

Initiative:	Healthier Outcomes and Access to Health Care Services
Project Name:	After-School Program for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
Funding Period:	June 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014
Project Coordinator:	Tiffany White
Project Administration:	Hope Center for Autism
Total Funding Approved:	\$23,495.94

Program Summary

The purpose of the grant is to implement an after-school program (*S.N.A.C.K. [Special Needs Activity Center for Kids]*) for children in Lincoln Parish, ages 3-12, diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The S.N.A.C.K. program provide educational and recreational activities with a focus on improving communication skills, attention and cooperation, self-help skills, play and leisure skills, and social interaction. Funding from the Foundation will be used exclusively for program supplies, equipment, and to help fund six months of rent, utilities, and voice/data expenses.

Grant Objectives:

The primary goals of the S.N.A.C.K. Program are as follows:

- Improve quality of life for both child and caregiver, including a reduction in burnout and stress that families caring for an autistic child typically face;
- provide access to a supportive environment where caregivers can meet one another and discuss various therapy options and coping strategies that can lead to healthier outcomes;
- provide access to evidence-based techniques such as Applied Behavior Analysis which have been proven to provide the best outcome for those affected by autism;
- provide access to recreational activities that will increase communication and social skills; and,
- increase community awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder.