

**A GRANT PROPOSAL REQUESTING FUNDS FROM
THE AUTISM SPEAKS FOUNDATION**



**FOR IMPROVED INTEGRATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE
PROGRAMS AT HUDSON'S HELPING HANDS**

Prepared by Benjamin Lagasse

Hudson's Helping Hands
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December 2, 2020

Autism Speaks, New York Office
Attn: Serena Selkin
1 East 33rd Street
New York, NY 10016



Dear Ms. Selkin,

My name is Benjamin Lagasse, and I am writing on behalf of Hudson's Helping Hands. I am writing to respectfully request a grant in the amount of \$15,870 to implement a series of improved Integrative Learning Experience programs and family-oriented field trips for children on the spectrum of the Southampton, New York area and other neighboring communities. These events will introduce children to holistic practices that can aid them in their treatment and prevent problem behaviors.

Hudson's Helping Hands is a local Section 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to remind families that they are not alone through providing learning experiences, integrated events, and family support accessible to all local families with young children on the spectrum. The nonprofit specializes in serving young families who are in the first stages of their child's diagnosis as they believe there is a lack of outreach and information for these groups. The requested grant would be used to fund a year long series of Integrative Learning Experience programs for the community, which requires supplies, facilities, a management consultant, and a qualified autism educator.

An improved series of ILE programs would instill a sense of routine and fulfillment into the daily lives of the children due to the highly organized structure of the activities. Additionally, behavior and communication therapies would address the range of social, language, and behavioral difficulties many children on the spectrum encounter. These evidence-based approaches will be effective for the children to regain the ability to learn in-person and engage with peers all while following COVID-19 protocols. It is critical that these programs be implemented under the guidance of HHH as far too many children with special needs are being neglected during these absurd times with a pandemic and numerous schools continuing to close their doors.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please contact me or Kristen Teodoro, the co-founder of Hudson's Helping Hands with any questions.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Lagasse
Project Manager

Table of Contents

Statement of the Problem.....	1
The Prevalence of Autism	1
Autism during the COVID-19 Pandemic	2
Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder.....	3
Statement of Request	5
Description of Proposed Work.....	6
Objectives and Goals	6
Methods and Practices	6
Schedule.....	9
Description of Available Facilities	10
Southampton Town Recreational Center.....	10
The Children’s Museum of East End	11
Green Thumb Organic Farm	12
Qualifications of Personnel.....	13
Hudson’s Helping Hands Administration.....	13
Management Consultant	14
Autism Educator.....	14
Budget	15
Supplies.....	16
Facilities.....	16
Management Consultant	17
Autism Educator.....	17
Summary and Conclusion	18
Comparison to Present Programs	18
Benefits to Children and Community	19
Urge to Action	20
Appendix.....	21
Figures and Tables	21
Bibliography	21

Statement of the Problem

The Prevalence of Autism

Autism spectrum disorder (ASP) refers to the condition related to brain development that impacts how a person perceives and socializes with others, causing problems in social interaction and communication. The disorder also includes limited and repetitive patterns of behavior. Autism spectrum disorder begins in early childhood and eventually causes problems functioning in society — socially, in school and at work, for example (Mayo Clinic).

The effects of autism on education are both troublesome and diverse. Autistic people have a different way of auditory processing which makes it difficult for them to respond quickly. They process incoming information one string at a time. Their thinking is very rigid and inflexible. They think either white or black, no gray in between causing tremendous anxiety (Hearing Sol).

Across the United States there is an ever-increasing number of young children diagnosed on the autism spectrum. In fact, according to the Center of Disease Control (CDC) it is estimated that the prevalence of autism has heightened dramatically in the last 20 years with about 1 in every 150 children being diagnosed in 2002 compared to 1 in every 54 in 2016 (CDC).

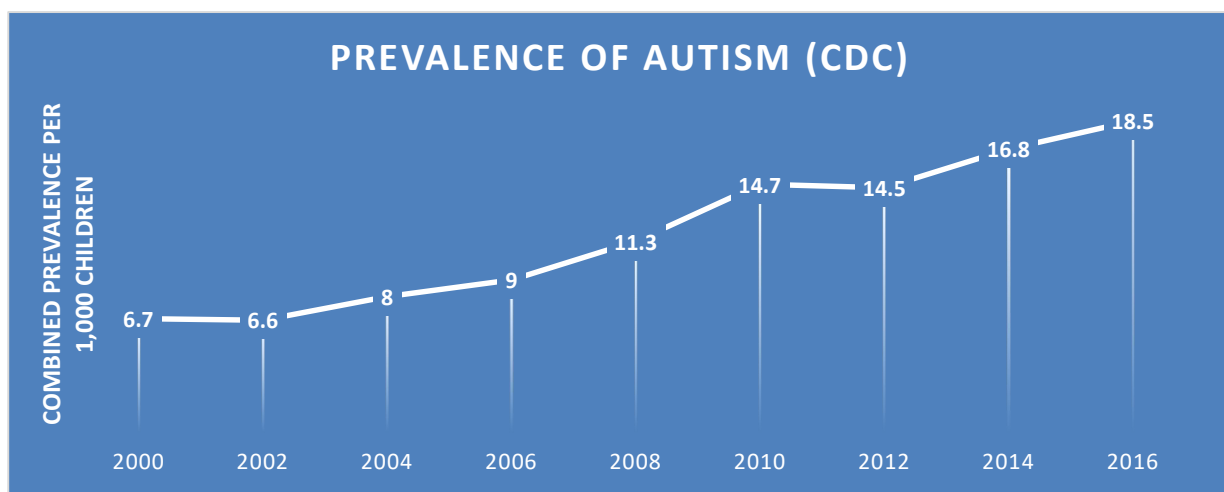


Figure 1

Autism during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Today, the prevalence of autism continues to impact citizens across the nation. However, it is evident that with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic many of these children are not receiving the quality education and other needs that they require to grow and develop. With the physical closings of many educational institutions and the move to remote learning those students with conditions such as autism are largely missing the thorough attention, they are accustomed to receiving to overcome their individual setbacks.

The lack of educational assistance for all students during the pandemic is damaging but this is especially evident for those hampered by a special disability. In September 2020, CBS News found an appalling statistic that “more than 7 million public school students in the U.S. receive special education and that only 20% of those students were receiving the support they were entitled to during the pandemic” (CBS News).

A major disconnect appears between children on the autism spectrum and remote learning. For these students they have difficulty functioning socially and in school while in person as it was. With the addition of taking classes through Zoom many children simply feel lost.

As the mother of two autistic children Carla Suarez-Capdet told The Guardian, we log on for virtual learning and all of a sudden Jordi is like ‘why am I logging into Zoom four times a day seeing all these squares’ with people in them. She added that Kids with special needs and kids with individualized education programs cannot access anything virtually, because it is very hard for them to focus (The Guardian).

While autistic children are spending most of their days at home during the pandemic with much less attention than they are accustomed to they lose a sense of routine which is an extremely vital teaching component. Most children with autism are sensitive to abrupt changes in routine and will learn best in routine situations (Harkla).

With the continuation of school closings along with the surge in COVID-19 cases it is immensely important that children with autism receive the educational services they deserve through any means necessary. These means may include alternative educational programs which are safe for the ongoing pandemic. Far too many children on the autism spectrum are being left behind and it is simply unacceptable.

Treatment of Autism Spectrum disorder

Unfortunately, there is no one standard treatment for autism spectrum disorder (ASD). But there are many ways to help minimize the symptoms and maximize abilities. People who have ASD have the best chance of using all their abilities and skills if they receive appropriate therapies and interventions (The National Institutes of Health).

Standard treatment options for ASD often include therapies for behavior, communication, education, and family. Behavior and communication therapies are designed to address the range of social, language and behavioral difficulties associated with autism spectrum disorder. Some programs focus on reducing problem behaviors and teaching new skills. Educational therapies usually flourish as they employ highly structured programs which autistic children respond well to. While family activities are impactful as they teach parents how to interact with their children in ways that promote social interaction skills, problem behavior management, and demonstrate daily living skills and communication (Mayo Clinic).

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the nation forcing many of our educational institutions to close campuses and move to remote learning too many children with ASD are being neglected of the services they require. As a result, some parents are taking actions to quell this educational burden by organizing local alternative educational programs for children on the spectrum which resemble the superior care they would normally receive. This work has been accomplished by local nonprofits across the country.

Hudson's Helping Hands (HHH) is one of these local Section 501(c)3 nonprofits responding to the hardships which so many families are experiencing. It is located in the town of Southampton, New York, partly on the south fork of Long Island and a part of Suffolk County. The organization specializes in serving young families who are in the first stages of their child's diagnosis as they believe there is a lack of outreach and information for these groups. Founded by Kristen Teodoro, mother of 5-year-old Hudson who is on the autism spectrum. Helping Hands "began during the initial months of the coronavirus pandemic, after safety lockdowns left Kristen without resources to meet Hudson's needs" (CBS News).

Their mission is to remind families that they are not alone through providing learning experiences, integrated events, and family support accessible to all local families with young children on the spectrum. To serve these families they provide both Integrated Learning experiences and family events to engage young children on the spectrum. Creative and sensory-based therapies are associated practices which the HHH cover. As well as pet or horse therapy through the visitation of a farm or other local areas. Despite some of these activities not being scientifically proven to be effective they are often beneficial when used in combination with standard treatment options. Additionally, these in-person interactions are always operated in accordance with COVID-19 health protocols ensuring the safety of all involved while strengthening the potential for adequate learning amid the coronavirus pandemic (Hudson's Helping Hands)

Statement of Request

Autism Speaks is the largest autism advocacy system in the United States and is dedicated to promoting solutions across the spectrum and throughout the lifespan, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. It is a registered national nonprofit under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. The organization funds and supports research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and provides supplies and resources to individuals and families in financial need due to a catastrophic life event or natural disaster. Additionally, Autism Speaks grants funding to service providers focused on programs that provide people with autism with social and educational experiences (Autism Speaks).

Through the work of Autism Speaks there has been a \$3 billion increase in authorized federal research funding for autism and over \$9 million in community autism-related grants and scholarships. These community grants have especially improved the lives of many people across the spectrum while simultaneously helping to raise awareness for autism.

Therefore, Hudson's Helping Hands is seeking funds from Autism Speaks to implement professionally organized educational programs for children on the spectrum during the struggles of the COVID-19 pandemic. With this grant, improved Integrated Learning experiences and family events will become more readily available to students in the Southampton, New York area along with other neighboring communities who have been devastated by the impact of school shutdowns due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. If successful, this project will collectively advocate for improved awareness and accessibility of educational programs, such as Integrative Learning Experiences, for remote learning autistic children and their families.

Description of Proposed Work

Objectives and Goals

The aims of this program are to:

- Introduce children with diagnosed autism spectrum disorder to holistic practices that can aid them in their treatment and prevent problem behaviors.
- Provide parents and family members with methods to interact with their children in ways that promote social interaction skills and demonstrate daily living skills and communication.
- Promote a healthy and productive social climate for adolescents to interact with others especially those also on the autism spectrum.
- Integrate highly structured programs into the daily lives of children with ASD to instill a sense of routine and fulfillment.
- Give adolescents a lively environment to help them cope with and improve their repetitive problem behaviors and related social functioning issues.
- Support children with autism spectrum disorder, who make up a marginalized group that is failing to receive the educational assistance they require to progress through their symptoms.
- Follow state and local COVID-19 health protocols to ensure the safety of everyone involved in all scheduled programs.

Methods and Practices

HHH's Integrated Learning experiences program "is dedicated to bringing school structure back to our little one's lives amid COVID-19 restrictions and school program closings ... designed to provide the opportunity for young children on the spectrum to socialize, engage, and participate in learning experiences with a new volunteer teacher each week" (Hudson's Helping Hands). They also host biweekly events such as the 'Sensory Friendly Morning' hosted by the Children's

Museum of the East End in Bridgehampton, New York which is “designed to give young children on the spectrum the opportunity to socialize, engage, and participate in inclusive learning experiences” (Hudson’s Helping Hands). Other popular activities include visits to farms such as the ‘Fall on the Farm’ at Green Thumb Organic Farm and holiday events like the ‘Sensory Santa Express’ at The Children’s Museum of the East End.

To implement an improved Integrated Learning experiences program in HHH and other activities, the foundation will first need to hire a management consultant who can be trusted to oversee funds and maximize the potential of future events. HHH would like to find a consultant who has their certification as a Project Management Professional (PMP). It would also be optimal to hire a consultant who has a background in education and or special needs.

After a consultant has been hired with the necessary credentials, they will partner with the administration of the Hudson’s Helping Hands foundation to construct a series of programs and other activities which align with both the mission of the HHH and Autism Speaks to provide educational assistance to local children on the spectrum. It is crucial that these factions collaborate to arrange programs that will integrate immense structure while promoting a healthy and productive social climate for adolescents to interact with others.

Once a program has been set in place the consultant will again partner with the administration of the Hudson’s Helping Hands foundation. This time to hire an autism educator who can be trusted to carry out the assigned activities of each program meeting and ensure the fair and equal treatment of each child. HHH would like to find an educator who has their New York State teacher certification for special needs. It would also be optimal to hire an educator who has experience working with children and underserved communities.

Hudson’s Helping Hands would like to employ this new series of programs for the period of a year from April 2021 to April 2022 as the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to continue devastating many local communities throughout this time. It is anticipated that the Integrated Learning

experience programs will meet three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the year for an hour of time, excluding during one week a month where a field trip will be offered. During this hour, children will participate in an assortment of supplemental activities such as creative and sensory based therapies designed to reduce a child's sensitivity to touch or sound by stimulating these senses. Additional activities will be arranged on the second Saturday of every month as field trips to locations such as farms or museums to experience different sights and sounds. Pet and horse therapy will also be practiced during some of these field trips to provide companionship to children on the spectrum.

With the program settled on, HHH will need to obtain materials. It is planned that the Integrated Learning experiences will take place each week at the local Southampton Town Recreation Center. As for the equipment required for each session, it will be at the sole discretion of the educator to determine what materials they require for their teaching plan as there are a plethora of teaching preferences for ASD. Along with these materials the HHH must provide food and drink to each attendee. The food and drink will be offered from a HHH administrator's family operated food truck for a fee. With this system in place the cost of food will largely be taken care of. This will ensure the comfort for the children and their families as they will always have nourishment available on the site of the programs.

When HHH has finished all the preparations for its series of programs, the proposed project will be introduced to the local communities around Southampton, NY. There will be a great deal of notices sent via U.S. mail, Email, and the placement of local advertisements. Prior to the 2021 Thanksgiving break, families will be asked to complete a questionnaire concerning the series of programs and its success. At the end of the year of programs in April 2022, the results of the questionnaire will be considered, and HHH will decide whether the program should continue into the next year. If so, necessary funds and supplies will be evaluated and pursued.

Schedule

January 2021	<p>Consultant is hired.</p> <p>Autism educator is hired.</p> <p>Consultant finalizes plan.</p>
February 2021	<p>Supplies and materials acquired.</p> <p>Notices & Advertisements are sent.</p>
March 2021	<p>Notices & Advertisements are sent.</p> <p>HHH hosts administrative meeting.</p>
Monday April 5, 2021	First Integrative Learning Experience takes place.
Saturday April 10, 2021	First field trip takes place.
<p><i>Classes will continue to be held three times a week on Mondays, Wednesday, and Friday.</i></p> <p><i>Field trips will continue to be held on the second Saturday of every month.</i></p>	
Monday November 22, 2021	Prior to Thanksgiving, families will be asked to complete a questionnaire concerning the series of programs and its success.
<p><i>The feedback from the survey will be used to adjust and improve the program.</i></p>	
Saturday April 9, 2022	Final field trip takes place.
Monday April 27, 2022	Final Integrative Learning Experience takes place.
May 2022	The results of the questionnaire will be considered, and HHH will decide whether the program should continue for another year. If so, necessary funds and supplies will be sought after.

Description of Available Facilities

Southampton Town Recreation Center



Figure 2

Southampton Town Recreational Center (STRC) is located at 1370A Majors Path in Southampton, New York. STRC is operated by the Southampton Youth Services (SYS) who formed in 2000 to address the immense requirement for a multipurpose facility in the town of Southampton. The mission of SYS is to provide all the residents and visitors in town with a world-class facility featuring world-class equipment and services. Opening in 2003, the STRC encompasses 55,000 square feet of space with classrooms, fitness center, basketball courts, and a pool to name just a few of the accommodations. The STRC site can hold all 30 or more children within its spacious classroom settings (Southampton Youth Services).

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the SYS has followed the proper protocols by installing ActivePure® Technology UV Filtration Systems in their fitness center and all classrooms. Also, masks are required for entry into the building and advised to be worn at all times. These actions will help to ensure the safety of every child enrolled in the HHH Integrative Learning Experience programs.

The Children's Museum of East End



Figure 3

The Children's Museum of East End (CMEE) is located at 376 Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike in Bridgehampton, New York. Starting in 1997 as an idea amongst seven mothers who felt the need for more local quality educational opportunities, the CMEE has become one of the most visited museums on the East side of Long Island with roughly 75,000 visitors annually. Opening in 2005 with over 7,000 square feet space the CMEE includes wonderful exhibition and program space designed by Lee Skolnick Architecture + Design Partnership. This space is more than capable of entertaining the children of the HHH programs while following COVID-19 protocols. The mission of the CMEE is "to spark imagination and foster learning for children of all backgrounds and abilities and to build strong connections within the East End community by providing playful experiences" (CMEE). To accomplish this the CMEE partners with other arts and social service organizations presently including the HHH.

HHH has hosted multiple events at the CMEE including a biweekly 'Sensory Friendly Morning' and a holiday themed 'Sensory Santa Express'. Both events have operated as field trips for the children enrolled in the HHH Integrative Learning Experience programs to sense sights and

sounds which differ from the classroom setting at the Southampton Town Recreational Center. As part of the new series of HHH programs it is expected that the relationship with the CMEE will continue so that it may serve as a future host to some of the planned monthly field trips.

Green Thumb Organic Farm



Figure 4

Green Thumb Organic Farm is located at 829 Montauk Highway in Water Mill, Long Island, New York. The farm is family owned and operated by a 3rd generation family providing Certified Organic produce and plants along with other local items. Green Thumb Organic is excellent place for children on the spectrum to visit as they offer hayrides, feeding farm animals, pumpkin painting, and sensory crafts. As with The Children’s Museum of East End, HHH has worked alongside the Green Thumb Organic Farm in the past for a ‘Fall on the Farm’ event which included the hayrides and other farm contributions.

As part of the new series of HHH programs it is expected that the relationship with the Green Thumb Organic Farm will continue so that it may serve as a future host to some of the planned monthly field trips.

Qualifications of Personnel

Hudson's Helping Hands Administration



Kristen Teodoro, Co-founder of HHH

The Hudson's Helping Hands foundation is administrated by its co-founders Kristen and Augie Teodoro. All the major decision making is done between these two individuals with the help of their other family members and friends. Kristen calls herself the producer of HHH and an advocate for autism, working to assemble events, raise awareness, and seek donations to further grow the foundation. She has attended Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina and now works full-time at HHH. Kristen's husband Augie is the owner and founder of a marketing agency called Vanguard East Agency in Southampton, New York where he works full-time. In his off time from his agency, Augie works to aid his wife Kristen with HHH and has been known to attend events with their son Hudson who was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. The administration will be charged with aiding the future management consultant with planning and falling through with the proposed plans once the plans are set into action and the consultant is only checking in on a bimonthly basis.

Management Consultant

Upon receiving funds to run the new series of Integrative Learning Experience programs and their associated field trips and family events a management consultant will be hired. The role of this consultant will be to oversee the funds and maximize the potential of future events as they work alongside the HHH administration. HHH will look for a consultant who has their certification as a Project Management Professional (PMP) and passes standard background checks to ensure that the individual has not undergone criminal activity in the past. Additionally, HHH would like to hire a consultant who has a background in education and or special needs so that they may be better equipped to understand the procedures of the programs which HHH plans to set forth. The HHH administration will be available to answer clarifying questions so that the consultant has the best chance of succeeding.

Autism Educator

An autism educator will be hired with the combined efforts of the HHH administration and the management consultant. This educator will be required to have their New York State teacher certification for special needs which consists of a bachelor's degree in special education and a passing score on their Teaching Performance Assessment (edTPA), Educating All Students (EAS), and CST for Students with Disabilities exams. Having an educator who possesses these qualifications will make the HHH certain that they can be trusted to carry out the designed activities of each program and ensure the fair and equal treatment of each child. Additionally, HHH would like to hire an educator who has a long experience (3+ years) of working with children and underserved communities.

Budget

In April 2019 – March 2020, Autism Speaks paid out \$18.2 million in services and support to local communities and families in the United States and around the World (Autism Speaks). Hudson's Helping Hands is requesting \$15,870 to fund a series of Integrative Learning Experience programs with monthly field trips within their foundation for children on the spectrum in the neighboring communities of Southampton, New York.

Distribution of Funds for Integrative Learning Experience programs in HHH

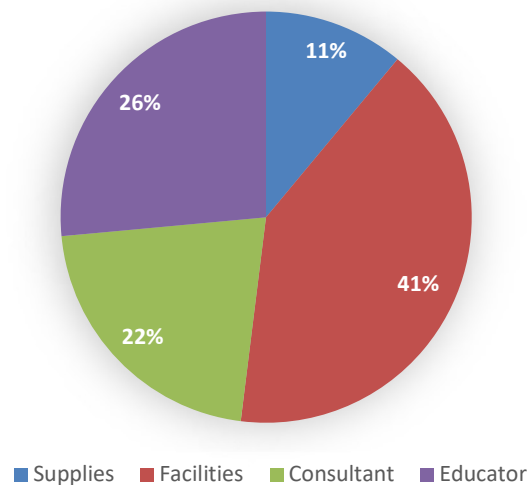


Figure 5

Supplies	\$1,750
Facilities	\$6,500
Consultant	\$3,420
Educator	\$4,200
Total Funds Needed	\$15,870

Supplies

HHH requires funding for supplies to institute a series of improved Integrative Learning Experience programs and monthly field trips. Common materials would include paint, toys, school supplies, and additional items requested at the discretion of the educator. HHH would like to provide each child with their own items to follow COVID-19 protocols as well as to advocate for ownership and interest in the programs. To cover the costs of supplies throughout the year's term approximately \$50 will be allocated per a child. HHH enrolls between 20-30 children, so the foundation would like to provide 35 sets of materials to ensure that all children have their own and can loan extras. Therefore, the total cost of supplies for the new and improved Integrative Learning Experience programs and monthly field trips in HHH is \$1,650.

Facilities

HHH requires funding to host the series of programs at the Southampton Town Recreational Center in addition to field trips at locations such as The Children's Museum of East End and the Green Thumb Organic Farm. The recreational center is a necessary facility as it provides plentiful classroom space that allows for proper COVID-19 protocols to be followed amid the pandemic. STRC charges a rental fee of \$50 per a day, and with Integrative Learning sessions taking place 3 times a week for 40 weeks of the year there will be 120 sessions in total. With this the cost of STRC rentals totals to approximately \$6,000. Field trips will be held once a month for a total of 12 trips. These locations generally provide accommodations for the HHH at a negligible cost. Thus, HHH is requesting an additional \$500 for facilities for a total of \$6,500 to finance facilities costs for Integrative Learning and field trips.

Management Consultant

HHH requests financing to hire a management consultant to aid the administration in planning a series of improved Integrative Learning Experience programs with accompanying field trips. The average rate of a management consultant is roughly \$95 per an hour. It is expected that the consultant should carry out the initial planning from January 2021 to March 2021 in about 4 hours of work time each month. Following the consultants' expert advice their services will still be needed as the HHH administration will take partial control of managing the full series of programs. The consultant will then check in for 4 hours every other month from April 2021 to April 2022 to ensure that the proposed projects are on schedule. Given this information the total cost to hire a management consultant for this project is \$3,420 for 9 months of work. Alternatively, if a representative from Autism Speaks would like to help coordinate the HHH programs than a consultant might not be necessary.

Autism Educator

Autism Speaks is known to pay out large sums of money for local community support services such as special educators. And so, to heighten the standards of HHH series of programs and events an autism educator is expected to be hired. This educator will work as the sole leader of the Integrative Learning classroom. If necessary, the educator will request assistance from the HHH administration and family members to facilitate weekly class operations. The average hourly rate of an autism educator in New York State is \$21.54, the highest in the country. To account for personal costs, the future educator may encounter it is anticipated that they shall be paid upwards of \$35 an hour. This position is not seen as full-time due to the nature of the classes being performed later in the day after traditional school hours. At this rate it is estimated that for 120 sessions during the year long programs the educator will earn a salary of \$4,200 which is requested to be financed as a component of this project.

Summary and Conclusion

Comparison to Present Programs

As parents with children on the spectrum are struggling to meet their child's educational needs with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the HHH has stepped in to help. Unfortunately, however a small foundation such as HHH is only able to help so much without proper funding. The foundation currently provides both Integrated Learning experiences and family events which help to engage young children on the spectrum. Yet these practices fail to meet the full requirements which these kids deserve. The present programs merely employ unproven methods of treatment such as creative and sensory based therapies along with pet and horse therapies with a series of volunteering instructors.

With proper funding from Autism Speaks, HHH will be granted the ability to improve their quality of care by hiring a professional management consultant and an experienced autism educator. Alongside these two new team members HHH will be able to arrange a series of more comprehensive programs that will be properly fulfilled and facilitated through higher qualified instruction. These comprehensive programs are expected to include more standard treatments for ASD such as behavior and communication therapies designed to address the range of social, language, and behavioral difficulties many children on the spectrum encounter. In addition to educational therapies which operate using highly structured programs which autistic children have been proven to respond well to. Also, families will be encouraged to attend these programs with their children so that they may be taught how to better interact with their children in ways that promote social skills and demonstrate everyday living skills. All these advanced approaches will be made possible with the enlistment of an experienced educator who understands how to best match the needs of children on the spectrum.

Benefits to Children and Community

New and improved Integrative Learning Experience programs will make a tremendous difference to the children and communities of the Southampton, New York area on Long Island. Possibly the single greatest issue which arises in children with autism spectrum disorder is habitual problematic behavior. This behavior can have terrible consequences as families are generally unequipped to properly handle and improve it. With the addition of an additional resource in the HHH series of Integrative Learning Experience programs and field trips these families will frequently have a place to bring their children to, relieving stress and teaching them how to better approach their children in the process. This is especially important during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as many of us are finding ourselves home much more often than usual.

Implementing a revised course of programs for children on the spectrum in HHH would give adolescents struggling to socialize with peers and make friends an inclusive outlet to do so. The courses would encourage interaction between students while following COVID-19 protocols. It would promote life-long practices that strengthen their social and everyday life skills. Being apart of these programs would prepare autistic children to enter the next stages of their life with a consistent sense of curiosity for the world around them so that they can learn more and live better lives. This program would also work to support the community by raising awareness for autism and reducing the stigma that is attached to the standard approaches to education for children on the spectrum. The most important piece of these programs is inclusivity and understanding for every child and their families.

Urge to Action

The funding for this program would not only benefit the underserved community of children with ASD and their families, but it would also aid in lessening the devastation caused by the physical closings of numerous educational institutions. Far too many children around the world are struggling to adequately learn remotely. Without the presence of in-person explanations and dialogue, the education system simply is not the same. Only so much can be learned digitally despite the technology we presently have at our disposal. And this is true for all children even those who do not have a disorder such as ASD. The lack of social contact with only distanced communication can negatively affect our mental health severely.

So, with the fulfillment of this project a sizeable group of children on the spectrum will regain the ability to learn in-person, engage with their peers, and benefit from impressive staff all while following state and local COVID-19 protocols to ensure the safety of everyone involved. This is an incredible opportunity to mitigate the burden so many families are dealing with across the globe.

Hudson's Helping Hands is respectfully requesting \$15,870 from Autism Speaks to implement professionally organized educational programs for children on the spectrum during the struggles of the COVID-19 pandemic. With this grant, improved Integrated Learning experiences and family events will become more readily available to students in the Southampton, New York area along with other neighboring communities who have been devastated by the impact of school shutdowns due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Appendix

Figures and Tables

- *Cover Image credits:* Hudson's Helping Hands logo
facebook.com/hudsonshelpinghands
- *Figure 1:* Prevalence of Autism, Combined Prevalence per 1,000 Children
cdc.gov
- *Figure 2:* Southampton Town Recreational Center
sysinc.org
- *Figure 3:* The Children's Museum of East End
cmee.org
- *Figure 4:* Green Thumb Organic Farm
greenthumborganicfarm.com
- *Kristen Teodoro:* facebook.com/kristen.rattler
- *Figure 5:* Distribution of Funds for HHH

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