



# what is CSAAC?

*Founded in 1979 through the vision of four families in Montgomery County, Maryland, CSAAC is a private, non-profit agency dedicated to serving children and adults living with autism by helping them succeed in day-to-day activities and become active members of their community.*

*growth, change, promise*

# what do we do?

*growing. striving. succeeding. living. learning. working.*

***A nationally-recognized leader in the support it provides, CSAAC offers a myriad of individualized and state-of-the-art services to over 350 children and adults with autism.***

## ***Residential Support Services.***

CSAAC oversees 52 homes in Montgomery County, MD, providing community living to children and adults with autism. Homes are staffed around the clock by counselors, who teach independent living skills such as housekeeping, personal hygiene, shopping, money management, communication, telephone use, and leisure activities.

## ***Vocational Services.***

CSAAC's supported employment services allow adults with autism to obtain training and work alongside non-disabled co-workers while under the supervision of CSAAC job coaches. Worksites include more than 40 private and public businesses, nonprofit organizations and agencies. CSAAC assesses the interests and employment preferences of each individual and seeks paid employment compatible with his or her strengths.

### ***Educational Services.***

CSAAC operates and manages the Community School of Maryland — three nonpublic educational programs approved by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Our school students are between 7 and 21 years old and attend one of the three sites located in Rockville, Brookeville, and Silver Spring, MD.



### ***Intensive Early Intervention.***

Approved by the Maryland State Department of Education, CSAAC's Intensive Early Intervention Service provides treatment through one-to-one positive behavioral intervention. Instructional technicians work with children between the ages of 24 months and 5 years old in the child's home environment.

### ***Family Support Services.***

Developed in 2001 to provide family training, intensive individual support, and after-school programming, this service enables children with autism to remain in their own home and communities by teaching self-care, appropriate communication skills, and social participation in the community.



# what is autism?

Autism is a neurological disorder that impairs an individual's ability to communicate and engage in social activities.

Autism is a spectrum disorder — meaning individuals with autism can range from mild to severe. The “umbrella” of Pervasive Development Disorders includes Autism, Asperger's Disorder, Rett's Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, and Pervasive Development Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS). Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) often become evident in children by the time they are 3 years old. Usually, the first sign is delayed or absent language. Additional features include odd rituals such as spinning objects, flapping hands, and behavioral disturbances.

Although children and adults with autism learn and grow, many often require lifelong supports and assistance with everyday activities such as personal hygiene, preparing meals, traveling, or maintaining a job.

In addition, many individuals with autism have severely impaired social and communication skills, rendering them unable to participate in social activities. CSAAC specializes in the unique support needs of individuals with autism from birth through retirement.

*The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 1 in 166 children are born with an ASD each day.*



The Jane Salzano  
Center for Autism

## Applying For Services Contact the appropriate personnel to arrange for a tour of CSAAC's facilities:

### School

Brenda Thiam, M. Ed.  
(240) 912-3603

### Family Support Services

Janet Burch  
(240) 912-3657

### Intensive Early Intervention

Tina Hilton  
(301) 208-7250

### Employment Supports

Gwen Davis, MPA  
(240) 912-2255

### Residential Supports

Brandi Best  
(240) 912-2269

## Mission Statement

To enable individuals with autism to achieve their highest potential and contribute as confident individuals to their community.

*A United Way Agency #8068  
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The Jane Salzano Center for Autism  
8615 East Village Avenue  
Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children

P: 240.912.2220  
F: 301.926.9384

[www.csaac.org](http://www.csaac.org)

