

# Reasons to Support the

## AUTISM SOCIETY

*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*

*Inland Empire*



### How We Served the Inland Empire in 2018

#### Support & Family Service Programs

5,634

attendees participated in our social and recreational programs including our Play Together Family Nights, groups for Teens and Adults, as well as our large family events like Waterpark Day.

#### Community Outreach

4,970

individuals attended one the 12 outreach events we attended to educate the public on autism and the services we provide.

#### Information & Referral Services

2,935

inquiries we answered via Facebook, email, or phone calls. We are finding about 30% of these calls are families in crisis.

#### Education & Training

2,074

individuals attended one of our 23 educational presentations on a variety of topics from navigating the medical insurance system to learning how to advocate with policy makers.

#### Public Policy

**Diagnosis and Early Intervention:** Worked with local organizations to develop a consensus and a brochure for professionals and families explaining how families should navigate through the assessment process through medical insurance, Regional Center and school services.

**Employment and Adult Services:** The Autism Society Inland Empire collaborated with agencies to bring and test the Discovery Process to help determine what would be the right job match for our population. We are helping develop and start new employment training programs around the Arts and CNC machinery for adults in the Inland Empire, and piloted Independence U to help adults determine life goals.

**Latino Outreach:** We increased the number of educational presentations offered in Spanish, continued our Spanish Support group, and increased our outreach to the Spanish speaking community.

**Rate Reform and Reinstatement of Social Recreation Services:** In 2018, the Autism Society met with state policy makers multiple times to emphasize the importance and need to reinstate Social Recreation Services through Regional Centers and advocated for rates which would reflect employees who are skilled and trained to work with individuals with communication, behavioral/medical needs.

**Safety and Disaster Preparedness:** We continued our partnership to train local First Responders, provided a Safety in the Community class, and piloted an Earthquake Preparedness class for adults with autism.