

Before you donate to Autism Speaks, Consider the facts



Very little money donated to Autism Speaks goes toward helping autistic people and families.

Less than 4% of Autism Speaks' budget goes towards the "Family Service" grants that are the organization's means of funding services. While 32% of its budget goes toward research, only a small percentage of this research is aimed at improving the quality of life of autistic people. Most of the research that Autism Speaks funds is devoted to causation and "prevention," including the prospect of prenatal testing.

Autism Speaks talks about us without us.

Autism Speaks has only 2 autistic people out of a total of 28 individuals on its Board of Directors. By contrast, 21 out of 28 board members represent major corporations, including current and former CEOs and senior executives of NBC, Viacom, CBS, PayPal, FX Networks, SIRIUS XM, White Castle, Samsung, GAP, and Goldman Sachs.

Autism Speaks' fundraising strategies promote fear, stigma, and prejudice against autistic people.

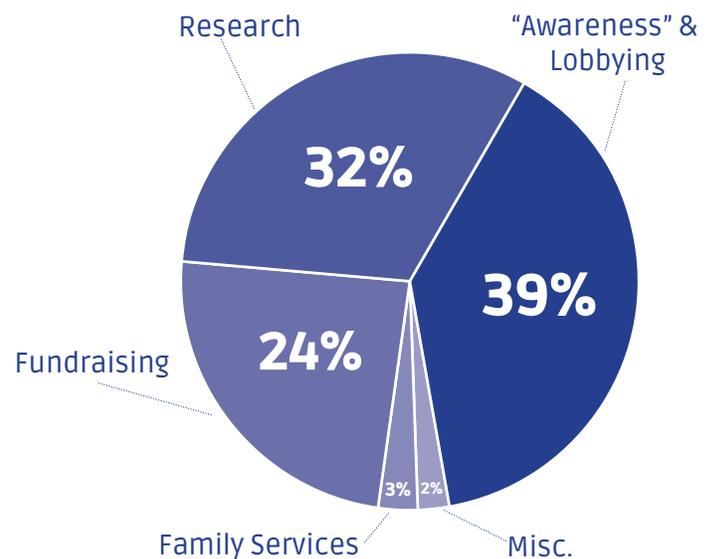
Autism Speaks uses damaging and offensive fundraising tactics which rely on fear, stereotypes and devaluing the lives of people on the autism spectrum. Autism Speaks' advertisements and "awareness" campaigns portray autistic adults and children not as full human beings, but as burdens on society that must be eliminated as soon as possible.

Autism Speaks is not financially responsible.

Although Autism Speaks has not prioritized services with a practical impact for families and individuals in its budget, its rates of executive pay are the highest in the autism world: some salaries exceed \$395,000 a year. Its fundraising expenses exceed spending on most of its core programs, and Charity Navigator rates its financial health as 2 out of 4.

Autism Speaks' Budget

source: Autism Speaks 990 Non-Profit Tax Exemption Form, 2015



Instead, donate to organizations that help autistic people:

Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN) provides support, community, and public policy advocacy, by and for people on the autism spectrum. autisticadvocacy.org

Autism Women's Network (AWN) seeks to share information which works to build acceptance and understanding of disability, while dispelling stereotypes and misinformation which perpetuate unnecessary fears surrounding an autism diagnosis. autismwomensnetwork.org

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) works to ensure that people with disabilities are treated as equals and are given the same decisions, choices, rights, responsibilities, and chance to speak up to empower themselves as everyone else. sabeusa.org