



# Fundraising Pack

YOU can help us make  
a huge difference...

# Thank you!

Thank you for choosing Autism Together and having a look through our Fundraising Pack. Your support of our charity is hugely appreciated!

We believe every autistic person has a right to live their life as they determine. They should be given the opportunity to realise their potential, while feeling safe and secure. To do this, we work with each individual to create a shared understanding of their strengths and needs. We believe in a person-centred approach and it is one of our core values. However, we can't do this without your support.

We hope that you will find lots of fundraising ideas in this pack, along with top tips about how you can make a real difference. We will also tell you more about the different services we run, which you can support.

Every contribution we receive is as important as any other. Whatever you can do and however much you raise, it will be sincerely appreciated.

We wish you the very best of luck along your fundraising journey and we will be on hand to support you with anything you need.

Don't forget to keep us updated on how your fundraising is progressing. We love to hear about all your wonderful plans to raise money for the people we support.

Sincerely, from everyone at Autism Together and the people we support too... thank you!

We couldn't do it without you.



## Who we are

Autism Together is a registered charity, which started life in 1968 in Bromborough as Wirral Autistic Society, before growing to support autistic people right across Wirral and West Cheshire. Our charity was founded by a group of forward-thinking parents who wanted their loved ones to receive the specialist support they needed. Now, Autism Together is one of the UK's leading providers of services and support to autistic people and their families. We support over 400 autistic people, employ over 850 staff, and encourage all our supporters to get involved through events, fundraising, and corporate volunteering.





## We're here to help!

Call our Fundraising Team on 0151 482 3136 or email: [fundraising@autismtogether.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@autismtogether.co.uk) to chat about your fundraising ideas, or for help with planning.

# What we do

Autism Together has grown from providing support to local autistic people and their families, to offering a range of regional residential options, supported living, and day services for over 400 autistic people.

## **Residential and Supported Living**

### **Supporting autistic people in their daily lives**

Autism Together is committed to delivering the best autism support available.

We provide registered residential care through a range of housing options across Wirral and West Cheshire, all registered with and inspected by the Care Quality Commission.

Our Supported Living service is able to provide individualised support in a community setting for autistic adults. Working with registered social landlords, we offer bespoke services from single flats to shared accommodation.



## **Day Services**

### **Creative, technical, life skills and work experience**

Our Day Services offer autistic people meaningful, realistic and achievable training, on the job work experience and the chance to gain valuable life skills. People we support can access creative arts and technology, performing arts, health and wellbeing activities, plus the chance to get involved with gardening, animal husbandry, and more.

## **Children & Family Service**

### **Support for autistic children and families**

We offer support for autistic children, young people and their families, helping those with social and communication difficulties, and giving families a better understand of autism.

We also host a range of regular events for families, including activity clubs, rainbow groups, coffee mornings, courses and workshops.

## **Learning Culture Team**

### **Training for autism acceptance**

Our Learning Culture Team delivers autism training to our staff and externally to a range of professions and industries. Our award-winning team has developed an autism-specific training method with accreditation to deliver this to health and social care providers across the UK. The team also offers the Oliver McGowan training course, which is co-delivered by autistic people.

## **Bromborough Pool Cafe and Bridge Community Farm**

### **Being part of the community**

Along with providing accessible facilities for the local community to enjoy, our cafe and farm sites offer autistic adults the opportunity to work in and among our local communities, gaining new skills and confidence each day.





**It is estimated that 1 in 100 people in the UK are autistic, with varying degrees of need. We offer support to autistic people and their families - including residential, supported living, and day services - helping individuals gain valuable work experience and everyday life skills...**



# The difference your donation will make to us

**£6**

**allows someone we support to attend a soft-play session...**

**£8**

**provides an hour-long activity club for one child...**

**£30**

**buys a bubble machine for sensory fun indoors and out...**

**£50**

**can purchase a new item for one of our Sensory Rooms**

**£70**

**buys canvasses for use in a creative art workshop...**

**£80**

**buys a new air fryer for a residential house...**

**£180**

**buys a new petrol lawnmower for our landscaping groups...**

**£400**

**buys an iPad to help an autistic adult communicate more easily...**



## Amazon Wishlist

If you would like to donate a specific item to our charity then our wishlist is the place to go!

All the items listed were chosen by the people we support and our staff teams. They pick things they know will make a big difference to their area, from small items for crafting or tennis balls and games, through to larger items such as outside bean bags or garden mowers.

When you purchase an item, it is sent directly to us to share with the relevant service. We are constantly updating the list with items for all budgets. We have even had fundraisers ask friends and family to purchase our charity a gift, for their birthday!





# Our Top Fundraising Tips

The best way to fundraise is to plan and prepare well in advance... all successful fundraisers are well organised!

1

**Decide what you want to do and when, maybe outlining different action points to complete along the way.**

2

**Set yourself a fundraising target; you could launch your own JustGiving page, too.**

3

**Think about your contacts and places you can approach for support, this could be sponsorship or prize donations.**

4

**Speak with your employer, many will offer 'match funding' opportunities or allow you to publicise your activity internally.**

5

**Tell everyone know what you're doing and why. Use social media to promote your fundraising and updates. Photos and videos help engagement too.**

6

**Ask all your friends, family and colleagues to get involved!**



# Raising money



## Fundraising Online

Online fundraising is a fantastic and simple way to collect donations and publicise your fundraising, for many reasons...

The process is simple and secure.

Donations are paid directly into Autism Together's bank account.

No sponsorship forms means no chasing people for donations after the event.

Online companies automatically collect Gift Aid on donations made, saving us time and money.

Autism Together is registered with Just Giving, to make creating your fundraising account even easier.

1. Log on to [www.JustGiving.com](http://www.JustGiving.com).
2. In the Find a Charity box, type: "Autism Together".
3. You can then set up your own fundraising page.
4. Just Giving can only be used to raise money for one charity, per fundraiser.
5. Just Giving transaction fee is 1.9% + 30p from each donation.

## Using a sponsorship form

It is extremely important that all sponsor forms are fully completed and returned to Autism Together, as this allows our charity to submit a claim for Gift Aid to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Try and collect the sponsorship immediately, to save you time after your event.

List your largest sponsorship amounts at the top of your sponsor form, as this is an excellent way of encouraging other sponsors to give generously.

Make sure your supporters know that their details will not be passed on to any third parties.



## Gift Aid Facts

Gift Aid can be claimed back from HMRC for any sponsorship made by someone who currently pays tax.

Gift Aid does not cost the sponsor or Autism Together anything.

Gift Aid claimed is 25p for every £1 someone sponsors you. So, when a tax payer sponsors you £10 you are actually raising £12.50.

To claim Gift Aid, the sponsor form must display clearly the full name and address (including the house number and postcode) of the person who is sponsoring you.

Email us:  
[fundraising@autismtogether.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@autismtogether.co.uk)  
if you would like paper sponsor forms!



# Introducing our Fundraising Team...



We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and we're always happy to chat if we can be of any help with your fundraising events and ideas.

## **Lisa Masters**

### **Head of Fundraising**

I began my fundraising career over 25 years ago, after creating a charity that supports people with Down's Syndrome. Since then, I have worked with a number of charities including 10 years at Liverpool Women's Hospital.

I have a broad knowledge of all types of fundraising and I gained my Diploma from the Chartered Institute of Fundraisers in 2018.

## **Chloe Jones**

### **Fundraising Officer**

I have been lucky enough to work in a variety of roles with Autism Together, from Admin to Children & Family Services, before settling in Fundraising.

My current role involves organising a range of fundraising events and liaising with the community. I am bursting with ideas and am keen to help others make theirs a success, from bake sales to sewing bees to sky diving!

## **How we can help**

We can provide a FREE Autism Together t-shirt for anyone taking on a fundraising challenge raising money for Autism Together.

If you live locally, we would be happy for you to borrow one of our collection tins and buckets for your event. These will be pre-sealed before passing to you and must not be opened before returning to us. We will count the money and let you know how much was collected.

**Happy to chat** – we will be your main point of contact throughout your challenge. Ask as many questions as you need to, there's probably nothing we haven't been asked before!



# Meet two of our fundraisers

## Andrew Choyce

Andrew took on an incredible challenge – running 6k, every day for 60 days – in order to support Autism Together.

One of Andrew's twin boys, Isaac, had received an autism diagnosis and Andrew wanted all the money he raised to go to support our Children & Family Service.

Andrew says: "The diagnosis came as a relief, yet also with an element of fear of what the future may hold for Isaac, in a world that can often be an unforgiving environment for those with different sensory and communication needs.

"As a parent of a recently-diagnosed child, I feel a responsibility to raise awareness and acceptance within society of Autism Spectrum Condition. It is my hope that when Isaac grows up, stigmas are removed and the world is a kinder and more accepting place to neurodiverse individuals."

Andrew began his challenge on March 28th, the start of World Autism Acceptance Week, and continued it throughout our April Autism Acceptance Month and beyond!

"Isaac continues to amaze and inspire me every day as I learn more about how he sees the world. A secondary benefit was getting fit for my wedding at the end of the challenge.



"Autism Together has formed a huge part of our journey. The whole team were great and supported me throughout the challenge. Chloe and the Fundraising team sent me a t-shirt which I wore with pride for lots of my runs!"

The Choyces even made our charity part of their wedding day, with Autism Together-inspired wedding favours!

"On the wedding favours, our thinking was that this was a positive way to share Isaac's recent diagnosis with family and friends, while raising awareness and money for the charity.

"It was incredible to see so many of our guests wearing the pin badges on our wedding day."





# Nina Cullender

Nina has been a regular volunteer for our charity, helping out at many of our public events over the years. We wanted to find out more about what Autism Together means to her and why she enjoys volunteering with our Fundraising Team.

## Why did you start fundraising?

My son accessed Autism Together's Day Services at Raby Kitchen Gardens and was supported in a way that he had not experienced anywhere else, apart from at home.

When I attended the Friends & Family Meetings I was impressed with all the parents who were parachuting and running, intrepid in their efforts to raise money.

Although my gratitude for the excellent support that Chris was receiving prompted a desire to help, I couldn't imagine throwing myself out of an aeroplane, running or climbing Everest. So, I did what I do best, knitting! I can sew and knit, so I made things to sell and volunteered on the stall.

## What do you enjoy about volunteering?

I feel I ought to say I feel noble helping to raise money for a charity, but to be honest it is fun socialising with the organisers, chatting with them and the customers.

The Fundraising staff are so welcoming that it makes you want to be involved. It is especially nice to see people the charity supports with their families or support workers coming to the events and seeing people they know behind the counter.

It is quite a buzz when someone buys something you have made. It makes every minute spent making it worthwhile. I also feel that I am making a contribution to supporting Chris.





### **Can you tell us a bit about your personal connection to Autism Together?**

When my son became mentally ill at the age of 15 and was unable to attend school any more, we spent 11-years coping with NHS support and social workers until he also got an autism diagnosis at the age of 23.

We were struggling to find what could keep Chris occupied, as so many doors were closed to him. The social worker suggested activities at Autism Together, so we visited Raby Kitchen Gardens and were impressed with the facilities, the support and the relaxed atmosphere.

So, in 2013 he began to attend three mornings a week. A few years ago, Chris suddenly said that he wanted to be more independent and have a flat of his own. In July of 2022 he was able to move in to a Supported Living house, supported by Autism Together.

He seems happy and it is such a good move for him. I am relieved that he is somewhere safe, as I am getting on a bit! The support workers are such lovely people and I am confident that Chris is in the right place.

He rings me often and I still feel involved, but I also have a little more time for my own

activities. Chris is surrounded by more people nearer his age, which is beneficial and his life has opened up.

He goes to more activities and that keeps him mentally healthy. I am very lucky that he now lives within walking distance from home and I still see him quite a lot.

Autism Together saved us and answered our needs in 2013, and again they have saved the day by offering Chris a supported living service.

### **What is your most memorable moment volunteering or fundraising with us?**

The most memorable moment was standing back and viewing the display we made at AT's Christmas Fair in Thornton Hough.

I had been making items to sell and boxing them up for months and friends had also made toys and knitted items, still I was worried that we wouldn't have enough.

We filled our table and hung things behind it, filled a Christmas tree and had to beg two more tables and then display the rest on boxes in front. I was amazed that the combined efforts had provided so much.

The best results come when more people are involved and the customers have a real connection to the charity.



# Organising Publicity

It is really important that you publicise your event in order to maximise the amount of funds you raise and to make sure people hear about your amazing efforts and goals.

- Please send us all the details of your event, including any photos or posters you use to promote it. We would love to share this with our supporters on our social media platforms and with our staff too.
- Perhaps write a press release about your fundraising plans to share with local newspapers and radio stations, then follow it up once your fundraising total is known?
- Use your own social media channels to spread the word. Create an event on Facebook, or use a popular hashtag on Twitter. Tag us in on your posts and ask friends and family to also like and share them as much as possible.

Do let us know if you need any assistance.



## Tell us about your success...

We would like to say thanks, tell you how amazing you are, and invite you to meet us, so we can thank you in person!

There are many ways to ensure that the money you raised reaches us safely...

1. **Cheques** – these can be made payable to Autism Together and sent directly to our main office: Fundraising Team, Autism Together, Oak House, 6 Tebay Road, Bromborough, Wirral, CH62 3PA.
2. **Online donation** – you can visit our website and make a donation online, at any time. Visit: [autismtogether.co.uk/donate](https://autismtogether.co.uk/donate).
3. **Bank Transfer** – contact us and we can provide you with our account details so you can send us your donation directly. Email us: [fundraising@autismtogether.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@autismtogether.co.uk).
4. **Cash** – if you have collection tins to drop off, please contact us to arrange an appropriate time to do this. We will count the money, bank it, and let you know how much was raised.
5. Please **DO NOT** send cash through the post.

**REMEMBER** – please complete a Gift Aid form if you can, we have included one in this fundraising pack. If you are a UK taxpayer we can claim an additional 25p from every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you!