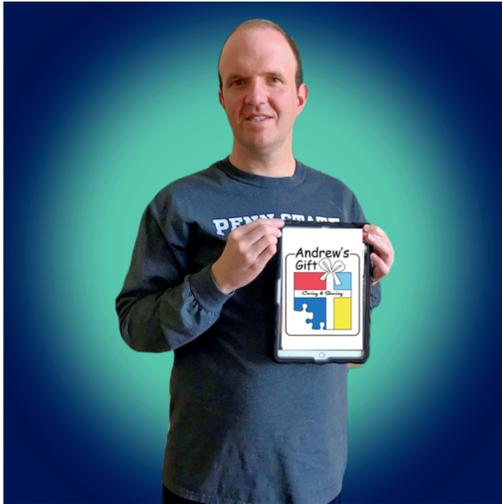


Andrew's Gift 2022 Newsletter



This year was a great year for Andrew's Gift and the autism community. As we emerged from the COVID cloud, we saw a significant increase in requests for a variety of items from the autism community. As a result, we expanded to 3 iPad training days serving approximately 90 families. We also expanded our technology grants and expertise in effectively using the technology to 8 autism support classes in Central PA. And of course, we continue to meet the most amazing people who touch Andrew's Gift in so many ways. We are blessed to have so many amazing individuals come into our lives.

iPad Training Program

Our iPad training days were a tremendous success. We held three sessions and served approximately 90 families. We provided those families with new iPads, a set of highly effective apps designed for the autism community, and a day of training on how to use the iPad and apps. Our faculty conducting our training continued to grow to a staff of approximately 30 faculty members. Our faculty have diverse skills including speech and occupational therapy, special education and technology. As our faculty have increased, we now provide one to one training for the attendees of our iPad training sessions.



We are very excited about the outcomes we see resulting from the use of the iPads and apps by the recipients. Some of the outcomes include:

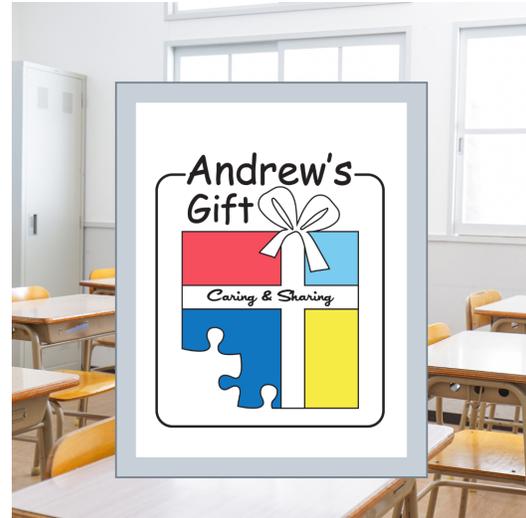
- Enhanced communication skills by adding words to the individual's vocabulary
- Enhanced communication skills using the iPad to communicate the wants and needs of the individual
- Increased time and attention to stay on task
- Increase in skills including scheduling and reading

It is heartwarming to see the skill development through incorporating the use of the iPad and apps into an individual's life.

In 2024 we will begin working with the Hershey Medical Center autism clinic on the effective use of iPads and apps by their autism patients. We will add a fourth iPad training day focused on the patients in their autism clinic. We are excited to work with Hershey as they serve many adults with autism which will compliment our current program of primarily children with autism.

Autism Support Classrooms

We are also very excited by the developments in our program working with autism support classrooms in Central PA. We are currently working with 8 classrooms. We provide a host of technology for the classrooms including smart boards, iPads, and an extensive set of apps geared toward the autism population. In addition, we have our speech therapists work with the classroom teachers, aids and support professionals. We work with each classroom for a three-year period with a goal of integrating the effective use of technology into their daily routine.



The feedback on the breakthroughs that the teachers are seeing in their classrooms are fantastic. A couple examples include:

- Individuals who have never effectively interacted with others approaching our speech therapists with their iPads to engage in play
- Individuals who could not attend to any task in a meaningful way now sitting down with the teacher to read their favorite story on the iPad

The growth in communication skills, attending to task and interaction are amazing. Based on the success we are having in the autism support classrooms; our goal is to expand into 12 classrooms over the next few years.

We are most excited by the teachers seeing the effectiveness in integrating technology into their classroom and seeing the accelerated development of their students with autism. The teachers will take this experience to the classrooms they work with in the future.



Providing for Other Needs

We also continue to provide additional gifts to families to enrich the lives of their family members with autism. Our goal is to provide activities that are enjoyable and developmental. Some of the activities we provide are therapeutic horseback riding, swimming, summer camps and weight training. We also provide for children to improve their living conditions . For example, we provide beds and bedroom furniture, so the children have a bed to sleep in.

The Generosity of Others



GIVING TUESDAY



We are very fortunate to have met so many generous people over the past year. We have two Andrew's Gift Fund raising events during the year. Both events have a committed donor who matches each donation we receive dollar for dollar. Our first event is autism awareness month where we solicit contributions during the month of April. All the donations we receive are matched. This year we raised \$40,000 including our match. We just recently completed our second fund raising event, Giving Tuesday. Including our match, we raised \$62,000. In addition to the money we raise, these events are great as we talk with our supporters who send their well wishes along to Andrew's Gift. We really appreciate everyone's support and comments of encouragement.

Throughout the year we meet other groups who want to assist the autism community by raising funds for Andrew's Gift. Some of those organizations include:

- The Mount Joy Police and Fire Departments who sold Tee Shirts during Autism Awareness Month. At the end of April, they presented Andrew's Gift with a check for \$9,000



- A Girl Scout Troop from Duncannon consisting of 4 girl scouts. The girls held multiple fundraisers throughout the year. The Girl Scout Troop presented Andrew's Gift with 4 iPads for our iPad training day along with numerous other items that they asked us to share with the families of children living with Autism
- A group from Perry County who knitted a beautiful quilt highlighting the autism community. We look forward to auctioning the quilt during Autism Awareness month

The generosity of individuals in support of the autism community continues to inspire us.

Our Board of Directors and Volunteers

Andrew's Gift benefits from the generosity of our Board of Directors and other volunteers who contribute their time, money, and skills. We have a working Board who takes the time to work with individual families to make sure that, in filling their grant requests, we are optimally meeting the needs of the individuals. Because of the generous donation of time of our Board of Directors and volunteers, 100% of the donations we receive go to fulfilling the mission of Andrew's Gift.

A Final Thought

Dorothy and I are thankful for everyone who supports Andrew's Gift. Our Board of Directors, our staff, our volunteers and our donors come together to make Andrew's Gift a great success.

We send to everyone our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are looking forward to a Great 2023 at Andrew's Gift!

Sincerely,

Dorothy and Andy Ward