



ACTIVITY REPORT 2015

Vision

The chance to normality for any child with autism spectrum disorder in Romania

Mission

Increasing the chances of children with autistic spectrum disorder at recovery and integration

Values

Social Responsibility
Professionalism
Determination
Equal Opportunities
Teamwork

Objectives

National development of programs for diagnosis, therapy and social integration of children with autistic spectrum disorder.



Our Story



In 2010, after the personal experience of one family that struggled to rescue their child from the “clutches” of autism, Help Autism Association was founded.

Driven by people who supported them and by the challenges they faced as parents trying to find solutions for the recovery of their child, they laid the foundation for an activity focusing on the awareness of autism, but also on advice and support through the recovery program for other children and their families.

In 5 years, they were joined by more than 300 families, each with their own story and their own way towards the recovery of their child.

2015 has
meant ...



80 new children
joined the other
205, already
assisted through
recovery programs
by the association

2 new centers
inaugurated in Bucharest

44.000
people supported us
by redirecting 2%
of income tax

79.097 hours
of therapy
funded by
Help Autism



250 teachers

Have attended the free course „Integration of children with autism into mainstream schools and kindergartens”

140 children evaluated
through the National Program for Diagnosis and Evaluation

60 de psychologists have taken the course “ABA therapy training program and practice in autism”

Applied behavior analysis on children with autism spectrum disorder

In 2015, the training course for specialists in the therapy of children with autism was granted accreditation by the **College of Psychologists in Romania**. The course, developed by therapists and coordinators in order to professionalize the personnel involved in the recovery of children with ASD is a combination of theoretical modules with 48 hours of supervised practice in Help Autism Centers. For the first time in Romania, during the practical module, students have the opportunity to engage effectively in establishing the intervention plans of children with different diagnosis and to observe the different approaches of the therapists from Help Autism centers in Bucharest. Over the last year, 60 psychologists and psychology, pedagogy, sociology, social work or medicine students have graduated the training course, many of them continuing the collaboration with Help Autism either through voluntary programs or by joining the team of therapists in one of the association's centers.



Integration of children with autism into mainstream schools and kindergartens

The integration into mainstream education is one of the most important steps we take with our children. Therefore, the contribution to the development of an education system prepared to take in and accept them is one of the priorities of our work.

The free course offers teachers the proper tools that can be used in order to help the child with autistic spectrum disorder adapt to the class and also acceptance methods for the ASD child's colleagues. In 2015, we responded to requests from educational institutions across the country and 250 educators had the opportunity to learn more about the interaction with the children affected by ASD and realize how important their contribution is in shaping the future of these children.



Courses

Instructive and practical course for parents of children with ASD

Recovery does not begin and does not end in the therapy room so parent involvement in continuing to apply the therapy principles at home is essential for the evolution of the child with autism.

An important part of the Association's activity is played by the support and counseling programs for parents of children diagnosed with autism.

Free workshops for parents are held periodically by Help Autism specialists managing to bring up and find solutions to the most common problems faced by families of children with autism.



Fundraising

2% Campaign

In 2015, more than 280 parents in the association managed to collect more than 40,000 2% forms. Help Autism Association was declared champion of collecting 2% in Bucharest and Ilfov county and the largest beneficiary of the 2% campaign in 2015, with an income of over 3 million lei. The campaign is the most important source of funding that helps support the association's activity and the free therapy programs for children. Due to the involvement of parents in raising funds through this method, every year, our children can benefit from the specialized programs they need for recovery and integration.

*In Romania, employees have the possibility to redirect 2% of their annual income tax to a non-profit organization.



The campaign also represents grounds for "Parent for Parent", program through which families, at the beginning of the road in fighting autism spectrum disorder, receive a helping hand by being included in free therapy programs.

Fundraising

In 2015, 30 volunteer fundraisers joined our cause and through their involvement in various sporting events helped raise funds for our children.



Bucharest International Half-Marathon, Bucharest International Marathon, Cluj Napoca AROBS International Marathon are some of the events by which big-hearted people have chosen to dedicate their effort to our cause.

Fundraising

"On Christmas, give 1 hour of therapy"

The campaign "Give 1 hour of therapy" brought together old and new friends, individuals and companies who wanted to adorn the tree with good deeds, giving hours of therapy and sharing our story. Together, they managed to offer more opportunities for children with autism.

Due to the money raised from selling the 350 tree decorations some of the children within the Association will be able to more easily step from individual therapy to kindergarten and school integration by attending free dedicated programs.



"Colourful Soul" second edition

On March 29, in partnership with the Association for Music, Art and Culture, we organized the second edition of the charity concert "Colorful Soul" which brought together, once again, on the Radio Hall stage, national and international renowned musicians.

Violinist Remus Azoitei and pianists Mara DOBRESCU and Diana Ionescu were the artists who have chosen to join the awareness campaign, putting their talent and fame to the cause.



“ABA International Conference” fourth edition

The fourth edition of the conference dedicated to applied behavior analysis (ABA) was granted certification by the **Behavior Analyst Certification Board** - the sole institution for ABA practitioners accreditation. ABA International Conference took place at the beginning of April 2015 at the Romanian-American University of Bucharest and hosted eight lecturers from the UK, Norway and the US, along with 20 Romanian trainers -psychologists, psychiatrists, speech therapists and medical specialists.

The conference has been, once more, a real success, with over 500 participants on each of the three days.

Nationally, the conference is accredited by the College of Psychologists in Romania and the College of Physicians in Romania.



“Rocket Bike Fest” fifth and sixth editions - 2015

Rocket Bike Fest is a cross country cycling (XCO) competition which aims to encourage a healthy lifestyle and promote cycling as leisure activity.

The event is dedicated to nature lovers and enthusiasts of sports competitions, with the objectives of raising autism awareness and supporting integration programs for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.

At this edition, we had over 1,000 competitors at the starting line and over 2,000 overall event participants.

www.rocketbike.ro



“Generosity Trophy” third edition

In late November, on third edition of the “Generosity Trophy”, we, one again, awarded the most generous people and the most involved companies that have joined, in 2015, the mission of the Association to change the status of autism in Romania and the lives of as many children struggling with this disorder.

Companies Mobexpert, Christian Tour, Farmexpert, Panalpina, Fan Courier, the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Sector 6, Radio Itsy Bitsy, United Way Organization and also volunteers and fundraisers were those who received on this edition, 11 symbols of our gratitude for their involvement in supporting the cause.



Our Therapy Centers

Titan Center - Improving the diagnosis, evaluation and rehabilitation services for children with ASD"

In August 2015 the Association has opened a new therapy center in collaboration with the Psychiatric Hospital TITAN "Dr. Constantin Gorgos", the Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis in Norway and the Romanian League for Mental Health, under the project "Improving the diagnosis, evaluation and rehabilitation services for children with ASD" financed within SEE 2009 - 2014 grants, through the NGO Fund in Romania.

Titan Therapy Center is located within the hospital and is the fourth such center that provides assessment services and therapeutic recovery programs for children with ASD, in Bucharest.



Our Therapy Centers

HESI - Center for Education, Socialization and Integration

With an experience of 5 years and over 300 children included in recovery programs, in therapy centers or at home, Help Autism Association has developed a system of education, socialization and integration in order to help children with ASD take the intermediate step between the individual therapy chamber and kindergarten or school.

Thus, on October 22, 2015, we opened the first center for education, socialization and integration for children with autism.

At Hesi Center, children with autism spectrum disorder follow the mainstream education curriculum, adapted to their own learning rhythm and taught by teachers trained in ABA method.



Our Therapy Centers

House of the Sun Center

In 2014, in partnership with the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Sector 3, the association opened House of the Sun-free center for early diagnosis, psychological assessment and counseling of children with developmental delays and their parents.

During 2015, House of the Sun Center worked in partnership with DGASPC Sector 3, by supporting 23 children in the free therapy program.

All children included in the program have progressed, 3 of which raised the age-specific skills enabling them to integrate into mainstream education system, the others acquiring biological age specific skills and continuing the therapy program.



Our Therapy Centers

Help Autism North Center



In January, with the support of Kaufland Romania, Help Autism Association opened its first free integrated service center in the northern part of Bucharest.



In Help Autism North Center, a professional team offered free diagnosis services for pervasive developmental disorders, support to families of diagnosed children and daily therapy for 19 children through intensive and personalized applied behavior analysis programs.

Our Therapy Centers

Delea Noua Center

In Delea Noua Center, the first Help Autism therapy center, opened in 2013, there were integrated, at the beginning of 2015, 32 children diagnosed with ASD, 16 of which being included in the individual therapy program supported by Parent for Parent program.



In 2015, in the Help Autism Center in the north of the country 8 children were included in therapy programs, at the end of year 2 of them being integrated into mainstream education.

- **Bring a toy to the game**, in partnership with Gazeta SV and CSU Suceava, gathered plush toys, that found their place in the families of many children in the city.
- **Mărțișor Fair**, with the support of teachers and Suceava Shopping City, in March 2015 we sold products hand-made by students, parents and friends.
- **A lemonade**, an extra chance to recover, we refreshed passersby on the warmest weekend of July, in return for donations.



- **Fair for Good**, we offered the community a chance to get actively involved in the awareness of children with autism and support with donations the therapy for their recovery.
- **Skirt Bike**, ladies in Suceava cycled on 15 July for autism awareness
- **Suceava Bike Fest - Pedal, Have fun, Donate!**, involved tens of citizens, thus helping to inform and sensitize the community on the autism spectrum disorder status in their city.

Partnerships

Public-private partnerships with General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection, established in order to specialize the personnel involved in the recovery of children with autism and increase the quality of service offered to the community.

Sectorul 3

Sectorul 4

Sectorul 6

Dâmbovița

Suceava

Mehedinți



Projects and Programs

www.autismconnect.ro

Most of the time, due to the lack of information regarding the path to follow from identifying the first signs of the disorder until a diagnosis and beginning of therapy, parents of children with ASD have difficulty in finding the best solutions for the recovery of their children.

This is the ground on which, Help Autism Association based its decision to launch the first platform in Romania, for information, guidance and advice, meant to build a bridge between parents of children with ASD and specialists in the field.

The logo for autism connect, featuring three stylized orange figures of people holding hands above the text "autism connect" in a lowercase, sans-serif font.

www.autismconnect.ro

the only platform in Romania that provides a complete picture of resources in the field of autistic spectrum disorders.

Projects and Programs

Parent for Parent

The “Parent for Parent” program was initiated by the Help Autism Association in early 2013, parents beneficiaries of the association thereby donating part of the funds raised for their children’s therapy, to support recovery programs for other children with autism.

In the two years of the program, with a budget of 130,000 euros provided through sponsorships and fundraising efforts of parents, 62 children diagnosed with ASD received free daily therapy.

In 2015, the second year of the project, a number of 37 children in Bucharest and other 3 in other cities, have been integrated into free therapy programs.

At the end of the year, no less than 25 of the children beneficiaries of the program have been integrated into schools and kindergartens, 17 of them recovered, and 8 continuing a parallel therapy program.



Projects and Programs



Economic Development for Social Sustainability

In 2015, seizing a European funding opportunity opportunity, Help Autism Association established three Social Economy structures . These structures set up in the form of private companies, started their activity on the free market, the profits being directed towards facilitating the free therapy for children with ASD.



“We color your path to success!”

Our team of professionals with over 20 years of experience in advertising, supported by latest generation equipment, work with passion so as each printed material out of our workshop can satisfy the most demanding customers.

The printing office provides printed products in small and medium print runs, in a wide range, creative services and graphic design.

Due to our top features, we offer products covering the needs of any type of business, from business cards and brochures to mesh, banners, window or car graphics, the equipment covering all types of finishes.



Projects and Programs

Economic Development for Social Sustainability



“Dedicated to the philosophy of learning through play”

In fairytale space, ideal for children's parties, specially set up for their safety, we promote good cheer, creativity and harmonious development of children through thematic workshops organized by specialized personnel so that, through play, children become more adaptable, flexible and more creative.



It is proven that children learn through play and our efforts are aimed at this aspect! Children are engaged in activities suited to their age and their needs, which will help develop creative thinking, sensory capabilities, language and imagination.



AHA WORKSHOP – manufacturing of wooden toys and accessories

At AHA Workshop, we intend to give today's children the gift of imagination. We want to make a difference in the harmonious development of the children.



We admit that we are deeply influenced by the toys coming out of our hands and look at each piece of wood that we bring to life not as a marketing opportunity but as a chance to positively influence the future of a young person. We remember every day that every invention on this earth, no matter how simple or complex should start with a dream and that the most powerful thing that each of us has to play with in this life is, ultimately, our own imagination.

Our craftsmen's craftsmanship goes beyond the limits, and with their help, the wood can come to life in forms imagined by each client. Whether it's toys, furniture, accessories or other functional or decorative objects, we promise to give you the experience of the natural wood to the highest standards.

Projects and Programs

Life lessons with ING

Help Autism won the internal competition ""Adopt a Project"" with the project ""ING for goods:2.0""



Thus, during the year, 107 children in our centers in Bucharest, Suceava and Drobeta Turnu-Severin, received, month by month, free lessons of independence and autonomy, meaning "life lesson for children with autism."

Projects and Programs

Free National Program of Early Diagnosis and Complex Psychological Assessment

Early diagnosis and intervention represent the best solution identified to date, for the chance of a life as close to normal. Through personalized therapy the chances of recovery and social integration of children with autism can be over 50%.

Since 2013, Help Autism Association initiated the Free National Program of Early Diagnosis and Complex Psychological Assessment in order to facilitate early detection of autism and related disorders. Under the program, sessions of medical diagnosis, clinical diagnosis and psychological assessment tests based on ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule), ADI-R (The Autism Diagnostic Interview, Revised) and Carolina, are organized.

Following these evaluations, the child falls within the autism spectrum disorder, the specific areas of delay are established and the individualized plan which will be the guide for therapeutic intervention, is drafted.

In 2015, 140 children benefited from the free evaluation program.



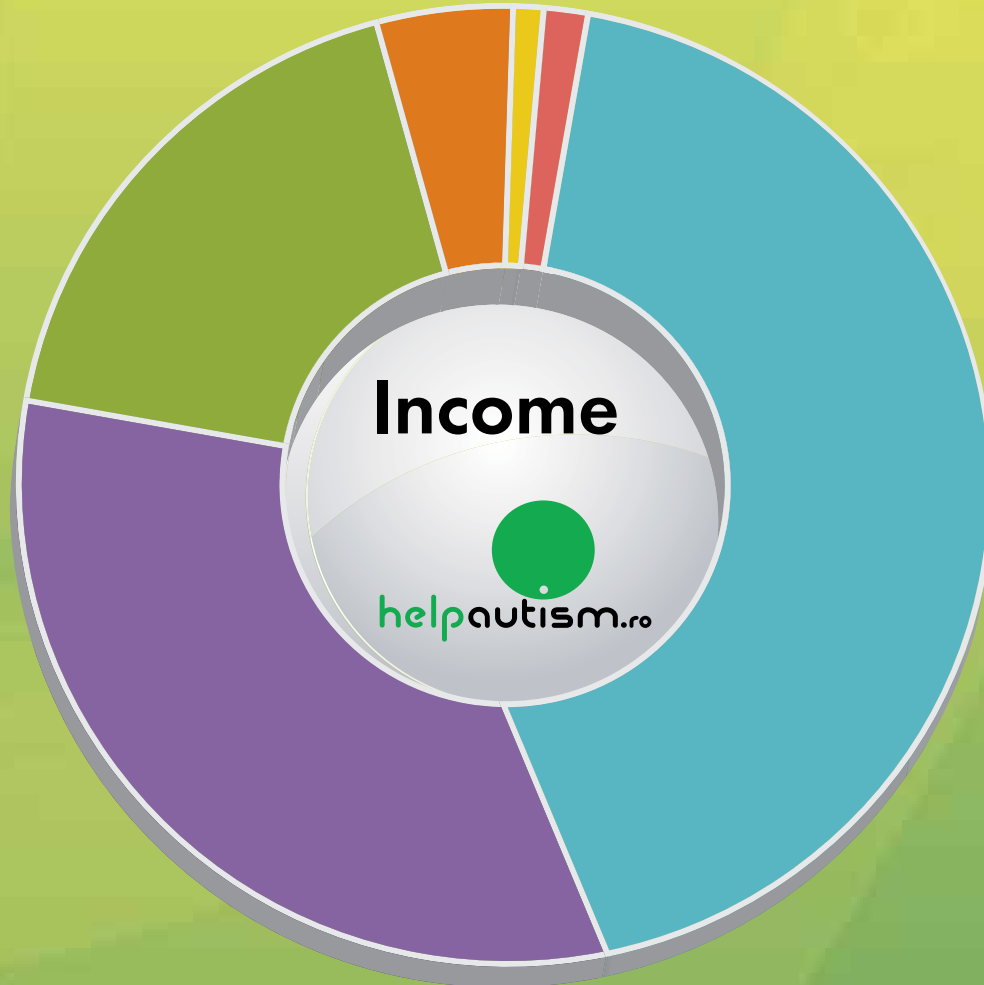
Two Awards at the Civil Society Gala

Help Autism Association was awarded two prizes in the categories “Originality” and “Education and Research” at the Civil Society Gala, 2015 edition.

Help Autism was the only association awarded in two distinct categories of the gala for the same project “Parent for Parent 2014” program through which 200 families redirected 50,000 euro of the funds raised for their own children towards 22 autistic children from disadvantaged families, thus offering them the chance to an independent life.

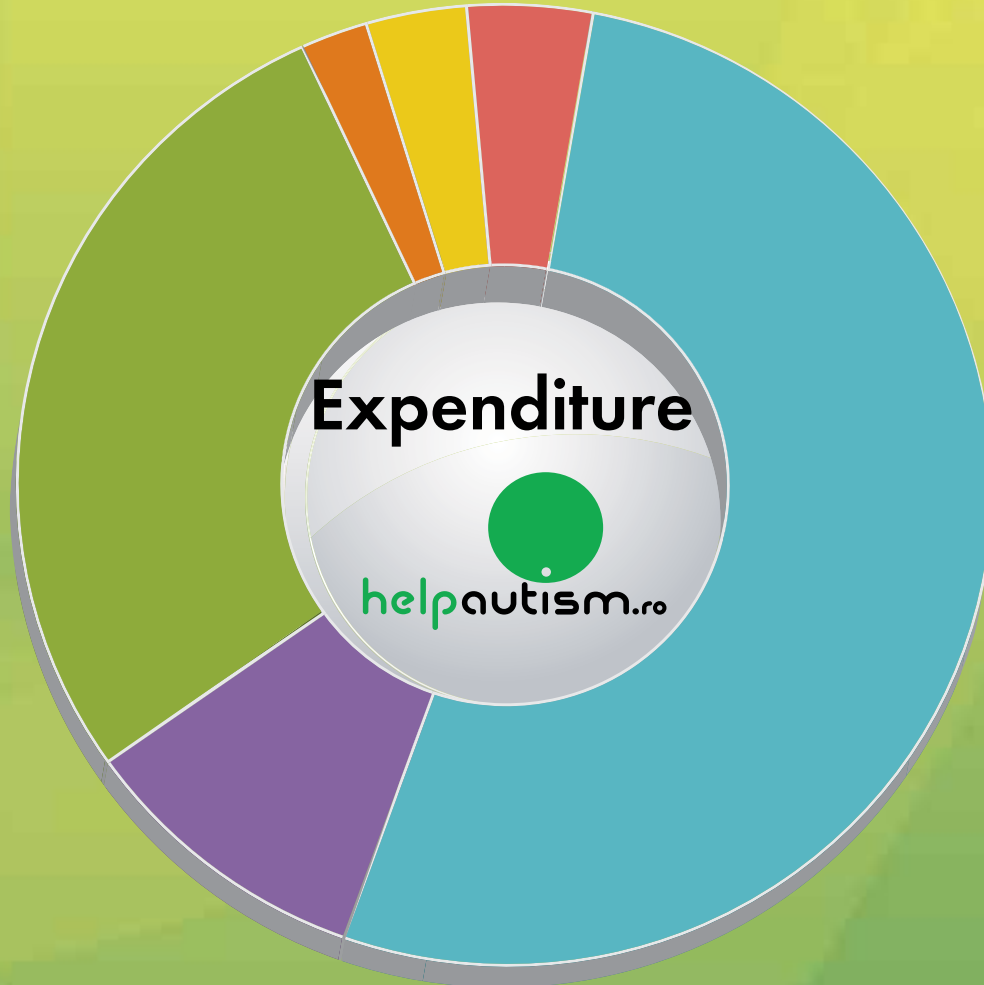


Help Autism 2015 Income



2% of income tax	873.182 euro
Non-refundable Funds Programs	549.523 euro
Corporate sponsors (money, products, services)	331.812 euro
Individual donations	56.540 euro
Fundraising events	7.142 euro
Other	13.784 euro
Total	1.831.983 euro

Help Autism 2015 Expenditure



Children's recovery programs	708.868 euro
Teaching materials and rent expense	103.780 euro
Administrative expenses	260.680 euro
Courses and workshops	28.355 euro
Events planning	13.800 euro
Psychological evaluation services	38.080 euro
Total	1.153.563 euro