Our mission is to advance research and provide a lifetime of support for individuals with autism and their families.
SARRC

Research → Early Intervention → Educational Initiatives → School Programs → Vocational Training & Life Skills → Residential → Working Model and Training Hub

Early Intervention Educational Initiatives School Programs Vocational Training & Life Skills Residential Working Model and Training Hub

School Programs Vocational Training & Life Skills Residential Working Model and Training Hub

Early Intervention Educational Initiatives School Programs Vocational Training & Life Skills Residential Working Model and Training Hub
More than 500,000 U.S. children with autism will be entering adulthood this decade.

How do we, as a society, help this group of citizens achieve their rightful place as engaged, involved members of their communities?
Building Community for Adults with Autism

SARRC’s Social Agenda

Autism Community Works

Employment Services

Academy of Classes

Entrepreneurial Center for Special Abilities

Residential Plan

Creating a Supportive Community
Our vision is to ensure individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are employed in meaningful jobs that promote independence and enriching experiences.
Autism CommunityWorks is a volunteer, community-based training program for adolescents with ASDs and their typical peers. This financially viable and sustainable program increases skill sets, social integration, self-esteem, independence and quality of life for individuals with autism.
Program Goals: Mission + Margin

1. Increase social and vocational skills

2. Increase awareness and sensitivity of ASDs within staff of community partners and typical peers

3. Successfully demonstrate the employability and valued skill sets of individuals with ASDs

4. Assist participants to build resumes and pursue jobs/careers

5. Ensure financially viability/sustainability

6. Develop locally, replicate “globally”
GardenWorks
The Desert Botanical Gardens
Urban gardens throughout Metro Phoenix

LibraryWorks
City of Phoenix Burton Barr Library
City of Scottsdale Civic Center
Saguaro High School

Good DeedWorks
St Mary’s Food Bank
Phoenix Herpetological Society
Arizona Animal Welfare League
Project Cure
United Food Bank
Weed Wackers

PowerWorks
YMCA
Creating a unique and recognizable brand for Autism CommunityWorks has been an important element of the program’s success.
Impact in AZ

• Adolescents enrolled – 275
• Peer mentors trained – 180
• Staff/volunteers trained – 295
• More than 30,000 community service hours in partnership with over 42 non-profits in the last 2 years

Impact in Calgary

• Nearly 40 adolescents have enrolled since April 2011
Transition Program

- Targeted 1:1 Applied Behavior Analysis based services and parent training
- Services provided in the home, school and community
- Addressing life skills, problem behaviors, communication and transitioning to adult living
- A person-centered planning map to guide clients in developing goals and support teams
Employment Services

More than 85% of clients enrolled in SARRC’s Employment Services Program are competitively employed; 88% have maintained their employment. Services include:

- Job development
- Job coaching
- Training in soft skills
- Assessments
- Resume and interview preparation
- Autism awareness training for employers
Academy of Classes

SARRC’s Academy of Classes provides a variety of options to help individuals improve social skills, prepare for employment, develop the skills needed to live independently and develop honest relationships.

- Life Skills Series
- Autism Artisans
- Monday Night Out
- Workshops
- Social Clubs
- Girl’s Club
- Project Launch
- Summer Camps
GardenWorks® is an entrepreneurial venture of SARRC’s Vocational & Life Skills Academy (VLSA) designed to engage young adults with autism spectrum disorders in every aspect of garden and landscape training, promoting the development of valued workplace skills.
Program Goals: Mission + Margin

1. Create successful outcomes for individuals with ASDs
2. Partner with local landscape and gardening organizations
3. Generate public awareness
4. Ensure financially viability/sustainability
5. Develop locally, replicate “globally”
Branding

Creating a unique and recognizable brand for GardenWorks is an important element to the success of the program.
Impact in AZ

• More than 40 adults with ASDs have graduated from this program

• Over 200 volunteers have worked alongside our adults

• Nearly 2200 community members and national leaders have learned about Humana GardenWorks

• Increased awareness in our community
CulinaryWorks™
Chef-inspired creations on-the-go
CulinaryWorks

CulinaryWorks® is an entrepreneurial venture of SARRC’s Vocational & Life Skills Academy (VLSA) designed to engage young adults with ASDs in every aspect of product production, promoting the development of valued workplace skills.
Program Goals: Mission + Margin

- Contribute to the success of young adults and adults with ASDs
- Involve clients in each product phase
- Establish a loyal, diverse customer base and meet overall sales goals
- Generate buzz and public awareness
- Advance SARRC’s social agenda: promote the abilities, talents, value of individuals with ASDs
- Ensure financial viability/sustainability
- Develop locally, replicate “globally”
• Provide high-quality gourmet product offerings

• Utilize a unique mix of branding, public relations and experiential marketing initiatives

• Raise awareness through strategic media placements

• Establish strong brand awareness

• Develop partnerships with key strategic alliances
Branding

Creating a unique and recognizable brand for CulinaryWorks® has been a critically important element to the success of the program.
Serving up Success for Adults with Autism...

One day, all individuals living with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) will be acknowledged as independent, contributing members of our community. The Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC) is making that dream a reality today. By combining food, fun and friendship, CulinaryWorks® arms adults with Autism with the skills to achieve personal and professional success.
Our special *Beneficial Beans*, packaged exclusively by SARRC's adults with autism, are a blend of 100% hand selected, Arabica grown coffee beans from South and Central America, roasted in small batches locally and delivered fresh to our customers.

*Beneficial Beans™* partners with locally owned and operated Matador Coffee Roasting Company and Coffee Solutions.
Program Goals: Margin + Mission

1. Generate buzz and public awareness
2. Employ more adults with autism
3. Create brand recognition, satisfaction
4. Ensure program sustainability
   - Give clients needed skills training
   - Create curriculum
   - Meet sales goals
5. Reinvest all proceeds in SARRC programs
6. Create a more supportive community
7. Develop locally, replicate "globally"

Photo courtesy of Dave Schibel
Replication in Other Communities

- Establish pilot as first phase: learn, refine, evaluate, improve
- Implementation manual
- Formal business plan/training program
- Sample start-up and operating budget
- Use of Registered Trademarks
- Graphics standards and sample materials
- Collateral material examples for program promotion
- Support materials for grant applications
- SARRC support and consultation
Where will the 500,000 children with autism today live as adults when they enter adulthood this decade? What will they do when the school bus stops coming? How do we ensure they don’t slide backwards?
How do we as a society respond to the pressing question looming today for millions of parents of children with autism:

*Who will care for my child when I’m no longer able to do so?*
Advancing SARRC’s Mission

- Opening Doors Study
- National Leadership: AFAA, NARPAA, Autism Speaks (AS) Housing Committee
- Local Market Study (Underway)
- Curriculum Development Underway/Validation (w/ AS & AGI)
ULI/SARRC/ASU Study Objectives

• Evaluate existing residential programs and properties; identify best practices

• Develop a set of goals for sustainable residential community design

• Identify and analyze available financing options that support scalability

• Guide the design of residential options

• Increase public awareness of the growth trends in the population
Summary of Major Findings

- Lack of consistency in the definition of residential options
- Void of market data
- Lack of documented design guidelines
- Shortage of turn-key support service models
- Limited and cumbersome access to capital
- Critical short-term needs
“The recommendations included in Opening Doors will not only advance public-private-nonprofit collaborations in the development of community housing initiatives, they will also provide short-term benefits to adults living with autism and their families.”

http://www.autismcenter.org/openingdoors.aspx
Home Design Goals

Ensure Safety & Security
A safe living environment is the top priority. Issues range from providing appropriate security systems to selecting non-toxic products and materials.

Maximize Familiarity, Stability & Clarity
Changes and transitions can be problematic for adults with ASDs so creating continuity and connection with the past is important. Design strategies include logical spatial layout and use of familiar materials.

Minimize Sensory Overload & Simplify
The sensory environment by designing spaces to be quiet, visually calm, well ventilated and to have appropriate lighting.
Home Design Goals

**Allow Opportunities for Controlling Social Interaction & Privacy**
To accommodate personal preferences, the design of any home should provide residents with a variety of social opportunities included within a singular space.

**Provide Adequate Choice & Independence**
The physical environment should be designed so options are available but few and flexible so that it can be adapted to changes in residents’ needs over time.

**Foster Health & Wellness**
To address any ongoing health vulnerabilities, the physical design should promote healthy living through the use non-toxic materials, the availability of natural light, good ventilation and incorporation of universal design strategies.
Home Design Goals

Enhance One’s Dignity
Everything from selecting a neighborhood that accepts diversity and supports its residents to designing a home that allows residents to personalize their spaces and define their living arrangements serves to enhance one’s dignity.

Ensure Durability
Investing in high-quality materials, fixtures and appliances at the outset will result in lower maintenance/replacement costs and will optimize resident safety.

Achieve Affordability
Designing for longevity and incorporating green building practices can lower costs over the lifetime of the home.

Ensure Accessibility & Support in the Surrounding Community
Critical to the overall success of any residential development. Access to transportation, community services, entertainment and shopping coupled with a supportive neighborhood community will create the best possible situation for the residents.
Recommendations and Next Steps

• Conduct National and Market Specific Surveys

• Create an Interactive Database of Housing Options

• Develop and Test Soft Infrastructure Support Models
**Recommendations and Next Steps**

- Develop Prototypes to Test Best Practices and New Ideas
- Respond to Current and Short-Term Demand
- Increase and Systematize Capital Resources From Public Agencies
- Pursue Testing of Innovative Options
A response to ever-increasing demand.
A best practices model.
A catalyst for creating more residential options for adults with autism and related disorders.
Our Charge

Demonstrate a variety of best practice, replicable housing options for adults with ASDs and related disorders; scalable frameworks through public/private/nonprofit collaborations; and community integration/engagement, safety/security and the comforts of home.
Desired Outcome

Develop new home prototypes for individuals with autism and related disorders and new hope for families.

Increase housing choices as the necessary underpinnings – financial, educational, public policy and supportive services – are put into place in Arizona and throughout the U.S.
“Our primary criteria for siting, developing and promoting residential options include safety and security; public transit with access to jobs, recreation, health care, education and daily conveniences; and places where neighbors accept those with special needs and talents.”
Guiding Our Plans

- Home Sweet Home
- Stepping Stones
- Beautiful and Functional
- Program Integrity and Efficacy
- Inclusive
- Collaborative
- Pioneering
“Societal costs can be dramatically reduced if the right lifelong living and learning opportunities are available.”
Most of all, develop homes and supportive communities where adults with autism can live, work, learn and recreate with respect, dignity and with the greatest degree of independence possible.
We want to hear from you!

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