

unfurling the gifts of Autism

**HIDDEN
WINGS**

HOW TO
START A
HIDDEN
WINGS
CHAPTER



CHAPTER GUIDE

- SOLVANG VISIT
- AGREEMENT
- YOUR PLAN
- FUNDRAISING
- ON-GOING
RELATIONSHIP

SOLVANG VISIT

OBSERVE
MANUAL &
TRAINING
EXPERIENCE
MEET BOARD
OF
DIRECTORS

SOLVANG VISIT

► OBSERVE

Parents are the solid foundation.

Jim and Julia gathered a group of parents, who laid out Questions/concerns for their kids



SOLVANG VISIT

EXPERIENCE



SOLVANG VISIT

■ MANUAL AND TRAINING

■ Hidden wings students participate each year in The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and Earth Day beach cleanups

■ ◆ Hidden Wings didn't initially charge students for classes, but founders encourage others to ask for something at the start — money or donated space/expertise

■ ◆ Tuition is based on a family's ability to pay supplemented by donations from foundations, with contributions encouraged



SOLVANG VISIT

- **MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- **SPEND TIME IN CLASS**
- **CHAT WITH STUDENTS**
- **PUT ON YOUR CREATIVE HAT – THINK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES IN YOUR OWN ENVIRONMENT**

HIDDEN WINGS

UNFURLING THE GIFTS OF AUTISM



JOIN THE FLIGHT. BECOME A CHAPTER.

Hidden Wings board members and advisers include:

- - a special needs lawyer
- - CPA
- - special education teacher
- - transition specialist
- - child psychiatrist
- - foremost expert on the Savant Syndrome
- - prominent businessman





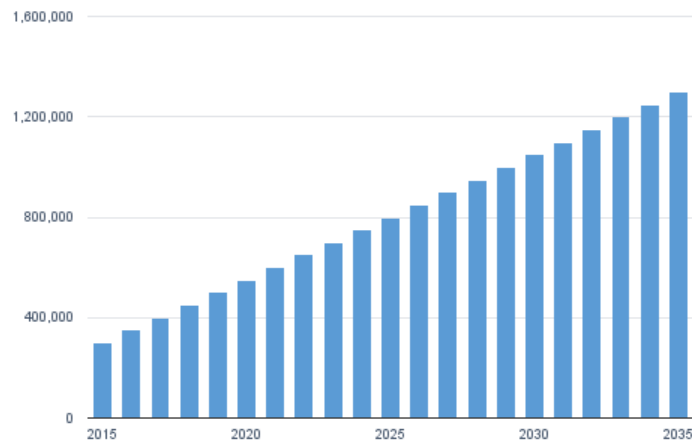
AGREEMENT POINTS



- 501©3 under Hidden Wings
- Chapter provides documentation
- Chapter Fee
- LEADERSHIP
 - Start with 4-5 parents committed to each other's kids
 - From that, a full-time director will:
 - EAT, SLEEP and BREATHE your organization's mission
 - Lead fundraising
 - Coordinate classes
 - Raise awareness

Be Pioneers

Number of Adults With Autism Will Surge



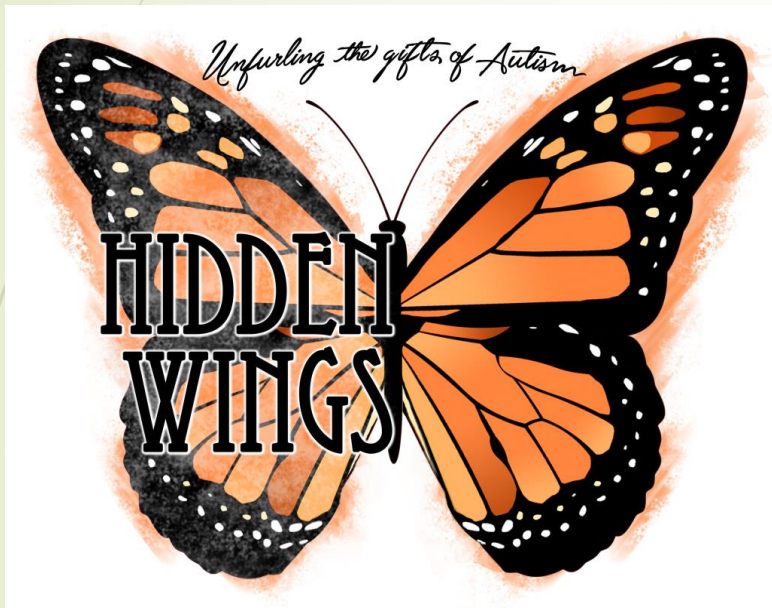
(Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Data)

MONEY spent on adults vs. children with autism:

-  >\$330 million spent annually on autism research by private and public sources*
-  1% of research money was spent on needs of adults with autism

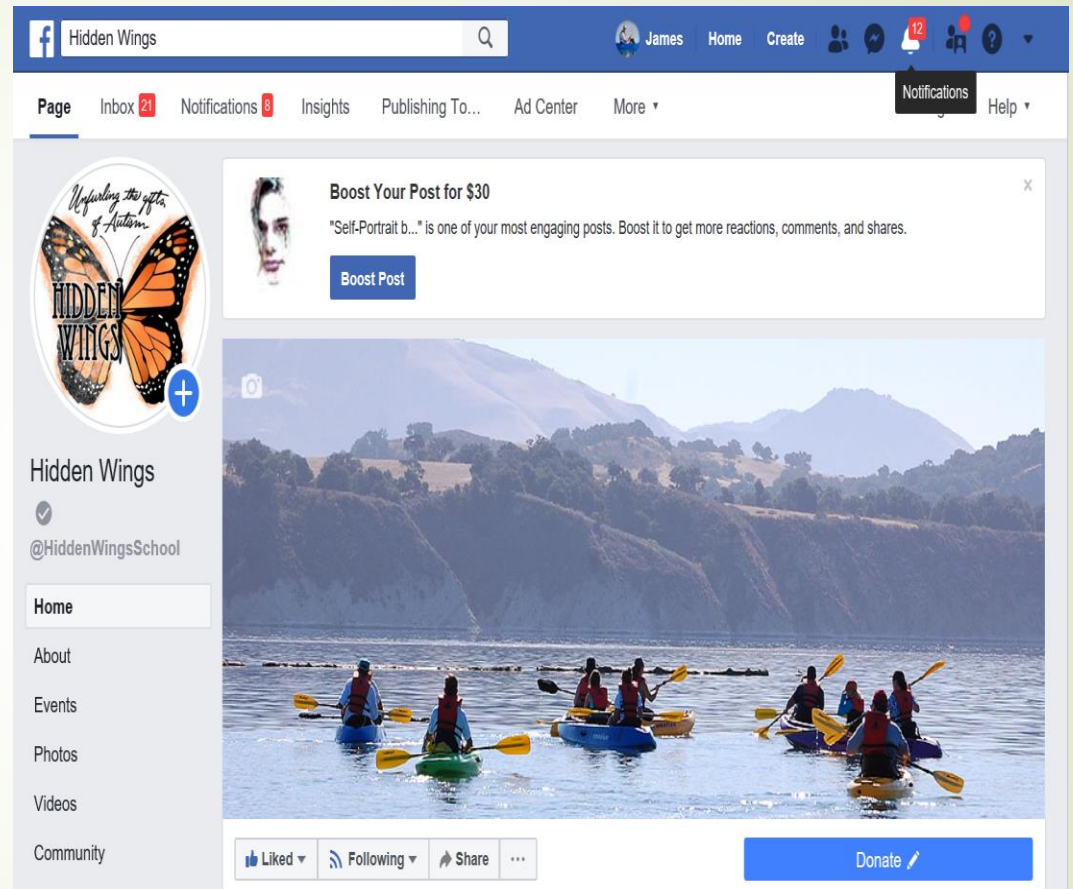
➤ (National Institutes of Mental Health data for 2012, the most recent statistics available)

LET'S DO THIS!



YOUR PLAN

- COMMUNITY SPACES
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- EXPERIENCES
- PUBLIC FORUMS
- COMMUNITY PARTNERS





YOUR PLAN

► COMMUNITY SPACES

- You don't need physical headquarters right away — think community space...
- Yoga studio
- Local parks, recreation centers
- Therapeutic horseback riding program
- Schools
- Churches
- Fellow nonprofits like YMCA

YOUR PLAN

Find Teachers With Open Minds & Hearts

Look for the three
C's: **c**onnection,
competence &
commitment

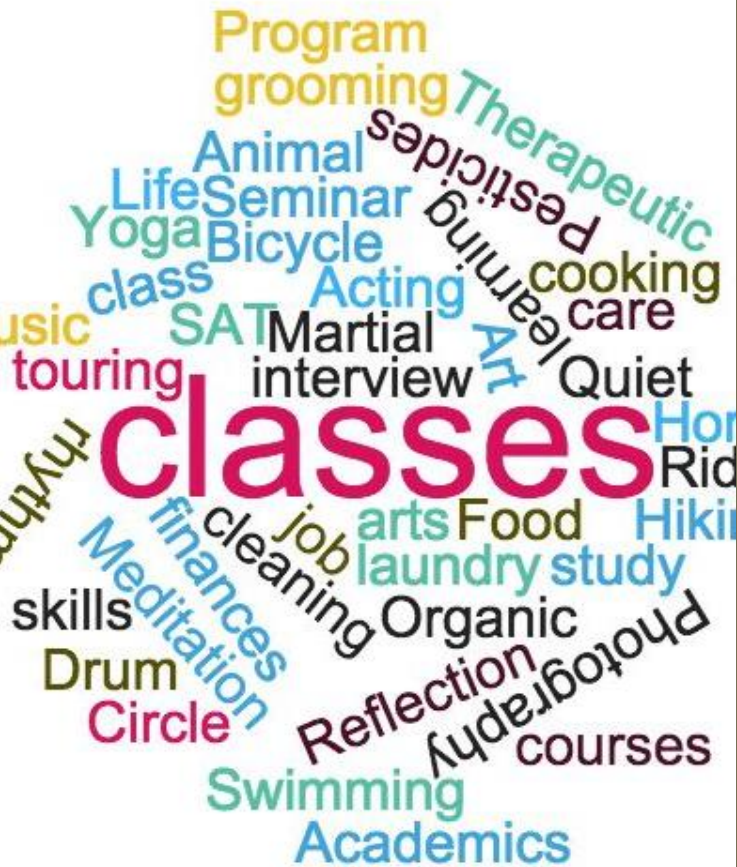
Special
education
certifications are
not required





YOUR PLAN

- COMMUNICATION – IMPERATIVE!
 - SOCIAL MEDIA
 - BLOG
 - COMMUNITY FORUMS
 - EVENTS
 - LOCAL PRESS
 - GUEST SPEAKERS
 - EXPERTS
 - ARTISTS
 - MUSICIANS



FUNDRAISING

- WHO DO YOU SERVE?
- DEFINE YOUR MISSION
- TRANSPARENCY
- IN-KIND GIFTS
- FOUNDERS CLUB



FUNDRAISING

➤ WHO DO YOU SERVE?

- - Higher functioning students typically don't enjoy programs viewed as serving those who are lower functioning.
- - Hidden Wings serves youth on the spectrum who are moderate to lower functioning because there is so little available to them.

FUNDRAISING

Define Your Mission

➤ ◆ The right job



➤ ◆ A good friend



FUNDRAISING

Define Your Mission

- ◆ Language matters. The word “autism” on a flier tends to deter participants on the higher end of the spectrum.
- ◆ “Anyone with special needs” denotes an event open to all disabilities.





ON GOING RELATIONSHIP

- CONSULTING
- MENTORING
- SITE VISITS
- FREQUENT CHECK INS
- SPECIAL REQUESTS

ON GOING RELATIONSHIP

Get students to do something they never thought they could.

That's the goal of Hidden Wings instructor Rob Kennedy, who leads weekly hikes, swims or kayaks for Outdoor Bound Saturday classes.

Teachers say being flexible and patient are important qualities, along with having a heart to love these kids as their own.

Don't hire teachers who call students "clients."



Hidden Wings Students vs. National Average

- ▶ 62% of students employed over 1 year
- ▶ 35% employed full time over 1 year
- ▶ 11% kept full-time jobs
- ▶ 27% went on to community colleges

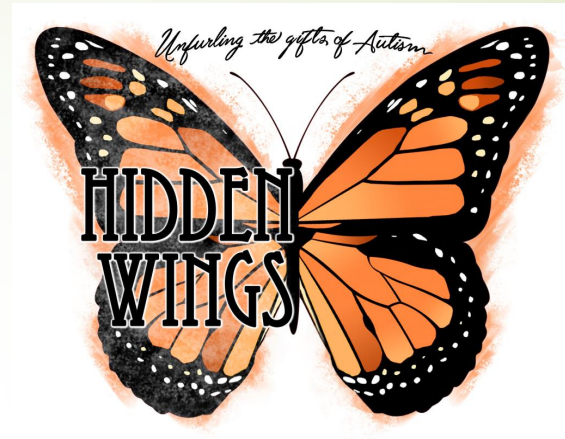
- ▶ Of adults on the autistic spectrum,
 - ▶ 6% have paid, full-time jobs
 - ▶ 18% in sheltered or supported work setting
 - ▶ 14% go on to colleges

Data: Hidden Wings, CDC, "Employment and Post-Secondary Educational Activities for Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders During the Transition to Adulthood"

ON GOING RELATIONSHIP

In Summary:

- Each chapter can use the Hidden Wings 501(c)3 status while coordinating its own fundraising, programming, board of directors, finances, insurance coverage, etc.
- Use our bylaws, logo & how-to manual
 - For more information, contact:
founders/co-directors
- The Rev James or Julia Billington, M.D.
517 Atterdag Road
Solvang, CA 93463
(805)705-3918
Jim@hiddenwings.org



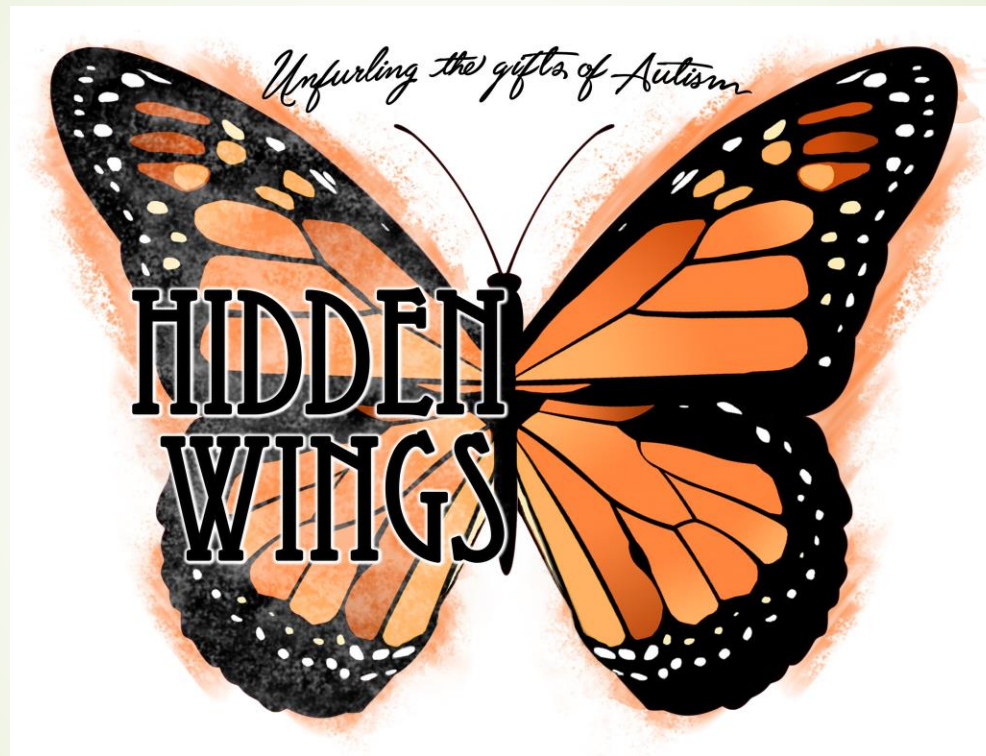
Visit www.hiddenwings.org

Cool videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uAhb7CF0ZE>

<https://vimeo.com/69553388>

Become a Hidden Wings Chapter.



Make a difference in your community.