




ASAN AT 10:
**WE'RE JUST
GETTING STARTED**



**2016
Annual Report**

MISSION

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network
seeks to advance the principles of the disability
rights movement with regard to autism



ASAN believes that the goal of autism advocacy should be a world in which Autistic people enjoy the same access, rights, and opportunities as all other citizens.

STATEMENT

We work to empower Autistic people across the world to take control of our own lives and the future of our common community, and seek to organize the Autistic community to ensure our voices are heard in the national conversation about us.

Happy birthday ASAN ♡

Nothing About Us
Without Us!

Cheers to
the next
10 years!

they grow up so fast...
good luck starting middle
school next year! (just kiddin')

To many many more birthdays
Ted

Happy birthday!! The work you do is
so, so important & it's incredible to
see how much you've accomplished for
the Autistic community. I'm so proud to
support you guys. Keep it up! ♡

Regina Phalange

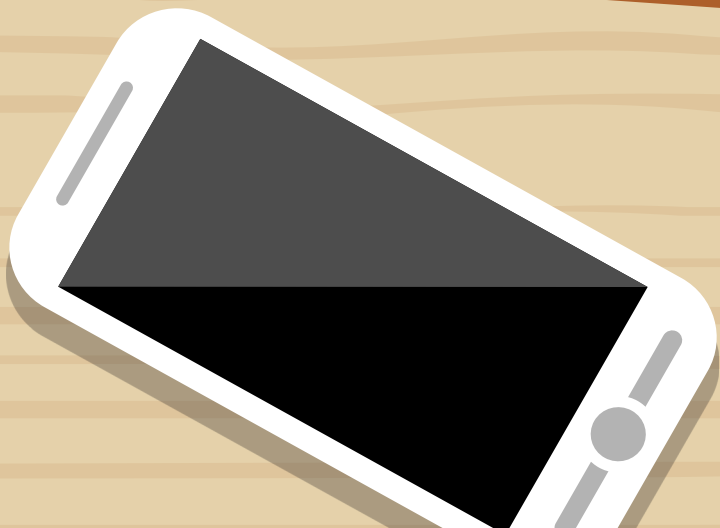
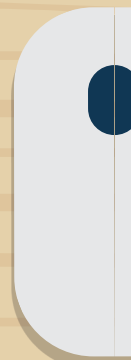
10


Abed's taking way too long
deciding what to write so happy
anniversary from both of us!!

♡ Britta

ASAN is awesome








Dear friends,

Ten years is a long time in the life of an organization and a movement. As ASAN prepares to undertake its first ever leadership transition, it is important to take stock of the change we've brought to the world of autism and disability - and to remember all the work we have left to do. Ten years ago, the national conversation on autism was dominated by causation and cure. Today, we have changed the conversation, shifting national and international focus around autism and elevating questions of services, supports and quality of life. Ten years ago, few talked of a future in which the hundreds of thousands of disabled workers being paid less than minimum wage would enjoy the full protections of labor law. Today, bi-partisan legislation to eliminate sub-minimum wage and invest in integrated employment is gathering momentum in Congress. Ten years ago, people with disabilities languishing in large group homes, sheltered workshops and other segregated settings had little recourse. Today, the federal government is instructing states across the country to upgrade their community service systems to become truly integrated - freeing people with disabilities once segregated to truly join their communities.

We've come a long way, but there is still plenty of work ahead of us.

In the last year, ASAN has expanded our work fighting for the rights of people with disabilities of all kinds. Today, ASAN legal staff engage in targeted litigation to protect the rights of disabled workers under labor law and the rights of students with disabilities to access communication supports in public schools, while ASAN program staff work to cultivate the next generation of Autistic leaders through our Autism Campus Inclusion program. From working with our allies in Congress to stop discrimination in organ transplants to convening disability rights leaders from three continents to discuss the future of legal capacity and supported decision-making, ASAN is at the cutting edge of some of the most important and challenging policy issues of our time. That is as it should be - after all, who better to defend and advance the rights of our community than Autistic people ourselves?



As I prepare to hand over the reins to ASAN's next leader, I am humbled by the progress that our community has accomplished together over the past decade. There is no greater honor than the opportunity to serve one's people in a noble cause. Thanks to the hard work of ASAN's staff, volunteers, leaders and - above all - our dedicated grassroots, we are moving into a better world for Autistic people and all people with disabilities. Thank you for your part in that. Together, we are building a future for all of our people.

Thank you, and as always, Nothing About Us, Without Us!



Ari Ne'eman

Ari Ne'eman
President, Autistic Self Advocacy Network

We kicked off the summer with our fifth annual Autism Campus Inclusion (ACI) summer leadership academy.



18

Autistic college students from across the United States and Canada came to Washington, D.C. for a week to learn about



campus organizing



disability advocacy



autistic pride



To date, we've trained

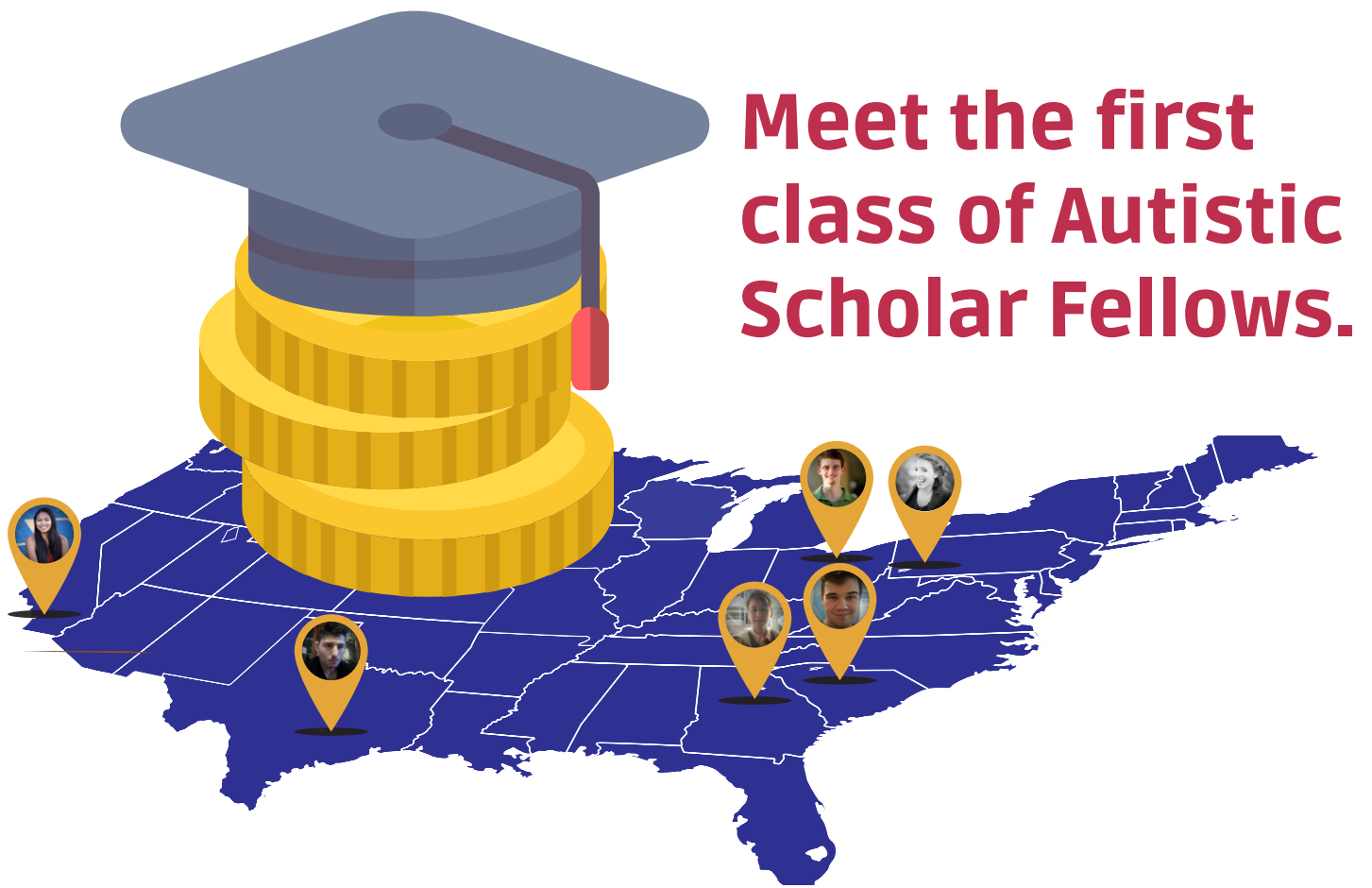


82

self-advocates at ACI

“Being in a space where my **full, authentic Autistic self** was something to be proud of helped me to fully appreciate Neurodiversity as something **more than just a concept**. This environment is one I would want for all Disabled people.”

—Silas Beasley, 2016 ACI academy participant



Meet the first class of Autistic Scholar Fellows.

The Autistic Scholars Fellowship program awards tuition scholarships to Autistic college students showing a strong commitment to disability rights advocacy and Autistic culture and community.

This year, we gave out
\$30,000
in scholarships to
Autistic college students.

Jessica Benham, *U. of Pittsburgh*

Manuel Díaz, *U. of Texas at Austin*

Leanne Libas, *Saddleback College*

Howie Jordan, *U. of South Carolina Upstate*

David James "DJ" Savarese, *Oberlin College*

R. Larkin Taylor-Parker, *U. of Georgia Law School*

“It’s an honor to be able to represent Autistic academics and scholars as **one of the first recipients** of the Autistics Scholars Fellowship.

It’s provided me **an amazing opportunity** to expose my campus to Autistic culture and create a stronger emphasis on neurodiversity on campus.”

—Howie Jordan,
2016 Autistic Scholar Fellow



We held our 3rd PADSA leadership academy in San Francisco



PADSA

Pacific Alliance
On Disability
Self Advocacy

We produced **25 print resources** and **19 webinars** for self-advocates

inclusive event planning

fighting media misrepresentations

how to run good meetings

legislative advocacy 101

project management

conflict resolution

advocacy campaigns

using social media



Through PADSAs, we've given out

\$18,073

in mini-grants for projects proposed
by state self-advocate groups

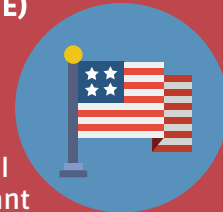
Yolo County People First

Yolo County People First's project is to encourage self-advocates to make video journals of their stories to inspire other people with disabilities to get involved with self-advocacy. The grant covered the cost of 12 video cameras.



Chinese Self-Advocacy Group Empowered (SAGE)

Chinese SAGE, a self-advocacy group for Chinese-American adults with developmental disabilities, used their grant to educate their members about voting in time for the 2016 election.



Nevada County People First

Nevada County People First's project was to create a resource on emergency preparedness for self-advocates, which was shared widely among their constituents and community members.



ASAN South Bay

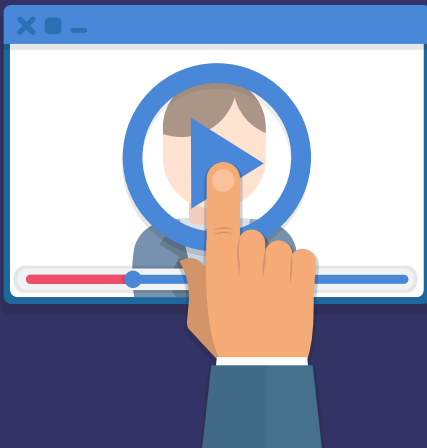
ASAN South Bay's project is a campaign to distribute books from the Autistic community to local libraries, bringing important knowledge about self-advocacy for Autistic people to the public.



Day of Mourning

Each year on March 1st, the disability community across the nation comes together to remember disabled victims of filicide—disabled people murdered by their family members or caregivers.

2016 was our 5th year of holding vigils for the Day of Mourning.

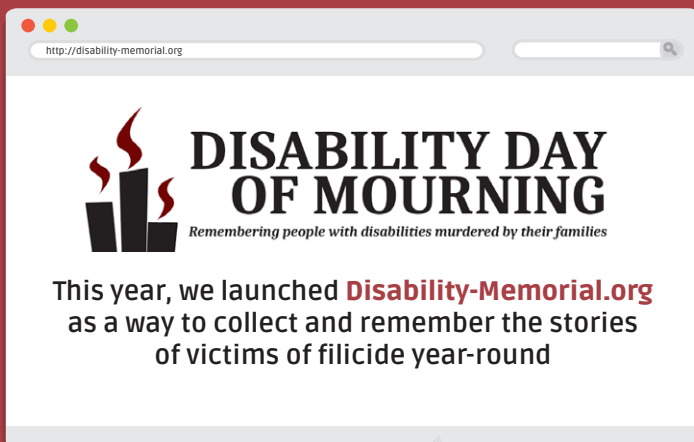
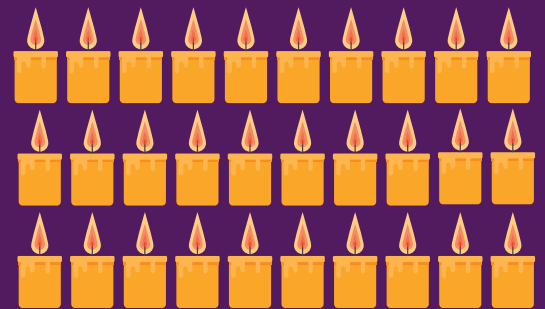


Our live virtual vigil was watched more than

300
times

30

cities across the U.S. and Canada held vigils



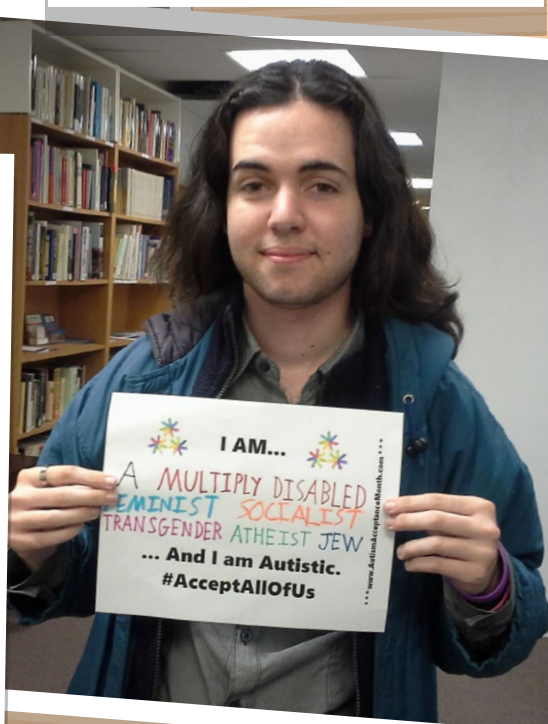
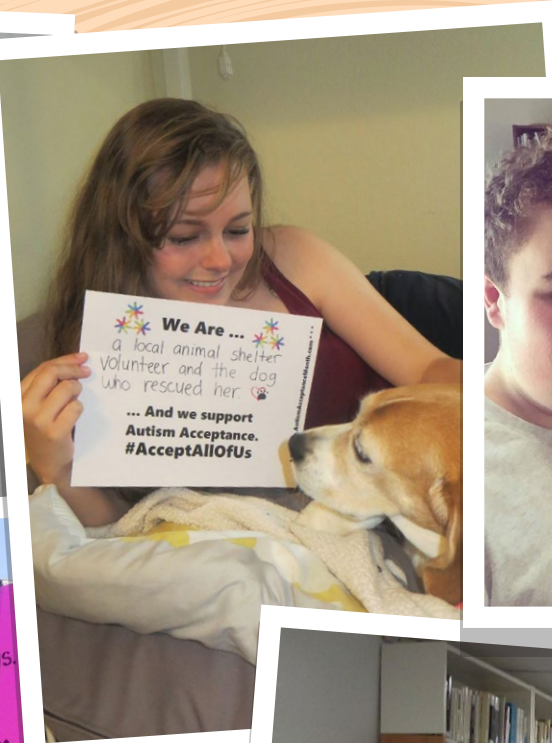
“The Disability Memorial website preserves the names, faces and stories of disabled victims of filicide, and ensures that we are able to commemorate their lives for years to come.”

—Zoe Gross, Day of Mourning founder



AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH: ACCEPTANCE IS AN ACTION.

April is **Autism Acceptance Month**, a celebration all about treating autistic people with respect, listening to what we have to say about ourselves, and making us welcome in the world. Check out some of the submissions from this April's **#AcceptAllOfUs** campaign!





Access is a Civil Right

Hard-to-read resources aren't accessible for many people with disabilities.

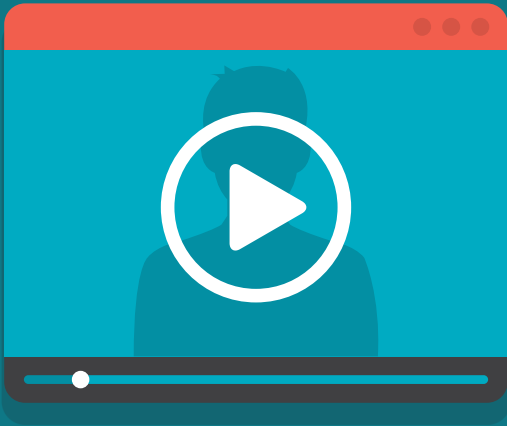
We believe access is a civil right—that's why this year, we've made accessibility a priority.



A few of our accomplishments from this year:

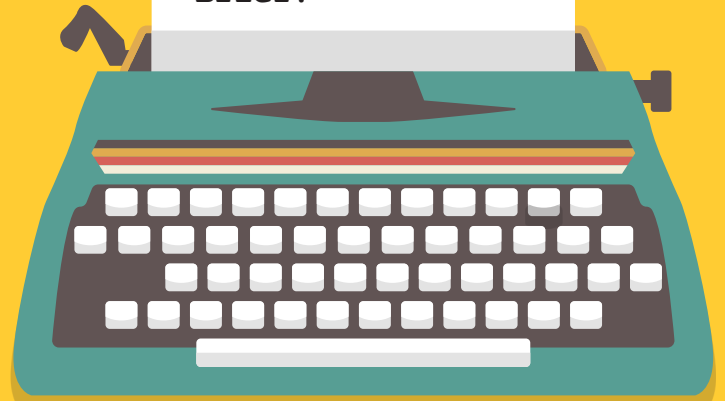
Our plain language *Welcome to the Autistic Community* is our most popular resource.

of downloads:
359,415

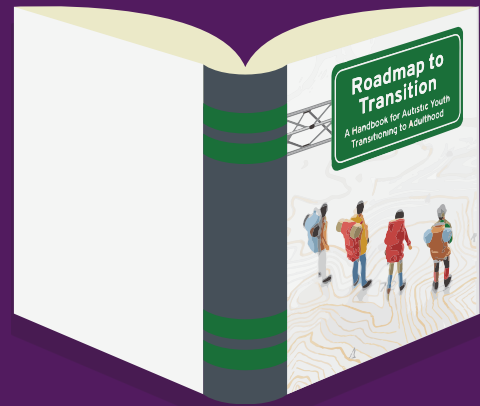


This year, it was adapted into a short animation narrated by ASAN staffer Ianthe Dempsey.

We started translating our policy briefs into plain language and published our first Easy Read Policy Brief.



We launched a new series of practical, plain language resources for Autistic people.



The first one is *Roadmap to Transition: A Handbook for Autistic Youth Transitioning to Adulthood*.

We added an option to our website that lets you view the text in a dyslexia-friendly typeface created by a dyslexic designer.

We published an Easy Read guide to supported decision-making called **The Right to Make Choices: International Laws and Decision-Making by People with Disabilities**.

Number of downloads:

82,697

National policy affects us—and this year, we've done a lot to affect national policy.

Wrote a letter to the FDA urging them to **ban the kind of electric shock torture of people with disabilities** used at the Judge Rotenberg Center

We got more than

100

advocacy groups to sign on to our letter

Fought the **dangerous myth** that people with disabilities are more likely to commit gun violence

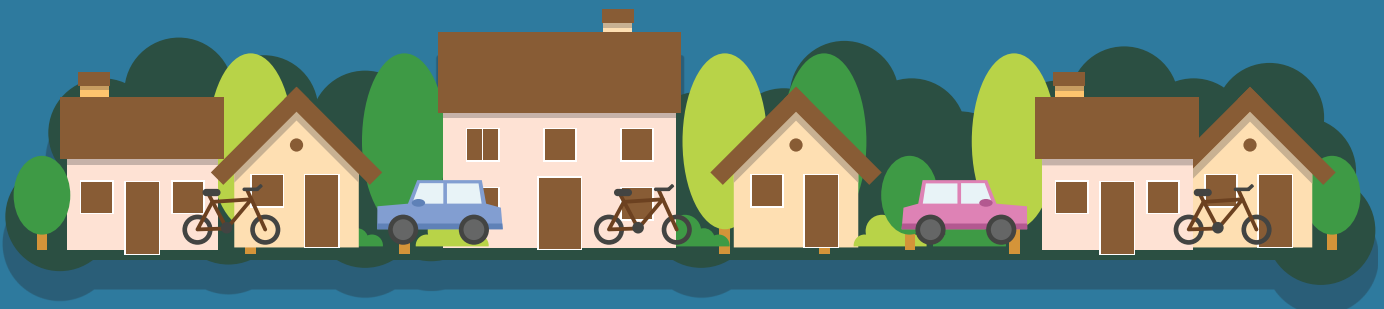


by **speaking out against a proposal** that would give the names of people who use representative payee services to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System

Filed a complaint with the Department of Justice to **support non-speaking students in their fight** for communication supports



Hosted an international summit that brought self-advocates, family members, and professionals together to talk about how **supported decision-making can help get people with disabilities out of segregation** and back into their communities



Fought airline industry attempts to limit the kinds of service animals that are allowed on airplanes



Helped create a plain language guide to voting rights for people with disabilities in time for the 2016 election



Published a policy resource on getting autism-related health care through private insurance

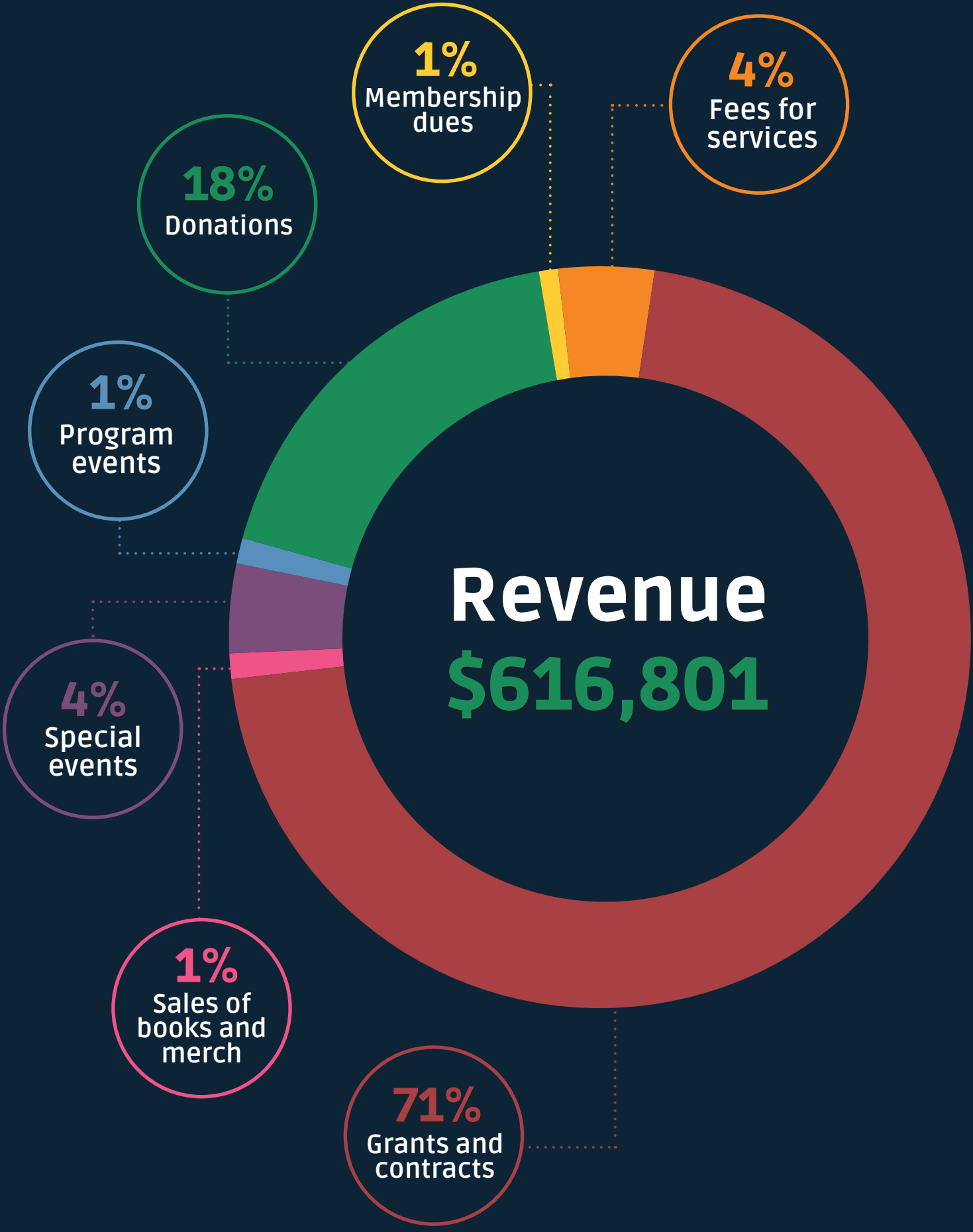


Crafted an official position statement on the rights of transgender and gender non-conforming autistic people



Worked with the White House to address the need for parity in autism- and mental health-related health care





Revenue
\$616,801

1%
Membership dues

4%
Fees for services

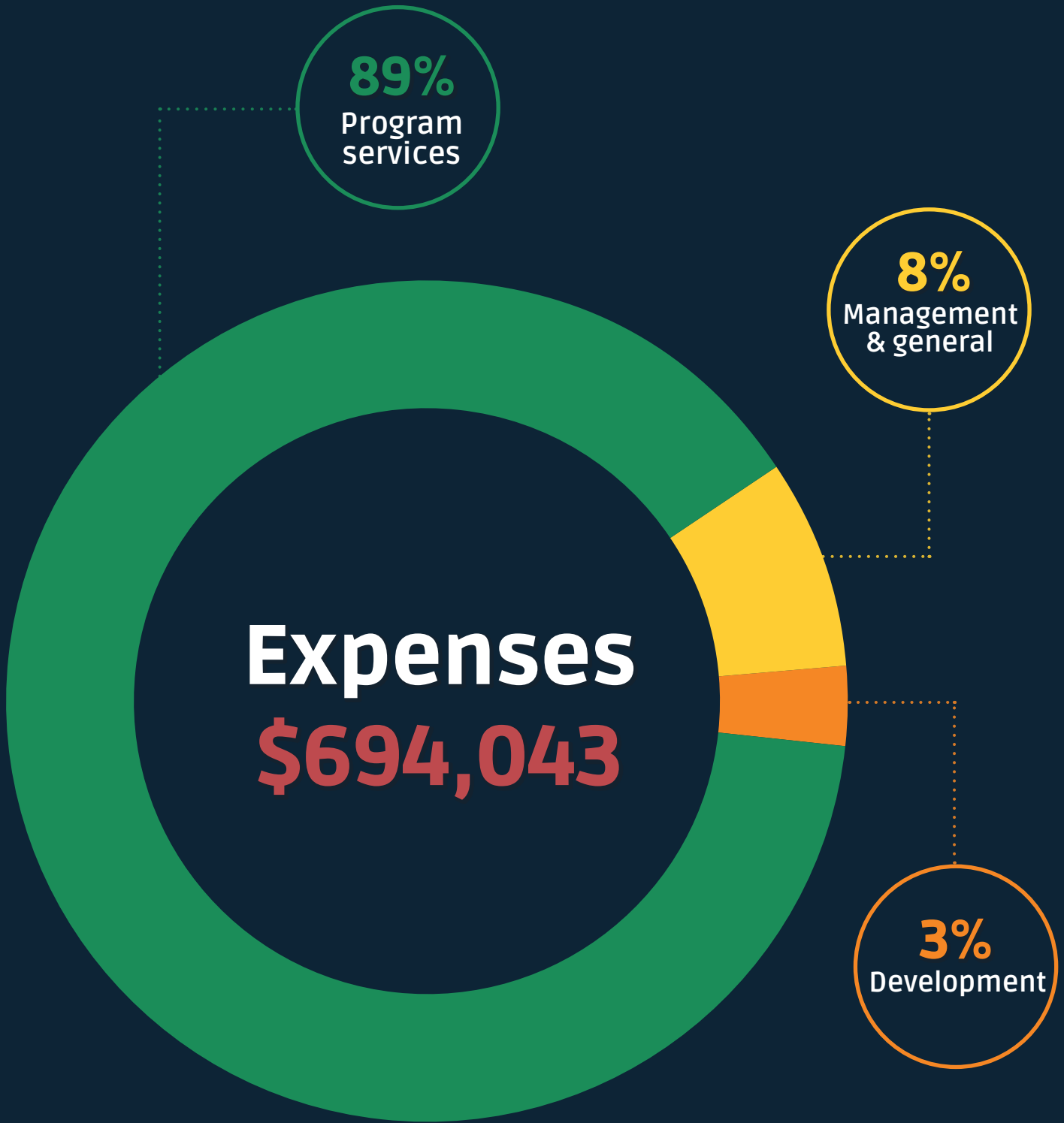
18%
Donations

1%
Program events

4%
Special events

1%
Sales of books and merch

71%
Grants and contracts



As ASAN receives multiple multi-year grants which are paid out over the course of several years, our funds here are reflected on a modified cash basis, meaning that restricted multi-year grants are reflected in the year they were spent rather than the year they were committed. This may differ from the organization's 990, which reflects funds in the year in which they were committed/received in all instances.

NOTHING ABOUT US

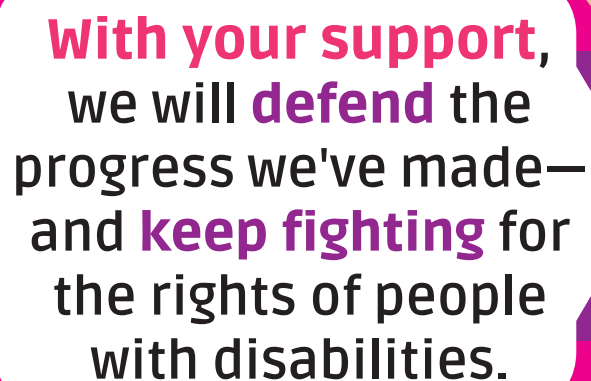




WITHOUT YOU



Give the gift that keeps on giving and
become an ASAN member today!



With your support,
we will **defend** the
progress we've made—
and **keep fighting** for
the rights of people
with disabilities.

Grant Funding & Support

ASAN is proud to receive grant funding and support from the following organizations:



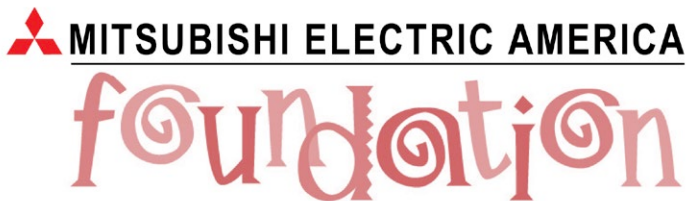
The Special Hope Foundation



ADMINISTRATION ON
INTELLECTUAL AND
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES



**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**



The HSC Foundation



2016 Gala Sponsors



AAPD

Walmart 

Anthem[®]


The Arc[®]

*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*



AT&T


ANCOR American Network of
Community Options
and Resources
SHAPING POLICY • SHARING SOLUTIONS • STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

AOA[®]

The American
Occupational Therapy
Association, Inc.



The Interdisciplinary Council
on Development and Learning


NATIONAL
LGBTQ
TASK FORCE

be you.



FELICITY
HOUSE


Institute for
Educational
Leadership
Leading Across Boundaries

verizon[✓]

LifeShare

Real Life For Real People



NASDDDS



Acknowledgements



ASAN would like to express our deepest gratitude to our **funders of the ASAN Autistic Scholars Fellowship**, Michael and Chelsea Leger.

ASAN is very proud to be financially supported by so many members of our community. We're incredibly grateful to each of you for supporting us, not just with your actions, but with your hard-earned money for the past 10 years.



Thank you to **our sustaining donors**, who set up monthly recurring donations to support ASAN and the work we do.

Your ongoing support plays a big role in both the plans we make and the projects we can take on every year.



Each and every donation, no matter how large or small, makes it possible for us to continue fighting for equal rights for all people with disabilities.



Thank you to all of our **chapter leaders** across the U.S. and Canada, and to everybody who volunteered to be a **Day of Mourning vigil site coordinator**.

AS AN ASAN SENIOR STAFF, **ARI NE'EMAN, JULIA BASCOM, SAMANTHA CRANE, AND ZOE GROSS** WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR STAFF FOR THEIR HARD WORK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. EACH OF YOU PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN HELPING US ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS EACH YEAR. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES. THE DIRECTION, OVERSIGHT, AND SUPPORT OF OUR BOARD HAS BEEN INVALUABLE IN GUIDING ASAN OVER THE PAST DECADE.

Ari Ne'eman

• President •

Julia Bascom

• Deputy Executive Director •

Zoe Gross

• Director of Operations •

Samantha Crane

• Legal Director and Director of Public Policy •

Reid Caplan

• Leadership Programs Coordinator •

Savannah Logsdon-Breakstone

• Social Media Coordinator •

Kit Mead

• Technical Assistance Coordinator •

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