

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

THE KENTUCKY AUTISM TRAINING CENTER IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR KENTUCKIANS AFFECTED BY AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. WE DO THIS BY BRIDGING RESEARCH TO PRACTICE THROUGH TRAINING AND COLLABORATION.

- 1405 E. BURNETT AVENUE | LOUISVILLE, KY
- 502.852.4631
- M KATC@LOUISVILLE.EDU
- **WWW.KYAUTISM.ORG**







Message from the Director



1405 E. Burnett Ave. Louisville, KY 40217

August 15, 2023

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC) Advisory Board, University of Louisville's College of Education and Human Development, Department of Special Education, Early Childhood & Prevention Science, and KATC staff, I am proud to present the KATC's 2022-2023 Annual Report for our 27th year of service to the autism community of Kentucky. Since the establishment of the KATC in 1996 by the Kentucky General Assembly, the need for integrated and systemic supports and services across all regions of the Commonwealth continues to increase.

This report represents a summary of our work in the areas of information dissemination, training, coaching and various other supports. Each section provides an overview of the services, supports provided, and information regarding endeavors with our collaborative partners. In addition to the areas detailed above, it is important to note the many hours KATC staff spend providing resources and supports via telephone, calls, virtual consultations, committee meetings, community awareness events, and resource fairs.

Establishing and maintaining collaborative partnerships with professionals and related agencies has proven to be productive in moving KATC toward the vision of improving the lives of those affected by autism. With that said, we would like to specifically acknowledge our partnerships with the Regional Educational Cooperatives and Regional Early Childhood Training Centers, Human Development Institute at UK, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Office of Autism. Through these collaborations, the KATC has been successful at leveraging resources and bolstering unified efforts across the Commonwealth that continue to enhance the services we provide.

On behalf of the KATC Advisory Board and the KATC staff of eight, I would like to thank the many individuals and agencies who support the work of KATC. A special thank you to the KY General Assembly for their continued support.

Sincerely,

R. Larry Taylor, Ed.D. Executive Director 1405 E. Burnett Avenue

L. Lang Jayla

Louisville, KY 40217

KATC STAFF



R. LARRY TAYLOR, ED.D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



HEIDI COOLEY-COOK, M.ED. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



MICHELLE BUSH, M.A.E., M.S.HROD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



HEATHER ALGER, M.S. CCC-SLP FIELD TRAINING COORDINATOR



KIM HOWARD, M.ED.
FIELD TRAINING COORDINATOR



ENID HURTADO-STREMMING, M.ED. FIELD TRAINING COORDINATOR



TRACY BELFIELD, ED.S.
FIELD TRAINING COORDINATOR



MIKE MILLER, M.ED.
FIELD TRAINING COORDINATOR



KATC CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD

The KATC has an Advisory Board that advises the Director in matters of policy, staffing, and operation. Board members are committed to the growth of the Kentucky Autism Training Center as it strives towards its mission to enhance supports for persons with autism by providing information, training and technical assistance to families and service Providers across Kentucky.

Board members are actively involved in the development of collaborative relationships. Members also provide input and expertise in the development, implementation and evaluation of services provided by the KATC. Unless restricted by their employment, members will assist the KATC to procure funding, in addition to State General Funds, to accomplish its mission.

OUR ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- MEAGAN BRANNON, PARENT
- GWENNA PENNELL, GRANDPARENT
- MINDY PFAU, PARENT
- TERRI SRINIVASAN, PARENT
- NORMA THOMAS, PARENT
- DR. JUSTIN COOPER, PROFESSIONAL
- DR. NANCY LOVETT, PROFESSIONAL
- KATHY MEREDITH, PROFESSIONAL
- DR. ELIZABETH STERNBERG, PROFESSIONAL
- S. COY TRAVIS, PROFESSIONAL



STATE-WIDE REACH AND INFORMATION SHARING



Our Online and Social Media Presence

The KATC has a growing online and social media presence. We use these avenues to share information, services, resources and training opportunities to the autism and special needs communities.

State-wide reach

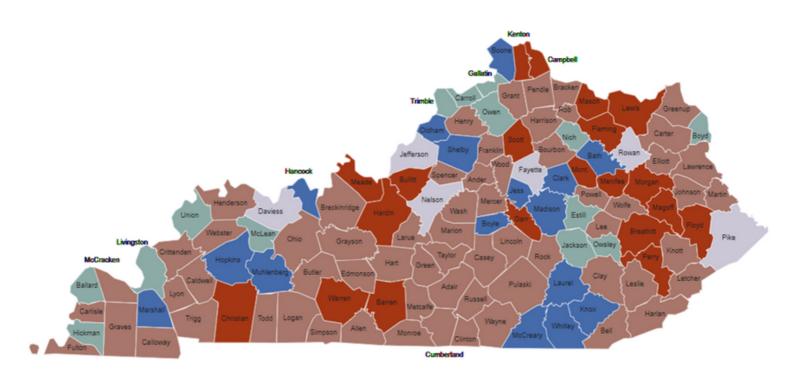
During the 2023 fiscal year, KATC reached 115 of the 120 counties in Kentucky through our First Responder trainings, collaborative work with the state partners, Training Site Initiative, and other means of engagement including events/trainings, phone calls, emails, etc.



TRAININGS AND EVENTS - DATA ANALYSIS

1811 evaluations completed between 9/27/2022 and 6/29/2023 107/120 counties represented and 43 participants from outside Kentucky (missing: Ballard, Carroll, Estill, Gallatin, Hickman, Jackson, Livingston, McLean, Nicholas, Owen, Owsley, Trimble, Union)

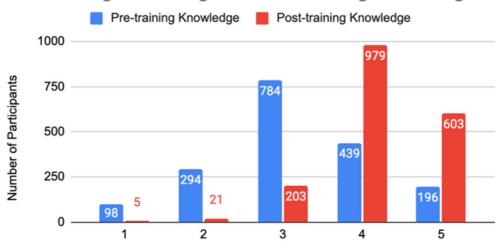
- 1-10 participants
- 11-20 participants
- 21-50 participants
- 51+ participants



TRAININGS AND EVENTS - DATA ANALYSIS

1811 evaluations completed between 9/27/2022 and 6/29/2023
107/120 counties represented and 43 participants from outside Kentucky
(missing: Ballard, Carroll, Estill, Gallatin, Hickman, Jackson, Livingston, McLean, Nicholas, Owen, Owsley,
Trimble, Union)

Pre-training Knowledge vs Post-training Knowledge



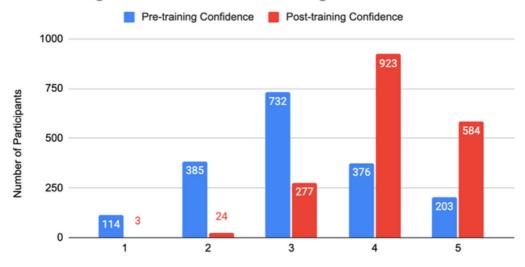
Participant Rating of Knowledge 1(low) - 5 (high)

		AFTER THIS TRAINING, MY KNOWLEDGE OF AUTISM WAS:					
PRIOR TO THIS TRAINING, MY KNOWLEDGE OF AUTISM WAS:		1	2	3	4	5	GRAND TOTAL
	1	2	3	29	40	24	98
	2		11	69	171	43	294
	3	3	7	98	505	171	784
	4			1	245	193	439
	5			6	18	172	196
	GRAND TOTAL	5	21	203	979	603	1811

TRAINING AND EVENTS DATA ANALYSIS

1811 evaluations completed between 9/27/2022 and 6/29/2023
107/120 counties represented and 43 participants from outside Kentucky
(missing: Ballard, Carroll, Estill, Gallatin, Hickman, Jackson, Livingston, McLean, Nicholas, Owen, Owsley,
Trimble, Union)

Pre-training Confidence vs Post-training Confidence

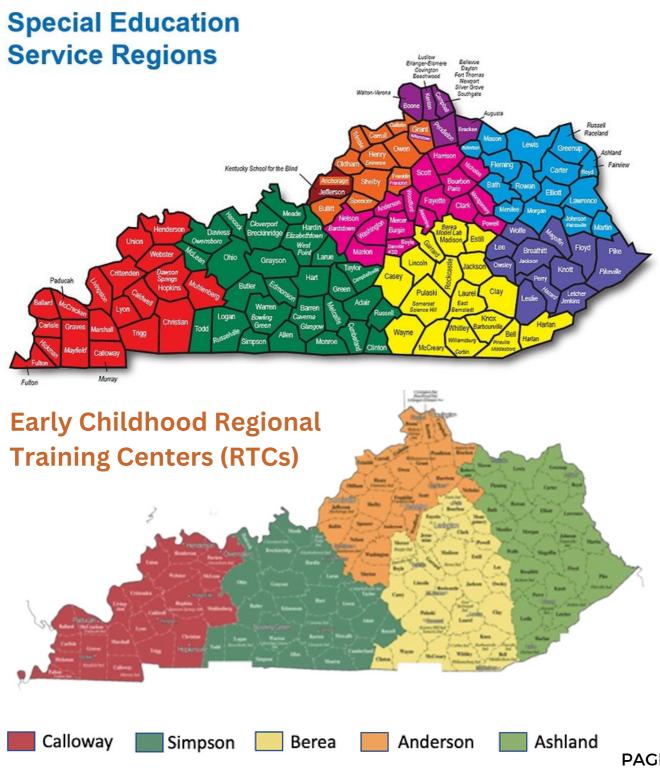


Participant Rating of Confidence 1(low)-5	5(high)
---	---------

		AFTER THIS TRAINING, MY CONFIDENCE LEVEL IN SUPPORTING THOSE WITH AUTISM WAS:					
PRIOR TO THIS TRAINING, MY CONFIDENCE LEVEL IN SUPPORTING THOSE WITH AUTISM WAS:		1	2	3	4	5	GRAND TOTAL
	1	1	8	30	53	22	114
	2		14	140	182	49	385
	3	2	2	104	473	151	732
	4			2	204	170	376
	5			1	10	192	203
	GRAND TOTAL	3	24	277	922	584	1810

TRAINING SITE **INITIATIVE**

The Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC), in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), Early Childhood Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and the Regional Special Educational Cooperatives, provides learning opportunities to professionals and parents of autistic students. The "Training Site" initiative through the KATC has been a benefit to local public schools for over 15 years. Administrators have the opportunity to apply to the initiative as a classroom, school or district site. If accepted, the training site receives focused onsite or virtual technical assistance from KATC Field Training Coordinators and Consultants from the Regional Special Education Cooperatives and/or Early Childhood Regional Training Centers. The focus of this work is to enhance the school and district's personnel's skills to better serve autistic students.



TRAINING SITE INITIATIVE

Criterion:

- · Administrative support and engagement
- · Teacher who serves autistic students
- · Teacher who demonstrates responsiveness to professional learning
- · Commitment to partner with the Regional Cooperative Consultant or RTC
- · School site personnel demonstrate a desire to build district capacity
- Commitment to participate in professional learning opportunities related to evidence based practices and autism (trainings, cadre meetings, PLCs)

General Guidelines:

- School/District staff complete the application form collaboratively
- Involved personnel are each in good standing with school/district
- All involved classroom staff and related service staff must review the application and sign to show their commitment
- District Director of Special Education must be informed of the application submission and must actively participate in the training site processes







TRAINING SITE INITIATIVE

2022-23 School Year Training Sites

Anderson County- Early Childhood Regional Training Center

- Nelson County -Bardstown Independent Bardstown Early Childhood Center
- Shelby County Northside Early Childhood Center

Ashland County - Early Childhood Regional Training Center

• Magoffin County - Magoffin County Preschool

Calloway County - Early Childhood Regional Training Center

- Graves County Graves County Head Start Preschool
- McCracken County -McCracken County Preschool; Paducah Head Start Preschool

Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative (CKEC)

- Nelson County Bloomfield Middle School
- Clark County -Robert D. Campbell Jr. High School; Strode Station Elementary School
- Woodford County District

Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC)

- Larue County- Hodgenville Elementary
- Monroe County Tompkinsville Elementary
- Simpson County Simpson Elementary School*

Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC)

- Breathitt County Sebastian Elementary
- Floyd County Floyd Central High School
- Knot County Beaver Creek Elementary School
- Magoffin County Magoffin County Preschool
- Pike County -District
- Pike County Pike Independent Elementary School
- Wolfe County Campton Elementary School, Dessie Scott School

Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES)

- Bracken County Taylor Elementary School*
- Newport Independent Newport Primary School

Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative(OVEC)

• Oldham County - Harmony Elementary

Southeast/Southcentral Education Cooperative (SE/SC)

- Corbin County Independent Corbin Primary School*
- Garrard County Lancaster Elementary School
- Bell County Middlesboro Independent Middlesboro Elementary

West Kentucky Education Cooperative (WKEC)

- Marshall County Marshall County High School
- Muhlenberg County District
- Calloway Murray Independent School District

CONSULTATION

KATC Staff consult with individuals, families, and professionals on a variety of topics including sensory friendly performances, behavioral concerns, academic issues, navigating resources, employment, etc. Additionally, KATC Staff often collaborates with groups, agencies, and organizations on matters that impact the lives of autistic citizens in Kentucky.

OF CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION WITH

- Advocates, Caregivers and Families in Kentucky and Indiana
- Aetna Better Health
- · Arts for All KY
- American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreting
- Autism Diagnostic, Medical Follow-Up, & Treatment Collaborative Community of Practice (CofP)
- · Autism Society of the Bluegrass (ASBG)
- Bullitt County Schools Bounce Back to School Event
- Cabinet for Health & Family Services (CHFS)
- Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID)
- Division on Autism & Developmental Disabilities (DADD)
- Extension Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO)
- Family Resource Youth Services Coalition of Kentucky
- FEAT of Louisville
- Habilitative Information Vocational Education (HIVE)
- Kosair for Kids
- KY Advisory Council on Autism (KYACA)
- KY Association for Psychology in the Schools (KAPS)
- KY Center for School Safety
- KY Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT)
- KY Department of Education (KDE)
- KY Special Parent Involvement Network)(KY-SPIN)
- KY State Fair
- KY State Police
- Lexington Police Department
- Louisville Fire Department
- Louisville Metro Corrections Department
- Mattingly Edge
- National Autism Network of Across the State Implementers (NANSI)
- National Council for Exceptional Children

- Norton Children's Autism Clinic
- Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN)
- · Office of Autism
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Orchid House
- Parent Support Groups
- Possibilities Expo (Bowling Green)
- Regional Special Education Cooperatives (Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative (CKEC), Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC), Jefferson County Exceptional Child Education Services (JCPS ECE), Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC) Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC), Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES) Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC), Southeast/Southcentral Education Cooperative (SESC), West Kentucky Education Cooperative (WKEC)
- Regional Training Centers (RTC)(Anderson, Ashland, Brea, Calloway, Simpson)
- University of Louisville (UofL)
- UofL Career Services
- UofL College of Education and Human Development
- UofL Dean of Students
- UofL Delphi Center
- UofL Disability Resource Center
- UofL faculty, staff and students
- UofL J.B.School of Engineering
- UofL LGBT Center
- UofL Police Department
- UofL School of Medicine
- Up in KY
- Western Kentucky University: Clinical Education Complex/Kelly Autism Program, Family Resource Program







COLLABORATION

KATC Field Training Coordinators partnered with Aetna to create 8 virtual training sessions for caregivers and mental health professionals. These trainings can be found on the KATC YouTube page.





KATC staff Heidi Cooley -Cook, Kim Howard, Enid Hurtado-Stremming presented at the national Council for Exception Children-Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities Conference in Clearwater, FL.

- Sexuality Education Focus, SEX: Using EBPs to Support Inclusive Sex Education and Shhh! We Don't Talk About Sexuality and Disabilities
- Enid's session with Shiloh Stanley, M.Ed and Tara Noe, SLP-CCC: Overcoming Barriers to Effective Implementation of AAC

KATC's Heidi Cooley-Cook and Tracy Belfield were joined by Major Chad Greathouse from Louisville Fire Department, to facilitate 3 days of training at Owensboro Health for local First Responders.





KATC's Mike Miller collaborated with various departments at UofL to support students as they progressed through their degree programs. This student was the recipient of KATC's Mentor/Coach program awarded to outstanding seniors graduating in spring 2023 from the University of Louisville.

Kentucky's Office of Special Education and Early Learning highlighted the work of Paint Lick Elementary's related service providers and KATC's Enid Hurtado-Stremming and Heather Alger. Paint Lick Elementary participated in the Training Site initiative.



REQUEST A TRAINING

To request or to receive additional details about a training, visit our website www.kyautism.org.

• Training for First Responders

The KATC staff can provide the free Autism and First Responder training at a variety of times and days of the week to best meet the needs of the requesting agency. For example, one agency needed a single session with 10 participants, while another agency requested 1,200 individuals be trained by offering the training over 20 times. The First Responders training provides the opportunity for discussion, brainstorming and problem solving, as well as enhanced connections amongst participants.

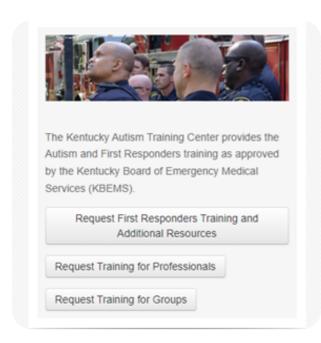
Safety Resources website: https://sites.google.com/view/katcsafety/home

• Training for Professionals

The KATC staff can provide training on autism and related topics to professional and community groups across Kentucky. The KATC encourages professional groups to work in collaboration with KATC to design a presentation to meet the group's needs.

Training for Groups

Autism related support groups and other family/caregiver groups across Kentucky can access workshops on a variety of topics free of charge. There is a list of popular topics available, but we encourage family groups to contact the KATC to develop a session to best meet the group's needs.







FIRST RESPONDER INITIATIVE

The KATC offers a training currently approved for two CE/Contact Hours from the KY Board of Emergency Medical Services (KBEMS) and KY Fire Commission State Fire Rescue Training. The FREE training is offered throughout the state of Kentucky and can be provided multiple times to allow greatest participation among agency personnel.

Topics include:

- Explain what autism is including characteristics and spectrum of how these characteristics are expressed among autistics.
- Understand how to respond to and interact with individual(s) with autism including communication strategies.
- Identify de-escalation strategies that could be utilized with autistics.
- Review local, state-wide, and national resources related to autism.



July 2022

Camp Dick Fire Department KY State Police

August 2022

Louisville Corrections Prestonsburg, KY

September 2022

St. Matthews, KY Fire

St. Matthews, KY Fire

St. Matthews, KY EMS

St. Matthews, KY Fire

DOCJT Police Executive Command Course

October 2023

DOCJT Police Executive Command Course DOCJT Special Populations Henderson, KY Search and Rescue

November 2022

DOCJT Police Executive Command Course Russell, KY Fort Knox, KY

December 2022

Fort Knox, KY KY Sheriffs Conference

January 2023

Lexington, KY Police

February 2023

DOCJT Contemporary Issues in Policing Benton KY

March 2023

DOCJT Contemporary Issues in Policing DOCJT Contemporary Issues in Policing Owensboro, KY/Daviess County DOCJT Contemporary Issues in Policing

April 2023

KY State Police
DOCJT Contemporary Issues in Policing

May 2023

Louisville Corrections
Brandenburg/Meade County
DOCJT Contemporary Issues in Policing

June 2023

DOCJT Contemporary Issues in Policing Hawesville, KY DOCJT Contemporary Issues in Policing



YELLOW DOT PROGRAM

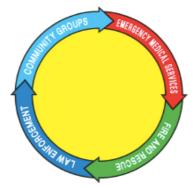


KATC continues to provide Yellow Dots to Kentuckians who have medical needs and/or are autistic. Yellow Dot stickers and information folders are available for free and are prepared in-house at the KATC.



The Yellow Dot Program alerts First Responders at crash scenes of critical medical information that could save a life. Participants put a decal on their vehicle's rear windshield and place a completed Yellow Dot pamphlet in their glove compartment. The information included could help emergency responders make split second decisions about how to assist the occupant.





The Yellow Dot Program

The information contained in this folder is for first responder use for accident or other medical emergency to assist EMS, Law Enforcement, and Fire and Rescue personnel during the "golden hour."

Communication Style:		
Calming Strategies:		
Triggers/Fears:		
Interests/Attractions:		

To request a Yellow Dot brochure visit www.kyautism.org

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

ADOS-2 Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS -2) KATC hosted a virtual Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2) training on August 28-19, 2022 in Louisville. The participants included clinical and school psychologists, psychiatrists, developmental pediatricians, therapists and others that have prior education, training, and experience in conducting assessments.

The training was conducted by Rachel Hundley, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Developmental Medicine; Assistant Professor of Psychiatry; Psychologist, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Learning Assessment Clinic. Dr. Hundley is a clinical psychologist who specializes in the assessment and ongoing care for children with developmental disabilities, emotional and behavioral concerns, and autism spectrum disorder (ASD).



38 PARTICIPANT ROLES

Behavior Therapists
Psychologists
Mental Health Professionals
Social Workers
Speech Language Pathologists
Students



COMMUNITY COMMENTS

"I really enjoyed this training. It is very helpful information for the position that I am in, especially helping to teach children with autism about different perspectives.

-Community-Based Professional/Service Provider- Clinton County

"Thank you for the insightful information. I find myself needing refreshers to remind me of the great resources available in working with my students with Autism."

-School Professional -Pulaski County

"I recently saw that feature in the UofL alumni magazine about your work with autistic students, in particular. What an amazing story! You make such a difference in so many lives. Just think how many of them would be lost without you. You are invaluable to this university and so many people, I am in awe." -REACH Training and Publicity Coordinator -Jefferson County

"Thank you for all you do. Your passion about this issue (Autism and the first responder training)shows!" -Police Chief -Warren county (Smiths Grove, KY)

"This was a wonderful training. All of these trainings have been so helpful for me in my knowledge of working with autistic children at my school."

-School professional -Whitley County

"I liked the topic about scheduling. Different schedules can be beneficial for Autistic "students for them to know what is next, and what they need to finish for accomplish in a determined amount of time."
-School Professional- Pike County

Thank you! I truly enjoyed every moment of this training! Recommendations - dive deeper into an aspect of this training. There was a lot of information and an opportunity to learn about it more in depth would be INCREDIBLE!

-School professional- Campbell County

"The ideas presented helped me to further my vision to helping my clients to communicate"

-Case Manager -Knott County

"Mike has been helping me with my son's autism needs for years now. I appreciate his help and his kindness while he offers his knowledge and assistance."

-Parent of Autistic Child -Unknown County



"Presentation was great, speaker was engaging and provided great examples that will help us implement tactics for working with ASD community members in the future. DOCJT should provide this training to basic recruits and at least a refresher to current officers every few years. I am 12 years into my career and have never received training related to this."

-First Responder -Jefferson County

"Keep up the good work and spreading awareness and knowledge. I've learned so much from this training and wish it was recommended/offered for school staff as well so that they can have a better understanding."

-Social Worker-Campbell County

HOW TO SUPPORT KATC

General Donations

KATC asks that you please make a donation to aid in continuing our mission to improve the lives of individuals affected by autism.

Donations will be used for, but not limited to, the following:

- Continue and increase the number of regional trainings and workshops we offer throughout the state
- Continue and increase the number of service provider trainings
- Increase First Responder trainings (Fire Fighters, EMS, Police Officers, etc.) throughout the state and provide them with communication boards as requested
- · Continue distributing Yellow Dot Brochures to individuals and agencies across the state
- Develop and distribute other resources for individuals with autism and those that love and support them
- Provide KATC staff with professional development opportunities to keep them abreast of the most current resources, supports, etc. pertaining to autism to assist individuals and their families

Donations can be made online or mailed.

Online Donations:

https://tinyurl.com/DonatetoSupportKATC

Mailed Donations:

University of Louisville Foundation, Inc. PO Box 772050 Chicago, IL 60677-2050 *Add KATC Gift account to note line of your check



SCAN HERE TO DONATE