



One Center . . . One Hope . . . One Community  
For individuals with Autism

# WHO WE ARE

OUR FOUNDING GROUP is comprised of Glenn Pierce, Robert Cambo, Dr. Tamara Moodie, and Susan L. Leon, all of whom are parents and professionals who have been touched by autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and who strive to provide the best possible individualized education for children with ASD.



The overwhelming need in the South Florida community for services that address the lifespan of individuals most severely affected by autism inspired the Founders to start the following organizations:

**SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM CENTER** is a not-for-profit organization committed to serving the entire demographic of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) residing in South Florida with opportunities that address all their needs on one campus offering early intervention, educational, community outreach, respite, recreational, and vocational services. Programs are implemented utilizing science-based methodologies that can be replicated and serve as a model for autism intervention.

**SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOLS** provides education and therapeutic services to individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) residing in Miami-Dade/Broward Counties, targeting students with communication deficits and/or behavioral challenges, and who may require training in self-help skills. The methodologies of B.F. Skinner's Theory of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Verbal Behavior (VB) are applied in conjunction with State Standards for students on a modified curriculum in order to provide the most effective individualized educational programs possible.

**THE VILLAGES OF SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM** believes that individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) should have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential and to live as independently and productively as possible. We are devoted to creating safe and appropriate housing for this population in an environment that is socially and emotionally fulfilling, utilizing science-based methodologies.

**FRIENDS OF SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM** provides support to South Florida Autism Center, South Florida Autism Charter Schools, and The Villages of South Florida Autism so that they may fulfill their missions of assisting individuals diagnosed with Autism who reside in South Florida.

# WHAT WE DO

Our educational and therapeutic services utilize science-based methodologies to provide the highest quality programs for individuals of all ages who are most severely afflicted with autism.

Community Outreach and Support services target family members of individuals with autism, as well as educators, caregivers and other professionals working in the autism community.

## OUR SERVICES

### For Individuals diagnosed with ASD and their Families:

- Early intervention services and support
- Diagnostic, evaluation and assessment services
- Consultation
- Educational Services
- Out-of-School services for individuals 3 to 21 years of age
- Speech, Occupational, Physical & Behavioral Therapy Services
- In-Home therapy services and family support
- Adult Recreational & Vocational Programs
- Adult Employment Programs

### For K-12 Educators, Professionals working in the Autism Community, and Caregivers of individuals diagnosed with Autism:

- Professional development and learning opportunities
- Continuing Education

### For Professionals who seek to replicate our program in their community:

- Professional development and learning opportunities
- Continuing Education
- Program Implementation Support



# SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM CENTER

Our Autism Center provides services for the entire South Florida Community, including educational, therapeutic, and recreational services for individuals on the autism spectrum of all ages, and their families. All activities are implemented with the best practices of B.F. Skinner's Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Verbal Behavior (VB).

## EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Day-Care services and Pre-Kindergarten Programming for children newly diagnosed with ASD or at-risk of being diagnosed, in need of a daycare and/or therapeutic intervention. Inclusion of neuro-typical children provides peer models for children on the spectrum.

## THERAPY CLINIC

On-site clinical program serving South Florida residents of all ages through speech, occupational, physical and behavioral therapy; in-home therapy available.

## OUT-OF-SCHOOL SERVICES

Programming for individuals with autism who are 3-21 years of age, including Summer Camp, Winter Camp, Spring Break Camp, Teacher Work Day Camps, and After School Care Programming, as well as sports, swimming, dance, yoga, art, and life skills; neuro-typical peers welcome.

## ADULT PROGRAMMING

Recreational and vocational services for adults with autism 22 years and older through curriculum fostering independent living skills in an on-site simulated living environment and the surrounding community, as well as vocational skills training in an on-site business.

## ADULT EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT

Vocational training and job placement for adults with autism who are eligible for employment.

## FITNESS CENTER

State-of-the-art Fitness center with exercise equipment and fitness classes for individuals diagnosed with autism, and their family members.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Free educational workshops for South Florida residents with topics covering Autism, Applied Behavioral Analysis, Verbal Behavior, and related issues.

## PROFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Continuing Education for K-12 educators, caregivers, paraprofessionals and therapists who work within the autism community and who wish to learn about ABA and VB technique. Special workshop series for educators, school district administrators, and other governmental entities who wish to learn more about our comprehensive wrap-around service model - and who may consider replicating it in their respective communities.





# SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOLS

Students are provided with a curriculum that is modified to meet their academic, communication and behavioral needs. A combination of state standard and supplemental curricula are implemented and taught utilizing the best practices of B.F. Skinner's Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Verbal Behavior (VB). Students are also provided with training in life skills and activities of daily living to ensure that they reach the highest level of independence.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Our primary goal, through the implementation of our mission, is to provide students with ASD with a learning environment that is best suited for their disability and where they will have an opportunity to thrive. Our secondary goal, when possible, is to assist students in mainstreaming to a less restrictive environment once they demonstrate adequate progress.

The Charter School serves a maximum of 300 students in the following programs:

- Elementary School (K-5) focuses on learning readiness, attending skills, pre-academics and language/communication skills. This program prepares children for later learning.
- Middle School (6-8) continues with academics, language and communication, and begins to focus on gaining independence, emerging adolescence and appropriate social skills, and pre-employment skills.
- High School (9-12) focuses on functional academics, life skills, vocational skills, safety skills, employment skills, pre-community skills, and helping each individual find their place in the community.
- Post High School (up to the age of 22) continues upon the skills taught in High School and provides on-site job training, employment opportunities and job placement within the community when appropriate, with increased opportunities in independently navigating the community.

## SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMMING

Students receive supplemental instruction through individualized ABA/VB programming, and daily life skills training. A variety of ABA/VB-based curricula are utilized to develop a plan that addresses the needs of each student.

## SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAMMING

The Administration makes every effort for students to enjoy the same activities and social experiences that every other child enjoys, including High School Prom, Student Government, and numerous field trips to local events and attractions throughout the State of Florida.

## FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Families of enrolled students are encouraged to participate in 1:1 parent training sessions with the School Principal. These meetings provide families with the support they need to work through the challenges they face with their child. Private therapists and caregivers are welcome to attend these sessions.



# OUR CAMPUS

This 70,000+ sq. ft. facility in northwest Miami-Dade County is home to South Florida Autism Charter Schools, with 300 students at maturity, ages 5 – 21, and also the South Florida Autism Center, allowing it to fully serve the comprehensive needs of the wider autism community.

36 CLASSROOMS IN TOTAL

## SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM SCHOOL - 2nd LEVEL FLOOR PLAN





## THE VILLAGES OF SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM

There is a growing need for housing for individuals most severely affected by autism. The Villages of South Florida Autism is devoted to providing safe and appropriate housing for this population in an environment that is socially and emotionally fulfilling, utilizing science-based methodologies. Residents lead an independent, productive life, enjoying the same experiences as any other member of society, in a place where they feel respected, and at home.

### **ADULT RESPITE SERVICES**

Part-time housing opportunities for adults with autism who require supervision or assistance with daily living skills. This option is suitable for families in need of respite, extended stays at our facility for behavioral crisis intervention, or for adults with autism that are transitioning into full-time residence at the Villages.

### **ADULT RESIDENTIAL SERVICES**

Permanent housing opportunities for adults with autism who require supervision or assistance with daily living skills.

### **ADULT RECREATIONAL & THERAPEUTIC SERVICES**

All residents participate in recreational activities, receive training in independent living and vocational skills, and have the option of receiving therapeutic services on-site.





## FRIENDS OF SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM

The mission of Friends of South Florida Autism is to provide support to South Florida Autism Center, South Florida Autism Charter Schools, and The Villages of South Florida Autism so that they may fulfill their missions of assisting individuals diagnosed with Autism who reside in South Florida.

This is accomplished through the following activities:

### **ANNUAL RAY OF HOPE GALA**

The annual Ray of Hope Gala takes place each November and is supported by parents, community members, family and friends who care about our programs and their participants. Funds generated at this event go directly towards supporting our programs and services.

### **MAJOR GIFTS AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS**

Major gifts are vital to developing new programs and ensuring the sustainability of existing ones. Occasionally, we will engage in a capital campaign to address significant needs related to facilities and programs.

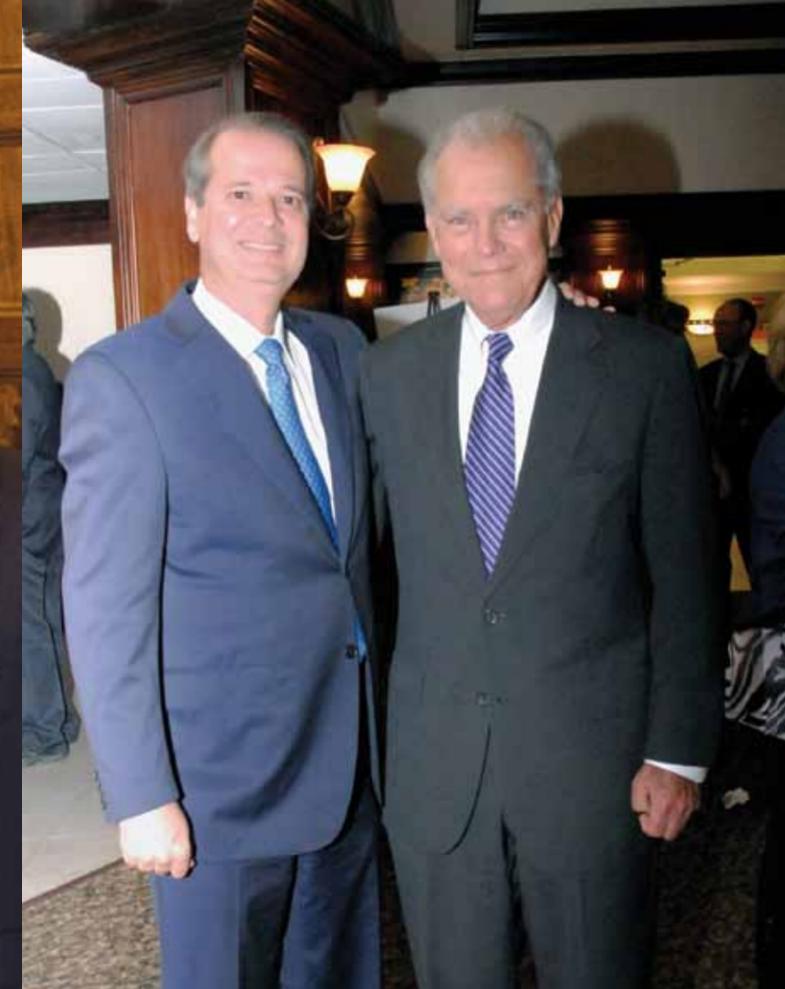
### **CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION GIVING**

Grants in support of new and existing programs, sponsorship of special events and employee matching gift programs are examples of different ways that businesses and charitable foundations can provide financial support to our programs.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

We host several fundraising events to raise the visibility of our programs in our community and also generate significant revenue.

To learn more about Friends of South Florida Autism, please visit [www.friendsofsfa.org](http://www.friendsofsfa.org).



# OUR COMMUNITY

"These are not kids you can give up on."

– *Dr. Tamara Moodie, Co-Founder/Executive Director*

"Thank you for seeing the ability in my son . . ."

– *Dr. Cicily Nestor-Payne*

"I can't believe the progress Alexandra has made this year. I am so proud of her."

– *Max Wylar*

"Every morning on our drive to school, Emily says, 'Nice school.' . . . That's two words together. I am so proud of her."

– *Susan Perez*

"I just want Stephanie to have a chance at life, like any other human being, for people not to see her as different, but as who she is . . ."

– *Erika Garcia*

"My prayers were answered when I heard a charter school for students with autism had opened . . ."

– *Lucy Rosario*

"We have always worried about what will happen to Miguel after he turns 22. Thanks to SFA Center's efforts to create an adult program, we know that there will be a place for Miguel to continue to progress towards a brighter future."

– *Alice & Luiz Coutinho*

"The Center programs have provided hope to many families, including mine. We no longer fear for what the future holds . . . we know our children will have a home where they will be safe, productive, respected and cared for."

– *Susan Leon, Co-Founder/Development Director*



South Florida  
Autism Center, Inc.



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[www.sfa-ctr.org](http://www.sfa-ctr.org)



South Florida  
Autism Charter Schools, Inc.

[www.sfacs.org](http://www.sfacs.org)



The Villages of  
South Florida Autism, Inc.

[www.villagesofsfa.org](http://www.villagesofsfa.org)



Friends of  
South Florida Autism, Inc.

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