



2006 FACT SHEET

History and Mission

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national nonprofit organization formed in 2001 and led by relatives of children and adults with autism and Asperger Syndrome. OAR is dedicated to promoting research that can be applied to help families, educators, caregivers, and individuals with autism find much-needed answers to their immediate and urgent questions. Committed to excellence in its services to the autism community, OAR funds applied research that offers to make a difference in individual lives; provide information that is timely, useful, and cost-efficient; and offer opportunities for the autism community to collaborate and make advances together.

OAR's mission is **to apply research to the challenges of autism.**

Programs and Accomplishments

- Published three resource guides in the *Life Journey through Autism* series: *A Parent's Guide to Research*, *An Educator's Guide to Autism* and *An Educator's Guide to Asperger Syndrome*
 - Held four national research competitions that have attracted 135 research proposals since 2002
 - Funded 17 new applied autism research pilot studies (\$690,000 in total grants) since 2002 and 15 grants (\$27,000) through the Graduate Research Grants Program begun in 2004
 - Hosted the annual *Applied Autism Research and Intervention Conference*, a forum open to the public that features workshops and presentations by leading autism speakers from across the U.S.
 - Developed the *RUN FOR AUTISM* into a national event through partnerships with the Marine Corps Marathon™, the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon®, and the Chevron Houston Marathon
 - Published *The OARacle*, an e-newsletter that provides research and information updates to thousands of families each month
 - Received an unqualified opinion from an independent auditor in every year since its founding in 2001 and had an overhead to revenues ratio of 15.3 percent in the most recent fiscal year
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Near Term Objectives

- Introduce the Autism Research Convocation, a forum of experts and community stakeholders, to examine *Evidence-Based Interventions for Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders*
 - Award 15 grants (\$25,000) in the Graduate Research Grants Program on September 1, 2006
 - Fund eight to ten new research studies (\$390,000 in total grants) through the annual competition
 - Create and publish the fourth guide in the *Life Journey through Autism* series: *A Guide for Transition to Adulthood* as the next publications in OAR's series of community-oriented guides
 - Host the fourth annual *Applied Autism Research and Intervention Conference*
 - Conduct the fourth *RUN FOR AUTISM* with a goal of raising \$500,000 for autism research
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"Research and resources that help families today!"



OAR'S VALUES

1. **The Community Comes First.** OAR exists to serve the autism community. OAR's policies, programs, decisions, and actions place the best interests of the community-at-large ahead of any other group or personal interests.
2. **Practical Research for the Living.** OAR's focus is on research that yields results and findings that have practical applications for those living with autism today--the children and adults on the autism spectrum, their families, and all those who give them love and support.
3. **Self-Advocacy/Self-Determination.** OAR understands that some persons with autism are capable of representing themselves and achieving a high degree of independence in life. OAR will give self-advocates roles and a voice in its Community Council.
4. **Family Focus.** Autism has a direct and often varying effect on each member of the family. OAR views the disorder in this broader context and will encourage research that illuminates and examines the impact of autism within the family dynamic.
5. **Quality Information.** OAR will strive to provide high quality, useful information, free of bias, and appropriately referenced whenever possible.
6. **Taking a Stand.** OAR will not hesitate to speak on matters of importance to the autism community, particularly on research matters that fall within the collective expertise of OAR's Scientific Council or the scope of any of OAR's studies.
7. **Free Access for the Community.** Parents and families pay enough. OAR will not assess dues or charge any access fees. OAR will raise money in order to provide members of the autism community free access to OAR's information resources.
8. **"By the People, for the People."** OAR holds itself accountable to the autism community. In that vein, OAR believes that its best measure of success will come in the form of feedback from those whom OAR serves. Those inputs will help OAR maintain focus and direction.
9. **One Cause, Many Good Organizations.** There are many good autism-related organizations. OAR believes that there is both strength and purpose in those numbers, particularly for a cause as broad and complex as autism. OAR will collaborate whenever and wherever it best serves the autism community and the mutual objectives of any other organization and OAR.
10. **Opening More Doors.** Autism abounds with personal stories of love, determination, and inspiration emerging from even the most dismal circumstances. Full of humor and distinctively lacking in self-pity, various authors acknowledge that life has challenges more difficult than autism, and they build on the theme "When one door closes, another opens." OAR will complement this rich environment by opening doors to the serious issues in its mission with spirit, enthusiasm, and optimism.

For more information, please contact OAR's staff at
(866) 366-9710 (toll free) or visit the OAR website at www.researchautism.org.

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national charity located in Arlington, Virginia, dedicated to raising money for practical research into the many challenges of autism. OAR is established in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code and is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia (EIN#54-2062167). As provided for under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, a copy of OAR's financial statement is available upon request from the State Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in Richmond, VA.

Donations to OAR are tax deductible.