

OUR MISSION

ACT Today! is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide funding and support to families that cannot afford the treatments their autistic children need to achieve their full potential.



Shelby, Age 4



Carlos, Age 7



Augustus, Age 11



Shawn, Age 12



Ryan, Age 19



Meho, Age 5



Nicholas, Age 5

HISTORY

Founded in 2005, ACT Today! is the brainchild of several passionate people who believe access to early, effective treatment is vital for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Together with Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh, a leading provider of therapy to autistic children with over 25 years of experience, this group created ACT Today! to do just as the name implies - take action immediately to treat autism.

Meet a few autistic children needing our help.

Abby, Age 2

Shortly after Abby's birth, she was diagnosed with GERD and Enterocolitis. At 13 months, Abby was diagnosed with autism. She is self-injurious, has limited communication and social skills and has difficulty eating. Abby's mother stays at home to care for her. Abby's father started working a second job to pay for therapies. Grant Request: \$2000 for bio-medical testing and sensory tools which would help Abby with her gastrointestinal problems and sensory deficiencies.



Nathan and Chase, Age 7

This family of seven has two typical children, one daughter who has recovered from autism and Nathan and Chase who are both autistic. The family is grateful that after months of unemployment, the father has recently found long-term employment. Nathan and Chase's mom supplements their income by operating an autism awareness shop online. The family is hopeful that with effective interventions, Nathan and Chase may have the same success as their sister.

Grant Request: \$4000 to go towards tuition at a private school for special needs children. Enrollment at this school will help Nathan and Chase progress towards their independence.

Paul, Age 18

Paul was diagnosed with autism at 22 months and lost all speech at age 3.

Paul is 18, non-verbal and lacks any social and personal care skills. In 15 years, he has spoken just 11 words. Paul's mom is a single mother of 3 children. She is struggling to provide for her family as she is only available to work while Paul is at school.

Paul needs supervision at all times as he often runs away. His mother's salary from cleaning houses is typically below \$9,000 each year and they live paycheck to paycheck.

Paul's father has not paid child support since 2001 and cannot provide any assistance.

Grant Request: \$1725 for Auditory Integrative Training which will teach Paul how to better process auditory information.



Grant Program

About our Grant Program

Our ability to raise funds determines our grant-giving for the year.

Once we determine how much we can give, the board carefully reviews the grant requests.

About our Applicants - Though ACT Today! does not set an income level cap for our applicants, most household annual incomes are below \$100,000. In fact, in 2009, 30% of our applicants had an annual household income level below \$30,000. In addition, many of the families who apply for grants have two or more children on the autism spectrum.

The Grant Process - Once all grant submissions are received by the designated deadline, the ACT Today! board meets to review and award funds. Our board carefully considers each application and considers the requested treatments and treatment providers. Once a grant is awarded, the family is notified and ACT Today! directly pays the service provider for the funded treatments.

What do the grants fund?

ACT Today! has provided grants to fund the following treatments. We are open to funding requests not listed below. The ACT Today! board considers all types of treatments that help a family living with autism.

- Applied Behavioral Analysis Therapy (ABA Therapy)
- Bio-medical Treatment
- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Social Programs
- Auditory Integration Training (AIT)
- Fencing for the home
- Prescriptions/Medications

In 2009 ACT Today! received 445 grant requests, an increase of 30% from the previous year. As the number of affected children increase, the need to help increases.

In 2009, ACT Today! raised over \$400,000 to help autistic children receive effective treatments yet was able to fund only 35% of all grant requests.



Denim & Diamonds for Autism!

Lou Diamond Phillips, Leeza Gibbons, John Salley, Motley Crue's Nikki Sixx, Kat Von D, and Howie Mandel are some of the celebrity supporters of this annual event in the equestrian community of Hidden Hills, CA. This event has raised over \$275,000 in four years. Hundreds of guests have joined to dine and dance the night away while raising money to help families with autistic children access to the treatments they need.

ACT Today! Golf Tournament

ACT Today! has raised over \$120,000 at their three celebrity golf tournaments which have been held at Braemar Country Club in Tarzana, California. This first class golf event has been hosted by ACT Today! board members LA newswomen Gabriela Tessier of Univision and television and film star Lou Diamond Phillips. A few of the celebrities who have participated in the tournament included professional race car driver Ashley Van Dyke, actors Basil Wallace and Grant Reynolds and NFL champion/actor Ed Marinaro.



Mother's Day Luncheon

Parents and supporters of children with autism gathered at Orange County's premier Resort at Pelican Hill in Newport Coast, CA to hear Doctors Doreen Granpeesheh and Jeffrey Bradstreet speak about current treatments which offer hope to families affected by autism. This inaugural event raised over \$50,000 and was sponsored in part by David & Sandy Stone & Family. The luncheon in May 2010 will feature TV talk show host Leeza Gibbons and ACT Executive Director Nancy Alspaugh-Jackson as they speak to the topic of "Fearless Women, Mothers and Daughters Moving Mountains."

\$50,000 National Sponsor

- Title Presenter Recognition at one of ACT Today!'s annual fundraisers.
 - Golf Tournament
 - Mother's Day Luncheon
 - Denim & Diamonds
- Ten complimentary VIP tickets to Denim & Diamonds and Mother's Day fundraisers.
- Celebrity pairing and 2 foursomes at ACT's annual golf tournament.
- VIP recognition at all ACT events.
- Company logo on all ACT fundraiser invitations.
- Signage at all ACT fundraisers.
- Recognition in press releases as to the Special Grant Program funded by sponsor and special interest publicity demonstrating how your company's sponsorship changed the lives of individual families.
- Mention in all press releases disseminated by ACT Today! as both a sponsor and as a founder of a Special Grant Program.
- Formation of a Special Grant Program named after sponsor's company. The ideas are endless and can be tailored to the company's passion. Some ideas include:
 - Biomedical Grants (Provide grant recipients with medical treatment with DAN! Doctors)
 - Nutritional Grants (Provide nutritional supplements and GF/CF foods to grant recipients)
 - ABA Therapies (Provide grant recipients with ABA Hours)
 - Underserved communities (Targeting various disadvantaged populations)
 - Camp Scholarships (Pay for ASD kids to attend camp)
 - Social Skills Groups (Pay for membership fees to social skills groups)
- Prominent and permanent presence on website with description of business and services it provides for the duration of the grant. Including a description of Special Grant Program associated with the company.
- Full page ad in our newsletter which is published twice a year and distributed to over 5,000 supporters and businesses.
- Company brochures included in all gift bags given at our major fundraisers.

\$25,000 Platinum Sponsor

- Major Sponsorship Recognition at one of ACT Today!'s annual fundraisers.
 - Golf Tournament
 - Mother's Day Luncheon
 - Denim & Diamonds
- Four complimentary VIP tickets to Denim & Diamonds and Mother's Day fundraisers.
- Foursome and celebrity pairing at ACT's annual golf tournament.
- VIP recognition at all ACT events.
- Company logo on all ACT fundraiser invitations.
- Signage at all ACT fundraisers.
- Company's prominent and permanent presence on ACT Today! website with description of business and services. Including a link to your company's website for the duration of the grant.
- ½ page ad in our newsletter that is published twice a year and distributed to over 5,000 supporters and businesses.
- Company brochures included in all gift bags given at our major fundraisers.
- Mention in all press releases disseminated by ACT Today! as an ACT Today! sponsor.

\$5,000 Gold Sponsor

- Four VIP tickets to your choice of either Denim & Diamonds or Mother's Day fundraiser.
- Company's prominent and permanent presence on ACT Today! website with description of business and services. Including a link to your company's website for the duration of the grant.
- ¼ page ad in our newsletter that is published twice a year and distributed to over 5,000 supporters and businesses.
- Company brochures included in all gift bags given at our major fundraisers.
- Recognition of company's generosity in all fundraiser programs.

\$2,500 Silver Sponsor

- Two VIP tickets to your choice of either Denim & Diamonds or Mother's Day fundraiser.
- Company's prominent and permanent presence on ACT Today! website with description of business and services. Including a link to your company's website for the duration of the grant.
- ¼ page ad in one edition of our newsletter which is published and distributed to over 5,000 supporters and businesses.
- Company brochures included in all gift bags given at our major fundraisers.
- Recognition of company's generosity in all fundraiser programs.

\$1,000 Bronze Sponsor

- Company's prominent and permanent presence on ACT Today! website with description of business and services. Including a link to your company's website for the duration of the grant.
- ¼ page ad in one edition of our newsletter which is published and distributed to over 5,000 supporters and businesses.
- Company brochures included in all gift bags given at our major fundraisers.
- Recognition of company's generosity in all fundraiser programs.