



LILY GRACE FOUNDATION

## Lily Grace Foundation 2017 Annual Report



[www.lilygracefoundation.org](http://www.lilygracefoundation.org)





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## LILY GRACE FOUNDATION

### Lily Grace Foundation

LGF is an award winning 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our EIN is 46-4348547.

**Our Mission:** Providing children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families, to education, resources, research, and scholarships for integrative & medical therapies.

**About:** The Lily Grace Foundation was inspired by Lily Grace, who was diagnosed at 21 months with autism. It is the LGF founders' hope to provide children and families access to education and resources to help them along their healing journey. Lily's journey has included medical, biomedical, alternative and integrative therapies. Today Lily is 11 years old and has made tremendous progress. She continues to participate in variety of integrative therapies. Lily loves animals, nature, school, yoga and attending ballet class. Her favorite animal is an elephant.

**Services:** All services are provided free of charge to families with children affected by Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

*Our services include: Advocacy, Autism Awareness and Education, Child Development and Parent Engagement Education, Child Language Intervention, Public School ASD Classroom Yoga Classes, Respite Care, Research, Resources, Scholarships, and Support Groups.*

**Trustworthy:** LGF has consistently been ranked a top non-profit by GreatNonprofits, whose seal is trusted second to the Better Business Bureau. Ranking the highest status of Platinum on GuideStar, an independent charity ranking organization, and partnering with government on an advocacy level, LGF has proven its self a trustworthy charity. LGF is a member of the Colorado Non Profit Association.

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### Connect with us!

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- **Phone:** (720) 625-1007
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# Letter from our CEO & Founder

Did you know that 1 in 68 American children is on the autism spectrum? This is a ten-fold increase in prevalence over the last 40 years. And it is estimated that 2 million individuals in the United States are affected by ASD.

There is something special that happens between our supporters and our clients. They become connected through the stories that brought them to the same place, the Lily Grace Foundation. Whether it is a night of respite care, a scholarship for a medical treatment, the helping hands who have volunteered, there is story connected **with WHO YOU HELPED and the IMPACT you provided.**



Our families often ask, "Do you know the person who donated? Our clients ask because **they want to tell you thank you.** And so do I. Thank you for being the kind of person who gives to important causes.

Our community has demonstrated that we are filled with people like you. Someone who not only cares, but cares enough to take action. **YOU have bridged a need with an action of assistance.**

**We are celebrating our 3rd Year Anniversary at Lily Grace Foundation!**

*"I want to thank LGF for their partnership in the public-school system. The LGF Relaxation Station is an intervention that demonstrated this yoga programs is appropriate for classrooms facing the behavioral challenges of ASD and children on an IEP and help students integrate into non IEP classrooms settings. We look forward to continued partnership of the Lily Grace Foundation and supporting its expansion.*

*- Bethany Robinson, Principal Welchester Elementary*

**This has been our most remarkable year at LGF since we were founded in 2014. We achieved our strongest year in partnerships, funding, in-kind donations, volunteers and interns.** As we start our next fiscal year, LGF is poised for continued growth.

Your support of our efforts has also translated into **action from the State of Colorado** accepting LGF's drafted **Proclamations of Autism Awareness Month** as official proclamations on a statewide

level. And Governor Hickenlooper honored LGF's request to **fly flags in honor of ALL affected by ASD disorders and the clients we serve.** We know partnerships are essential in working towards collaborative effective solutions for our community.

**LGF has consistently been ranked a top non-profit** by Great Nonprofits, whose seal is trusted second to the Better Business Bureau and **LGF achieved the highest status of Platinum on GuideStar**, an independent charity ranking organization.

**You have given generously, strategically and compassionately, therefore allowing us to do the same with our programs and services for our clients. Thank you.**

With gratitude,

*Amanda Shannon*

Amanda Shannon, CNC  
Founder & CEO



# What We Do

**Located in Colorado**, LGF provides children and their families diagnosed with Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders to education, resources, research, and scholarships for integrative & medical therapies.

## OUR SERVICES

All services are provided free of charge to families with children affected by Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

*Our services include: Advocacy, Autism Awareness and Education, Child Development and Parent Engagement Education, Child Language Intervention, Public School ASD Classroom Yoga Classes, Respite Care, Research, Resources, Scholarships, and Support Groups.*



### Autism Advocacy, Awareness and Education

LGF's advocacy has led to Colorado Proclamations for Autism Awareness Month. Colorado Autism Awareness Month Proclamation was accepted as official State of Colorado Proclamation by Governor Hickenlooper. Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper authorized flags to be flown in honor of LGF and those affected by autism and neurological disorders. LGF also provides access to a free 30 minute educational course covering, an introduction to the Autism Spectrum, treatment Options, treatment Assistance, and transition to Adulthood.

### Child Development & Parent Engagement Education

Through our partnership with Bright by Three (an organization founded in 1995 by then-Colorado Governor Roy Romer and former Procter & Gamble Chairman Brad Butler), we connect families with free parent engagement programs and child development programs and free home visits. These programs address *age-appropriate physical activity, talking and reading, emphasizes speaking to children and exposing them to language to stimulate early literacy, addresses developmental milestones, language and effective and positive discipline methods.*

### Child Language Intervention

We connect families with an intensive language intervention that utilizes the LENA digital language processor device. Thanks to our partnership with Bright by Three and Colorado talks back, parents receive extensive data on participants' outcomes. The LENA program enables a family to track their child's language development process and can also be used as a bio-marker for ASD.

### Relaxation Station: Children's Yoga Public School Project

Our evidenced based integrated approach to yoga as a therapeutic modality for autism spectrum disorders. Because of the researched benefits of this program, the Relaxation Station has now been implemented in other Colorado Public Schools. The Relaxation Station is designed to help children in the Autism Spectrum acquire self-calming and sensory regulation skills to be successful in transition into general education classes.

## **OUR SERVICES, continued**



### **Research**

Through the partnerships of ImmunoE Health Centers and Proactive Wellness of the Rockies to create an unprecedented combination of specialized pediatric care and cutting edge biomedical interventions. LGF's and ImmunoE's shared vision inspired them to unify these specialties and provide integrative therapeutic programs, while allowing for unique research opportunities. In partnership with Lily Grace Foundation, this Center will facilitate the research of new developments and technologies in the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Families can apply on our website to see if they qualify for an ASD study.

### **Respite Events**

Respite plays an important factor in the well-being of caretakers. Thanks to our partnership with Kroenke Sports Charities, LGF is able to provide respite tickets year round to our children and family clients to sporting events to the Colorado Avalanche, Denver Nuggets, Colorado Mammoth, and Colorado Rapids and various entertainment events.

### **Autism Resource Library**

Whether families are searching for medical or alternative treatments, looking to connect with support groups, or interested in research, browse Autism Speaks' Resource Library. The Family Services Resource Guide as a service to families as a reference tool. Users are urged to use independent judgment and request references when considering any resource associated with diagnosis or treatment of autism, or the provision of services related to autism.

### **Scholarships for ASD Medical and Integrative Therapies**

The Lily Grace Foundation provides funding to the Residents of Colorado for the purchase of ASD medical and integrative therapies. If the application is approved by the Lily Grace Foundation, monies are paid directly to the vendor/provider. Checks are not payable to the applicant. Interested families or individuals may fill out a scholarship application describing the service needed and the funding amount request. Application are reviewed by Board of Directors members on a quarterly basis for selection. LGF also provides resources so families can search an access additional family autism care grants.

### **Support Groups**

If you or someone you love is affected by ASD, you are not alone. Our next support group opens Fall 2017. You may search additional ASD support groups in your area on our website.

# Awards & Advocacy

LGF has consistently been ranked a top non-profit by GreatNonprofits, whose seal is trusted second to the Better Business Bureau. Ranking the highest status of Platinum on GuideStar, an independent charity ranking organization, and partnering with local and state government, LGF has proven its self a trustworthy charity. We are a proud member of the Colorado Nonprofit Association.

LGF's advocacy has led to the Colorado Autism Awareness Month Proclamations.



**Great Non Profits Awards** Top Non Profits Award by Great Nonprofits, a charity review organization supported by the Gates and Forbes Foundations, voted on by nonprofit public, an honor less than 1% of nonprofits achieve.

**Colorado Autism Awareness Month** Proclamation drafted by Board Member Sarah Hamilton and accepted as official State of Colorado Proclamation by Governor Hickenlooper.

**GuideStar Platinum** Achieved Platinum Star Status (the highest ranking) on GuideStar, an independent charity ranking organization.

**State of Colorado Flags** Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper authorized flags to be flown in honor of LGF and those affected by autism and neurological disorders.



## Who We Serve

**LGF serves families with children affected by Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders. All of our services are provided free of charge.**

**What is Autism?** Autism and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors. Autism has its roots in early brain development. However, the most obvious signs of autism and symptoms of autism tend to emerge between 12 and 18 months of age. Increasing autism awareness is a key aspect of LGF, one in which our families and volunteers play an invaluable role.



Autism statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identify around **1 in 68 American children as on the autism spectrum**. *This is a ten-fold increase in prevalence over the last 40 years.*



Studies also show that autism is **four to five times more common among boys than girls**. *An estimated 1 out of 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls are diagnosed with autism in the United States.*



**ASD is estimated to affect more than 2 million individuals in the United States.**



 Worldwide, ASD is estimated to affect **tens of millions individuals.**



Moreover, government autism statistics suggest that prevalence rates have *increased 10-17 percent annually in recent years.*





# Partners

***LGF believes we are stronger and can accomplish more by partnering together as a community.***

***Many thanks to our partners and donors who have consistently demonstrated their leadership in comprehensive solutions, support, and services.***



## Give Sports



Give Sports is an intensive skill training program inspired by professional and college athletes for boys and girls. Xavier Silas has played basketball professionally in 5 different countries and for two NBA teams. His parents James and Vanessa Silas had always been very philanthropic on the East Side of Austin, TX.

Inspired by his mother's giving heart, and his father's 20-year-old non-profit 501(c)(3) program for at-risk kids, Xavier created a place where it all comes together. A place where parents can donate to real causes in their community while their kids learn how to be good at sports and how to be good people. Give Sports donates 20 percent of proceeds to LGF.

## Kroenke Sports Charities



Respite plays an important factor in the well-being of caretakers. Thanks to our partnership with Kroenke Sports Charities, LGF is able to provide respite tickets year-round to our children and family clients to sporting events to the Colorado Avalanche, Denver Nuggets, Colorado Mammoth, and Colorado Rapids and various entertainment events.

## GAIAM



For over 25 years, Gaiam is the #1 innovator of premium yoga mats, yoga props, yoga clothing, and yoga accessories, inspiring fitness and yoga DVDs. Gaiam. Thanks to Gaiam, ASD public school classrooms are equipped for yoga as a therapeutic modality via LGF's relaxation Station.

## University of Denver



Through a collaborative partnership through University of Denver, Lily Grace Foundation is able to expand our services, foster our mission while providing academic growth opportunities, and employment skills, real-life experience, and meaningful service through working with students while pursuing their academic goals. As an invested partner with faculty, staff, senior administration and employers, the University of Denver Career Center challenges students and alumni to make informed decisions about work and life, striving to foster ethical and caring behavior while assisting individuals with: self-assessment, career and educational options, self-marketing strategies and real-world experiences. Students are an important resource for the Lily Grace Foundation. We partner with Denver University through internships, work study programs, and community service.

## Major Donors

*LGF believes we are stronger and can accomplish more by partnering together as a community. Many thanks to our partners and donors.*



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IMMUNO<sup>®</sup>  
RESEARCH CENTERS

proactivewellness<sup>™</sup>  
OF THE ROCKIES



**In 2016, Volunteers contributed over 1,110 hours of volunteer service** to LGF for fundraising, special events, yoga programs, grant writing and serving on our Board of Directors!  
*That is a value estimated by the IRS at over \$25,000!*

# Become Involved

## WHY WE NEED YOU

Our communities have always been both collaborative and compassionate. Lots of people talk about problems, but we're all about BEING part of the solution. That is why we would like to partner with you. You can help on an individual level or group level. With generous support from the community, LGF is ensuring families and individuals have access to a variety of services.

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## DONATE

**DONATE A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP** This could be the day you change a life. You have the ability to make available an opportunity for medical or complementary therapies.

**DONATE GENERAL SUPPORT** You can help ensure our advocacy, public school ASD classroom programs, education, awareness and support groups

**DONATE GIFT CARDS** Gift cards to store such as Walmart, Target, and Office Depot help us with office and program supplies.

**DONATE YOGA MATS** Our Relaxation is expanding in the public schools. Help us keep this evidence based program benefit ASD classrooms.

## EVENTS

With over 15 annual events, there is something for everyone! View our calendar of events on our website and Facebook.

## VOLUNTEER

What's your specialty? We welcome you to join our LGF team! We have opportunities to make a difference through special events, marketing, public policy, advocacy, counseling, health care, medical research, non profit administration, fundraising, internships and in our yoga program as a Relaxation Station Instructor.

## RACE WITH TEAM LGF

The Colfax Marathon and Races partners with LGF for one of the largest races in United States. Whether it's your first race or your 100th, you can raise money and awareness for a good cause while you run, or walk a 5k, 10k, half or full marathon.

## SHOP

**AMAZON SMILE** What if you could do something good just by shopping on Amazon.com? You can support every time you make a purchase by buying through AmazonSmile with 0.05% of your purchase price of any item donated to AWTN.

**ELITCH GARDENS** With 70 acres of amusement and water park located downtown Denver, concerts, events and holiday activities, you won't be bored at Elitch Gardens Theme Park. Save money with discounted tickets on our website for a variety of events & the main gate with a portion of your purchase benefiting LGF.

## VEHICLES

We like to think of our car donation program as a key factor in our "drive" to help homelessness in Aurora. LGF accepts a wide variety of vehicles as donations with FREE towing.





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