



Andrew's Gift was developed to provide support to individuals & families living with an autism spectrum disorder.

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Although we saw many improvements, 2021 continued to be a challenging year for Andrew's Gift as we learned to live with the COVID pandemic. We had to cancel our fundraising activities given the uncertainty we were experiencing. On a positive note, although schools remained closed for part of the year, the introduction of iPads in the autism support classrooms we work with, enabled remote training. Without having the iPads available to the students with autism, remote learning would have been difficult if not impossible. We also saw a surge in requests for iPads throughout the year, and added a third iPad training session in November to accommodate the demand. Interestingly, there was significant demand from individuals under the age of 5, the age group where we have the biggest impact. We are continuing to see high demand for iPads and look forward to providing training sessions in 2022 to accommodate all requests. Check out our work here: <https://www.facebook.com/andrewsgift26/videos/2958521857694337>

Literacy Project

This is the sixth year of the project, providing grants to 14 classrooms supporting over 240 students.

- Measurable improvement in essential literacy and pre-literacy skills

- Better communication between home and school in the form of videos (showcasing student skills)

- Students more motivated to engage in more challenging instructional activities (more learning)

- Made learning possible during the pandemic virtual learning periods

- Made integration into general education a possibility for students in one classroom.

Grants

Andrew's Gift provided over 100 grants this year for adaptive equipment, summer camps, weight training, swimming, dance classes, horseback riding and iPads.

What People are Saying

My son is progressing little by little but when he learns a new word, it's amazing. Thank you so much!

This has given me hope in my son's progression in communicating.

Tantrums have drastically died down with the iPad—thank you so much.

They think it's fun, but it's learning!

iPad Giving

We held 3 iPad Giving Days this year, where we worked with families for the day, setting up iPads and apps to support everyday life!

- April 24: Gifted 22 iPads
- October 16: Gifted 19 iPads
- November 13: Gifted 23 iPads

From a follow-up survey 6 weeks after the iPad day for April, 89% saw differences in communication. 100% saw differences in attending to tasks, interactions with families, ability to occupy themselves, and follow directions.

- We have a faculty of 25 multidisciplinary professionals working with 1-3 families in our trainings to use the iPad and apps designed to enable development for the autism population.

Update on Andrew

Andrew was thrilled to be back into his routine as 2021 unfolded. Some of the activities that returned to his schedule this year included summer camp, skiing, football games, and vacation. His one activity that is only partially back is his work at the Center for Industrial Training. He is working 3 days each week versus 5 and he is anxious to return full time. He hopes to return to a full schedule in 2022. Andrew also did very well with his vaccines including his booster with no adverse effects. It is great to see him so happy being back in his routine.

Fundraising Efforts

This year was a challenging year for fundraising as we cancelled both of our golf tournaments. Fortunately, many generous individuals supported Andrew's Gift on National Giving Tuesday as well as during Autism awareness month. We are very thankful for the generous individuals who supported Andrew's Gift in 2021.

We are looking forward to Giving Tuesday on November 30. This has become a special day where the Andrew's Gift community rallies around those living with autism. We appreciate all the well wishes we receive and the kindness and generosity of our donors. We also appreciate that all donations received for Giving Tuesday are matched 100%. Celebrating Giving Tuesday has become a great annual tradition for the Andrew's Gift Community.

Thank You

You do not realize all you have to be thankful for until you see the significant challenges that others endure. We see that in the autism community every day, but it becomes especially clear when you go through a crisis like the pandemic. Dorothy and I are blessed to be surrounded by many wonderful people. We are thankful for our family and friends, our Board of directors who generously donate their time and expertise for the benefit of Andrew's Gift, our staff and faculty, our volunteers who assist us during the year and our generous donors. We truly value your friendship and everything you do to improve the quality of life for the autism community.

Dorothy and I hope all of you and your families have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. We are very much looking forward to a successful 2022.