

About Us

- [Guiding Principles](#)
- [Board/Advisors](#)
- [Staff](#)
- [Programs](#)
- [Chapters](#)
- [National Autism Awareness Month](#)
- [Financial Information](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Awards/Scholarships](#)
- [Partners](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

[DONATE](#)

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

[Home](#) > [About the Autism Society](#) > About the Autism Society

About the Autism Society



The Autism Society, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. We do this by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

Founded in 1965 by Dr. Bernard Rimland, Dr. Ruth Sullivan and many other parents of children with autism, the Autism Society is the leading source of trusted and reliable information about autism. Through its strong chapter network, the Autism Society has spearheaded numerous pieces of state and local legislation, including the 2006 Combating Autism Act, the first federal autism-specific law. The

Autism Society's website is one of the most visited websites on autism in the world and its quarterly journal, [Autism Advocate](#), has a broad national readership. The Autism Society also hosts the most comprehensive [national conference](#) on autism, attended by 2000 people each year. Our [information and referral](#) team, our program staff, and our strong chapter presence serve thousands of families each year who are searching for help in their journey with autism.

The Autism Society's national office is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland. We are proud to be one of the few organizations to have members with autism serving as active [board directors](#). The Autism Society's [Panel of Professional Advisors](#) sets the standards for our [Options Policy](#) that governs our practices, and we are proud to count the top professional experts in autism on our PPA. The Autism Society's [Advisory Panel of People on the Spectrum of Autism](#) is a first-of-its-kind advisory panel comprised solely of individuals with autism, who help Autism Society staff create programs and services that will advocate for the rights of all people with autism to live fulfilling, interdependent lives.

Each year, people with autism, families and professionals volunteer thousands of hours to help the Autism Society achieve its mission of serving all those affected by autism. To each and every one of you, thank you.

[Like](#) 3,425 people like this. Be the fi

 [Print](#)  [Email](#)

Connect with Us

Sign up to receive important emails from us on current issues. [Learn More »](#)

Your Email Address [GO](#)

