

# Before you donate to Autism Speaks, Consider the facts



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

Only 1% of Autism Speaks' budget goes towards the "Family Service" grants that are the organization's means of funding services. Autism Speaks spends 17x as much—17%—on fundraising. 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 \$600,000 a year.

## Autism Speaks talks about us without us.

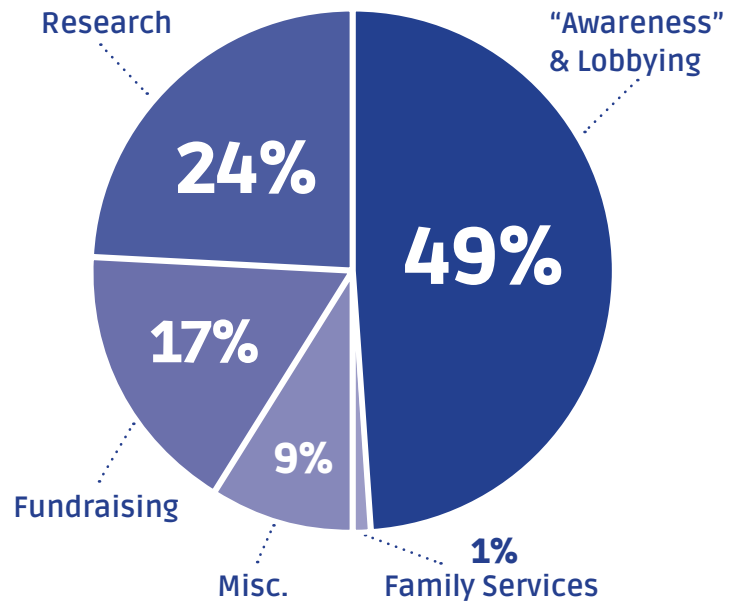
Autism Speaks has only 1 autistic person out of a total of 26 individuals on its Board of Directors. By contrast, 19 out of 26 board members represent major corporations, including current and former CEOs and senior executives of AMC Networks, Goldman Sachs, White Castle, FX Networks, S.C. Johnson, L'Oreal, and Lehman Brothers.

## 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' Budget

source: Autism Speaks 990 Non-Profit Tax Exemption Form, 2020\*



## 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](http://autisticadvocacy.org)

### Autistic Women and Nonbinary 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.  
[awnnetwork.org](http://awnnetwork.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](http://sabeusa.org)

\* "Awareness & Lobbying" figure derived from reported program service expenses on Part III, 4b & 4c less the total amount awarded in family service grants ("Family Services") and less Walk & Team Up expenses; "Research" figure derived from reported program service expenses in Part III, 4a; "Fundraising" figure derived from reported expenses plus Walk & Team Up expenses.