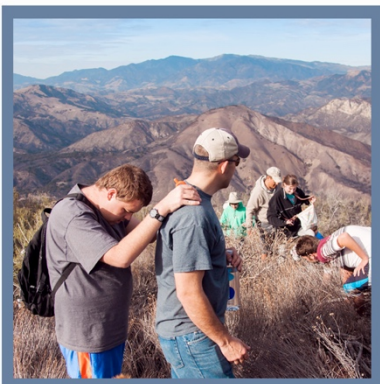
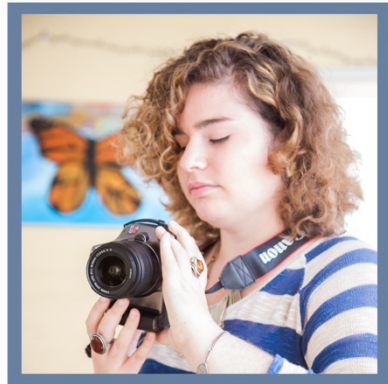


HIDDEN WINGS

UNFURLING THE GIFTS OF AUTISM



JOIN THE FLIGHT. BECOME A CHAPTER.

**Preface:**

Hidden Wings is a parent-run, nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to nurturing the gifts of young adults on the autistic spectrum so they might have full and productive lives in society. The organization was established in Solvang, Calif. in 2009 by the Rev. James and Dr. Julia Billington, both honors graduates of Harvard University with decades of combined experience in the Episcopal ministry, business and medicine.

Mission Vision:

Every young adult on the autistic spectrum should have the right job and a good friend.

Founding Principles:

- (1) **Be pioneers.** Hidden Wings has developed a post-secondary school with visual thinkers in mind. We believe everyone on the autistic spectrum possesses "Hidden Wings," which are extraordinary gifts often masked by developmental limitations that hamper effective communication, social relationships and academic or vocational achievement.
- (2) **Focus on talents.** Our programs emphasize rigorous exercise, a predictable and loving environment, and intellectual stimulation based upon the unique gifts of every student. Instead of focusing on deficits, Hidden Wings works in small groups to discover student talents, which might include digital arts, an aptitude for horse grooming and stable work, painting and more. Of high school graduates with autism, data shows 6% have paid, full-time jobs, 3% live fully independently and 53% live in parents' homes, with the rest in group homes or institutions receiving public support.
- (3) **Limit government involvement.** Hidden Wings is funded by private donations and receives no government funding. As such, the school has flexibility to change its approach and courses based on what works best and what doesn't. All of our programs and courses are available for a fee.
- (4) **Collect dedicated supporters.** Our most dedicated supporters range from parents, friends and local organizations to several nationally known figures. Our board of directors and advisors include a special needs lawyer, a CPA, a special education teacher, a transition specialist, a child psychiatrist, the world's foremost expert on the Savant Syndrome, a prominent businessman and a pediatrician.
- (5) **Scale our mission and model.** The goal has always been to offer Hidden Wings as a template to be replicated across the country. Each chapter can use the Hidden Wings 501(c)3 status while coordinating its own fundraising, programming, board of directors, finances, insurance coverage, etc.

Become a Chapter:

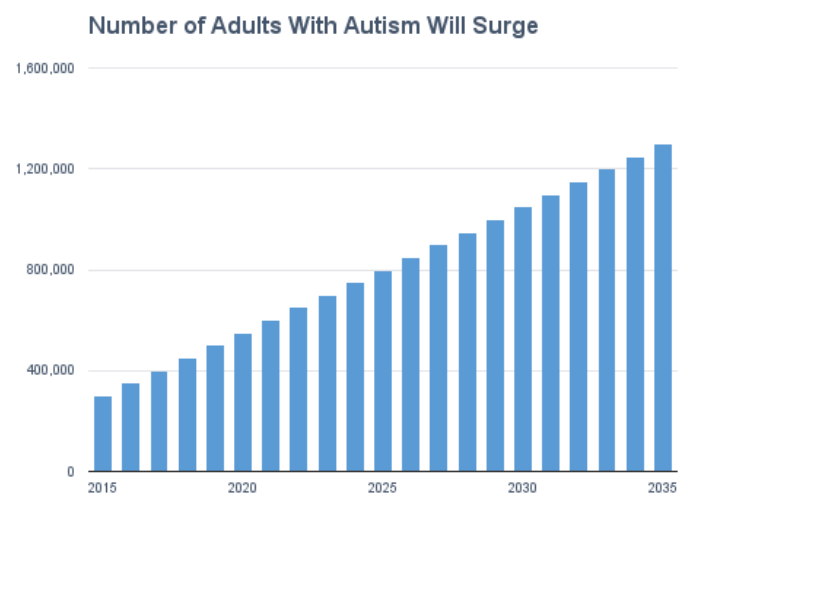
Driven by popular demand demonstrated over the last year, Hidden Wings is now the sought-after model for effective transitioning of youth with autism into productive and fulfilling adulthood.

We've helped more than 400 students gain friendships and employment, and Hidden Wings wants to expand its reach. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 68 children is born with autism and 80% of those diagnosed are under age 22.

Those interested in starting their own Hidden Wings chapter will first need to get in touch with us to begin the process of securing our group inclusion nonprofit status, which carries an annual fee, and to gain access to a manual detailing how to set up a chapter. Next steps include (1) outlining the mission and goals, (2) choosing a nonprofit director and supporting roles, (3) creating a board of directors, (4) hosting public information forums, (5) choosing which level of the autistic spectrum you will serve, (6) collecting donations, (7) choosing teachers and what courses to offer, and (8) forming partnerships.

The affiliated organization will agree to the following:

- To support the work of Hidden Wings and chapters through program development, communication, learning opportunities, and protecting and promoting the good reputation of Hidden Wings;
- To comply with the minimum operational standards of an annual certification process;
- To conduct operations within a defined service area;
- To conduct operations in a manner to protect and promote Hidden Wings and to contribute to the growth of the Hidden Wings movement.



(Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

To Learn More:

Visit

<http://hiddenwings.org/>

or contact:

The Rev James or Julia
Billington, M.D.

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Co-Directors

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“Hidden Wings is building a future for every child in their program, which is a model well worth emulating. The world needs many more such havens.”

— The Late Oliver Sacks, M.D., Author, Neurologist