Introduction Message from our leadership

Camille Proctor, Executive Director

COVID-19 changed our lives and the families we serve and we had to quickly pivot to the new demands of our community. We're very proud of the programs we've implemented in our community and our ability to quickly offer parents an online resources for training, support groups, and learning support for their loved ones. As we look ahead to our next year, our goal is to double the number of families we served and create additional programs to build efficacy within the African American Community affected by autism spectrum disorders.

Thank you for your ongoing support!
Our Story

The Color of Autism Foundation

Founded in 2009, The Color of Autism Foundation is a Non-Profit (501 c3) organization committed to educating and assisting African American families affected by autism spectrum disorders. Our goal is to help families identify the warning signs of autism early on. By providing culturally competent support and training, which will lead to better outcomes for children in underserved communities on the autism spectrum. We believe an informed parent is an empowered parent.
It is estimated that autism spectrum disorders (ASD) affect 1 in 50 live births per year. However, due to varying techniques for diagnosis and treatment, the disability remains the subject of debate. African Americans tend to suffer disproportionate rates of disability and disease when compared to other racial and ethnic groups due to access to preventative and curative care. However, evidence demonstrates that although rates of diagnosis for autism occur at the same rates in all racial groups, diagnosis in African American children occurs later than in White children. As a result, African American children may require longer and more intensive intervention. The Color of Autism is the best choice to support this population as we are part of the community we serve. Because of this, we are able to deliver culturally competent support, trainings, and programs to build efficacy within communities of color.
OUR WORK

The Spectrum of Care Program is designed to engage and build efficacy and advocacy skills within parents. We offer an ongoing 6 week training for parents where they learn early intervention skills, behavioral techniques, and literacy skills. The goal for parents is to exit our training with the confidence and ability to lead at home and support in their community. Trainings are facilitated in person and online.

Support Groups

Our support groups allow our families to meet in a safe environment where they can speak openly about their concerns. We facilitate monthly online groups for parents, siblings, self advocates, and transgender youth on the spectrum.

Webinars

Our webinars cover an array of topics such as healthy eating habits, sleep issues, and Individualized Education Plans. These webinar are facilitated by Board Certified Behavioral Analysis, MSWs, Therapists, and Dietitians.

Parent Training

Our parent training cover an array of topics that build efficacy within each individual participant. The goal is to teach each parent how they can become their child's best advocate.
Tanisha B

Attended our very first parent training class in 2019. With the skills Tanisha gained she's been able to transition to community support volunteer to now serving as a family peer support specialist. Tanisha says: "Our Programs Uplift Parents and Hold Them Accountable".

Danielle and Daniel D

Danielle is a frequent attendee at our events, webinars, and trainings. She's states that: "COA's programs has help her family better support Daniel's needs".
As we look back at 2019/2020, our organization was able to shed light on social issues currently affecting the African American Autistic Community. Our webinars garnered media attention and the attention of Netflix producers, and this led to a townhall collaboration that aired on August 6, 2020. We were able to quickly shift our programming due to COVID-19 by hosting online support groups and webinars. With the school closures and virtual learning many parents weren’t prepared to support their diverse learner. So, we created an online learning hub (aulearningcenter.org) to support diverse learners. Our site offers evidence based tips, learning support, and social groups.

We had a really good year have been recognized by the United Way of Southeastern Michigan as a community partner. Others have taken notice as well and we’re now seen as the national “go to” non-profit for underserved families affected by autism spectrum disorders. Building a good network of community partners is very important and it was key to our success. As we plan for our sustainability during this unprecedented time we’ll continue to create innovative, meaningful, and replicable programming. We’ll also continue building relationships with key stakeholders within our communities.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021
Partnerships

United Way for Southeastern Michigan

Hope starts HERE

Brilliant Detroit
creating kid success neighborhoods

Detroit's Early Childhood Partnership
Thank You!