



MORGAN AUTISM CENTER

Creating Opportunities For Success

Adult Expansion Project: Case for Support



“Although Cameron still cannot speak, he can communicate and be heard. Morgan Autism Center gave Cameron his voice.”

— Paola Luna Davenport, parent



Autism rates have skyrocketed over the past 25 years. Since 1989, the rate of substantially disabling autism has soared 2,100%, a number that does not include those with milder forms (CA DDS). Today, 1 in 68 children has an autism spectrum disorder (CDC).

The autism epidemic has generated remarkable leaps in early diagnosis, intervention and education for children who face difficulties in social interaction, communication and behavior. ***But what happens when these children grow up?***

Adults with Autism: Demand for Services Soars

The children on the leading edge of this autism explosion have started to age out of the K-12 school system. These children and their families face a fragmented system of care that does not have the capacity to handle the sheer numbers of affected individuals and their often complex needs.

In the Bay Area, demand for adult autism program options is soaring. Existing programs struggle with staff shortages, limited facility space and growing wait lists. Families are under considerable strain to find high-quality programs for their young adults on the autism spectrum.

Morgan Autism Center: A Bay Area Leader

Morgan Autism Center (MAC) is the Bay Area’s leading provider of individualized educational services for people with autism. With a 45-year history of innovative programming, MAC promotes an educational philosophy that mines the best techniques from multiple developmental and educational models, and applies them to the individual needs of each student.

Our mission is to help children and adults with autism or other developmental disabilities maximize their potential in a dignified, positive and loving environment. Students and adults thrive because of our specialized program tailored to their individual needs and the love and care they receive from our dedicated staff.

Morgan Autism Center contracts with more than 30 school districts in Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco and Alameda counties. We increase awareness about autism and share the latest research and information in the field through our annual conference, lecture series and professional trainings for police departments, educators, and community service providers.

MAC's Adult Expansion Project:

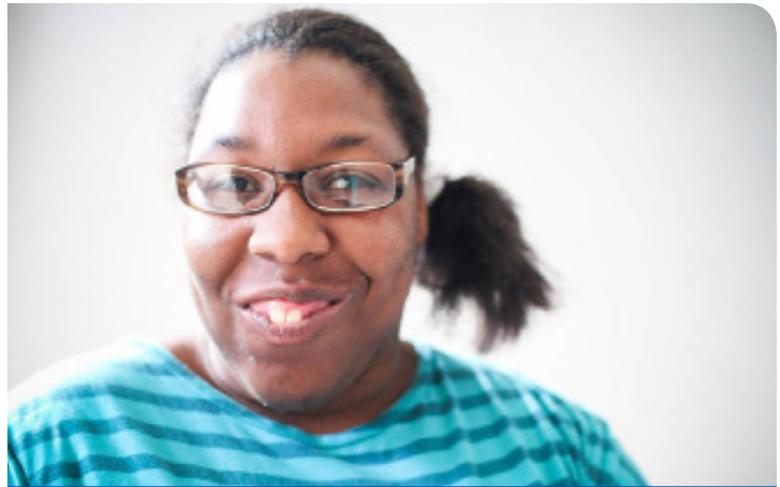
Piloting a New Model

Morgan Autism Center's Adult Program emphasizes improving the independent living and vocational skills of our clients. We offer opportunities for social stimulation and educational growth, recreational activities, community-based volunteer experiences, and vocational activities and enrichment.

However, our adult program, housed in two former classrooms on our San Jose campus, is operating at capacity. While currently serving 42 clients, we do not have enough space to welcome additional clients into the program, or to serve adults who have more severe behavioral challenges and require a higher level of staffing. We find ourselves in the position of turning away many individuals—even those students who MAC has served throughout their entire education—due to space restrictions.

"I worry that Cameron, who needs one-on-one help, will not have a place in the Adult Program because they don't have the capacity."

— Paola Luna Davenport, parent



Leticia's Story

Leticia came to Morgan Autism Center in 1999 when she was 12 years old. Finding an appropriate placement had been difficult since she had been diagnosed as emotionally disturbed and often displayed challenging behaviors.

The MAC team immediately found that Leticia had been misdiagnosed and that her behaviors could be managed with the Morgan Autism Center approach that does not punish behavioral missteps and focuses on developing skills. MAC used Leticia's desire to be a "lady" to motivate her. While she used to be greatly disturbed by people who were not following the rules she had learned, she has become much more tolerant, often noting that "certain people still have more to learn."

Leticia now attends the MAC adult program where she is able to work at a local food bank and at RAFT putting together instructional kits for school teachers. She also attends conversation classes at San Jose State University.

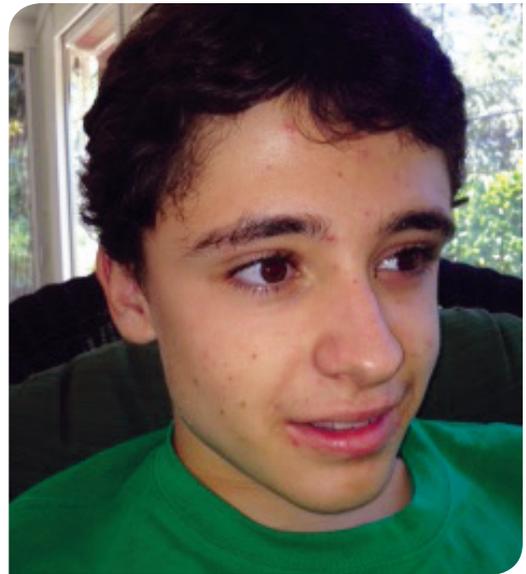
Morgan Autism Center is launching a multi-year initiative to open a new satellite site dedicated to our Adult Program.

A new facility will allow us to expand our adult enrollment capacity and better meet the needs of individuals who require greater support. It will also serve as a model project for creating a successful, sustainable adult day program that other organizations can study and consider.

As part of our expansion initiative, we are excited to introduce MAC's Adult Transition Project, one of the only adult day programs in the Bay Area to provide an enriching, highly supportive program for specific young adult clients with autism spectrum disorders who have severe behavior challenges.

We have learned over our four decades of service that, for some individuals with autism, the need for a highly supportive behavioral program does not end at age 22 (the year school district funding ends), but often diminishes as they age into their late 20s.

The Adult Transition Project will provide a 1:1 or 1:2 staff-to-client ratio and a highly structured environment to accommodate clients with more severe behavioral challenges until they can be successfully transitioned to the more traditional program with a 1:3 staff-to-client ratio, as they grow older.



Along with behavioral intervention, the transition project will provide the same high quality content found in our current Adult Program. This will include independent living skills and social skills training, art, music, physical education, and community integrative activities.

The expanded Adult Program will maintain a strong program design and management relationship to the Morgan Autism Center's staff and administration. This will ensure that the Adult Program has the same quality and focus that has distinguished our work with those on the autism spectrum.

The expansion of our Adult Program in an off-campus satellite setting will reach a full capacity of 80 clients—a 90% increase. We will work with local Regional Centers to secure an increased level of funding for transitional clients needing more one-on-one staff support. We anticipate that by the fourth year, the off-site Adult Program will reach a financial break-even point.

Based on proof of success of the pilot effort and the financial sustainability of the model, Morgan Autism Center will be well-positioned to consider developing additional sites for the adult day program over the next decade.

Major Gifts Program

To establish the Adult Expansion Initiative, Morgan Autism Center must secure a suitable space to lease and cover start-up facility costs, rent and salaries for program staff and an administrative associate. The ideal site will offer five classrooms, a physical education room, three restrooms, a kitchen and laundry room, small storage and office space.

To fund the initiative, the leadership of Morgan Autism Center has launched a major gifts program to raise \$600,000, pledged over three years. We will rely on the generosity of current donors, Center families and friends, foundations, and businesses that recognize the dearth of options facing adults with autism who require intensive support and the promise our model poses.



General Project Requirements

Cost Elements	Estimated Totals Over 4 Years
Capital	
• Design fees	\$15,000
• Program rooms	30,000
• Accessible restrooms	120,000
• Laundry facility and equipment	15,000
• Kitchen and equipment	60,000
• Office space	4,000
• Furniture and PE equipment	40,000
• Outdoor equipment and fencing	8,000
• Contingencies and escalation	49,250
Occupancy	
• Rent	703,000
• Utilities	40,000
Program Staffing and Administration	
• Teachers and Aides (inc. taxes/benefits)	3,249,550
• Administration Support	284,000
Campaign	
• Allowance for pledge reductions	15,000
• Fundraising	27,200
Total Program Costs Over 4 Years:	\$4,660,000
Anticipated Program Revenue:	(\$4,060,000)
Major Gifts Campaign Goal:	\$600,000

Children with autism eventually grow up, but their challenges do not disappear when they reach adulthood. Our vision is to provide opportunities for adults with autism to have a meaningful and fulfilling life.

Please join Morgan Autism Center as we take the lead in creating opportunity for these adults and their families.



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