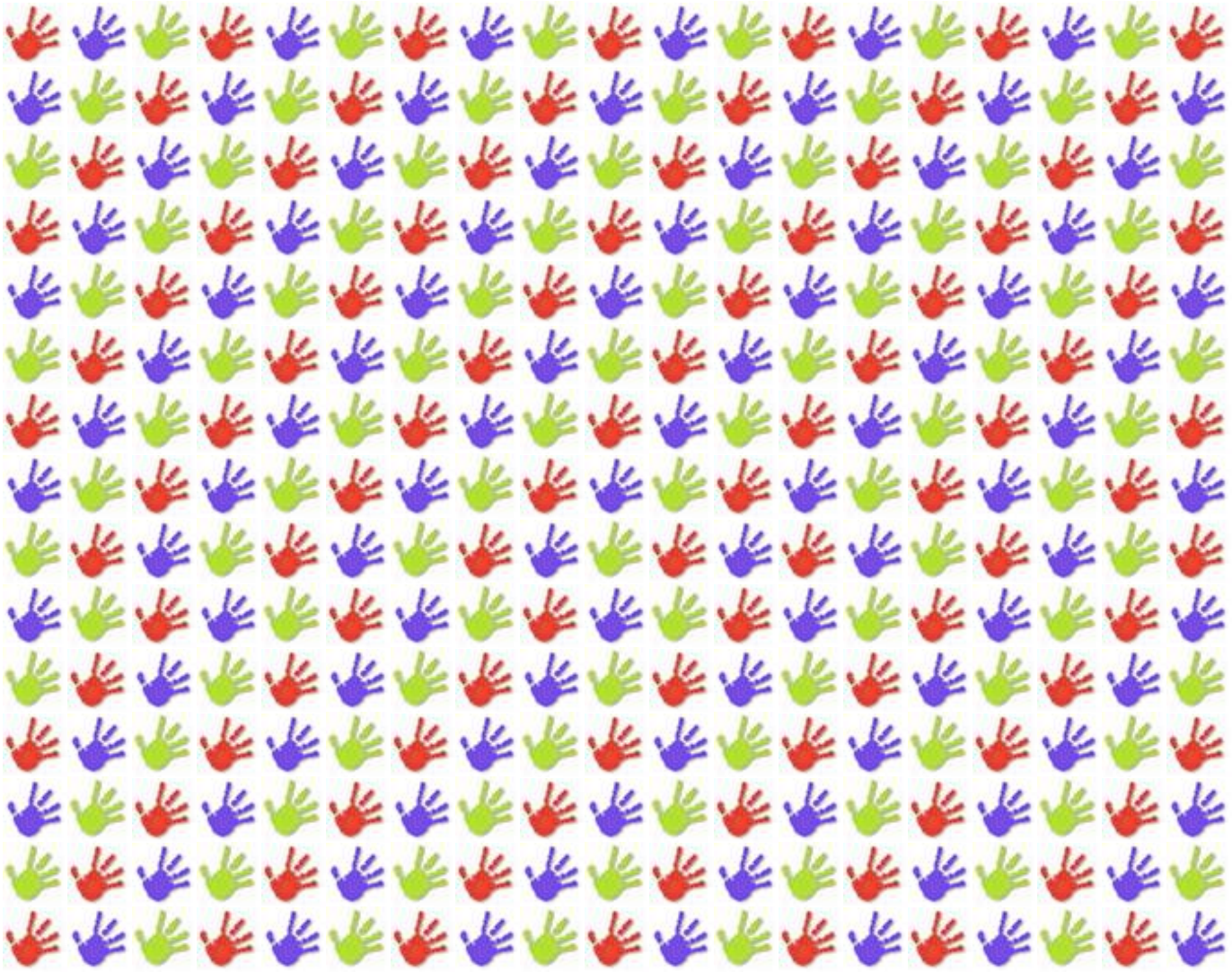

Special scotland
working for autism

Corporate Donating

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Special Scotland and a massive thank you for taking the time to read through our 'Corporate Donating' pack!

Special Scotland is a Scottish Charity, working for autism, which launched in April 2008. It was started by two volunteers, Rory & Julie who have worked with autistic children in the past, often in the family's homes. This experience highlighted the lack of support offered to families affected by autism and instigated the idea to create a charity that would 'bridge the gap' between support offered by local councils and what was still desperately needed by the families themselves. Special Scotland is still run by Rory & Julie who operate on a voluntary basis, running the charity and holding down full time jobs in the process.

What is Autism?

Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) is a lifelong condition that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them.

Autistic spectrum disorder is the term that is used to describe a group of disorders, including autism and Asperger syndrome. The word 'spectrum' is used because the characteristics of the condition vary from one person to another. Those with autism may also have a learning disability. Those who have Asperger syndrome tend to have average, or above average, intelligence, but still have difficulty making sense of the world.

The causes of ASD are still unknown, and research is ongoing. However, research suggests that genetic factors may be involved, and there is also some evidence to show that the condition may be linked to environmental factors, such as pollution, or viruses like rubella (German measles).

Recent research suggests that around 1 in 100 people have ASD in the UK. It is thought to affect four times as many males than females, although the reason for this is unknown.

There is no cure for ASD and it continues throughout life. However, many treatments and different types of support are available. An early diagnosis can help to put appropriate support into place for both the individual and their families.

What Do We Do?

- Providing Grants to aid training needs, equipment purchases as well as tailor designed support.
- Free to use Online Library covering Autism & Aspergers from dietary advice to play advice.
- Links to HMIE Links to schools in Scotland who are experienced in teaching children with Autism.
- Intervention Introductions to give families a taster of the therapies available.
- An online forum in Special Chat to allow families to communicate online and share support in their local area
- Free Parent Information Afternoons held in various locations to introduce parents to Special Scotland and build friendships and swap ideas.

Our Principles

- Work with our families and guardians on their chosen program to ensure all programs and aid are family led with support and guidance from the charity.
- All families, guardians and others to be treated with the utmost respect and confidentiality.
- Create partnerships with local groups, councils, professionals and other charities to ensure positive resource, information sharing and good practise.
- Equal Opportunities.
- Dependability and accountability.
- Create awareness and understanding of ASC.

What Have We Done So Far?

- Donated almost £3000.00 in grants to families throughout Scotland, covering Glasgow, West Lothian & Edinburgh
- Launched our free Online Library encompassing 27 books which parents can loan for free. We even pay the postage!
- Held Parent Support Afternoons in Edinburgh & West Lothian.
- Participated in Pedal for Scotland, held two Ceilidhs and several Bag Packing sessions.

What's Next?

- In 2009, Special Scotland is looking to double the amount of grants we give out to over £6000,00.
- We want to extend the Online Library to incorporate over 50 books, covering real stories, training books and books designed to support parents.
- Parent Information Afternoons will become more regular and operate in more locations.
- Increase the size of the website to include a large 'Chat' area, more Intervention Introductions as well as a larger resource centre.
- Exhibiting in conferences on autism across Scotland to raise the profile of the charity.
- Create weekend offices to allow parents to visit the charity face to face as
  well as offering the website & email support.
- Run conferences on autism across the country to raise awareness of the condition and information to parents.

What do the people we help, think of us?

In January 2009, we contacted all the families we had helped in 2008 and asked for their honest opinion in how they found the services they received. We want to prove to you that our services are needed and greatly appreciated by families throughout Scotland. Without your help, we would not be able to make the changes to people's lives that we do now.

'I received a grant for my son Connor to have Dolphin assisted therapy in Florida. I was referred by another charity who where not able to help me. At a time where I was fighting for assistance with no success Special Scotland gave Connor his first grant which got the ball rolling, at a time where i thought of giving up. When i contacted the charity I was given first class service. I found it very easy to talk to them and they where sensitive and caring.'

'Having our son recently diagnosed with severe autism was a shattering blow to myself & my husband. Having Special Scotland gave us the chance to get back on our feet and properly equip us to really help James develop and prosper. Firstly through education via your online library was so valuable in answering many questions I had on autism. Having exhausted my local library I was concerned about the cost involved for buying up- to-date books. Your service took a massive pressure off of me in wanting to leave 'no stone unturned' when it came to James autism. Secondly, having the wonderful opportunity to apply for funding directly for courses/tools we know would be of benefit to James was a much needed antidote in lifting the depression that was surrounding us.'

'Its great to have somewhere local working to help our children, and providing a service that can make a real difference to families. Unfortunately when I first set up my program Special did not exist, and i had to waste an awful lot of valuable time and money doing research and trying to pull information/suitable people to work with my son from nowhere. Your site is a great place to start, pulling lots of practical help onto one website.

I really hope it continues to do well and carries on this great work. Its great for parents who have little time/energy left to do all that you provide, but most importantly of all it benefits the vulnerable and deserving children with autism with help that is so desperately needed.'

'We were lucky enough to receive funding for our son James who has autism. Special Scotland funded a two day course on picture exchange communication (PEC's). Our son is non-verbal so this course taught us the valuable skills in effective communication with our child. To date, James experiences less frustration with communication. To work alongside the PEC's we felt James would benefit by a series of language DVD's (Bumblebees). This company has been highly recommended to help children with delayed speech. We also made an application for some physical based toys in order to give James a much needed physical outlet. Having a trampoline & slide will provide hours of fun and interaction thanks to Special Scotland. If is was not for the generosity of Special Scotland we would not of been able to help our son with his autism.'

What's in it for you?

Improved Company Image
Research has demonstrated the tangible benefits that a charity partnership can have on corporate and brand image.

Corporate Responsibility
A charity partnership can demonstrate corporate responsibility and differentiates your company from the competition.

A Focus for Publicity
We will advertise your company brand and logo on our website, our soon to be launched 2009 brochure and all our fundraising event materials.

A Boost to Team Morale
Uniting staff behind a common cause can dramatically boost morale. A comprehensive fundraising programme is an effective team-building tool, improving internal as well as external relations.

A Working Partnership
We do not just want your money, vital as it is! We aim to create long term relationships with business people who genuinely care about autistic children and their families, and who want to help us with our work.

Promote your Involvement
We will present you with a prestigious framed certificate, renewed each year you support Special, for your reception area. The presentation itself, held during or twice annual Ceilidhs often attracts local media coverage and, for larger companies, the chance for your branch or depot to make the company newssheet.

Get in Touch

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