



ST. ANDREW'S  
AUTISM CENTRE

20  
25



# FRIENDSHIP REPORT



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# TOGETHER, WE ENABLE PERSONS WITH AUTISM TO LEAD DIGNIFIED, MEANINGFUL LIVES

*At SAAC, we often say that our work with our beneficiaries cannot be done without the partnership of our friends. The friendship you have shown our beneficiaries is rooted in a shared belief that everyone, regardless of ability or disability, deserves dignity and meaning in life. Thank you for your compassion and unconditional love for our beneficiaries.*

*This Friendship Report reflects SAAC's steadfast commitment to supporting persons on the autism spectrum and their families. Over the past year, together with you, we have expanded our services, strengthened meaningful community and corporate partnerships, and continued to advocate for inclusion, dignity, and meaningful opportunities.*

*Every number in this report represents a life touched. Every success story is a testament to what friendship and partnership can achieve when we come together as a community. Because of you, SAAC is not just an organisation — it is a network of friends, committed to building a more inclusive and supportive future for the autism community.*

*On behalf of everyone at SAAC, thank you for believing in us, walking with us, and most importantly, for being a friend of SAAC.*



A handwritten signature in white ink, which appears to read "Bernard Chew".

**Bernard Chew**  
CEO, St. Andrew's Autism Centre



**536**

beneficiaries  
served in 2025

*Here at SAAC, we focus heavily on full lifespan support for persons with autism - especially focusing on Post-18 services where the need is greatest - because autism lasts a lifetime!*

*Many of our students from St. Andrew's Autism School graduate into our Day Activity Centres, Dignity of Work and GoodSpace programmes. When adults with autism get older, St. Andrew's Adult Home remains Singapore's only autism-focused Home providing 24/7 care.*

*We continue to innovate to scale our services and plug service gaps responsibly.*

## **OUR VISION**

To enable persons with autism to lead dignified and meaningful lives.

## **OUR MISSION**

Enriching the lives of persons with autism and their families through quality education, training and care, distinguished by Christian love and compassion.

# NEW PROGRAMMES TO PLUG SERVICE GAPS



## Dignity of Work

For young adults with moderate autism, leaving school often results in a sudden loss of support and opportunities.

SAAC's Dignity of Work (DoW) programme aims to bridge this gap by offering hands-on training in urban farming and baking for those not yet ready for open employment.

We are deeply grateful to SP Group for their \$700,000 contribution to kickstart DoW, and also SingHealth, who raised over \$210,000 through President's Challenge 2025 for DoW.

SAAC is advancing its DoW programme, creating diverse employment pathways that enable adults with autism to contribute back to society with work aligned with their strengths and capabilities.



## GoodSpace

The "post-18 cliff" is a critical gap many families face when a young person with autism turns 18. Opportunities shrink and waiting times to join adult services (such as DACs and Sheltered Workshops) are often long.

The GoodSpace programme aims to alleviate some of the post-18 stress families face. It supports adults with moderate to severe autism who are not currently in post-18 services, offering meaningful engagement while families wait for longer-term pathways.

It is a safe, supportive space where clients and caregivers keep growing beyond school, sustaining skills learned and building confidence for what comes next.



# BUILDING INCLUSION THROUGH ACTION

In 2025, SAAC also focused on strengthening public education resources and advocacy efforts, with the aim of helping members of the public be more welcoming of persons with autism in public spaces.

Working with various operators of public spaces, SAAC trained staff of various organisations and worked with them to avail opportunities for persons with autism (PWAs) to access public spaces which are usually difficult for these PWAs to access.

Walk of a Lifetime 2025



SAAC also held its annual autism advocacy event, Walk of a Lifetime, in November 2025. This year's edition was held at one of Singapore's most iconic spaces - Gardens by the Bay. The event saw **over 1,200 people** walk together in an inclusive setting, with Gardens by the Bay reserving its famed Cloud Forest for PWAs and their caregivers for an hour. The event also built participants' empathy for PWAs through activities and exhibits, challenging common assumptions about autism, and sparking meaningful shifts in how participants see and support persons with autism.

93%

of participants indicated a better understanding of autism post-event

OVER \$680K

raised with the support of friends and the community.

SCAN ME!



Walk of a Lifetime 2026 is set to take place on the morning of **Sat, 29 Aug 2026 - mark your calendars!**

# OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

SAAC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert



Haircut Sessions



Outing to Rainforest Asia



Music Class for Home Residents

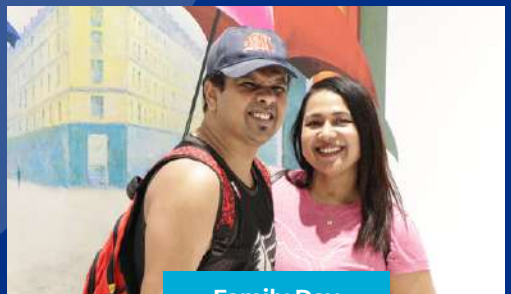


ST. ANDREW'S AUTISM SCHOOL



Special Olympics

Family Day



YOUR IMPACT IN FIGURES

# A COMMUNITY BUILT ON SUPPORT



536

beneficiaries served



More than  
**\$3.6M**  
raised in 2025



Over  
**840**  
Volunteers

## VOLUNTEERS

With open hearts and helping hands, our dedicated volunteers give their time and talent to create a nurturing environment where all our students, clients and residents feel valued and understood.



Over  
**34%**

increase of  
volunteers  
since last year.

A total of  
**10,596**

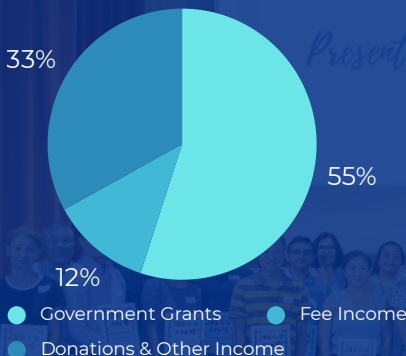
volunteering  
hours recorded  
in 2025.

**30**

new partnerships  
established in  
2025.

To sign up as a volunteer at SAAC, read more at [www.saac.org.sg/volunteer](http://www.saac.org.sg/volunteer)

## Adult Autism Services



## DONORS

Raising more than \$3.6 million in 2025, our donors' generous support sustains our programmes, helping every initiative meet the needs of our students, clients and residents - turning care into continuity and impact into lasting change.

# ACCEPTANCE POWERED BY PARTNERS

Community lies at the heart of inclusion for persons with autism. We are grateful to all our partners and friends who walk alongside SAAC, supporting persons with autism not only through fundraising, but also through their time, care, and advocacy to build a more compassionate system of support. Some highlighted partners:



## ACE Team Foundation

The ACE Team Foundation, founded by Grab Group CEO Anthony Tan and his wife Chloe Tong, mobilised over S\$5 million (inclusive of government matching) at their inaugural charity gala in late 2025 in support of SAAC, focusing on critical support for adults with autism in Singapore and helping to address the "post-18 cliff".

The funds raised will support SAAC's programmes over the next few years, to enrich the quality of life for persons with autism.



*Autism inclusion is more than funding a programme - it's choosing to stand alongside a community. When organisations bring their people and networks together with partners like SAAC, we see that when good people come together, great things happen.*

**Ms Chloe Tong**

*Co-Founder, ACE Team Foundation*





## Gardens by the Bay

At Walk of a Lifetime 2025, SAAC and Gardens by the Bay signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to advance inclusive experiences at the world-class attraction. Under the MOU, SAAC will provide consultancy and staff training to support the implementation of inclusive practices.

One initiative is Quiet Morning - where SAAC beneficiaries and caregivers can get priority access to the Flower Dome and Cloud Forest before opening hours.

## Singapore Management University (SMU)

Staff volunteers from Singapore Management University (SMU) accompanied our residents at St. Andrew's Adult Home across 10 weekly percussion sessions. To mark the completion of their stint, SMU also generously sponsored a movie outing at EagleWings Cinematics, where volunteers, residents, and care staff celebrated the friendships built along the way.



*Over the months, the SMU staff volunteers have shown dedication, steadiness, and genuine care. We see them not just as volunteers but as supportive partners who journey with our residents throughout the percussion programme.*

*Their presence gave our residents the familiarity and comfort as they enjoyed a movie outing at EagleWings Cinematics. What a meaningful way to end the programme.*

### Ms Mildred Tay

*Resident Manager, Home Operations & Nursing, St. Andrew's Adult Home*



# EMPOWERED PROGRAMMES. EMPOWERED PEOPLE.

Corporates and organisations are increasingly seeking to deepen their understanding of autism, presenting valuable opportunities to advance autism awareness and further our mission.

Through our Centre of Advocacy and Public Education (CAPE) supported by Rao Family Foundation, we support organisations in strengthening their capabilities to engage and support Persons with Autism (PWAs), while guiding them in building more inclusive environments.



295

individuals were **equipped with practical, person-centred ways** to understand autism and support PWAs through CAPE's training.

8

new partners such as Gardens by the Bay and SMRT collaborated with CAPE to **adopt more autism-friendly practices in their respective sectors.**

1.2K

participants joined Walk of a Lifetime, where the team crafted advocacy-forward booths for the **public to understand the lived experience of those on the spectrum.**

98%

of the attendees found CAPE's training to be **highly informative and well conducted.**



*The training offers valuable knowledge and a meaningful mindset shift, and is especially beneficial for volunteers, employees, and stakeholders. It provides practical perspectives that inspire organisations to think differently about how programmes and spaces can be curated to be more inclusive and supportive for persons with autism.*

**Ms Ng Ying**

*Programming (Memberships & Volunteers),  
Gardens by the Bay*

## NEW FRIENDS OF SAAC



### GrabAcademy

The GrabAcademy Team organised workshops to educate Grab drivers about autism, helping them provide better experiences for beneficiaries and their families during rides and events like Walk of a Lifetime.

### SBS & SMRT

SBS and SMRT has partnered with SAAC to foster a more inclusive public transportation. CAPE has conducted Autism Awareness Workshops for ground staff to help them better understand and assist commuters with special needs on trains and buses.



### Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)

As part of SCDF Learning Week, CAPE was invited to speak at the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Excellence Forum, where we shared practical insights with emergency medical officers on how to better support persons with autism during emergency situations.

*For autism advocacy workshops & training, contact CAPE at [saac\\_cape@saac.org.sg](mailto:saac_cape@saac.org.sg).*

# THE PATH AHEAD IS PAVED WITH POSSIBILITIES

In response to the post-18 cliff, SAAC will continue to scale post-18 services and programmes in 2026 and beyond, creating more opportunities for adults with autism to be meaningfully engaged and to enjoy a better quality of life.

## SAAC x Mastercard

SAAC is embarking on an exciting partnership with Mastercard on a meaningful nationwide campaign titled Time for Acceptance, which seeks to champion greater inclusion for Persons with Autism (PwAs).

We aim to inspire more businesses across Singapore to create calmer, more welcoming environments for persons with autism and their families, by inculcating more sensory-friendly practices and equipping service staff with a better understanding of the needs of persons with autism.

## The LIGHT House @ Woodlands (Enabled Living Programme)

Dignity and meaning are core to the work of SAAC, and the starting point of our vision for **The LIGHT House @ Woodlands**.

The Enabled Living Programme (ELP) is a community living initiative that empowers adults with disabilities with low to moderate support needs to live independently for as long as possible.

Sited in public rental flats, ELP helps adults with disabilities age in place by providing an ecosystem of care, social support and community integration.

ELP is an initiative by the Ministry of Social and Family Development and SG Enable under the Enabling Masterplan 2030.



*THANK YOU!*

# **BECAUSE OF YOU, THIS IS POSSIBLE**

True community is formed when people come together to uplift, understand, and walk alongside one another.

Over the past year, we have taken solid steps to expand and strengthen our community partnerships and services, and we could not have done it without your friendship.

Your gifts of time, talent, treasure, ties and testimonies have kept us going, and on track to pursuing our vision of enabling persons with autism to lead dignified and meaningful lives.

**From all of us at SAAC, thank you for being our friend — your generosity, care, and belief in our mission makes all the difference.**

# MAXIMISING THE MOMENTUM

Your generous support is the cornerstone of SAAC's work. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference and helps us achieve greater impact for the communities we serve, together.

If you feel inspired by these stories and initiatives and wish to contribute to the autism cause, you may consider giving through the following channels:

## Donate



The GEM (Give Every Month) Programme is a **monthly recurring giving initiative**, designed to create a lasting impact for persons with autism and their families.



Read more at [saac.org.sg/gem](http://saac.org.sg/gem).

## Volunteer



If you wish to touch a life by giving your time or sharing your skills, we would love for you to be part of our community. Join us in enabling persons with autism to lead dignified and meaningful lives.



Sign up to be a SAAC volunteer at [bit.ly/friendshipvol](http://bit.ly/friendshipvol).

## Advocate



While there is increased awareness of autism in general, and acceptance of persons with autism in public spaces is still far from ideal.

We would appreciate it if you could speak more for persons with autism in your private and professional capacities, or even perhaps just mention SAAC and the work we do at your next dinner with family and friends.

WALK WITH US, SHOW WE STRIVE

# FINISH

**AUTISM LASTS A  
LIFETIME. NO ONE  
SHOULD TAKE THAT  
JOURNEY ALONE.**



**ST. ANDREW'S  
AUTISM CENTRE**



@sg.SAAC



@saacsg



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