



Talk About Curing Autism (TACA) is a national organization dedicated to providing information, resources, and support to families affected by autism. For families who have just received the autism diagnosis, TACA aims to speed up the cycle time from the autism diagnosis to effective treatments. TACA helps to strengthen the autism community by connecting families and the professionals who can help them, allowing them to share stories and information to help people with autism be the best they can be. TACA has chapters in California, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Nevada, Arizona, Indiana, Tennessee, Alabama and Maryland.

Autism is a devastating neurological and biological disorder typically affecting children between the ages of 18 months to five years of age. Some facts about autism:

- One in every 150 children are diagnosed with autism.
- More than 1.5 million people in the United States are affected.
- Every 21 minutes a child is being diagnosed with autism
- Autism is the fastest growing disorder in our country, and receives much less government funding than other diseases
- **Autism is treatable! Your help is changing lives for children with autism and their families.**

TACA Programs:

- **Education and Support Meetings.** TACA holds monthly meetings in 24 locations across the country. TACA's meetings feature educational speakers on important topics and allow family members to connect with one another to stay on top of the latest information in the autism world.
- **Autism Journey Guide** This comprehensive guide provides families with the information they need to begin the autism journey. Guides are given away at no charge to families who have recently received the autism diagnosis.
- **Parent Education.** TACA offers five full-day new parent orientation seminars, an annual medical seminar and a seminar aimed at educating physicians about how to care for people with autism.
- **Parent mentors** are available to provide one-on-one support to families who have just received the autism diagnosis.
- **Autism Cares Partner.** TACA is a partner member of Autism Cares, a consortium of leading autism organizations who have come together to provide financial support for individuals with autism and their families during natural disasters and other catastrophic life events, across the United States.
- **Family Scholarship Program.** Scholarships are provided to help families who are pursuing treatment for their children with autism, but are struggling to find the funding.
- **Life Chat.** Sometimes families aren't able to pick up the phone or come to a meeting to get the help they need. Through Live Chat on the TACA website, they can chat live with experienced TACA mentors to get the support they need.
- **Resource libraries** Each TACA location maintains a resource library of the latest autism books and tapes that can be checked out by members at no charge.
- **TACA's adopt-a-family holiday program** provides gifts, food and other necessities for families with autism who need help during the holiday season.

In 2009, TACA will launch three new programs through generous funding from the Pacific Life Foundation. These programs will include Spanish-language outreach in the autism community, advocacy support and independent assessment scholarships.

