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A Magazine for Estrella & CantaMia Residents



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From Your Neighbors, For Your Neighbors

Autism Facts

This year marks the 5-year anniversary of Southwest Behavioral & Health Services' Southwest Autism Center of Excellence (SACE). To celebrate this milestone, we're spreading the word and sharing 10 surprising facts about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD):

1. Autism Spectrum Disorder affects individuals in various ways and throughout their life span.
2. ASD has nothing to do with a person's intelligence. Many famous, successful, creative, analytical individuals have autism including Elon Musk, Anthony Hopkins, Albert Einstein, Charles Darwin, Bill Gates, and Michelangelo.
3. Neurodivergent is a person whose brain is different from the majority of society. Neurodivergent disorders include but are not limited to autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and dyspraxia.
4. Even though many individuals who have autism desire fulfilling and meaningful work, there is a high rate of unemployment or underemployment in this community.
5. Individuals who have autism possess many traits that can make them great employees

including trustworthiness, dependability, loyalty and a strong and intense attention to detail. They are often also visual thinkers with high problem-solving ingenuity, integrity and perseverance.

6. The autism spectrum is not linear. It is more like a color wheel consisting of many strengths and abilities that make up an individual.
7. Autistic masking isn't pretending to be "normal," it is a complete override of a person's authentic identity, emotions, and bodily state in an attempt to fit in with others.
8. Ableism is a form of bias, prejudice and discrimination. Ableism hinges on the idea that people with disabilities/autism are less valuable than nondisabled people. When in truth, autism is another way for the mind and/or body to be.
9. Our community's responsibility is to take an active role in promoting the idea of inclusion. When people are included, their worth is recognized and respected.
10. Individuals with ASD can and do live happy and productive lives with the support of their families and community.

If you have questions about Autism Spectrum Disorder, we are here to help. More information about autism, diagnosis and treatment is available at <https://www.sbhservices.org/southwest-autism-center>.



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"Carmella helped us sell our home. We have invested in multiple properties and have dealt with many different real estate agents. Carmella is hands down the best agent we have used. She was extremely responsive, which is so important! What she knew...we knew! She was very knowledgeable, respectful of our concerns, professional and went above and beyond to help us with our transaction. She had our best interest in mind throughout the entire process, and managed to negotiate multiple offers on our home with ease, to help us get the most we could out of our investment. We would definitely use her again and would recommend her to friends and family! She was fantastic!" ~ Gretchyn

