthood. This abrupt loss is known as the "post-18 cliff."

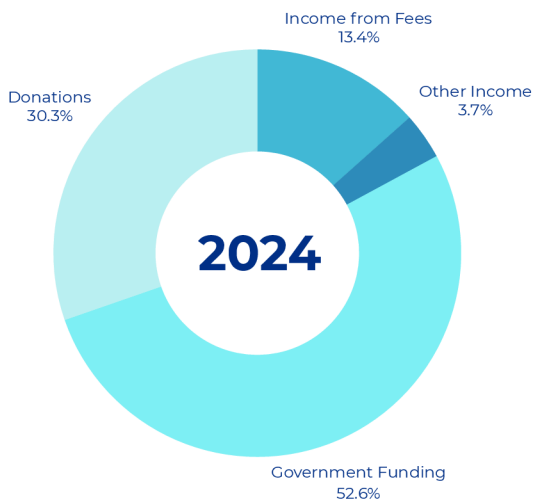
As a result, many adults with autism face:

- **Limited access to meaningful day programmes**, leaving them isolated at home, leading to regression in their condition.
- **Barriers to employment**, despite having skills and potential to be trained.
- **Lack of long-term sustainable care options**, leaving parents or caregivers who are also ageing anxious about their future.

**What can we do for persons with autism and their families to enable them to lead dignified and meaningful lives?**



# INCOME & EXPENDITURE



The cost of providing high-quality care, education and training for persons with autism exceeds the government funding and fees that SAAC receives.

Donors play a crucial role in bridging this gap, ensuring that SAAC's services remain financially sustainable, while enabling our beneficiaries to lead dignified and meaningful lives.

In the last two years, the generosity of our donors has allowed us to pilot necessary initiatives to enhance the quality of life of our beneficiaries. But more has to be done.

Sustaining and expanding these initiatives require continuous support. Without ongoing donations, these essential programmes and progress we've made could be at risk. Every contribution helps us not only to keep these programmes running but also to reach more individuals with autism who need them.

**SAAC needs to raise \$3 million in 2025 to remain sustainable and continue expanding our services and programmes.**

## FOCUS IN 2025

- ✓ Empowering persons with autism to discover dignity through work
- ✓ Creating a nurturing environment for our clients to grow, learn and thrive
- ✓ Supporting growth of adults with autism who are unable to access Day Activity Centres
- ✓ Providing respite for caregivers facing burn-out



# SAAH ACCESSIBILITY FUND

50% of residents living in St. Andrew's Adult Home (SAAH) require financial assistance. Caregivers for individuals with high support needs often cannot work as they must provide 24/7 care. This means many parents do not have savings. Many residents come from such low-income families with single or no income.

The SAAH Accessibility Fund offers families peace of mind, ensuring their loved ones can live in a safe space with professional services, even if they cannot afford it. The Fund is fully supported by individual and corporate donors.

The number of families in need is increasing, and SAAC needs \$384,000 per year for the SAAH Accessibility Fund.



*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.*

***Supporting the SAAH Accessibility Fund will enable us to care for more like Stella, enabling them to lead dignified and meaningful lives.***

# DIGNITY OF WORK



Dignity of Work (DoW) is SAAC's initiative to make supported employment more accessible to persons with moderate autism.

By providing structured vocational opportunities, the programme empowers individuals to develop practical skills, build confidence, and gain a sense of purpose in a supportive environment. Many individuals with moderate autism face barriers to access sheltered workshops and open employment, and DoW serves as a bridge—offering meaningful engagement through hands-on experiences in urban farming and baking.

The DoW urban farming programme allows clients to cultivate fresh produce while learning essential skills such as planting, harvesting, and caring for crops.

Similarly, the DoW baking programme equips participants with fundamental kitchen skills, including measuring ingredients, following step-by-step instructions, and handling equipment safely. These experiences instill independence and self-confidence while fostering a sense of achievement.

“

After Izhan attended the vocational training for baking, it made me feel that maybe there is something out there for him – and for other youths like him. While Izhan potentially earning income is secondary to me, I think having that opportunity to work will also let Izhan buy things he likes for himself and give him the feeling that he can support himself.

- Mdm Ross, Izhan's Mother

The DoW programme goes beyond skill development; it nurtures self-worth, resilience, and a sense of belonging. With professional coaching and structured guidance, participants are encouraged to work at their own pace in an environment designed for their success.

\$250,000 per programme per year is required to cover operational and coaching fees, as well as provide stipend to our clients. SAAC is also exploring with other potential partners to extend DoW beyond farming and baking.

# INTEGRATED PLAY SPACES

Integrated Play Spaces are key to enhancing the quality of life for our junior students (ages 7-12) by developing motor, sensory, and communication skills in an outdoor setting. Featuring balance beams, climbing walls, and sensory gardens, the play space aims to foster pro-social behaviors and provide a calming space for emotional regulation.

Our senior students (ages 13-18) will benefit from an integrated sports area, giving them access to sports like boccia, basketball and futsal. This inclusive space promotes physical activity, teamwork and social interaction, offering a dynamic and adaptable recreational environment.

**\$500,000 is required for space development.**



# HEATED POOL SYSTEM



A heated pool is an invaluable asset that enhances training, therapy, and overall participation in aquatic activities. By maintaining a warm and comfortable water temperature, it helps prevent muscle stiffness and reduces the risk of injury, allowing our clients to swim more effectively. This is especially important as we see the growth of participation in the Special Olympics and National School Games.

Beyond training, a heated pool also provides significant therapeutic benefits, particularly for individuals with sensory sensitivities. With our coaching team and staff working closely together, the heated pool will be instrumental in fostering inclusivity, skill development, and the long-term success of our swim programme.

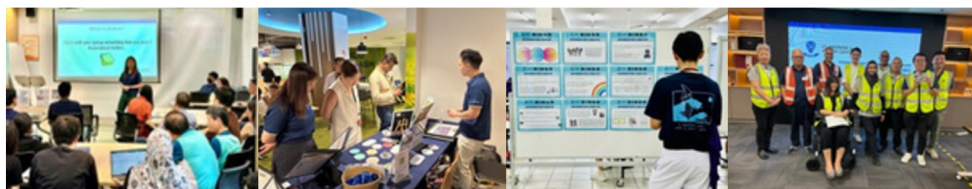
**\$50,000 is required for the heated pool system.**

# ADVOCACY & PUBLIC EDUCATION

Advocacy and Public Education is important to promote greater awareness, understanding, and acceptance of persons with autism (PWA), advocate for more PWA-friendly policies and programmes, and foster a more inclusive environment for individuals with autism.

Corporates and organisations are increasingly wanting to learn more about autism, presenting valuable opportunities to advance autism awareness and further our mission. These organisations seek to not only enhance their knowledge and skills in engaging with and supporting PWAs, but also to receive guidance on creating more inclusive environments. This includes setting up calm rooms, providing sensory kits, and implementing other initiatives to support PWAs.

**\$200,000 a year to provide training and consultancy.**



## TRANSITIONAL CARE



The Transitional Care Programme (TCP) provides respite care for parents of individuals with moderate to severe autism who are awaiting placement in DACs. With limited DAC vacancies, these individuals face risks of functional and cognitive regression and social isolation.

TCP will operate from 9am - 3pm during DAC's holidays. Each session accommodates 12 clients and features curated activities and engagement to maintain and reinforce adaptive daily living skills and purposeful engagement, addressing both health and social needs.



**\$70,000 a year is required to cover the cost of programme and activities.**



# SAVE THESE DATES!

*Blessed to be a Blessing*

by The Christian Orchestra, for St. Andrew's Autism Centre

Celebrating 20 years of enabling persons with autism to lead dignified and meaningful lives.

2 & 3 May 7pm 📍 St. Andrew's Cathedral



Scan here to  
purchase tickets

For bulk purchases, please  
contact us at [giving@saac.org.sg](mailto:giving@saac.org.sg)



1 November 2025, Saturday  
8am - 12pm  
Gardens By the Bay



## UNDERSTAND

## ACCEPT

## EMBRACE

**Walk of a Lifetime** serves as an important community advocacy platform, bringing together individuals, families, and supporters to raise awareness about autism and foster a better understanding of the unique challenges faced by those on the spectrum.

The event will invite members of the public to walk alongside those with autism, encouraging them to take active steps towards a more inclusive society where persons with autism are better understood, supported, and integrated into all aspects of daily life.

# SUPPORT OUR WORK



## DONATE

Your donations are eligible for 250% tax deduction. Scan the QR code to donate now.



## VOLUNTEER

Give time or share your skills. Scan the QR code to sign up as a volunteer.



## ADVOCATE

Spread the word about SAAC and the people we support.

Be our word of mouth and help connect us to potential donors and partners.

# VOLUNTEER WITH US

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 persons with autism and see life through their eyes. Your gift of time can change their lives (and yours).

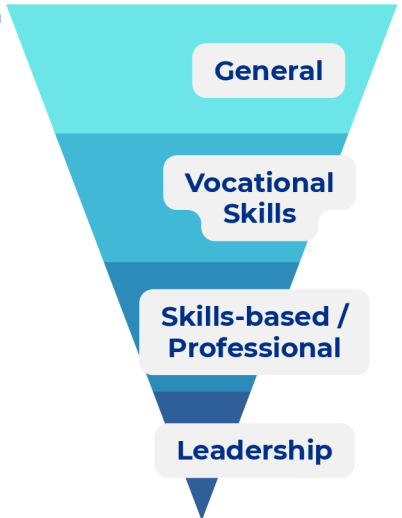
We welcome a mix of friends who are willing to commit their time and heart in journeying with our students, clients and residents in different ways.

An e-orientation will be provided to you upon sign up. Regular volunteers will also receive ongoing training to equip you to better befriend our students and clients as well as to ably support our teachers, coaches and care staff.

High

Duration / Intensity of volunteering

Low



# BE OUR PARTNER

As an organisation, your support can profoundly impact the lives of our beneficiaries, creating a tangible difference in their well-being. Here's how your organisation can partner us:

- Forge strategic partnerships to effectively fulfil your CSR objectives.
- Extend support through corporate donations, whether as a one-time contribution or recurring support.
- Nominate SAAC as your designated charity for the year, aligning your philanthropic efforts with our cause.
- Consider providing matching funds for our fundraising campaigns, doubling the impact of your contribution.
- Facilitate connections with local businesses interested in supporting SAAC or individuals with autism, expanding our network of support and resources.



## GET IN TOUCH

### Donor Management Team

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



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