



Autism Action Partnership (AAP)
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AAP focuses on two major projects; Circle of Friends and the Partnership for Autism Career Employment (PACE).

Circle of Friends is a social skills project in 225 elementary, middle and high schools across the state of Nebraska. The program is designed to partner children on the autism spectrum with neurotypical children in the school setting. Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) often struggle with social skills. It can be difficult for them to forge friendships and they are sometimes targeted for bullying. Teachers who are part of the Circle of Friends program are trained to understand the special needs of children with ASD and how to recruit neurotypical children to join the program and become “friends”. Hundreds of children benefit from this program in many ways. Children with ASD become more confident and comfortable at school and in social settings. They have friends who understand them, stick up for them, and are committed to helping them succeed. The neurotypical friends gain insight into the needs of those with disabilities and grow emotionally and intellectually from the experience of helping others. Teachers and school administrators have a vehicle that supports healthy experiences in the school setting and reduces bullying. It’s a very effective and much appreciated program for everyone involved.

PACE offers support services for adults who are seeking meaningful employment and provides local businesses with skilled and dedicated employees. We seek employment opportunities with corporate Community Partners who are strategically aligned with our mission. Our partners exemplify awareness, sensitivity, inclusion and support. Many people with autism have exceptional intelligence and skills to offer an employer. In addition to individual strengths and talents, they often demonstrate above average skills in many areas. Despite these positive characteristics, it can be difficult for people with autism to gain and maintain employment due to challenges with social interactions and workplace relationships. PACE Career Advisors help individuals overcome challenges so they can thrive in the workforce. They also support employers in their efforts to reduce turnover and bring out the best in their employees. Once a client is employed our Advisors stay with them at the work place until the client and his/her co-workers and supervisors are comfortable and productive.

Our services are open to any individual or family that is touched by autism. There are no fees for any of our services.