AUTISM CENTER OF NEBRASKA
9012 Q Street • Omaha, Nebraska 68127-3549 • 402-315-1000 • ACNomaha.org

November 8, 2022

Dear Friends,

I hate to wrap gifts, don't you? I have a small pile already accumulated, and I think, *"You know, I could really get a head start on this by wrapping them as they come in."* But I don't. And there will come an evening, born of panic, during which I will be practicing my patchwork skills as I piece scraps of old wrapping paper together to cover each gift. And when I estimate incorrectly and cut paper too short, I'll practice my creative vocabulary as well! But all of the hard work, and stress, and frustration is more than worth it when I have my family together, listening to happy shrieks of grandchildren, sharing laughter and warm beverages with adult children, brothers, and sisters.

Aren't the holidays just wonderful? The process of preparing for their arrival is so similar to the process of supporting people to achieve the lives they want for themselves. There is struggle, and frustration, and overwhelming task lists. But it is ***All Worth It*** when an individual comes out of the pandemic, having lost his job, but calls ACN and says, *"Don't worry, I already have a new job because you taught me how to be a job seeker."* It is ***All Worth It*** when I finish an all-day training with new hires and have a new employee stay after to brainstorm how to better support a young man in meeting his goals. It is ***All Worth It*** when we are able to begin to pay our employees a better wage, more in line with their value to the work.

What a year 2022 has been! Here are some highlights:

- **Legislative support** – a major funding increase that made it possible to show a positive bottom line and also allowed us to reward Direct Support Professionals for their excellent job performance.
- **Greater community outreach** – partnering with area businesses in refurbishing our raised garden in Omaha, providing true inclusion as individuals supported by ACN wielded rakes and shovels alongside community members for a much-needed refresh.
- **Art Garden expansion** – a third Art Garden gift boutique opened in Lincoln near Union College providing a prime retail location, plus opportunities for community partnerships while exploring new approaches in upcycling furniture and home décor.
- **Food Truck Festival** – a new approach to bringing the ACN family together, we raised funds this summer with food trucks, live music, and a whole lot of summer HEAT.
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** – a focus on the strengths of diversity found in our ACN family, navigating the country's history and the value we place upon our staff with the help of Dr. Cheryl Ingram, Diverse City, and Inclusology.

What's next with ACN? That's up to each of us. Our needs are great: We have an aging building in need of updating and repairs. We continue to support people's needs beyond funding levels, and sometimes, in spite of no available funding.

We BELIEVE in VALUE, RESPECT, CHOICE, and GROWTH. With your help, we will continue to live out those values for the people we support, the people we employ, and all members of the ACN family. Won't you join me in making a contribution today?

With gratitude,

Leslie Bishop Hartung
President & Chief Executive Officer

Assembled in-house, this mailing includes holiday stickers placed on the envelope by ACN clients & staff.

2022 ANNUAL APPEAL

☐ **YES**, I wish to donate to the Autism Center of Nebraska's mission of providing services and support for individuals with developmental disabilities in our community.

To ensure your gift is received by Dec. 31, 2022, please give online: **acnomaha.org**

Enclosed is my gift of: ☐$2,500 ☐$1,000 ☐$500 ☐$250 ☐$100 ☐$50 ☐Other: $_____

☐ Check enclosed for Autism Center of Nebraska ☐ I'm giving online at acnomaha.org
☐ Credit card donation: ☐AmEx ☐MasterCard ☐Visa

Credit card number:_____ Exp Date: ____ /____ Security Code: _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

My phone:_____

☐ My gift is in memory of : _____

☐ My gift is in honor of: _____

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SHOW YOUR ACN PRIDE!

Whether you're a client, employee or friend, show your ACN pride by purchasing one of our custom-branded gift items available via Redbubble. It's a breeze to sign up and create an account, then you'll earn you a discount on your first order. ACN receives a portion of each sale and we thank you for supporting us!

Throw Pillow

Coasters

Core Values T-shirt

Leighla the Cat T-shirt

TO SHOP, scan above
or log onto our page:

AutismCenterofNebraska.org/shop

Logo/Cat Coffee Mug

Ball Cap

Stickers

Logo/Cat Water Bottle

(Continued from front)

Your Contact Information

Preferred name for donor acknowledgment _____

Billing address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone(s) _____

☐ I would prefer my gift to be anonymous

Please return this form to: Austism Center of Nebraska, 9012 Q Street, Omaha, NE 68127
acnomaha.org | 402-315-1000

Autism Center of Nebraska is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Gifts are tax-deductible as allowable. Consult your tax preparer for details.