

2014 Funding Awards Overview

	Organization:	Awarded:	Project/Need:
1	Agility Angels	\$12,000	Scholarship \$
2	Autism MODEL School (AMS)	\$15,000	On line training curriculum
3	Bittersweet	\$10,000	Van for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program
4	Education Service Center Lake Erie West (Collingwood Center)	\$5,000	Scholarship \$
5	iTaalk	\$10,000	Matching grant for initial funding of Director of Development position
6	Tiffin YMCA	\$2,500	Scholarship \$ and equipment
7	Toledo Children's Hospital Autism Early Learning Program	\$15,000	Scholarship \$
8	Senca Autism Learning and Support Association (SALSA)	\$3,500	Training, workshops, Family Support
9	University of Toledo Perpetual Motor Development Program (PMD)	\$11,000	Scholarship \$ & Equipment
	Total \$ Awarded	\$84,000	

1) Agility Angels: \$12,000 for Scholarship opportunities for families

Agility Angels is an organization that pairs agility dogs with adolescents and young adults with autism to help communication, socialization, and overall coordination and confidence. Agility Angels is operated completely by volunteers and serve approximately 36 adolescent and young adults with autism. The Agility Angels board is currently working with Catina to create a sustainability plan that will allow them to grow and develop into an organization that not only provides agility classes for students but creates job opportunities for them as well.

2) Autism Model School: \$15,000 for implementing on-line training for staff

The Autism Model School (AMS) is the first community (charter) school established in Ohio to address the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The school was established in 1998 serving 26 students with ASD. Today the enrollment is 115 students with 30 on the waiting list.

AMS serves students age 5 through 21 in evidenced-based programming. The school operates year-round with short breaks during the year. All classrooms have a certified teacher and anywhere from one to 5 para-professional aides serving a maximum of 6-7 students per classroom. The overall student to instructional staff ratio is 2:1. AMS is the first publicly funded school in Ohio to employ a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) to guide educational programming at the school. BCBA's are recognized in 19 other states as the "Experts" in educational programming for people with ASD. Pending legislation in Ohio will require BCBA's to be contracted or hired by schools and adult programs serving individuals with severe behaviors and autism to guide their programs.

AMS offers a range of services from intense 1:1 pre-learning training, to advanced academics at the high school level, to vocational assessment and training through its Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) Lab. Due to the school's recent expansions, and the high turnover rate in special education, AMS is exploring more efficient staff training methods. The Autism Training Solutions program is an evidence-based solution to the training needs of the school.

Autism Training Solutions (ATS) is an on-line, competency-based staff training program providing increased levels of training & increased flexibility in training schedules resulting in time savings for the AMS consultants. ATS is delivered via licensed seats. Staff must receive a grade of 90% on each skill assessment as monitored by the system & school consultants. Online delivery of ATS relieves consultants of the ongoing time outlay of training new staff hired throughout the year. The ATS will free Consultants from ongoing training needs of staff through the use of on-line, competency-based staff training program that provides increased levels of training as well as increased flexibility in training schedules. The end result will be: 1) Better trained staff 2) An efficient response to employee turnover (which plagues most special education programs) 3) Increased classroom time from the most skilled staff members--the consultants.

3) Bittersweet: \$10,000 to purchase a van allowing them to expand their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program

Bittersweet Farms, an 80 acre farm, has residential, day program, transitional and vocational services for adults and adolescents with autism. A summer camp for adolescents is offered annually. There are 34 residents and another four individuals who live off-site in supported living homes. A total of 52 adults with autism participate in the day and/or vocational programs. The ages of the individuals served are 12 to 64 years.

The CSA project was started in 2011 with 40 shares. In 2012 and 2013, 82 shares were sold. Bittersweet participants delivered boxes of fresh produce to a drop off point, Walt Churchill's Market, twice a week, from April to November. (CSA members have the option of picking up their CSA box at Bittersweet Farms or at Churchill's Market in Maumee.) A grant received in 2013 from the USDA gave Bittersweet an opportunity to expand the horticulture department including the CSA program. This increased the numbers of shares sold to 120 shares.

This funding will support and expand programs at Bittersweet Farms through the purchase of a used van. The van will be used to deliver CSA boxes to the drop-off point, to deliver culinary products to retail locations, and for the needs of the residents and day program participants. The priority of the van will be for horticulture and culinary activities. Judging from current van use at Bittersweet Farms, the van being requested from GLCA will be in use 5 days a week, for approximately 4 hours per day. The van would be used year round for the culinary enterprise to deliver pesto and tomato chutney to locations selling the products: The Bakers Kitchen, Monclova; Thrush's Bakery, Perrysburg; and Walt Churchill's Market, Maumee.

4) Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West (A.K.A. Collingwood Center): \$5,000 for scholarships

The mission of the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West is to provide quality resources and services that meet the unique needs of our partners in the educational community. One program of the ESC of Lake Erie West is the Adapted Aquatics Program. This program started in the fall of 1995 with 6 children from the Kobacker School. Since 1995 over 200 children have participated in the program. The program focuses on water safety skills, swimming skills, social/behavioral skills and vocational skills. The program provides year round services to children from the ages of three and up. The pool that is used for the program is a warm water/therapeutic pool which help with the sensory issues of the program participants.

All money received from this grant will be used to help parents off-set the cost of the services.

5) iTaalk Autism Foundation: \$10,000 matching grant to initially fund a Development Director position

iTaalk Autism Foundation is a 501c3 Non-Profit, with a mission to provide assistive technology devices to individuals with autism, and educate the world on the latest technologies that benefit individuals with special needs. iTaalk was founded in 2010 and became active with its first donation of \$10,000 in April of 2011. Within our first year, we had granted close to 50 devices and educated close to 500 parents, teachers and caregivers of individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Since then our totals have increased to over 200 devices granted, and nearly 3000 parents and professionals educated.

In 2011, 2012 and 2013, iTaalk has raised (through donations, grants and fundraising) just under \$50,000 each year. As a complete volunteer-run organization, we are finding that our demand is growing for both education and device grants, and our donor base is growing as well. However, we are struggling to meet the needs of families and professionals, while also soliciting donor requests, staying up-to-date with grant submissions, and actively fundraising. We have analyzed our funding, reviewed programs and budgets, and pursued advice and guidance from other non-profits and have determined it would be beneficial to hire a development director. With the addition of this position, we have pinpointed several key areas where additional support and attention would grow funding to our organization significantly, and feel that within 18-24 months, a full-time development director position would pay for itself.

The \$10,000 in funding for a Development Director position will fund 50% of an eight month contract position. The remaining cost will be matched by iTaalk Board Members through private donor requests.

6) SALSA (Seneca Autism Learning and Support Association): \$3,500 family support, education, workshops

The Seneca Autism Learning and Support Association (SALSA) mission is to educate and support the community on the autism spectrum disorder by providing support groups to parents and families, educating community and professional leaders on the various forms of autism, supporting families with identification and location of resources, linking families with affordable therapies and support needs and providing educational opportunities for families and individuals with autism.

The Seneca Autism Learning and Support Association (S.A.L.S.A) provides training and therapy resources for families and individuals with autism in the southeast part of the northwest region of Ohio. SALSA also provides training on autism to local professional organizations, local law enforcement agencies as well as local fire departments. SALSA has also provided scholarships for therapies and technology.

Money will continue to assist in group's educational practices, expand emergency personnel training, as well as further expand therapies subsidies for families and individuals in Seneca County.

7) Tiffin YMCA: \$2,500 for scholarships and equipment

The Special Needs Activity Class was started by this grant in January 2014. 12 children and their families that attended an activities class once a week and then participated in a swim lesson at no charge to any participant who wished to attend. Money was used to purchase the equipment and for a Step Up to Quality staff training on Autism. This grant was possible due to the collaboration with the SALSA group here in Tiffin.

The class saw a significant improvement in the 17 areas evaluated on each individual including: Body Management, Loco-Motor, Object Movement, Concepts of Games, and socialization.

The Parent surveys were all extremely positive and appreciative. Not only did their children participate in a program not being offered anywhere else in Seneca County, but the parents were able to talk to other parents with Autism and special needs.

Money will continue to help the physical education/gross motor/socialization portion of our program and add more equipment in aquatics and the gymnasium, and to better serve our After School and Day Camp programs. Also to offer scholarships to offset the cost of Day Camp, After School, or Preschool classes for the families.

8) Toledo Children's Hospital Autism Early Learning Program: \$15,000 Scholarship

ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital Autism Early Learning Program (AELP) offers intensive, behavioral services for children with autism from diagnosis to 6 years. This Applied Behavior Analysis program operates year-round and offers both full day and half day services. There is a low student-to-staff ratio which includes a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Intervention Specialist(s), Speech-Language Pathologist and Classroom Behavior Therapists. Additional related services are also provided as needed. Each child's instruction is individualized with one-to-one intervention, followed by small group instruction with a focus on communication, play, socialization and developmentally appropriate skill acquisition. Skills are taught using discrete trial teaching, natural environment teaching as well as incorporating verbal behavior strategies. Functional behavior assessments are conducted as needed. Parent involvement is encouraged through observations, trainings, and home visits.

The Autism Early Learning Program believes that all children deserve the opportunity to learn, laugh, play and become healthy, happy and productive adults. The program opened in January of 2012 with one child registered. Over the past two years, the program has grown to 9 children. Data based decisions are made daily in order to ensure all children are making significant progress toward their individual program goals. The goal is to move from 1:1 instruction to small group instruction. The overall goal of services is to teach the pre-requisite skills needed to effectively transition out of intensive services and into a more naturalistic learning setting.

9) University of Toledo Perpetual Motor Development Clinic: \$11,000 Equipment and Scholarships

The PMD program at UT is a non-profit program that affords university students the opportunity to work with children with special needs from the community. The PMD program was founded in 1975. Over the years, the program has received recognition from parent groups, education specialists and members of the medical and psychological fields. The program seeks to improve the “total fitness” of children and youth with special needs by enhancing fine and gross motor skills and patterns. In addition, the program concentrates on the improvement of self-esteem by strengthening the emotional-social aspects of a child’s personality through success at play. The PMD program offers children and youth an opportunity to strengthen skills and succeed at a variety of activities, thus allowing for their fuller participation in school and social events.

\$10,000 will provide scholarships for 40 PMD participants during the next academic year to support individuals who would be unable to participate in the program due to financial constraints. An additional \$1,000 will allow the program to replace aging/failing equipment.