

# dear friends,

# demographics

# scholarship dollars awarded

# financials

# spencer's story

**Hope.** Every family who has a child with autism is working to maintain hope in spite of the despair of this mysterious and overwhelming diagnosis.

At ABC of NC Child Development Center, we provide hope for a lifetime of learning.

When we founded our organization in 2002, we dreamed of a center where children with autism spectrum disorder reach their full potential through effective teaching. This became the vision for ABC of NC Child Development Center — a school specializing in highly individualized educational services based on evidence-based practices. With leadership from our executive director, Selene Johnson; teaching from a highly trained and devoted staff; guidance from an engaged and involved board of directors; and donations from our generous community, this dream has come true. In only eight years, ABC of NC has become one of the country's leading providers of educational services for children with autism.

Because of you, we meet the highest standards in autism programming by operating efficiently and teaching creatively. We are proud of the fine financial and service results listed in this report and the responsible stewardship of your donations. And we plan to keep growing and improving to meet the increasing needs of families in the Piedmont Triad.

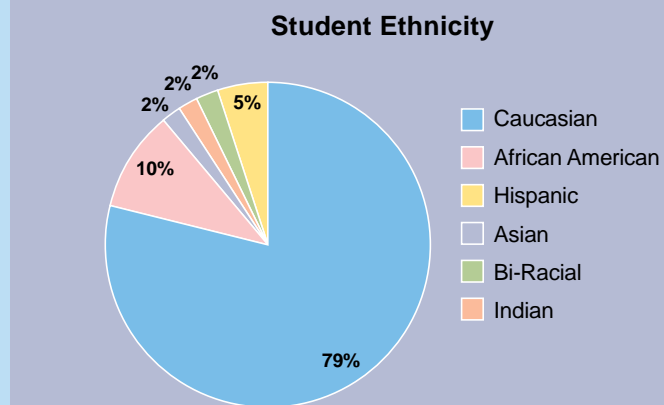
Highlights of our accomplishments this year include:

- record enrollment in our summer programs;
- hiring our new Director of Development and Volunteer services, Renee Shipko, thanks to a grant from the Winston-Salem Foundation;
- extension of classroom space with the addition of a mobile office building on our campus;
- recommendation for accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS);
- completion of the Winston-Salem Women's Fund program "Help Me at Home" parent training program;
- expansion of our scholarship program to include the grant funding for children with autism spectrum disorders from Guilford County;
- continued involvement at the state level in political advocacy for individuals with autism spectrum disorders; and
- funding for a new, on-site, autism-specific diagnostic and assessment clinic.

To all of our donors and supporters, thank you for keeping hope alive for our families. Because of you, over 80 children with autism spent today learning and growing through services provided by our wonderful school.

And to all of our ABC of NC families, thank you for sharing your hope for your children. Your optimism, faith and highest expectations never cease to inspire us.

**Felice Brenner**  
Chair, Board of Directors



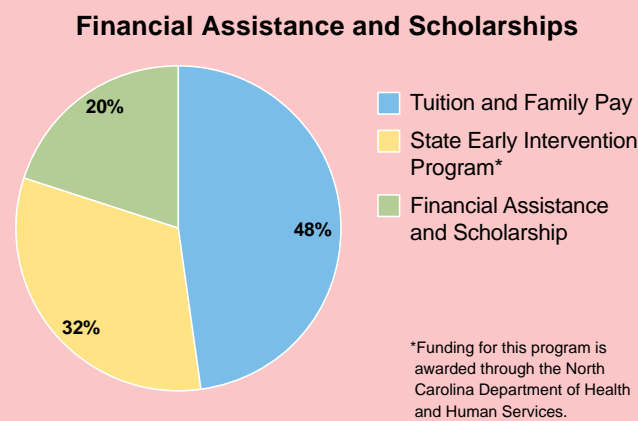
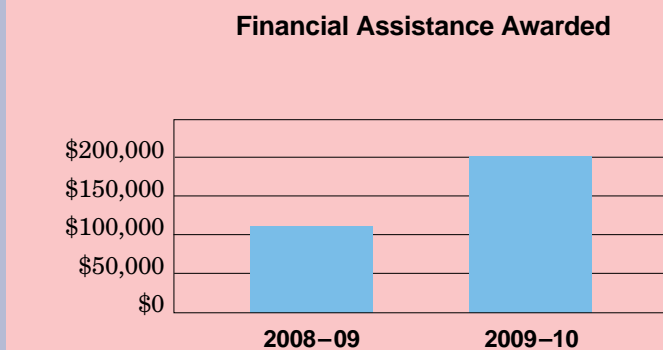
**73%** of students served last year by ABC of NC were male.

Four out of five children diagnosed with autism are male.  
— Centers for Disease Control, 2000

Age Group	Percentage
0-3 years	5.1%
4-5 years	42.4%
6-8 years	27.1%
9-12 years	19.5%
13+ years	5.9%

**48%** of students served by ABC of NC last year were age 5 and younger.

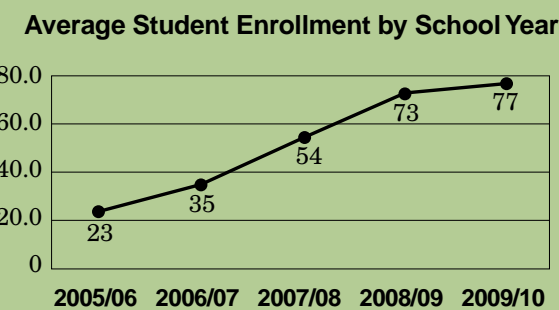
Early intervention is critical in helping children with autism learn to develop appropriate communication skills and behaviors.  
— National Research Council, Educating Children with Autism, 2001



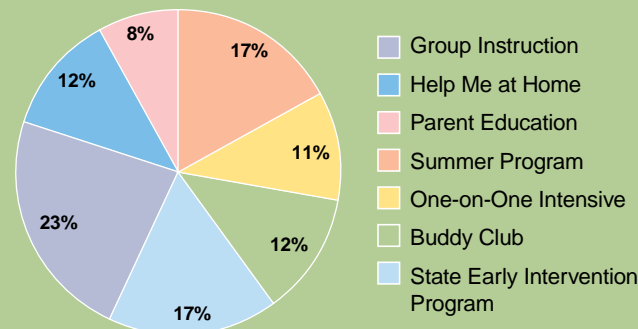
# students served

**19%** of students attending ABC of NC are typical peers.

Teaching children with autism and typically-developing children in an inclusive classroom provides significant benefits to all children, including producing greater academic outcomes, increasing understanding of diversity, and increasing social interactions and friendships.  
— Kids Together, Inc., 1997

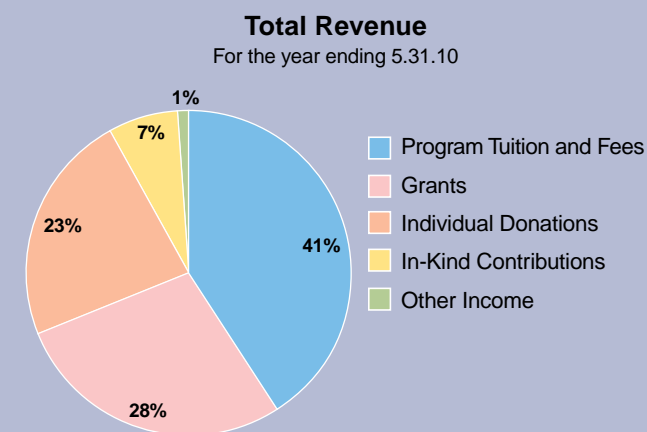


## Enrollment for Students with Autism by Program Type

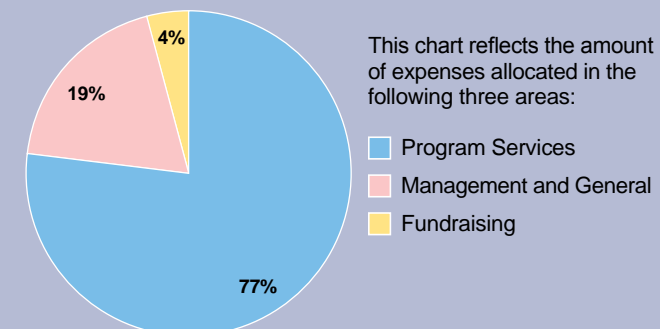


**55%** of students with autism received financial assistance in 2009/10 through a variety of programs including:

- Help Me At Home, a program funded through The Women's Fund of Winston-Salem;
- State Early Intervention Program, funded by the NC Department of Health and Human Services;
- Pratt Family Foundation, assisting families from the Guilford County area; and
- Friends for Hope Scholarship Fund, helping families with funding provided through individual donations and contributions.



## Functional Expense Allocation For the year ending 5.31.10



When Spencer first came to ABC of NC, his communication skills were weak. He obsessively opened and closed cabinets and repeatedly tried to run out of the classroom and from anyone who would approach him. Attempts to re-engage him inevitably resulted in Spencer hitting, biting, head-butting, and engaging in other self-injurious behavior.

More than a year later, Spencer is a different child. After a long process of systematic and intensive teaching using his special interests to motivate him, Spencer began looking forward to school. Spencer learned how to read visual schedules and ask "where" and "when" questions to reduce his frustration and anxiety about daily activities. Spencer's teachers focused on his ability to use language to access activities and information, while improving his behavior and tolerance.

In fall 2010, Spencer successfully transitioned to a typical elementary school. He loves riding the school bus and enjoys playing with the new friends he has made. He has recently started reading for fun, on his own, and his family is so proud of the progress he continues to make each and every day.

## Parent Quotes

"ABC of NC offers a positive experience for both kids and parents, and I'm always comfortable having my child there because I know he is getting the best intervention."

"By helping our daughter expand her diet to include more than 50 new foods, ABC of NC gave our family the freedom to eat together as a family – something that is priceless to us! Thank you to the supporters of ABC of NC, from the bottom of our hearts."

"Before we started at ABC of NC, we had no way to communicate to our non-verbal two-year-old. After just a few months, we had a communication system in place and were hearing more words than we ever could have imagined! We thank ABC of NC for giving us a way to communicate with him and for teaching him how to talk!"

