



The Autistic Self Advocacy Network is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing advocacy and support for the autism spectrum. Our cooperative membership includes adults on the autism spectrum, parents, family members, educators, and other individuals who feel passionate about autism advocacy. We seek to provide support for individuals on the autism spectrum, while working to raise acceptance and understanding of the diversity of the autism spectrum among members of society. We believe that the autism spectrum is a natural, legitimate and permanent part of human genetic diversity and are committed towards advocating towards the full and meaningful realization of all rights, legal protections and services for individuals on the autism spectrum.

You can find out more about ASAN by visiting our website at <http://www.autisticadvocacy.org>, or by sending an email message to [info@autisticadvocacy.org](mailto:info@autisticadvocacy.org)

## **Our Core Missions:**

- **Social/Support Groups**

ASAN has established social/support groups for children, teenagers, and adults on the autism spectrum in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland and is in the process of establishing groups in other states throughout the U.S. These groups provide a comfortable, friendly atmosphere for members to share experiences, aspirations, successes, and challenges, while also serving as outlets for social interaction outside of the typical support group model.

- **Public Policy Advocacy**

ASAN was established on the belief that the autistic community must be active in advocating for our own interests. Our members advocate for public policy change to promote the interests of the autistic community in many different areas, ranging from education to civil rights. Only by taking a leadership role can the autistic community ensure full realization of the inalienable rights of all people on the autism spectrum. ASAN is committed towards leading that process as part of our broader mandate for self-advocacy and self-determination for the autistic community.

- **Educational Consulting**

ASAN offers consulting and advisory support on educational policy and classroom issues to primary schools, secondary schools (middle school and high school), postsecondary schools (colleges, universities, trade schools, etc.) and other academic institutions.

- **Speaker's Bureau**

We maintain a Speaker's Bureau of adults on the spectrum that can speak on a wide variety of topics, ranging from successful living on the autism spectrum, the autistic community and relevant public policy issues for individuals on the autism spectrum, among other topics.

For more information on any of the above, or to find out about how to get involved with ASAN activities in your area, please e-mail us at [info@autisticadvocacy.org](mailto:info@autisticadvocacy.org).