



AUTISM SOCIETY
OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE RMWB

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Connecting the Pieces of our Community!

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

REFLECTING ON 2025



As President of the Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, I am proud to reflect on 2025 as a year grounded in connection, compassion, and growing community impact. Across our region, we continued to see how inclusive, responsive support can strengthen individuals, families, and the communities around them.

The demand for our services continues to grow. In 2025, our organization delivered more than 13,778 direct service interactions, representing a 15% increase from the previous year. This growth speaks to both the increasing needs within our community and the trust families place in the Society as a supportive and reliable partner.

Supporting families remained central to our work. Our team walked alongside parents and caregivers as they navigated complex systems, accessed resources, and advocated for their loved ones. We were honoured to support families not only in Fort McMurray, but also in surrounding rural and Indigenous communities, including Janvier, Conklin, Fort McKay, Anzac, and the 468 First Nation.

Programs for children, youth, and adults focused on belonging, confidence, and meaningful participation. Through respite, recreation, skill-building, and employment supports, individuals were able to explore their strengths, build relationships, and take steps toward greater independence. Equally important, families gained reassurance knowing their loved ones were supported in safe, inclusive environments where differences were understood and respected. Community education and inclusion continued to guide our efforts. By working with educators, organizations, and employers, we helped foster greater understanding of autism and neurodiversity and supported environments where individuals of all abilities can thrive. Our Community Sensory Room remained a welcoming and calming space, reflecting our commitment to accessibility and wellbeing.

This work would not be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, funders, and community partners. Their compassion, collaboration, and belief in our mission make a lasting difference each day. I also thank the Board for its continued focus on strong governance and responsible stewardship to support the organization's sustainability.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our capacity, supporting our workforce, and expanding inclusive services. Together, we are building a community where autistic and neurodiverse individuals feel valued, supported, and empowered.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continued trust and partnership.

Corinna O'Hanley

Board Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Corinna O'Hanley".



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO OUR BOARD, STAFF, PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Dear board members, staff, partners, and stakeholders, I am delighted to share our progress in 2025. We have achieved significant milestones, strengthened collaborations, and positively impacted our community.



2025 was a year of growth, connection, and expanded support for autistic and neurodiverse individuals and their families across our region. Through strong community partnerships, outreach, and programming, the Autism Society of the RMWB continued to strengthen inclusive opportunities for individuals across their lifespan.

Community outreach and family support remained a key focus. In 2025, 289 family intakes were supported, reflecting the growing need for guidance and navigation through services such as diagnosis, community resources, and available programming. Through community events, presentations, information booths, and caregiver gatherings, our team engaged 2,241 individuals across both Fort McMurray and surrounding rural communities, including Janvier, Conklin, 468 First Nation, Anzac, and Fort McKay.

Education and awareness initiatives continued to expand. Autism and Neurodiversity Awareness presentations reached 288 individuals, including caregivers, educators, healthcare professionals, and students. Additionally, 29 Education Inclusion Bins were provided to educators seeking practical tools to support inclusive learning environments.

Direct family supports remained essential. Over 150 families received assistance navigating services such as FSCD, DTC, AISH, PDD, and Guardianship and Trusteeship. Our respite program also continued to support families, delivering 6,436 hours of respite to 87 families across two locations.

Inclusive programming remained a cornerstone of our work. Camp Kids First welcomed 115 children and youth, providing individualized support to ensure all participants could enjoy a safe and engaging summer camp experience. The PEERS program supported 22 youth in developing friendship and communication skills, while the Life Skills Program delivered 586 hours of programming to help participants build independence and confidence.

Our Employment Program supported 61 individuals through 1,039 hours of coaching, resulting in 7 full-time and 2 part-time employment placements. Additionally, the Chat n Chill social program engaged 68 participants in 1,356 hours of programming, creating opportunities for connection and friendship.

As we look ahead to 2026, we remain committed to building inclusive communities, strengthening supports for families, and ensuring individuals across the region feel seen, supported, and valued.



Tina Delaine
Executive Director

Tina Delaine



OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

EDUCATION INCLUSION PROGRAM

Community Development Coordinator

Jasmine Lauzon

My name is Jasmine Lauzon, and I am the Community Development Coordinator at the Autism Society of the RMWB. I began my role in July 2025, joining a year that was already active in community work. Since stepping into this position, my focus has been strengthening relationships in both urban and rural communities, increasing access to information for families, and ensuring individuals feel supported through a client-centered, strength-based approach.

Throughout 2025, my role supported 289 family intakes, reflecting a continued and growing need for individualized support, guidance, and navigation. These intakes often involve supporting families through the diagnostic process, connecting them with resources within our region, providing ongoing support, and sharing information about programming available through the Autism Society of the RMWB. Community events, presentations, and information sessions continued to play an essential role throughout the year. Since January, my role has supported outreach to 2,241 individuals through information booths, community events, Caregivers Coffee, guest speaker sessions, and Autism and Neurodiversity Awareness presentations. This outreach included engagement in rural communities such as Janvier, Conklin, 468 First Nation, Anzac, and Fort McKay, as well as throughout Fort McMurray. Community development extended beyond formal presentations, with information tables and attending events providing opportunities for one-on-one conversations and information sharing.

Education and awareness remain a key focus. Since January 22, Autism and Neurodiversity Awareness presentations have been delivered across the region, including rural communities, reaching 288 individuals who received the training and certificates. These sessions included caregivers, educators, health care professionals, students, and community members, and were offered in schools, community spaces, and Keyano College.

In 2025, there were 29 requests for Education Inclusion Bins, highlighting strong demand for practical, hands-on tools to support the teaching of inclusion and diversity in educational settings. To better understand their impact and guide future improvements, 4 surveys were completed by educators and program staff who used the bins.

The work completed in 2025 reflects a year of steady, relationship-driven community development. Highlighting the importance of accessibility, inclusivity, and meeting families where they are. As we move into 2026, my role will continue to focus on encouraging inclusive spaces where families feel seen, supported, and valued.



OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

NONVIOLENT CRISIS INTERVENTION

Program Director
Paula Bowen

In 2025, we provided three sessions of Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training to our staff and community members. In total, 65 people completed the 2-day certification course, including a group of Educational Assistant students from Keyano College.

Participants learn a range of de-escalation skills as well as safe holding and disengagement skills to support individuals in crisis situations. Feedback from participants was positive and all stated that they felt more confident supporting individuals through crisis situations after taking the course.

CAREGIVERS NETWORK

Disability Resource Coordinator
Barbara Fitzpatrick

Over the past twelve months, I have proudly served as the Disability Resource Coordinator, supporting more than 150 families in 2025 with navigation of FSCD, DTC, AISH, PDD, and Guardianship and Trusteeship. This year included 18 public Autism Awareness presentations, three at Keyano College, one in Fort McKay, and one at Dave McNeilly School. I also attended numerous community events including Family BBQ Day, Halloween, Autism Awareness Day, the CASA Mental Health Community Breakfast, and the Day of Disabilities. In addition, we launched our Caregiver Coffee group, hosting 19 sessions with 34 caregivers attending throughout the year.

Professional development was a strong focus, with training in Age Sensitivity (St. Aidan's), First Aid, WHMIS, NVCI, FASD, and Regulation and Communication. I expanded outreach to rural communities, visiting Fort McKay three times to support their school sensory space, Janvier three times for Wellness Wednesdays, Conklin to consult on a sensory area, and Anzac twice with a resource table. I also supported students transitioning to adulthood at Holy Trinity High School and assisted with Chat n Chill as needed. It has been a rewarding year of growth, connection, and meaningful impact across our region.



OUR CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

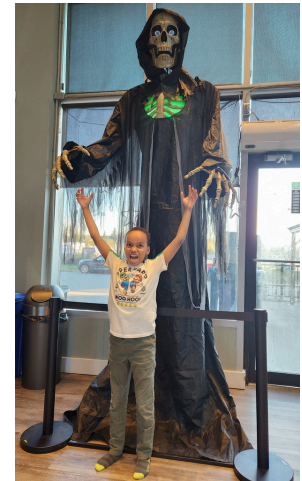
SOCIAL RESPITE

Program Director
Paula Bowen

In 2025, we provided 6436 hours of respite to 87 families. We were able to run the program 5-7 days each week, at both locations, offering two or three sessions on weekends, no-school days, and during school breaks. We had two short closures in January and September to complete deep cleaning at both locations.

The sessions at our Uptown location continue to be popular, and youth aged 10-17 years old have enjoyed learning to cook simple meals, grocery shop, simple household cleaning, and do laundry. At our downtown location, children ages 3-12 enjoy play-based activities and many opportunities to venture into the community for seasonal events.

Staffing the program remains challenging. We struggle to maintain a core team of experienced, confident, and reliable support workers, due to the majority of our staff being students who leave the team when they graduate in their chosen field.



OUR CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

PEERS (PROGRAM FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF RELATIONAL SKILLS)

In Spring and Fall 2025, we were able to run a modified PEERS (Program for Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills), and 22 youth attended the program across both sessions. The group met every week for 2hrs, covering 2 or 3 PEERS topic sessions each week. The program was structured to provide youth a relaxed, fun learning environment with time for sensory breaks throughout. Youth learned and practiced social skills such as making friends, maintaining friendships, communicating with peers, conflict resolution and good sportsmanship. At the end of the six weeks there was a noticeable improvement in the youth's use of skills and some firm friendships were formed.

The next PEERS session is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2026.

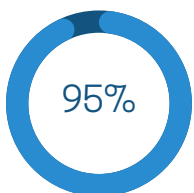
CAMP KIDS FIRST

This year we were able to provide an amazing experience for 115 children and youth in our community! 56% of parents completed the survey after their child attended Camp Kids First 2025.

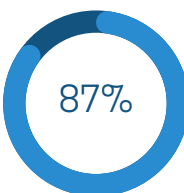
Our summer day camp is unique to any other in our region as it is the only camp that accepts ALL children regardless of needs, medical conditions, and disabilities. While many of the children that attend camp are neurodiverse, we also have children attend camp that have Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, hearing and vision impairments, complex medical conditions and more. To provide the best summer camp experience for all we provide one-to-one support to meet each child's individual needs.

Activities at Camp Kids First are planned intentionally to suit the needs of each child's individual physical, cognitive, sensory, and social-emotional needs. Support workers adapt activities to ensure all children have a chance to participate. This year Camp Kids First was based at two locations, Frank Lacroix Arena in Beacon Hill and Doug Barnes Cabin in Thickwood.

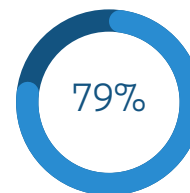
Some activities the group enjoyed this summer were, parks and water parks, crafts, music and dancing, Sports Day, Science Day, golf, a day at the lake/beach and a river boat trip with Running Bear Adventures – it was an amazing summer camp experience for all!



Parents were “very happy” with camp leadership and support staff.



Parents gave Camp Kids First an 10/10 overall rating.



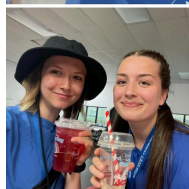
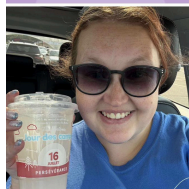
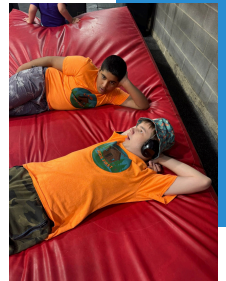
Parents reported that their children felt a greater sense of community after attending Camp Kids First .



CAMP KIDS FIRST

Every year, parents tell us that they wish camp ran for longer hours, more days, and more weeks each summer. One day, we hope to have the capacity (space, staff, and funding) to provide this for families.

The smiles on the kids' faces are always the best feedback we have for Camp Kids First!



CAMP KIDS FIRST TESTIMONIALS

- “My child had the ability to be himself without judgment.”
- “Our son enjoyed his very well matched camp counsellor who taught him new things about their shared interests”
- “The one-on-one attention, she love the activities and also the way that everyone and everything it’s settled to meet her needs.”
- “Having fun with other kids and getting to do activities that he'd normally not get to do.”
- “Just being able to attend makes it great! She looks forward to it all year!”
- “Our hearts are full of gratitude to the Autism Society and generous sponsors that made this camp possible. Your hard work, dedication, and kindness created a safe and joyful space where children could learn, play and make unforgettable memories.”



OUR ADULT PROGRAMS

LIFESKILLS PROGRAM

Life Skills Coordinator
Gracelyn Baptist

The Life Skills Program in 2025 delivered 586 program hours, supporting up to 16 participants in building independence, confidence, and social connection. Sessions focused on disability awareness, self-regulation, problem-solving, and self-advocacy, while community experiences such as a tour of Phoenix Helicopters and a local police station strengthened engagement and career awareness.

Hands-on cooking classes, budgeting workshops, hygiene awareness sessions, and social activities further promoted practical life skills and accountability. While budgeting concepts required continued reinforcement, participants demonstrated increased self-reliance, peer support, and meaningful community engagement throughout the year.



OUR ADULT PROGRAMS

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS PROGRAM

Employment Support Facilitators

Jessica Stevenot and Cassidy Menezes

The Employment Program aims to support neurodiverse individuals between the ages of 18-30 years old who are seeking employment and volunteer opportunities within the RMWB.

In 2025, the Employment Program supported 61 individuals for a total of 1,039 hours toward their employment goals. During these sessions, participants worked diligently to develop and increase their employability skills through various online certificate programs, employment preparation presentations, and individual coaching. Additionally, the Employment Program allowed participants to gain vital skills such as resume writing, job interview preparation, tools to stay safe at work, effective communication, and hands-on techniques for coping with workplace stress.

The Employment Program also facilitated a resume-building workshop at Composite High School, where 5 students in the Lifeskills program created resumes they could use for future job and volunteer opportunities.

Over the course of the year, the Employment Program facilitated significant employment outcomes, with 14 participants securing full-time employment and 9 securing part-time employment. These success stories demonstrate the impact the Employment Program has had on preparing individuals for their future career prospects and increasing their overall self-confidence in their unique talents.

CHAT 'N' CHILL

The Chat and Chill program is an adult social program for neurodiverse individuals 16 years old and above who are looking to build and maintain friendships through various group activities.

Throughout the year, the Chat n Chill program engaged 68 participants in a total of 1,356 hours of programming over 50 sessions, including a Chat n Chill Summer Camp from July 5th-9th, 2025. This social program continues to provide a welcoming and supportive space for participants where they can practice their social skills, build connections and lasting friendships, and participate in engaging activities.



COMMUNITY IMPACT 2025

COMMUNITY SENSORY ROOM

As part of our Educational Inclusion Program, we offer a Community Sensory Room, a safe, calming space where individuals can engage with sensory-friendly equipment and activities that support regulation, relaxation, and overall well-being. The room is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM, and providers, schools, and other organizations are welcome to tour the space to gain ideas for creating their own sensory environments.



Our sensory-friendly family events are carefully created to support individuals with sensory sensitivities by offering reduced noise levels, softer lighting, and dedicated quiet spaces to ensure a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. In 2025, we hosted 11 family events and supported 173 families, providing safe, comfortable, and engaging experiences tailored to their unique needs.

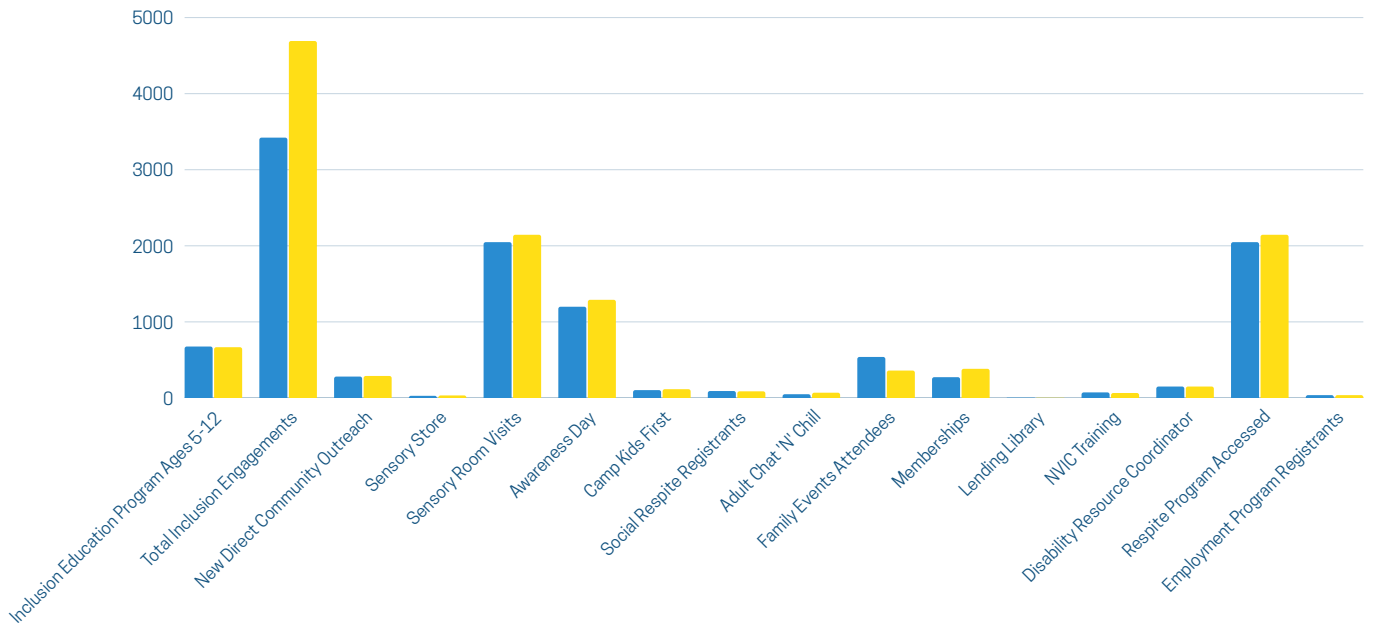


Parent Feedback

My daughter started in the employment program, and it helped her become a lot more confident and see her strengths. She enjoys the life transition evenings and it's great to see her pushing herself outside of her comfort zone. The best part, is that she now is going to work for the Autism Centre and she's so excited for the opportunity!

Caregivers coffee is great to be able to meet other parents going thru similar struggles; even if they don't have any advice they lend an ear to make you feel not alone

2024/2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT COMPARISON



TOTAL COMMUNITY IMPACT

13700+

Direct Support

13778 times, our services were Directly Accessed for our Programs, Resources, and/or Supplied with Educational Materials. This is an overall 15% increase in services and sessions from 2024.



2024 TO 2025 INCREASE OF PROGRAM UTILIZATION

We are pleased to share a significant increase in program participation from 2024 to 2025, reflecting the growing reach and importance of our services. More individuals and families than ever are accessing our programs, demonstrating the vital support they provide within our community. Thank you for your continued support in helping make this impact possible.

Social Respite Hours



Life Skills Hours



Inclusion Presentations and Tables



Memberships



Awareness and Acceptance Day

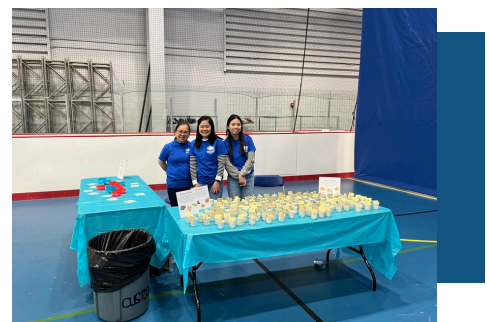


OUR FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERING

Our board members, volunteers, and members of the community have worked tirelessly fundraising and volunteering for us.



In 2025, more than 90 volunteers generously contributed 650 hours in support of the Autism Society of the RMWB. Their dedication has been instrumental in sustaining and growing our programs, strengthening our ability to serve the community. From fundraising and family events to meetings and subcommittees, their time and commitment have made a meaningful impact. We are truly grateful—we couldn't do this work without them!



OUR FUNDERS, DONORS & SPONSORS

Together, we can create something truly amazing and impactful!

We want to thank all our donors, sponsors, and community organizations that have helped the Autism Society of the RMWB. Your continued support enables us to support our mission and help all who struggle with or support persons on the autism spectrum and/or all differing abilities in our community. Thank you for your generosity!



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO



Foundation



Kin Canada
Kinette Club of Fort McMurray



OUR FINANCIALS STATEMENTS

We take great pride in our work and remain fully accountable to our community, members, and donors through transparency and strong financial stewardship. Our annual Registered Charity Return has been reviewed and filed by Gallo LLP, Sherwood Park, confirming that our operations and cash flows align with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

This year's annual report highlights our continued growth and many successes, reflecting our commitment to long-term sustainability and meaningful community partnerships. In 2025, we focused on maintaining a stable and diverse funding stream through ongoing grant efforts, fundraising initiatives, and responsible program expansion. This approach ensures we can continue delivering impactful services while strengthening the sustainability of our organization for years to come.

AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash (Note 5)	\$ 227,012	\$ 178,498
Accounts receivable	68,756	24,640
Prepaid expenses	4,582	4,413
	<u>300,350</u>	<u>207,551</u>
EQUIPMENT (Net of accumulated amortization) (Note 3)	<u>1,810</u>	<u>3,983</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 302,160	\$ 211,534
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 3,860	\$ 5,146
Wages payable	25,296	24,893
Deferred income (Note 4)	158,252	75,121
	<u>187,408</u>	<u>105,160</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted fund	34,752	41,374
Internally restricted fund	80,000	65,000
	<u>114,752</u>	<u>106,374</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 302,160	\$ 211,534
LEASE COMMITMENTS (Note 6)		



OUR FINANCIALS STATEMENTS

AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ended December 31, 2025

	2025	2024
REVENUES		
Grants and subsidies	\$ 269,284	\$ 467,250
Respite care services	243,802	240,036
Donation income	208,189	83,605
Fundraising income	129,803	55,761
Charitable programs fees	34,994	33,293
Membership fees	1,970	2,020
Retail sales	1,966	1,702
	<u>890,008</u>	<u>883,667</u>
EXPENSES		
Salaries and wages	655,335	623,889
Charitable programs	83,094	81,508
Rental	37,890	63,478
Advertising and promotion	26,910	10,997
Travel	21,405	17,002
Office	13,916	11,866
Fundraising	13,683	8,530
Workers compensation board	10,795	9,006
Insurance	9,272	4,573
Professional fees	8,925	8,400
Utilities	8,705	10,671
Telephone	5,849	6,278
Volunteers	3,056	4,286
Interest and bank charges	2,831	2,073
Amortization	2,372	2,678
Retail expenses	1,962	907
Meals	1,127	1,681
Shipping	635	134
	<u>907,762</u>	<u>867,957</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	<u>(17,754)</u>	<u>15,710</u>
OTHER INCOME		
Expense recoveries	11,044	-
Interest income	88	121
	<u>11,132</u>	<u>121</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ (6,622)</u>	<u>\$ 15,831</u>





OUR CONTACT INFO

Board Members

Corinna Pitzel-O'Hanley – President
Gerrie-Ann Fielder – Vice-President
Amanda Downey – Secretary
Loralie Volaric – Treasurer

president_vice@autismrmwb.org
vicepresident@autismrmwb.org
secretary@autismrmwb.org
treasurer@autismrmwb.org


Staff


Tina Delainey – Executive Director & Gaming Chair
Paula Bowen- Program Director
Jasmine Lauzon- Community Development Coordinator
Cassidy Menezes – Transitions Coordinator
Megan Rumbolt – Program Assistant
Barb Fitzpatrick - Disability Resource Coordinator

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Twitter: twitter.com/autismrmwb
Instagram: www.instagram.com/autismrmwb/
Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/company/autism-society-of-the-rmwb/

Connecting the Pieces of our Community!

Registered Charity# 707604492RR0001