



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Creating Connections. Empowering Lives



Our Story: Introduction

Founded in 1987 by parents of children with Autism, the Autism Society of Greater Akron (ASGA) shares information, educates about Autism, advocates for better outcomes, and raises awareness. Our mission is to create connections, empowering everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully.

ASGA works in Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne counties. Our vision is to create a world where everyone in the Autism community is connected to the support they need when they need it.

Our core services include:

- Adapted Community Events
- Advocacy
- Education
- Information and Referral
- Support





Why Our Work Matters

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects individuals, families, and communities at every stage of life, creating a growing need for connection, understanding, and accessible resources.

Prevalence of Autism

One in thirty-one children and 5.5 million adults in the U.S. are diagnosed with Autism, highlighting its widespread presence.

Challenges Faced

People with Autism face barriers of access to employment, healthcare, social inclusion, and community participation.

Community Support Role

The Autism Society of Greater Akron builds bridges by providing support, advocacy, education, and inclusive programs for Autistic individuals and families.

Commitment to Inclusion

Sustained community-based support affirms dignity, opportunity, and belonging for people living with Autism across the spectrum.



Our Impact

7,719

Program Participants

25,000+

Real Life Connections



Year in Review: Our Impact in Numbers

Community Reach at a Glance



ADAPTED COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 14 Events adapted for the Autism community
- Provided safe spaces and a sense of belonging
- 1,811 attendees at events like bowling, Fishing with Stark Parks, Halloween in the Park, Adapted North Pole Adventure

ADVOCACY

- 5 Advocacy events held
- 648 attendees
- Launched VOICE (Virtual Opportunities for Inclusion, Connection & Empowerment)
- Addressed legislative changes impacting Medicaid funding and services and healthcare access

EDUCATION

- 12 Education events served 401 people who either live with Autism or work with the Autism community
- Events included iCan Bike Camp, Water Safety Program, and Safety on the Spectrum Training for First Responders
- 2,000 views of our New to Autism Guides launched in July on our website



Year in Review: Our Impact in Numbers

Connecting Resources to the Community



INFORMATION AND REFERRAL


- 1,201 HelpLine inquiries, an 18% increase over the previous year
- Top reasons for calls included requests for diagnostic locations for children and adults, followed by therapy locations, and financial assistance
- 58% of our inquiries were requests for additional information on our programs

SUPPORT

- 50 Social Clubs were offered to reduce social isolation and offer opportunities to build social skills
- 862 people attended, a 379% increase over 2024 attendance
- Parent Cafes were launched in 2025 to support caregivers of individuals with Autism

TESTIMONIAL

“I was looking for somewhere to meet and connect with other adults with ASD, as it is difficult to find others in my area who share similar experiences and challenges. I have enjoyed social activities such as bowling, nature hikes, bingo, miniature golf, playing board games, and outings for ice cream over the last two years I have been involved with the adult group. I am glad I have had the opportunity to meet with others on the ASD spectrum, and I don't feel as alone in my experiences with Autism.” -Seth Honeycutt, Participant



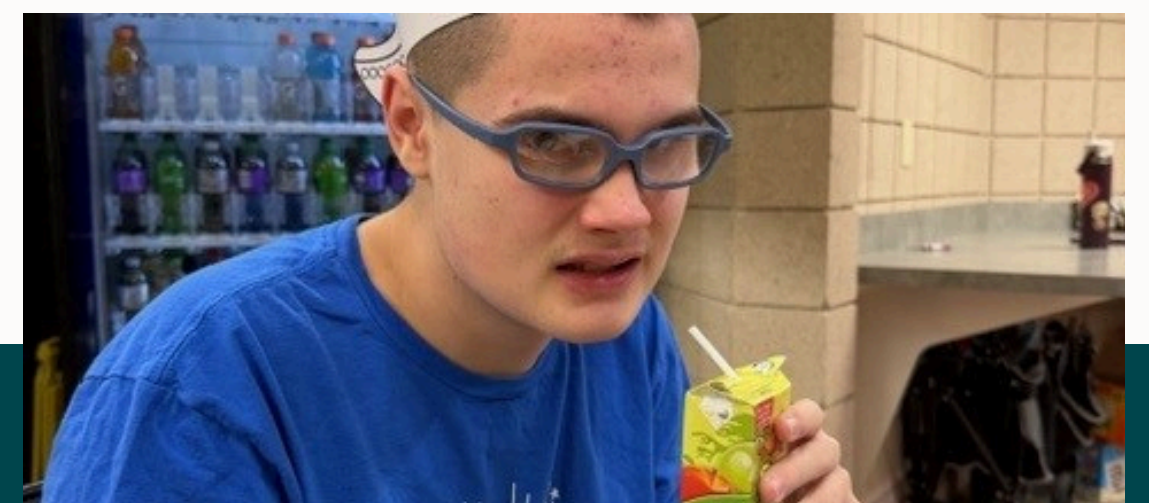
Meet the People We Serve



Stories of Impact

“ I called the HelpLine to find a doctor that would take my Autism-related sensory sensitivities seriously. Theresa provided me with contact information for Summa Complex Care Unit and Dr. Kristine Turko’s mock medical clinic at Mount Union. I pursued both and I am now able to get medical care (blood pressures and lab draws) that I could not get before. This has changed my life. Thank you. ”

-Josh Payton, Adult Self-Advocate.





Stories of Impact

“ We really appreciated the individualized focus to figure out what could work best for our son. The instructor understood that not all behaviors were "Just being difficult" but that it communicated something he was seeking and could be used as incentive to try to get his cooperation. They offered a balance of fun and firmness/expectation and flexibility. ”

--Mandy, Mom to Dylan, age 7, Water Safety participant



A photograph of two young men with dark hair, smiling and fist-bumping each other. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue short-sleeved button-down shirt, and the man on the right is wearing a light blue short-sleeved button-down shirt. They are positioned in the center-left of the frame against a solid red background. A decorative dotted line, transitioning from orange to purple, curves across the bottom of the image.

Behind the Scenes

Our Team

Our Board

Our Volunteers



Behind The Scenes: Our Team

When people see the impact of ASGA, they often see the programs, the events, the success stories - but behind every project is a passionate, hardworking team making it all happen.

We're more than staff. We're advocates, dreamers, problem-solvers, and community members with lived experiences and who believe in change.

**Nathan
Briggs, EMBA,
MPA**

Executive
Director



**Lisa
Thompson**

Sr. Director of
Programs



**Melanie
Timco, Ph.D.**

Sr. Director of
Development



**Kelly
Clark**

Community
Training Specialist



**Suzanne
Erb**

Recreation
Program Specialist



**Amanda
Smith**

Social Connection
Specialist





Behind The Scenes: Our Board of Directors

Tim Piatt, Chair

Terri Burns, Treasurer

John Huber, Secretary

Dr. Jessica Foster

Jon Bluebond

Sarah Wenner Bloomhuff

Dr. Laura Markley

Jessica M. Hudson, MBA, MLIS, CFRE

Barbara White

Reverend Jonathon Turner

Zachary Strickler

Anita Murphy

Morgan Ferrell



Volunteers Power Our Impact

Volunteer Contribution Growth

In 2025, 250+ volunteers contributed 2,507 hours, a 161% increase over 2024, showing growing community support.

Wide Range of Volunteer Activities

Volunteers support events, outreach, social programs, advocacy, and administration, enabling well-organized, inclusive experiences.

Strengthening Community Understanding

Volunteer involvement enhances awareness and acceptance of Autism through direct community interaction and exposure.

Amplifying Organizational Impact

Volunteers extend staff reach and ensure programs remain accessible and responsive to community needs.

Our Financials

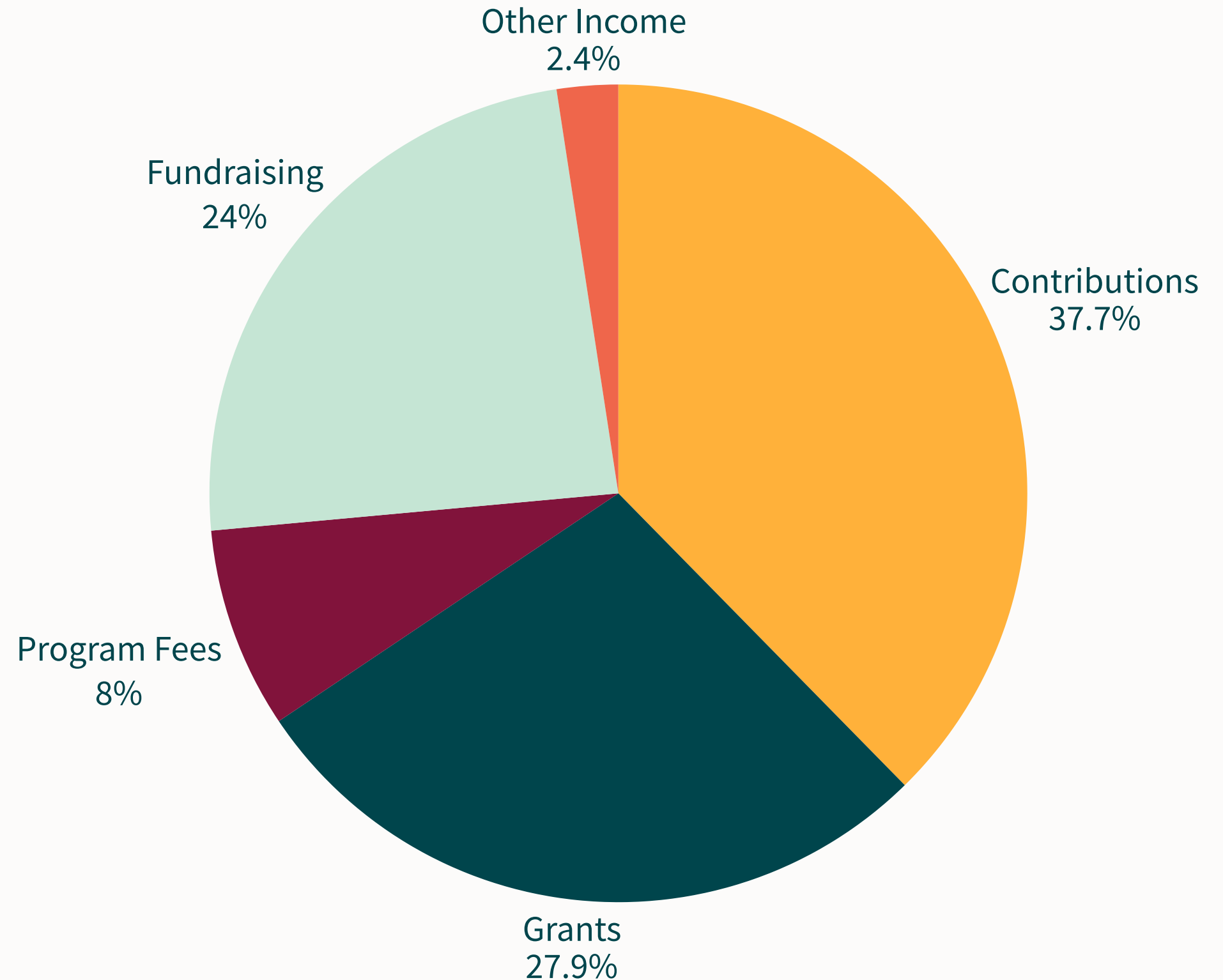




Behind The Scenes: Our Financials

Revenue Composition

In FY2025, the Autism Society of Greater Akron was supported by a diversified mix of contributions, grants, fundraising activities, and program revenue. Individual, corporate, and foundation gifts remained a strong source of support, complemented by grant funding and community-based fundraising efforts. This balanced revenue mix reflects broad community investment in the mission and helps ensure financial stability to sustain programs and services.

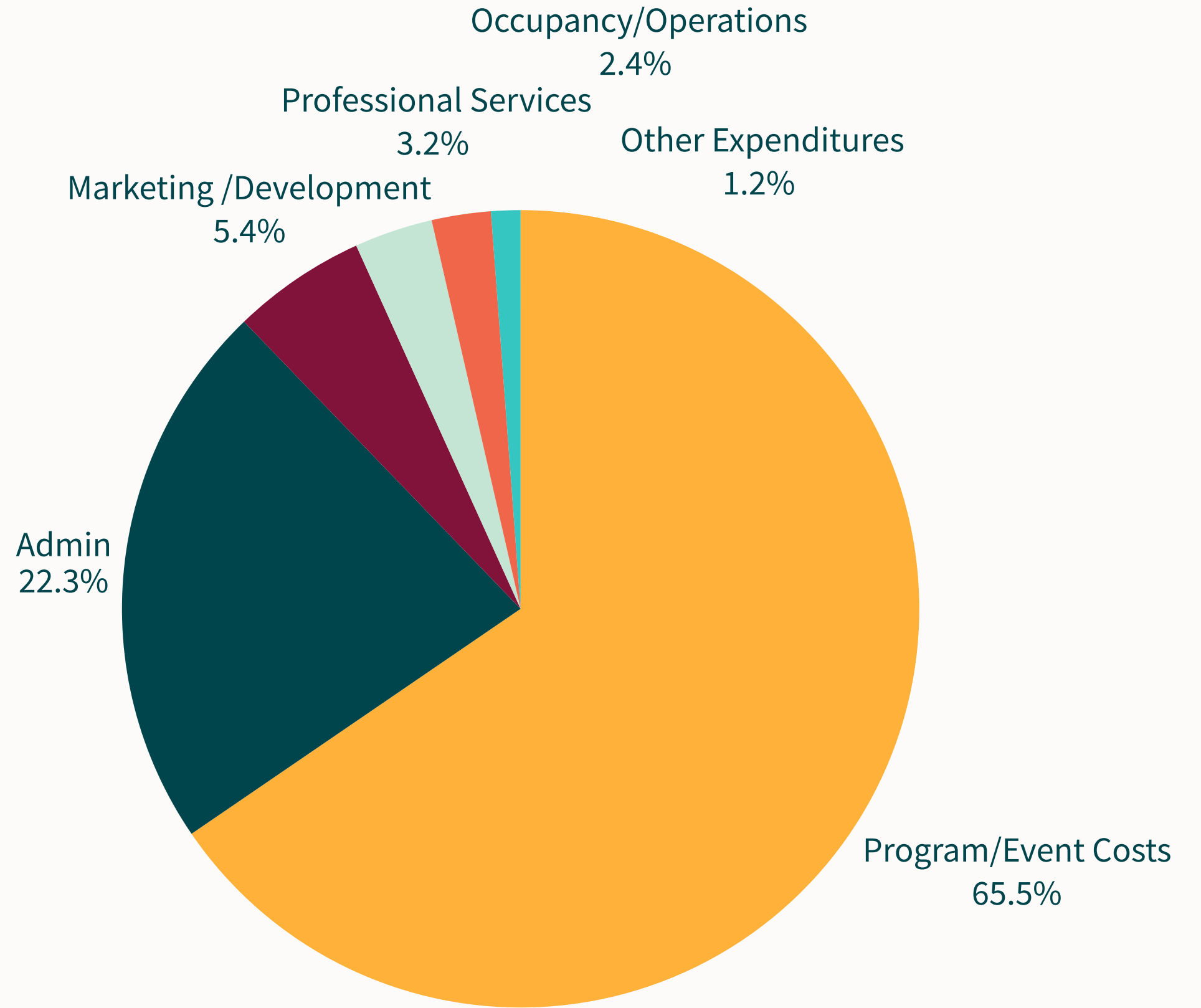




Allocation of Expenses

In FY2025, ASGA invested its resources in:

- High-quality programs and services to connect people and families affected by Autism to resources and build a sense of belonging
- Operational infrastructure to strengthen program and service delivery while increasing accountability to the community
- Recruiting and retaining highly qualified, compassionate staff to promote organizational stability and continuity of relationships with the Autism community





Together, We Are Stronger!

2025 Sponsors



Akron Children's
Akron RubberDucks
Cleveland Clinic/Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital
Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital
Elliot Kolkovich, Summit County Prosecutor
Ever Well Community Health
FirstEnergy Foundation
GPD Group
Golden Key Center for Exceptional Children
Huntington National Bank
I Am Boundless
IBEW Local Union #540
J.W. Didado Electric
Jon Bluebond
Julie Billiard Schools
Kadiant
KidsLink Neurobehavioral Center Inc.
LLA Therapy
Leppo Rents
Modern Support Services
NAMI Summit Countynce Coalition

Ohio Autism Insurance Coalition
OneBridge Center
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 94
REM Ohio
Sally and Larry Markley Family Foundation
SeibertKeck Insurance Partners
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Summit County Councilmember Erin Dickinson
Summit County Department of Jobs & Family Services
Summit County Fiscal Office
Talk On LLC
Tayba Tahir
The Charles & Salome Reymann Foundation
The Falatok Family
The Piatt Family
Total Education Solutions
United Disability Services
ViaQuest
Wings of Change Therapy Inc.
Wolff & Phan Autism Center



I Am Autism
connection
Matters

Our Future

**Building
Belonging**

**In 2026
and
Beyond**



Looking Forward with Gratitude



The impact achieved in 2025 was made possible through the collective efforts of volunteers, donors, partners, participants, and staff who believe in a more inclusive Northeast Ohio. From increased volunteer engagement and expanded programming to innovative resources and record-breaking event participation, the year reflects extraordinary growth and community commitment. Each statistic in this report represents real lives touched, connections formed, and barriers reduced. As the Autism Society of Greater Akron looks ahead, we're committed to building on this momentum, responding to emerging needs, and strengthening partnerships across the region. Gratitude is extended to everyone who contributed time, resources, and trust to this work. Together, these shared efforts are creating lasting change and ensuring that individuals on the Autism Spectrum and their families have the support they need to live fully, authentically, and with dignity in Northeast Ohio.



I Am Autism Campaign

Centering Voices of the Community

I Am Autism elevates lived experiences to highlight the diversity, strengths, and realities of Autism beyond stereotypes or assumptions.

Changing Public Perception

The campaign is designed to challenge outdated narratives and promote a more accurate, respectful, and human-centered understanding of Autism.

Building Community Understanding

Through storytelling, education, and engagement, the campaign fosters empathy, acceptance, and informed support across the broader community.

In 2026, the Autism Society of Greater Akron will launch I Am Autism, a public awareness campaign designed to amplify authentic Autistic voices and challenge outdated perceptions of Autism. The campaign centers on lived experience, emphasizing that Autism is not a single story, but a spectrum of identities, strengths, and needs. Through storytelling, education, and community engagement, I Am Autism will deepen understanding, foster acceptance, and reinforce ASGA's commitment to building a more informed, inclusive, and supportive community for people and families living with Autism.



How Your Donations Make A Difference

Every contribution, no matter the size, creates a ripple of impact that extends far beyond the moment you give.

When you donate to the Autism Society of Greater Akron, you're not just giving money - you're fueling hope, creating opportunities, and changing lives.

- Essential Programs Delivered
- Communities Connected
- Voices Amplified
- Inclusion Supported
- Sustainable Change Created

Together, we're proving that building belonging is not only possible - it's happening, every single day.





**You were made perfect.
You are the connection.**



Contact Us

Your insights and questions matter to us, and we want to make this report engaging and interactive. Please feel free to share your questions and concerns for clarification.

info@autismakron.org

Volunteer with Us

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