



The National
Autistic Society
www.autism.org.uk

Celebrate and donate

A guide to fundraising for autism
at your celebration



Accept difference. Not indifference.

First published 2011 by The National Autistic Society

**Photography by Steve Hickey (pages 4-5), and kindly provided by
Kim and Mark Davies (pages 2 and 6) and Caro Davies (page 3)**

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Welcome to our celebrations pack

Celebrating a special occasion, like a birthday, anniversary, wedding or civil partnership, is a fantastic way to raise money to support people affected by autism. It is also a great way to raise awareness of autism among your family and friends.

There are over half a million people in the UK with autism – that's around 1 in 100. If you include their families, autism touches the lives of over two million people every day.

Each year we help over 500,000 people affected by autism. As a charity, we rely on your generosity to help us provide this support.

Thank you for making us part of your celebration and congratulations on your special occasion.

With best wishes

Fundraising Team
The National Autistic Society

Tel: 0870 233 4040

Email: fundraising@nas.org.uk

Celebration fundraising

Whatever your event, no matter how small or big, celebration giving is a fun, easy and effective way to support us.

Weddings and civil partnerships

If you recently got engaged and are planning your ceremony, why not ask your guests to make a donation instead of receiving gifts?

We can thank your guests on your behalf and keep you updated on the amount raised. We can also show you how to set up an online donation page, which you can tell people about on Facebook and Twitter.

We can provide you with leaflets about autism, pin badges to give to your guests, and balloons.

"We chose to support the NAS by asking for donations instead of wedding gifts. Asking for donations was a way for people to feel they were giving when we wanted nothing and I think people gave more because they knew it was for a good cause."

"We have a granddaughter with autism and our friends have a son with autism too. Thanks to the NAS we have been able to acquire an understanding of autism and our families have received a lot of support."

Mark and Kim



Mark and Kim asked for donations instead of gifts for their wedding.

Birthdays

Are you celebrating a landmark year or special birthday? This year why not ask for a gift that gives others something to celebrate too? We can show you how to set up your online donation page, which makes supporting us even easier. We can provide you with leaflets about autism to give out to your guests as well as balloons for your celebration.



Caro celebrates a 50th birthday with her two sons.

"I had a birthday celebration on my 30th birthday and asked for donations instead of presents. I would definitely recommend this type of fundraising. Most people don't give to charity; you'll find that they find it hard to refuse at a party! I chose to support the NAS because my son was diagnosed with autism." Victoria

"We had a 50th birthday party where no presents were requested in favour of donations to the NAS. We have two sons with Asperger syndrome. The NAS do an excellent job. They have kept us afloat when we didn't know what to do." Caro

Anniversaries

Whether you're celebrating your first or fifty-first anniversary, it's a great opportunity to fundraise. Asking family and friends to make a donation to charity is a great alternative to traditional gifts like linen, china and silver.

"We support the NAS because our youngest grandson is affected by autism. We would urge people to give generously to the NAS in order to give support to the thousands of children who live in a world of their own. We would recommend this way of giving, particularly to people of our age, rather than have gifts that you don't really want."

Thomas and Dorothy

Any other celebration

Or why not suggest a donation as an alternative to a Christening, Baptism or Bar Mitzvah, or when you leave a job or are celebrating exam results? Whatever your event, you can use it to support a great cause.



How your support helps

Adenike's story

"My son Abidemi wouldn't even recognise his name. All he would eat was dry Weetabix. No milk, nothing. I wasn't able to brush his teeth. He didn't want to hear any noise at all. Going shopping was a nightmare. They told me that he was autistic but I didn't know what 'autistic' was. All they did was give me a booklet.

"I contacted The National Autistic Society and somebody came to see me. They opened my eyes to a lot of things. They helped me to recognise who my child is and to be able to handle him.

"I also go to a monthly NAS meeting with other parents. We share information and, even though my child is very young, I can hear from other parents [what the issues might be] in one or two years.

"If the NAS had not been there for us we wouldn't have known what to do. I feel confident about the future compared to when we had the diagnosis."



Organising your event

Online fundraising

Why not create a JustGiving page so that your family and friends can make their donations online?

It's really easy to set up and only takes a few minutes.

The benefits include:

- > a personalised sponsorship page
- > a unique web address to send to family and friends
- > people can donate via credit or debit card
- > the ability to contact supporters quickly and simply
- > a running total of how much you've raised
- > the ability to add the details of money raised in other ways
- > you don't need to handle lots of donations
- > Gift Aid tax reclaims are processed on our behalf.

To set up your page, simply visit www.justgiving.com/nationalautistic, select 'Make your page' and follow the instructions.

Ordering fundraising materials

If you would like us to send you fundraising materials, simply complete the form on page 8. For help, please call **0870 233 4040** or email fundraising@nas.org.uk

Donating the money you raised

To donate the money you have raised from your event, simply complete the form on page 9. Alternatively, you can donate it online at www.autism.org.uk/donatenow



Lily celebrates Mark and Kim's big day with a jump on the bouncy castle.



Our gift list

This is a list of gifts you can pass on to your family and friends. You won't find any toasters or pairs of socks on it, but you will find a list of gifts that will change the lives of people affected by autism.

£30 could help us to answer 24 more calls from anxious parents seeking advice

Living with autism can be confusing, isolating and frightening at times.

Our Autism Helpline gives impartial, confidential information, advice and support when people need it most.

£50 helps a person whose first language is not English to get advice

Getting a diagnosis of autism can be extremely stressful, especially if there's no one around to explain it to you in your own language.

We provide access to a telephone interpretation service that provides information about autism through interpreters in 150 different languages.

£200 helps provide a group of concerned families with support

Families affected by autism can find everyday events, like car journeys, mealtimes or shopping, difficult.

Our specialist family support advisors provide information and advice to families in the UK about living with autism.

£350 pays for expert legal advice for parents struggling to get the right education for their child

A good start in life helps a child with autism to thrive and reach their full potential.

Our Education Rights Service guides parents through the often complex education system to secure the education their child needs.

£1,000 pays for play equipment for 50 children, helping them to develop life-long skills

Play is important for children with autism because it encourages them to communicate and interact with other children.

Our six specialist autism schools provide the very best education and support for over 500 children and young people every year.

£2,500 means that an adult with autism gets the practical support they need to find and keep a job

Only 15% of adults with autism are in full-time employment, but most are willing and able to work.

Our Prospects employment service aims to give people with autism the same training and employment opportunities as other people.

I'd like materials to help me raise money

Use this form to request materials to support your celebration fundraising event. Please send your completed form to: **The Fundraising Team, The National Autistic Society, 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG**
Alternatively, you can email us at **fundraising@nas.org.uk** or call **0870 233 4040**.
We will contact you to discuss your event and send you the resources you need.

What are you doing?

I am raising money through a:

- Birthday
 - Wedding/civil partnership
 - Anniversary
 - Baptism
 - Other (please tell us more!)
-

My connection to autism:

- I have autism
 - I have a child with autism
 - I have a family member with autism
 - I am interested in autism through a friend
 - I am a special needs school teacher
 - Other (please specify)
-

I would like more information about:

- Membership
- Branches
- Challenge events
- Campaigning
- Wills and trusts
- Making a regular gift

My celebration is on: / / (dd/mm/yyyy)

What are your details?

Title Forename Surname

Address

Postcode

Daytime phone Mobile

Email

- If you are happy to receive information by email, please tick
By providing this information you are agreeing to let us contact you from time to time about upcoming news, events and fundraising activities using the email, post or telephone details you have supplied.
- If you prefer NOT to receive this information by post, please tick
- If you prefer NOT to receive this information by telephone, please tick

We will look after your data as set out in our privacy and data protection policy. If you would prefer not to receive this information, please call 0870 233 4040 or email fundraising@nas.org.uk

The National Autistic Society is a company limited by guarantee registered in England (No.1205298) and a charity registered in England and Wales (269425) and in Scotland (SC039427), registered office 393 City Road, London, EC1V 1NG.



I've raised money through a celebration

Use this form to send us the money you have raised at your celebration fundraising event. Please send your completed form to: **The Fundraising Team, The National Autistic Society, 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG**
If donating by cheque or postal order, please make payable to 'The National Autistic Society' and send with this form. If we have given you a giro, you can take the money to any branch of Barclays. Alternatively, enter your debit/credit card details below. If you have any questions, please email fundraising@nas.org.uk or call **0870 233 4040**.

What was your event?

I have raised money through a:

- Birthday Wedding/civil partnership Anniversary Baptism
 Other (please tell us more!) _____

My celebration was on: / / (dd/mm/yyyy)

What are your details?

Title Forename Surname
Address
 Postcode
Daytime phone Mobile
Email

- If you are happy to receive information by email, please tick
By providing this information you are agreeing to let us contact you from time to time about upcoming news, events and fundraising activities using the email, post or telephone details you have supplied.
 If you prefer NOT to receive this information by post, please tick
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How would you like to donate?

I wish to donate £ _____

I enclose a

- Cheque (payable to 'The National Autistic Society') Postal order (payable to 'The National Autistic Society')

Please debit my

- Mastercard Visa Switch CAF

Card number Security no.
Start date / Expiry date / Issue no. (switch only) (the last 3 numbers on your signature strip)

Name on card

Signature Date

giftaid it **You can make your gifts worth 25% more and it won't cost you a penny. Just tick below.**

- I would like The National Autistic Society (NAS) to treat all gifts of money that I have made in the past four financial years (6 April one year to 5 April the next year) and all future gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations, and I confirm that I pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the NAS will claim from HM Revenue & Customs on my Gift Aid donation(s). Please contact us if your situation changes.

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The National Autistic Society is the UK's leading charity for people affected by autism.

Over 500,000 people in the UK have autism. Together with their families they make up over two million people whose lives are touched by autism every single day.

Despite this, autism is still relatively unknown and misunderstood. Which means that many of these two million people get nothing like the level of help, support and understanding they need.

Together, we are going to change this.

The National Autistic Society

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London
EC1V 1NG

Switchboard: +44 (0)20 7833 2299

Autism Helpline: 0808 800 4104

Minicom: 0845 070 4003

Fax: 020 7833 9666

Email: nas@nas.org.uk

Website: www.autism.org.uk

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