



## Autism can be reliably diagnosed by age **2**

### Home for Lenora & Her Son

Autism Speaks



*I have a son who was diagnosed with Autism at the age of 3. I've known about Autism Speaks but never thought that I would find myself in need of any assistance. Until, due to unforeseen family emergencies and personal health issues, I found myself almost homeless. I had already found a suitable place to live but I didn't have enough money to pay the security deposit and last month's rent in order to move in. I contacted a representative from Autism Speaks and explained my situation. I was then referred to Autism Speaks Cares because they offered emergency financial assistance to families of children diagnosed with Autism. At first, I was a little confused about the process but the representative patiently explained everything to me. I was able to complete the application requirements online and was contacted in less than a week with news that my circumstances qualified my family for the help we needed. I never thought that my family would ever have to face possibly being displaced, but with help from Autism Speaks and Autism Speaks Cares, I was able to secure a home for my family. It's been over a year since we moved and I'm as grateful today as I was then for Autism Speaks helping to make our burden a little lighter.*

### WHAT YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS

- **Promote** safety by providing training and education to first-responders on autism spectrum disorders.
- **Provide** information guides and tool kits for families to navigate their child's diagnoses from youth to adulthood including our First 100 Day Kit- a personalized kit that lists local service providers, support groups, recreational activities, sources of legal information, conferences, local autism and disability organizations. \$50 can provide a family with this kit!
- **Connect** employers with qualified job candidates who have autism through [www.thespectrumcareers.com](http://www.thespectrumcareers.com) in partnership with Rangam Consultants.
- **Advocate** for more inclusive health insurance coverage, fund research on autism spectrum disorders, and build national awareness through our "Light it Up Blue" campaign.

### ABOUT CHC: CREATING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

CHC: Creating Healthier Communities is a catalyst for good health, bringing communities, nonprofits, and businesses together around a shared commitment to better health and wellbeing. We represent thousands of high-impact nonprofits nationwide, working to address barriers to good health and equity, and we connect them with capital from our corporate, foundation, and government partners to power transformative change in the communities in which they work. By listening to partners and convening community leaders, we ensure that we always act in the best interests of each community, directing resources and expertise where it is needed most.

**Every 23 seconds**  
someone in the U.S. is diagnosed with diabetes.



## WHAT YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS

- **\$5 can buy** a week's worth of glucose tablets, an important treatment for low blood sugar episodes, for a child having fun while learning to thrive with diabetes at camp.
- **\$25 could provide** an individual with a specialized cookbook to help them learn more about their disease, what and how to eat to manage everyday living.
- **\$200 could pay for** one child's happy day at our camp where using insulin, checking blood sugars, and watching for lows is part of everything we do.

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## Summer Camp

American Diabetes Association



*Kids running everywhere, swings are flying, water is splashing, and games are unfolding. It's a typical summer camp in every way. Except One. Every one of the kids has diabetes. Here, for a few glorious days – and in many cases, for the first time in their lives – they're just like every other kid. Laughing, playing, hanging out.*

*The effect is remarkable. Each summer, nearly 6,000 kids at dozens of camps across the country say goodbye to their camp friends and return home with newfound confidence in themselves, their future, and their ability to master a disease that leaves them feeling different. Providing this kind of life-changing impact for all people living with diabetes – and those at risk for the disease – is why we hold events, programs, and campaigns year-round.*

Every year **175,000**  
cases of cancer will be  
diagnosed in children  
around the world.



## WHAT YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS

- **\$7 can provide** a medical teaching doll to help explain a diagnosis to children like Colton.
- **\$30 could provide** a meal for a patient and their family at the Kay Kafe cafeterias in St. Jude Children's Research Hospital facilities.
- **\$50 per month** could assist in providing domestic airfare for a patient needing treatment away from home.

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### Colton's Story

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital®

Doctors discovered Colton suffered from a high grade glioma tumor in September, and shortly after he underwent brain surgery.

Colton's family then turned to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for his continuing treatment, including chemotherapy.

"St. Jude spares no expense," said Colton's mom, Colleen. "It doesn't matter the cost, they're going to do what's in the best interest of my child. The attitude is not to wait and see if something happens, but rather to make sure nothing happens."





We've seen a **23%** decline in the cancer death rate since 1991. That's 1.7 million lives saved.

### WHAT YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS

- **Encouraging Prevention:** Taking steps to prevent cancer or find it at its earliest, most treatable stage.
- **Providing Support:** Helping you and your family through every step of the cancer journey.
- **Fostering Innovation:** Funding and conducting lifesaving research to help better understand, prevent, and cure cancer.
- **Fighting for What's Right:** Working with lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and rally communities worldwide.
- **Access to Care:** Granting access to lifesaving cancer care for all.

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### Treatment Decisions

American Cancer Society



*It can be scary when you get those 3 words from your doctor, "You have cancer." Bob first heard those words in January, 2014. He'd had a prostate cancer screening during a routine doctor's visit. The results were suspicious, so the doctor sent Bob to a urologist, who did more tests, including a prostate biopsy, CT scan, and ultrasound. The tests confirmed prostate cancer. The doctor gave him treatment options that included surgery, radiation, or a clinical trial. Bob joined a prostate cancer support group to meet and talk to men who'd been through treatment. He opted for surgery to remove his prostate, after which all signs of cancer were gone.*

*But about 1 ½ years later at a follow-up visit, the urologist found that Bob's levels were once again elevated. Treatment options were to wait and monitor the cancer, or begin radiation treatment. "When fighting cancer, it's easy to rack up bills fast," says Bob. Once you use cancer insurance, you can't get it again, so when his cancer came back, he didn't have that safety net. However, Bob still began radiation treatment making ends meet with help from his community. After 3 months of radiation, his last test indicated no cancer. Bob knows "Cancer doesn't care what age you are, what color you are, or how much money you have. We are all survivors".*



**March of Dimes leads the fight for the health of all moms and babies believing that every baby deserves the best possible start.** Together with March of Dimes, we are changing the policies protecting their health, improving the health care they receive, pioneering research to find solutions, empowering families with knowledge and tools to have healthier pregnancies, and uniting communities building a brighter future for us all.



## WHAT YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS

Together with March of Dimes, we can fight for the health of moms and babies, and impact the lives of millions, including:

- **110 wins** in advocacy and legislation were achieved across the country improving health care and access
- **\$19.3 million** invested in research to defeat premature birth and birth defects
- **120,000 people** visited the online community, [shareyourstory.org](http://shareyourstory.org), to connect with similar families
- **3 million people** participated in March for Babies

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## The Kosmas Family Story: Chelsea, Kris, Olivia, and Ella



*March of Dimes*

*After a long and challenging road to pregnancy, Chelsea and Kris Kosma were thrilled to find out they were expecting twin girls. At her 18-week check-up, complications were discovered that required Chelsea to be put on full bed rest for the remainder of her pregnancy.*

*Ten difficult weeks of hospitalization later, Olivia and Ella were born at 28 weeks and 6 days, weighing less than 3 pounds each. Olivia and Ella were so ill, it was a long and painful 24 hours before Chelsea could hold Olivia and 4 days before she could hold Ella. They spent the next 52 days in the NICU receiving breathing support and blood transfusions, finally coming home in December of 2012.*

*Today, Olivia and Ella are thriving, happy, smart five-year-olds because of the talented NICU team and the scientific advances funded by March of Dimes.*