

AANE®

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

2026 Annual Report

Association for Autism and Neurodiversity

Letter from Brenda

Dear Friends of AANE,

This year, AANE celebrated its 30th anniversary. In the pages ahead, you'll hear from community members and read the highlights that defined this milestone year. Here are a few that I am most proud of:

- **AANE joined with the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN) and other leading disability organizations**, calling on policymakers to ensure that autism policy is grounded in rigorous science, compassion, individualized support, and is informed by the community.

- **We celebrated our 30th anniversary with a gala in Boston.** The evening featured a moving speech by AANE community member Emmett Perkins (see cover and back pages), and an enthusiastic paddle raise with James B. Jones and Shelley Wolfe from Netflix's "Love on the Spectrum."

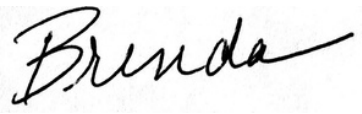
- **Our webinars drew record audiences.** Over 700 people attended our webinar about PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance or a pervasive drive for autonomy), and more than 300 participants joined our webinar about ARFID (Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder).

- ***Newsweek* magazine honored us** as one of the "Most Helpful Organizations" in its special issue on autism in girls and women.

- **We received four spots in the 2026 TCS New York City Marathon**, and had over 100 people apply to run for Team AANE.

I remain in awe of your generous support, and the dedication of our staff, board, and volunteers. Together, we made a vital impact on thousands of people in fiscal year 2026. Thank you for being a part of our community.

With gratitude,



Brenda Dater, MSW, MPH
Executive Director



Trusted & Recommended

Across the U.S. and around the world, countless Autistic people still lack access to the information, community, and support they need to thrive. AANE bridges this gap, **reaching thousands of people each year with programs and services that make a critical difference.**

In FY26, we served community members through online support groups, social groups, coaching, and workshops.

Of the 1,487 program participant survey respondents:

93%

were **satisfied** with our services.

95%

would **recommend** our services.



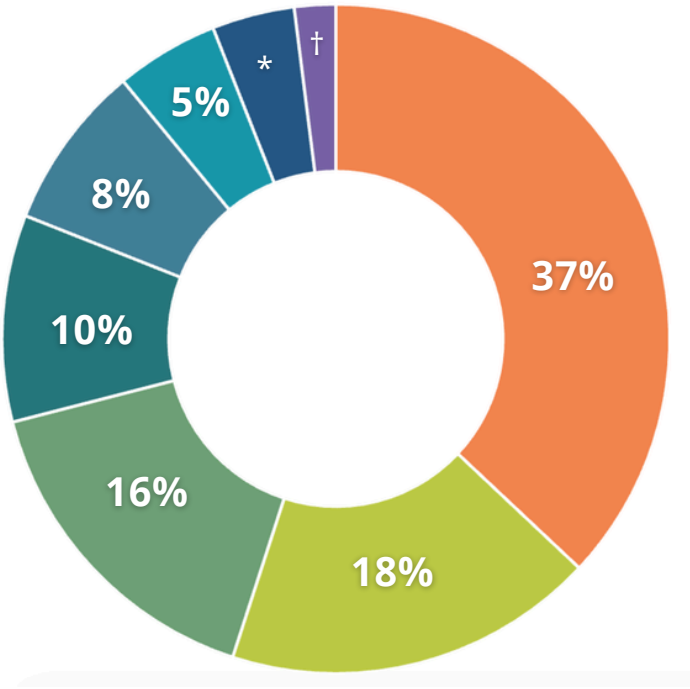
This is a fabulous group that I have been a part of for a long time. **I always feel supported and connected** to the other participants. Sometimes it's the only reason I remain sane.

-Barbara

Inclusive & Expansive Community

In FY26, **more than 12,000 individuals** connected with AANE's services from all **50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and 72 countries** around the world. Here is the make up of our community:

37% Autistic Adult
18% Parent of Autistic Adult
16% Parent of Autistic Child/Teen
10% Clinicians, Coaches, Therapists
8% Partner/Ex of Autistic Adult
5% Other Family of Autistic Person
4% Other Relationship*
2% Autistic Teen†



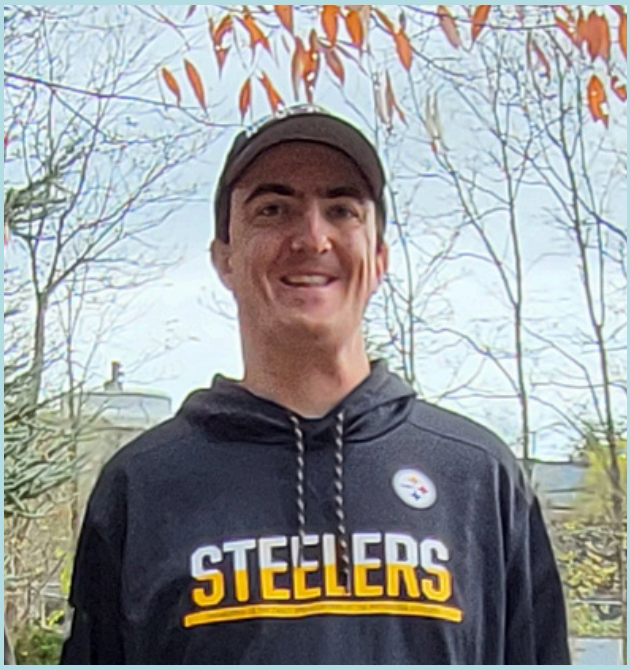


It was great to connect with parents who understand what it is like having a neurodivergent young adult. **It was wonderful to share information and get support** from people who "get it."

-Krista

One-to-One Services

One-to-one services include **free information and resource consultations** for all AANE community members; **coaching** for Autistic adults and teens (LifeMAP), parents and other family members, and neurodiverse partners; and **independent living support** for Autistic adults (LifeNet).



LifeNet has done so much help to improve my every day life in terms of discussing my work situations, setting budget goals, applying for healthcare plans, and also getting to know very good friends that I've started to connect with. They're a phenomenal organization. I'm very grateful to be a part of them.

-Matthew

By the Numbers

4,857

Requests for Information, Resources, Parent Coaching, and IEP Reviews

23,969

LifeMAP Coaching Hours

Group Services

Group services include **support groups** for Autistic adults, Autistic teens, parents/caregivers, and neurodiverse partners; as well as **interest-based groups and social events for Autistic adults** on topics ranging from relationships, mental health, and employment, to Dungeons & Dragons, cooking, and creative writing.

AANE continues to be a pioneer in offering **peer-led groups** for Autistic people, including those with **intersectional identities**: LGBTQ+ adults and teens, BIPOC adults, older adults, and women.



Nicola and Neka were amazing facilitators who carefully balanced the unique needs of every individual on the call. **These spaces are so important for those who have intersecting identities.**

-Rae

By the Numbers

1,275

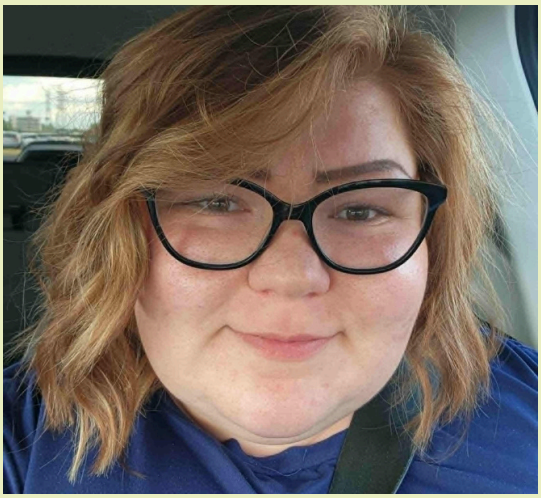
Support Group Meetings

314

Social and Interest-based Events

Education Services

Education services include the **webinars and workshops** that AANE hosts for all community members; as well as **trainings** that AANE is hired to provide for external clients such as employers, educators (K-12 and higher education), mental health professionals, and other service providers.



I really enjoyed learning from Ryan. He paced his presentation really well and he answered questions thoroughly. **I'm excited to share this experience with my team.**

-Carissa

By the Numbers

130

Webinars and Workshops hosted by AANE

44

Trainings Provided to External Clients by AANE

4,410

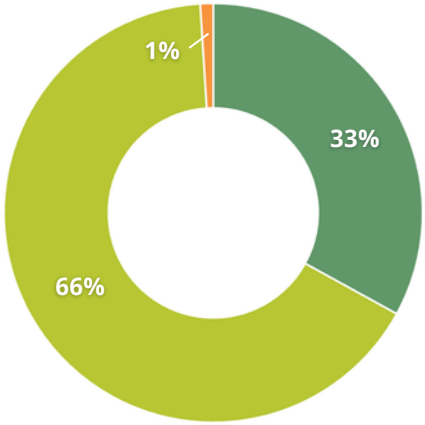
Registrations for AANE Webinars and Workshops

21

External Clients including Educators, Employers, and Mental Health Clinicians

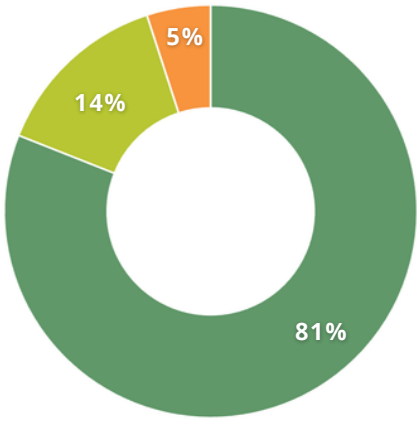
Financials

Revenue



33% Contributions and Grants
66% Program Service Fees
1% Other Revenue

Expenses



81% Direct Service
14% Administration
5% Fundraising

Year End	6/30/26 Unaudited*	6/30/25 Audited
Revenue		
Contributions & Grants	$2,436,778	$2,315,115
Program Service Fees	$4,858,375	$4,704,986
Other Revenue	$42,253	$41,305
TOTAL	**$7,337,406**	**$7,061,406**
Expenses		
Direct Service	$5,803,458	$5,421,282
Administration	$1,014,890	$593,933
Fundraising	$328,767	$534,396
TOTAL	**$7,147,115**	**$6,549,611**
Net Assets		
Change in Net Assets	$190,291	$511,795
Net Assets at FY End	**$2,044,984**	**$1,854,693**

** This preliminary financial information for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 is unaudited and therefore subject to change.*

FY26 Board of Directors

Officers

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Angelina Hanson, Vice Chair
Dian Bohannon, Treasurer
Rebecca Kirshenbaum, Secretary

Directors

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Bill Braun
Sue Brelus Kamin
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Heather England
Carrie Filori
Karen Lean
Daniel McFadden
Zach Michaels
Deb Platek
Mark Pocharski
Michael Roh
Sheeri Steinberg
Wes Strickland
Julie Tedesco



My son is Autistic, and even with every resource available to us, we still had to fight for the IEP, services, and accommodations he needed. That experience made one thing clear: if it was this hard for our family, I can only imagine how much harder it is for families without that same access. **That's why I joined the AANE Board—AANE helps families with the support their child deserves.**

-Brian Alvarez

Thank You

$25,000+

Anonymous
Deb and JJ Allaire*
Lisa Birkdale*
Dian Bohannon*
J.E. & Z.B. Butler Foundation*
Cranberry Cup Charitable Association*
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$10,000+

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Berenice Craigie
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The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, Inc.*
Lisa and Stephen James
Jennison Associates
Philip B. Johnson, Johnson Family Foundation
Martha Juelich*



We give back because AANE has been part of our lives for over twenty years. The **guidance and advice they provide has been absolutely invaluable** to our family.

-Marlene

Thank You

$10,000+

Sue Brelus Kamin and Peter Kamin, Peter H. Kamin Family Foundation
Rebecca and Mark Kirshenbaum*
Mark and Kimberly Marroni*
Andrew B. McConnell and Holly M. Avery, The McConnell Family Revocable Trust of 2006
Stephen W. Miles, Stephen Warren Miles and Marilyn Ross Miles Foundation
Jessica and Chuck Myers*
Deborah Platek and Martin Oppenheimer
Mark and Sandi Pocharski
PwC
Seth and Janet Rosenberg*
Drs. Daniel and Barbara Rosenn*
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Anna B. Stearns Charitable Foundation, Inc.
John and Jennifer Stelly Donor Advised Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation
Julie Tedesco*
The Village Bank*
Henry and Jennifer Wishcamper

$5,000+

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Sarah W. Bailin
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The Sandra Atlas Bass and Edythe & Sol G. Atlas Fund, Inc.
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Mitchell and Stephanie Doren*
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Susan Erickson and Bruce Phillips*
Robert and Michelle Goodnow
The Granville Foundation
Ann Marie and Dan Gross
Liberty Mutual Insurance
Barbara Lund



I've never felt so at home in a community as I have in this one. **It's a beautiful thing to be with people who are like me, rather than feeling like the odd person out.** The icing on the cake is that I learned so much from this community about how to live a more sustainable life.

-Lisa

Thank You

$5,000+

Peter and Kimberly Macleod*
Alyson and Peter Muzila*
Mary Ann and Carl Palmer
Andrea and Michael Parzen*
Steven and Teresa Rusconi*
Andrew Sabl and Chiwoniso Kaitano
The Trimble Family, LAJCK Foundation
Leslie Ziarko Valera and Claudio Valera
Jodie Zussman, the Randi and David Zussman Family Foundation

$2,500+

Anonymous
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Chuck Brandstater
Michael and Margaret Butler
Commonwealth Corporation
Ellen and Robert Dutile
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Frank E. Scherkenbach*
Ken Shulman*
Susan and Erik Skramstad
Anthony D. Smith*
Kristen and Dan Springer
Toast.org
Karen Turk
Gina and Gregg Waterman



Being among autistic and autism-informed presenters, and other participants who seem to share many of my feelings and ways of experiencing the world, **feels incredibly empowering and reassuring.**

-Davis

Thank You

$1,000+

Anonymous (5)
Laura and Jason Adamic
Bryan and Erin Alexander
Laura Bagnall and Stephen Sharp
Chris Bakken
David Barabas
Robert Barbieri and Ronee Skornik
Mara Barlow
Emelia Benjamin and David Pollak
Bonita Betters-Reed and Gary Reed
Beverly Blicher
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Kyle S. Brenneman
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Forman Family Charitable Trust
Roslynn Glicksman
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Nina and Den Hill
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Dania Jekel
June and Lawrence Jones
Susan and Robert Kaim*
John Kemmerer
Devin Kennedy
Sue and Mike Kiewra
Ji Kim
Ann R. Koehler
Stephanie and Russell Kramp



Playing Dungeons and Dragons with fellow neurodivergent nerds, including our amazing Dungeon Master/facilitator, gave me that **welcome and unbridled joy. I can't say enough good things** about AANE!

-Rebecca

Thank You

$1,000+

Madeline Krauss and Paul Friedberg, Krauss-Friedberg Donor Advised Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
Lorena Kreda
Robert Lagos
Karen Lean and Franklin Einspruch
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Ian Strongwater
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Kymberly Terry
Triangle, Inc.
Diana Turk and Matt Meisner
Tony and Karin Victor
Ilia and John Walsh
Amy Weinstock and Mike Coln*
Amanda Wilder
James and Laura Wilner

A Very Special Thanks

We want to express our gratitude for the community members who shared a testimonial and photo for this year's report. Thank you for helping to tell AANE's story.

** Indicates donors who have supported AANE for ten or more consecutive years.*
All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you believe that an error or omission has occurred, please contact us at fundraising@aane.org.

AANE helps Autistic and similarly Neurodivergent people build meaningful, connected lives. We provide individuals, families, and professionals with education, community and support, in an inclusive atmosphere of validation and respect.

For more information about this report, email us at fundraising@aane.org

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Thanks to AANE, **the person I am today is connected, joyful, and proud. I belong.** I am thriving, and I'm helping others to thrive as well.

-Emmett Perkins,
30th Anniversary Gala Speaker