Participant & Team Captain Handbook

Any Baby Can
18th Annual Walk for Autism
April 2, 2022
8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Texas A&M University-San Antonio
WHY WE DO IT

One in 44 children nationwide will be diagnosed with autism this year. In Bexar and surrounding counties, over 30,000 individuals are living with autism. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes, and cancer combined. That means that you or someone you know has a close connection to a child or individual who lives with autism and whose daily lives are challenged by this diagnosis.

The Walk for Autism brings together participants and community partners from San Antonio, Bexar County, and South Texas to provide services and support for families raising individuals on the spectrum.

All proceeds stay local to fund critical, one-of-a-kind programs at Any Baby Can of San Antonio.

Join us on April 2, 2022 for the 18th Annual Walk for Autism at Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

Contact Events@abcsa.org or visit anybabycansa.org for questions or concerns regarding the Walk for Autism.
FORM YOUR TEAM

Register
- Registration is **FREE**!
- Register yourself and your team for the **Any Baby Can Walk for Autism** (runsignup.com/abcwalkforautism).
- Invite your team members to register.

Personalize
- Personalize your team page using the link sent to you. Why are you walking? Share your story and let people know why you formed your team.
- Add a picture or video. It will help donors visualize the cause.

Ask
- Ask for donations. Ask everyone you know, in every way you know.
- You're not asking for yourself, you're asking to support **Any Baby Can**-be **BOLD** in your asks.

**Recruitment Ideas**
- Directly ask family, friends, and co-workers. The number one reason people will join your team is because you asked them!
- Use social media! Share with your Facebook friends or Twitter followers that you’ve formed a team and ask them to join. They may have a connection to someone living with an autism diagnosis or an interest in supporting you in your journey. Don’t forget to include the link to your team page.
- Get your workplace involved! Send emails to colleagues and share more information about the **Walk for Autism** on **April 2, 2022**.

**Recruit 6 Team Members Instantly!**
- Ask one co-worker to join your team
- Ask two relatives to join your team
- Ask two friends to join your team
- Ask your workout partner, neighbor, or someone else you know

**Did you know?**
Walkers who share their fundraising page on social media raise 4x more than those who do not!

Our mission is to serve families with children and youth facing serious health or developmental challenges.

**WHAT WE DID IN 2021**

**OVER 3,800 INDIVIDUALS**
were helped through our Comprehensive Family Support Services.

**47%**
of our clients were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

**249**
parents attended presentations by our Autism Services Program staff to learn how to identify and understand behaviors in their child or youth with autism spectrum disorder.

**308**
educators, first responders, and other community members were trained on autism awareness, behavior strategies, and safety awareness.

**39**
siblings were enrolled into the Sibling Support Program & participated in, at minimum, 1 session.

**FORGED A NEW PARTNERSHIP**
to train San Antonio Police Department Cadets about inclusion and understanding of people on the autism spectrum.
FUNDRAISING IDEAS

- **Social Media** - Share the link to your fundraising page on social media! Let people know why you *Walk for Autism*. It is a fast and easy way to meet your fundraising goal.

- **Matching Gifts** - Ask your employer if he/she is willing to match the gifts made by employees. This is a great way to increase your fundraising for the Walk for Autism. Ask if they will provide employment incentives for members that have raised the most money or have recruited the most members during an allotted period of time. Maybe provide a special parking space for a month, give a half day off, and allow for a casual dress day at work.

- **Hold a Potluck Lunch** - Charge $5.00 per plate for each person that attends. Take this opportunity to provide people with information about the Walk for Autism.

- **Host a Block Party** - Team members can bake items to sell at the party. Each team member can volunteer to provide an activity such as face painting, arts and crafts, etc. and people are charged for the opportunity to participate. A “fishing pond” is another activity that can be provided and people are charged for a turn to fish for a prize.

- **Fundraising dinner at your local favorite restaurant** – Ask your favorite local restaurant to host a fundraising dinner for you.

- **Bowling Night** – Plan a fun night of bowling at your local lanes. Ask the owner to waive the cost of bowling and you can collect that money and count it towards your fundraising goal.

- **Puzzle Piece Distribution** – Create items (jewelry, artwork, pins) that incorporate the puzzle piece, to bring awareness to Autism. Sell them to your friends, family members, etc.

- **Fiesta Medals** - Assist with the sale of Any Baby Can’s LIMITED EDITION 2022 Fiesta Medal. For bulk purchasing contact events@abcsa.org.
VIP Village ($1,500 and Above)
Teams that raise $1,500 and more will have special access to our indoor VIP reception area. Teams will enjoy refreshments, giveaways, and VIP treatment.

Fundraise for a T-Shirt
Individuals who fundraise $75 or more by **February 23, 2022** will receive a **FREE** Walk for Autism T-Shirt (limited quantity available).

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- **Largest Team** – team with the most individuals registered
- **Top Fundraiser (Friends and Family)** – Friends and Family team with the most money raised
- **Top Fundraiser (Corporate)** – Corporate team with the most money raised
- **Top Fundraiser (School/Organization)** – School/Organization team with the most money raised
- **Top Fundraiser (Individual)** – Individual with the most money raised

*Last day to register team members and submit money for awards is March 28, 2022. Donations can still be made after March 28, but they will not count towards awards.*
WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE WALK

**Friends of Frances Resource Fair:** Our resource fair brings you over 100 different autism, family, and healthcare resources from a variety of organizations, businesses, and service providers.

*Interested in being a participant in our resource fair? Registration available online at runsignup.com/abcwalkforautism*
  - **Non-profit agencies:** FREE
  - **For profit and businesses:** Please contact Lauren Benavides at Lbenavides@abcsa.org.

**Rudy’s Playground:** In 2012, Rudy’s Playground was dedicated in memory of Rudy Alejos, a 6 yr. old boy with autism who perished in a fire in August of 2011. This kid’s activity area provides adapted fitness, safety demonstrations and activities where children of all abilities can participate and have fun.

**Motorcycle Ride:** Autism Heroes will host the Autism Awareness Ride. Participants will ride from Texas A&M University-San Antonio to an off-site location.

**Chill Zone:** Area available for families with children with sensory sensitivities. The area is indoors and outside of the Walk for Autism footprint (less traffic and quieter).

**Volunteers:** To volunteer at the Walk for Autism, please contact Yvette Villarreal at yvillarreal@abcsa.org.

CONTACT EVENTS@ABCSA.ORG OR VISIT ANYBABYCANSA.ORG FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS REGARDING THE WALK FOR AUTISM.