



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Overview:

Aspergers101 was founded in 2013 to educate the public about Aspergers Syndrome and High Functioning Autism. We provide an online learning platform, offer presentations in schools and organizations, produce videos, and present free community programs to raise awareness and advocate for policy changes to empower people with autism and AS working toward greater independence. When parents and educators don't know where to turn, Aspergers101 aims to provide them with the best information and resources available.

Our award-winning website, www.Aspergers101.org, features weekly articles in the areas of Medical, Education, Family, Employment, Social Development, Adulthood and Driving with Autism. Doctors, therapists, educators, and specialists provide down-to-earth, accessible articles to help parents, families, and the autism community better understand medications, training, diagnosis, therapies and services, and to make educational choices that suit their individual child from K-12 to higher education and beyond.

In 2015, we began a campaign to address the need among people with Aspergers and High Functioning Autism to obtain driver's licenses and maintain safety in interactions with law enforcement. In only two years time, this program has reached thousands of individuals with autism and their families, provided training for hundreds of Texas law enforcement officers, and successfully advocated for new legislation supporting people with a variety of disabilities that fall under the category of "Communication Impediment with a Peace Officer."



Aspergers101
FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY
 January - December 2017

	TOTAL
Revenue/ Donations	20,868.09
Grants	20,311.26
Jennifer Allen	850.00
Sales	1,425.45
Bumper Sticker	94.41
Total Sales	1,519.86
Website Underwriting	720.00
Total Revenue	\$44,269.21
GROSS PROFIT	\$44,269.21
Expenditures/Advertising/Promotions	1,237.75
Bank Charges	846.70
Commissions & fees	3,000.00
Conference Fees	851.73
Contract Labor	20,675.77
Contributions From Us	284.87
Dues & Subscriptions	2,664.13
Food	1,719.71
Fuel	354.70
Hardware/Software	1,225.28
Hotel	1,122.05
Parking	24.29
Postage	184.80
Repair & Maintenance	50.00
Stationery & Printing	449.46
Summer Autism Series w/SA Public Library	-355.83
Supplies	480.97
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expenditure	19.44
Website Maintenance	848.04
Website Marketing	563.69
Work Shops	6,050.46
Total Expenditures	\$42,298.01
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$1,971.20
NET REVENUE	\$1,971.20

2017 Impact

In the last year, Aspergers101 has exponentially expanded our impact to include autism training for businesses, law enforcement via livestream and training modules. In addition, our organization has spear-headed a state wide marketing campaign and Texas DPS policy changes positively affecting those with a communication impediment. Below lists those achievements:

- **Autism Driving Camp** - Aspergers101 successfully held the first “Driving with Autism” camp for new drivers, partnering with the Texas Department of Public Safety to match young drivers with State Troopers for one-on-one driving training sessions. At the camp, we were also able to video record “pull-over situations” for both our law enforcement training videos, and our training videos for drivers with a communication impediment. A study of the impact of this project was conducted by researchers from the UT Health Science Center, and was presented at the Texas Psychological Association.



- Summer Series w/San Antonio Public Library - Aspergers101's local impact** also included the presentation of a series of four informative workshops on Autism at the San Antonio Public Library throughout the summer 2017. This series covered four topics related to Aspergers Syndrome and autism: 1) Diagnosis; 2) Social Development; 3) Choices in Education; and 4) Independent Living. Through our partnership with Sinclair Broadcasting, The Texas Governors Committee on People with Disabilities and WOAI-TV, we were able to live-stream these free community presentations, to reach a **total audience of over 120,000 individuals state-wide!** This excellent resource continues to inform today as it remains on Aspergers101, free of charge. You may view all sessions in their entirety here: <https://aspergers101.com/summerseries/>



ASPERGER SYNDROME: FROM DIAGNOSIS TO INDEPENDENCE

This educational series focuses on understanding and excelling with High-Functioning Autism or Asperger Syndrome. A well-known team of autism experts (many of whom live successfully on the spectrum) has been assembled to discuss important related topics. A live Q & A will follow each session. All programs will be presented by Jennifer Allen/Aspergers101 and be held at Central Library Auditorium 600 Soledad St., 78205.

TUE, MAY 9, 6:30 - 7:30 PM
DIAGNOSIS
Do you suspect someone you love has autism or Asperger Syndrome? This program will explore the signs, the medical explanation, and the hardwired facts. Topics discussed will be the importance of diagnosis, grief, and moving forward with awareness. *Special guest: Dr. Berenice de la Cruz, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Chief Operating Officer, Autism Community Network*

TUE, JUNE 13, 6:30 - 7:30 PM
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
This program will explore the feeling of isolation and new aids such as internet apps to help you connect with your loved one. Personal and work relationships as well as the dangers of internet relationships will also be discussed. *Special guest: Dr. Louise O'Donnell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, UT Health Science Center*

TUE, JULY 11, 6:30 - 7:30 PM
CHOICES IN EDUCATION
Learn more about the various options for school: public, private, charter or homeschool. Discuss the pros and cons of each and how to tailor the K-12 years to suit your child's needs. *Special guest: Lisa Rogers, Director of Educating Diverse Learners*

TUE, AUGUST 8, 6:30 - 7:30 PM
INDEPENDENT LIVING
Discover helpful tools that assist with independent living. Discuss life after high school including driving and transportation, choices for higher education, employment, and living options. *Special guests: Julie Coy Manier & Grant Manier, authors of "Different is More"*



Presented by Jennifer Allen and Samuel Allen
Founders of Aspergers101

ALL FOUR PROGRAMS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED VIA SINCLAIR BROADCASTING
NEWS4SA.COM/LIVE/EVENT

WATCH FROM

- CORTEZ BRANCH LIBRARY
- PARMAN BRANCH LIBRARY
- CODY BRANCH LIBRARY
- MISSION BRANCH LIBRARY

A PANEL OF EXPERTS WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN EACH PROGRAM:

- Dr. Gha Edwards, Psy.D. Behaviorist
- Dema K. Stout, MA, PCC, CPCC, Greatness Coaching
- Janet Endigaris, Autism Education Specialist, Region 20
- Dr. Berenice de la Cruz, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Chief Operating Officer, Autism Community Network
- Dr. Louise O'Donnell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, UT Health Science Center



mysapi mysapi.org 210.207.2500

- **Training/Workshops** - Aspergers101 has continued to provide free workshops and trainings for parents, educators, and the community at large, covering a variety of topics including *Early Signs of Autism & Asperger's*, *What Happens After High-School?* and *Adult Coping Skills*. We have provided these trainings for teachers and parents at Region 20, Region 3, area colleges and North East Independent School District. We have also donated dozens of copies of the *Coping to Excelling* documentary, produced by Jennifer Allen/Aspergers101, to San Antonio area schools, foundations, families and autism related organizations.



We are also expand our impact to employers, and have collaborated with Splashtown, H-E-B, and others to provide training on best practices for hiring people with Aspergers and high-functioning autism, as well as for understanding and serving customers with AS and autism.

- Driving with Autism and other Communication Impediments – Aspergers101** has been responsible for a state-wide marketing campaign notifying Texas citizens of their right to place a new restriction code directly on their driver licenses informing an officer of the law of potential challenges in a pull over scenario. Over 500 frames posters (English and Spanish) and 25,000 brochures (English and Spanish) were produced and distributed to all Texas DPS Driver's License Offices. This program is on-going and now has the endorsement and assistance of the Texas Governors Committee on People with Disabilities.



- In addition to alerting the Texas population of this ground-breaking opportunity for protection, Aspergers101 produced and launched a :30 Public Service Announcement that aired in all major cities in the State of Texas. This PSA continues to air today. You can view the PSA and read more about Driving with Autism initiative here: <https://aspergers101.com/drivingwithautism/>





TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
RON SIMMONS
DISTRICT 65

April 6, 2017

Asperger's 101: Driving with Autism Initiative

As a parent of a young adult on the Autism Spectrum, I am proud to support Asperger's 101 in their efforts to educate the public on communication challenges with drivers on the autism spectrum through their "Driving with Autism" initiative. Making independent living more accessible to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other communication impediments has always been an issue of personal importance to me.

House Bill 1434, which would allow information on Driving with Autism to be displayed in driver's license offices, was unanimously voted out of the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety on March 14, 2017, and currently awaits its second reading in the House Chamber.

Getting information out on the Communication Impediment Restriction to those on the spectrum and to their caregivers is of vital importance. This restriction serves to alert law enforcement during encounters with drivers that have communication impediments, which would ease the situation for both the officer and the individual with the restriction. In my own experience with my son Daniel I have learned that anything that can be done to reduce anxiety in such situations is an important step toward giving individuals on the spectrum further opportunities for independence.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Simmons".

Ron Simmons
State Representative
House District 65





I wanted to share my experience with you to give you some personal insight into this organization.

My oldest child Dominic, now a senior at Saint Mary's Hall, has Asperger's and since his diagnosis several years ago, this organization has been exceptionally helpful in providing clear information as well as positive resources and support in what I have found to be the very complex, confusing and many times, negative world that overshadows autism.

As a mother, I embrace my son's situation – I don't spend time lamenting what "could have been"; instead I work every day to help him be the best he can be. Not all families dealing with autism have the same positive attitude and not all educators are familiar with the condition so it was disheartening for me when I first entered this world. I was looking for information on what was POSSIBLE for my son and my family and I finally found it in Aspergers101.

Started by Jennifer Allen, a mom just like me who found the world surrounding high functioning autism to be lacking in information and community outreach, Aspergers101 first created a documentary called "Coping to Excelling: Solutions for School Age Children Diagnosed with High Functioning Autism or Asperger's" which is now shown on PBS/KLRN. She then went on to build <http://aspergers101.com/> an award-winning website that provides original daily content for families like mine on a variety of topics such as Medical, Education, Family, Employment, Adulthood and Social Development. Featured experts include world renowned autism expert and inventor, Dr. Temple Grandin as well as Dr. Tony Attwood and many living successfully on the spectrum. Additionally, short videos, titled *Top of the Spectrum News*, offer insights and much needed information into successful daily living with Asperger's Syndrome.

This budding nonprofit has already accomplished so much driven by one woman's passion and vision, but with very little funding. They are now poised to significantly broaden their impact through their latest project: working with the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities, and our State Legislature on a two-year initiative called "Driving with Autism." This trail-blazing initiative will allow Texas to lead the country in innovations to improve the interactions between law enforcement and people with disabilities while providing support for drivers wanting to expand their independence by driving.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear my perspective. If you'd like to learn more about Aspergers101, I'd be happy to share what I know with you or better yet, introduce you to Jennifer Allen - I think you'll be impressed by who she is and what she's been able to accomplish working out of her home here in San Antonio!

Many thanks, Tina

*Tina James
H-E-B
Chief People Officer
210-938-8226*



Jennifer Allen and the non-profit, Aspergers101 is making a sweeping difference in the lives of Texas drivers challenged with communication. With little more than a closet converted to a home office, Jennifer has and is continuing to reform the Texas DPS system by way of legislative changes, state-wide awareness/marketing campaign and law enforcement education. This education protects both the person with a communication challenge and the law enforcement officer who might not recognize Autism, Deafness, Parkinson's and other similar diagnosis.

Texas born Jennifer Allen, founder and President of Aspergers101, knows firsthand about those concerns. She left her career in Broadcasting when she learned her oldest son, Samuel, has Asperger's Syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism. She then dedicated her life to informing others about living their fullest life possible with the autism diagnosis. She wrote and produced the documentary "Coping to Excelling: Solutions for School-Age Children Diagnosed with Autism" which aired, free of charge, in multiple theatres across Texas. After seeing the great need for awareness, Jennifer developed and launched a 24/7 on-line resource called Aspergers101.org which continues to rise daily in both in credibility and unique visitors. Her on-going outreach to the education, medical and parenting communities is life-changing such as her recent Summer Series Program with the SA Public Library System titled "From Diagnosis to Independence" live-streamed via Sinclair Broadcasting throughout Texas to over 80,000 total viewers. When Sam became a teen driver, turned her concerns into action by creating a statewide initiative called "Driving with Autism and other Communication Impediments". "Driving with Autism" alerts law enforcement of citizens that may be delayed in speech, response time and understanding of body language. It protects both the person with the communication challenge as well as the law enforcement officer who otherwise might have misinterpreted delayed speech for defiant behavior. Her legislation was passed unanimously in the last session (House Bill 1434) that took effect in September 2016, allowing her brochures and posters highlighting the "communication impediment" code to be placed in all DPS Driver License offices. Since that time, Jennifer continues to ensure placement of over 30,000 tri-fold "Driving with Autism" brochures and framed Posters (English and Spanish languages) as well as informative videos statewide informing citizens of the new option available to them. The "Driving with Autism" PSA series (she funded, wrote and produced) is currently airing on

most all TV and radio stations across the state. She has appeared on behalf of the initiative in numerous media programs, conferences, police training and social media. One of the PSAs features her son Samuel Allen, urging drivers with autism to consider applying for the protective code. A second PSA was produced targeting the seven percent of the state's population (hearing impaired) by spokesperson Emma Faye Rudkin founder of Aid the Silent and the first deaf Miss San Antonio.

Current Law Enforcement Training on Autism is incorrect, inadequate and misleading. The inappropriate grouping of the 5 hour training on autism with more aggressive mental health disorders increases the risk for escalated encounters for adults with Asperger Syndrome or communication disorders. Jennifer teamed with U.T. Health Science Center as she initiated the training and tracked outcomes and feedback to document law enforcement's understanding of autism. She was invited to present her data at the 2016 Texas Psychological Association Convention in Austin, Texas. It is with this data that is changing the method of training law enforcement agencies on Autism Spectrum Disorders. In addition, Jennifer worked directly with Assistant Director for the Driver License Division Joe Peters (retired) to include new text in the Texas Drivers Handbook alerting citizens of the new restriction code and what constitutes a communication Impediment. She also co-wrote and developed the "Driving with Autism" Camp alongside Sergeant Jordan Melson with the Texas DPS Tactical Training Facility in Florence Texas. Camp attendees will also participate in role-play scenarios about what to expect during a traffic stop. Though the camp has been announced, developed and tested, launch is delayed due to current DPS funding restraints. Jennifer is introducing a new bill for the 86th Texas Legislative Session that if passed, will allow citizens the option to register their vehicle through the DMV as a person with a "communication impediment" subcategory Autism, Asperger Syndrome, Deafness, PTSD, Parkinson's, and more. The huge benefit would be that an officer would know of a person's challenge with communication *prior to approaching the vehicle* by showing up in the TLETS (Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System). She has garnered support for the Bill from the Texas DMV, DPS and the Governors Committee on People with Disabilities. All three components of Aspergers101 initiative would then work together: Factual training for law enforcement on ASD and Communication Impediments, option of Communication Impediment on driver's license or state ID, and option of the registration of a vehicle (as a person with Communication Impediment) in the TLETS.

Sincerely,

Jane L Lynch M.D., FAAP

Professor of Pediatrics