

Get closer.
Make a difference.
Join today.



Circle of Friends



Accept difference. Not indifference.



**“The NAS opened
a door to my family
when we didn’t
know where to go.”**

Ilse, founding member and
lifetime supporter

A student at an NAS school





Get closer

Circle of Friends is driven by a fundamental vision – we want a world where all people living with autism get to lead the life they choose. Join our Circle of Friends today and get closer to the inspirational work of The National Autistic Society (NAS).

People with autism often struggle to make sense of the world. Autism can affect anybody – whoever you are, wherever you live, whatever you do. For many it can make everyday life confusing, meaningless or even frightening. That is why we are here. People are at the heart of everything we do. By joining our Circle of Friends, you can help us to extend our reach to support those whose lives are affected by autism.

Annual support from the Circle will help us to maintain vital services which transform the lives of those affected by autism. From ensuring access to social groups where people can meet, share experiences and combat feelings of isolation, to giving people with autism a voice in society through our campaigns, we are committed to making a difference.

Make a difference

Become part of our Circle of Friends and you won't just help change someone else's life today – it will change yours. You will share our aims and achievements and, most importantly, see first-hand how your support is helping those living with autism. Here are just a few ways your gift could make difference.

“Feeling isolated, unsupported, that there is nowhere to turn – we hear this all too often from families affected by autism. We are here to change this, but can't without the support of groups like our Circle of Friends.” Caroline Hattersley,
Head of Information, Advice and Advocacy at the NAS



“The NAS Helpline has been a guide to me during the really difficult times and I can't thank them enough. If ever I need them in the future, I know they are there for our family. It would be so difficult for us parents and carers if they didn't exist.”
Alyson, parent

£1,000
could ensure that our Autism Helpline can answer 50 calls from worried parents like Alyson, who just needed someone who really understood what she was going through to listen to her.



"I feel I have a voice now and someone is finally listening. We need to campaign so things can change for people with autism otherwise things won't get any better."

Tiernan, Young Campaigner

£2,500 could ensure that one of our Young Campaigners, like Tiernan, continues to speak out for young people and raise awareness at a local and national level.

"Em can be herself at the club and she doesn't have to try to be like everyone else..."
Em's mum, Tracey

£5,000 could fund two adult social groups where people like Em are accepted for who they are.

Join today

In appreciation of your support we would like to give you unprecedented access to the work we do through a variety of special benefits.

tours
of our latest
projects to see
how your money
is making a
difference

two
special events
a year exclusively
for our Circle of
Friends

an
invitation
to breakfast
with our Chief
Executive

a priority
invitation to
special events
with our President,
Jane Asher

a quarterly
update on how
your support
is making a
difference

Circle
of Friends
members also
have the option
of enjoying NAS
membership



We are proud to support people with autism through every stage of their life. We have done a lot but there is still much to do.

Join us and help us to achieve more.

- > **Over 1 in 100** people have autism in the UK.
- > **98%** of adults who have attended one of our social groups said that it gave them the chance to do things that they enjoy in the local community.
- > **80%** of people who used our Prospects service felt more able to contribute to and be part of society as a result.
- > **18,000** enquiries were supported through our Autism helpline in 2011-12.
- > **95%** of people involved with our befriending service feel that it has helped their child gain greater confidence.
- > **89%** of people who attended our *Help!* seminars felt more optimistic about the future.



“As a founder member of The National Autistic Society, I have spent my life working in collaboration towards the aims of the Society. We continue to need support to improve the lives of all people on the autism spectrum together with their families. Support from the Circle of Friends will be one step forward in achieving our goals to continue to help make their lives more fulfilling.”

Dr Lorna Wing, MD FRCPsych

www.autism.org.uk/Circle

For more information or to join our Circle of Friends please contact us using the details below.

The National Autistic Society (NAS)

393 City Road

London EC1V 1NG

Tel: +44 (0)20 7833 2299

Email: nas@nas.org.uk

Website: www.autism.org.uk

General supporter enquiries: 0808 800 1050



We are the leading UK charity for people with autism (including Asperger syndrome) and their families. We provide information, support and pioneering services, and campaign for a better world for people with 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. This means that many people don't get the level of help, support and understanding they need. Together, we are going to change this.

From good times to challenging times, The National Autistic Society is there at every stage, to help transform the lives of everyone living with autism.

We are proud of the difference we make.

The National Autistic Society is a charity registered in England (269425) and in Scotland (SC039427) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England (No.1205298), registered office: 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG © The National Autistic Society 2012 814 140213

Payment by Direct Debit

I'm donating £ Monthly Quarterly Annually

Please debit my account on the 2nd day OR 15th day of the next possible month and thereafter until further notice.

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit



Please complete this form and return it to
Circle of Friends, 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG

Service user number

To: The Manager

Bank/building society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Branch sort code

Bank/building society account number

Reference

Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay The National Autistic Society Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with The National Autistic Society and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

Direct Debit Guarantee

This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instruction to pay Direct Debits.

If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit, The National Autistic Society will notify you ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request The National Autistic Society to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.

If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The National Autistic Society or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when the organisation asks you to.

You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.