

BOLD NEXT STEPS

*A New State-of-the-Art Facility and
Expanded and Adult Autism Program*



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Canopy Adult Autism
Program Overview

MESSAGE FROM DR. SYLVIA SMITH



First, Thank You For your Consideration!

The Canopy Adult Autism Program is known for its excellence and innovation in adult programming. The scalable, growth-focused, person-centered learning environment sets the Canopy Adult Autism Program apart from other adult programs. Each participant enrolled has a “wrap-around” individualized learning plan designed to prepare young adults to become active community members.

Autism is not a single disorder, but is a spectrum of closely related disorders with a shared core of symptoms, such as restricted, repetitive, and rigid behaviors, problems managing their own behaviors (hand flapping, rocking, spinning), difficulty relating to others, and struggles with communication.

The ASD population is growing at an exponential rate, leading to associated problems such as heightened feelings of anxiety and depression in adulthood. Solutions must be developed which will prevent these vulnerable people from falling through the cracks of society. Such solutions must focus on creating “lives-well-lived” for these individuals, which consist of active engagements, vocational training, purpose, and fulfillment.

Our goal for the Canopy Adult Program is to provide quality programs that offer a path to and through adulthood; a path that is filled with support and acceptance for brighter tomorrows!

Please accept my personal thanks and gratitude for considering Canopy Adult Program as a worthy investment of your time and resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia Smith".

Dr. Sylvia Smith
CEO of Giant Steps



What the Canopy Adult Program **Means to Us**

“

Dear Canopy Supporters,

Hello! I am writing to express how important Canopy in Sugar Grove, Illinois, is to our family. Our daughter Taylor is 29 years old. She has Autism, is nonverbal, and was recently diagnosed Bipolar. Throw in her seizures and life is...interesting. Okay, it is difficult. We found Giant Steps School in Lisle when Taylor could no longer attend our district school due to behaviors, safety concerns, and self-injury. Taylor is an only child and my job as her mother is to prepare her for when I am no longer able to care for her.

My husband and I looked at many adult programs over the years. The Canopy Adult Autism Program provides the most community involvement and is Autism-specific! The staff and administration know Autism and help my daughter continue to learn safety, socialization, volunteerism, life skills, and enjoyment of life.

My husband drives 50 minutes to Sugar Grove 4x's a day to have Taylor attend Canopy. He cut back his work hours to do so as we don't feel any other place will do what Canopy does. If you'd like to know more feel free to contact me. We love Canopy! It is one of a kind, and a lifeline.

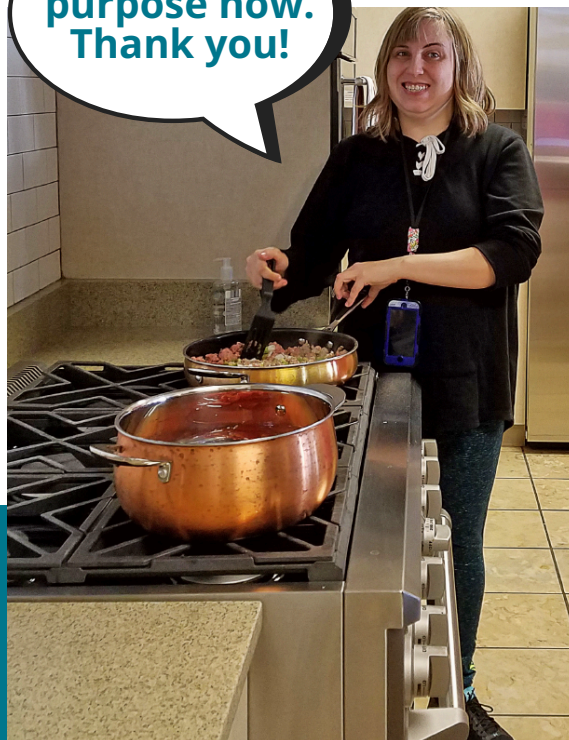
Warm regards,

The Roths

Alice Roth-Dean, Don Dean, and Taylor Roth

Taylor is an only child, and my job as her mother is to prepare her for when I am no longer able to care for her.

My life has purpose now. Thank you!





Setting the Cornerstones

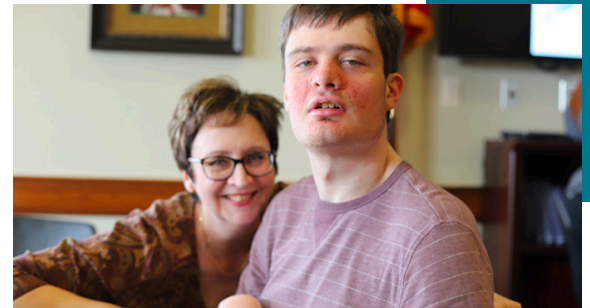
OUR STORY

Canopy's programs and core learning approaches are rooted in 25 years of expertise and excellence, developed through the proven best practices and transformative experiences of operating the renowned Giant Steps Day School in Lisle, Illinois. This legacy of innovation and impact shapes every aspect of Canopy's mission to empower and support individuals with autism.

At the center of Canopy's mission is carefully cultivating a supportive environment that is safe, age-appropriate, and meaningful, driven by a commitment to providing adults with autism every opportunity to learn, grow, and celebrate life.

OUR MISSION

Canopy Adult Autism Program is committed to innovation and excellence in providing vocational, educational, and life skills training and support for adults with autism.



The Time is Now for
BOLD NEXT STEPS
in programming for
Adults with Autism

**How can
you help?**

OUR VISION

To Positively Impact Lives

In partnership with Rich Harvest Farms, Giant Steps provides the model for a reimagined community where autistic individuals can experience living life as fully and independently as possible. Our vision is to provide this underserved population with individual programming that engages in each participant's strengths and interests while offering meaningful opportunities to interact with the broader community.

MEETING THE RISING NEED FOR SERVICES

The Growing Prevalence of Autism

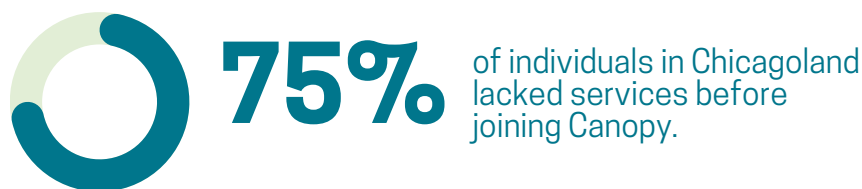
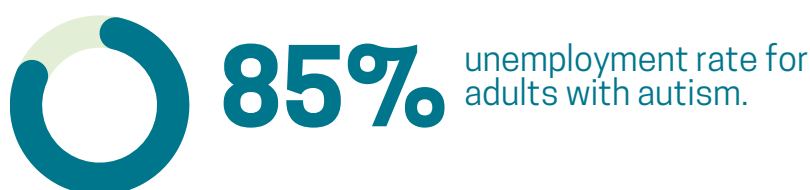


1 in 36 children are now diagnosed with autism, a dramatic rise from 1 in 150 in 2002.



Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the U.S., with a **417% increase** since 2000.

The Need for Support and Services



Financial Impact of Autism in the U.S.

\$11.5 trillion

Projected costs by 2029

Major cost drivers:

Productivity losses, rehabilitation, and adult care costs.

Total costs are highest for middle-aged adults and preschoolers transitioning to specialized care.

A Critical Need for Support and Services: **Canopy is the Solution**

As individuals with autism turn 22, families face limited options for support and programming. Most existing programs lack the focus needed to meet the specific needs of adults with autism.

Canopy Adult Program, based in Sugar Grove, Illinois, is the only autism-focused, full-service day program in Chicago's Western Suburbs. Canopy provides essential support for all levels of functional abilities, with a specialization in nonverbal adults who require more direct needs.

**you
can
HELP**





It is expected that over **700,000 individuals** with Autism **will age out** of the K-21 education system **within the next 5 years!**

OUR SOLUTION

Who are we?

Canopy is an innovative adult program committed to providing superior vocational, educational, and life skills training and support for adults with autism. Our goal is to provide adults with autism a safe, engaging, and purposeful program that offers continuous learning into adulthood.

How are we unique?

The resources available to Canopy through Rich Harvest Farms are unparalleled. The generosity of the Rich Family allows us to provide programs and experiences like work/ life opportunities, vocational skills, and Equine Therapy. Our team includes highly trained professionals working on a 1 staff to 4 participant ratio.

Why do we exist?

When their families or caregivers are gone...who will help to support or care for these citizens? Canopy is dedicated to supporting these adults who deserve to have a safe, happy, and fulfilling life... just like you! Our adult program offers vocational and social emotional programs Monday through Friday.

Why now? What is the solution?

The need is great. We are rapidly outgrowing our current building at 240 S. Main Street in Sugar Grove, IL. In the next few years, our plan is to build a 22,000 sq. ft. Activity center on Rich Harvest Farms property donated by Jerry Rich.

Our goal is to expand and enhance our programming to meet the needs of the growing autism population.

INTRODUCING CANOPY'S **BOLD NEXT STEPS CAMPAIGN**

A Campaign for a New State-of-the-Art Facility and
Expanded Adult Autism Program



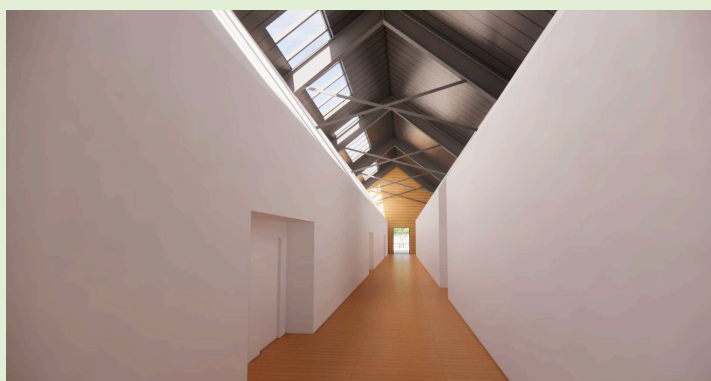
The spaces will be used for:

- Vocational training
- Job experiences
- Social/emotional activities
- Leisure skills
- Life skills
- Therapies such as Art, OT, Speech, Music, etc., as we can afford to hire therapists
- Outdoor activities

**The sky is the limit to the opportunities we can
provide our adults!**

INTRODUCING CANOPY'S **BOLD NEXT STEPS CAMPAIGN**

A Campaign for a New State-of-the-Art Facility and Expanded Adult Autism Program



Included in the facility:

Activity Rooms: Flexible spaces for daily activities, small gatherings, and creative exploration.

Life Skills and Resident Room: A mock apartment for developing essential life skills, including daily tasks and self-care.

Multi-Purpose Rooms: Adaptable spaces for meetings, events, and social interactions, with movable furniture, treadmills, and indoor swings. A flexible partition accommodates larger gatherings.

Teaching Kitchen: A fully equipped kitchen for group cooking classes, fostering independence and collaboration.

Sensory Rooms: Calm, controlled environments designed to support sensory processing needs. **Outdoor Program:** A serene environment featuring walking paths, gardens, and an orchard; ideal for exercise, connecting with nature, or a simple emotional reset.

Music Therapy Room: A dedicated space for therapeutic musical activities, featuring a variety of instruments, soundproof walls for privacy, and comfortable seating. This room provides a safe and nurturing environment for self-expression, emotional healing, and creative engagement through the power of music.

HELP US SECURE A FUTURE FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM

Canopy Capital Campaign

Estimated Project Costs: \$9,550,000

Estimated Costs

Activity Center: **\$9,000,000**

1 1/2 Years of Operating Cost: **\$350,000**

Capital Campaign Contingency Budget: **\$200,000**

Total Costs: 9,550,000

Pledges & Donations

Land Donated by Rich Harvest Farms: **\$1,200,000**

Funding-In-Place: **\$1,600,000**

Tentative Construction Pledges: **\$750,000**
(Roof, Flooring, Appliances, Plumbing, etc.)

Total Pledges & Donations: \$3,550,000

**Amount Needed to Complete:
\$6,000,000**



Campaign pledges can be paid over three years in a variety of ways:

- Cash / Credit Card / Check
- Monthly Giving (G.E.M. Program)
- Donor Advised Fund
- Stocks / Bonds
- Donations in Memory or in Honor of someone
- Appreciated Securities
- Naming opportunities are available

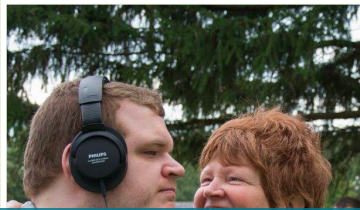


PASSION FOR THE POSSIBLE

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT HELPS:



**CANOPY
YOUNG
ADULTS**



**build self-respect, dignity, and learn
vocational skills to live a happy life.**



**FAMILIES OF
ADULTS WITH
AUTISM**



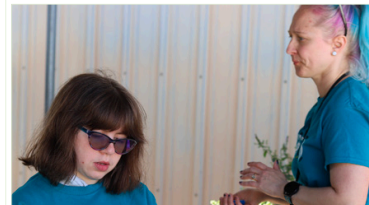
**to feel confident that their adult child is
safe and secure where they are loved
and understood.**



**COMMUNITIES TO
WELCOME AND
UNDERSTAND**



**individuals with autism for who they are
and the support they can bring to their
community.**



Be the Difference!

Contact Dr. Sylvia Smith at ssmith@mygiantsteps.org to learn how
your support transforms lives, or donate today at

CanopyCampaign.Gsteps.Org