



# EXPANDING AWARENESS. CHANGING LIVES.

Thanks to the support of the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, more families across Essex County are learning about free autism evaluations and the importance of early identification.



**2**

TELEVISION  
FEATURES



**7+**

MEDIA OUTLETS



**ONGOING**

SOCIAL MEDIA  
OUTREACH



**BREAKING DOWN  
BARRIERS**  
TO EARLY AUTISM  
DIAGNOSIS

## REGIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE



The Paramus Post



Press releases announcing both the initial HFNJ-funded project and the 2026 funding renewal generated widespread coverage, amplifying awareness of free autism evaluations and early intervention support.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY AWARENESS



### Regional Press Releases

Strategic announcements generated extensive media coverage across TV, radio, print, and digital platforms.



### Maternal & Child Health Month

Organic social media campaigns highlighted autism awareness and early childhood well-being.



### Connecting Families to Care

Ongoing digital outreach drives families to YCS Institute resources and specialized clinical services.



Together, we are helping more children receive early identification, evaluation, and the support they need to thrive.

# THE IMPACT OF YOUR INVESTMENT

Thanks to the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, more young children are receiving earlier autism evaluations while the next generation of clinicians is being trained.



**BREAKING  
DOWN BARRIERS  
TO EARLY AUTISM  
DIAGNOSIS**

## 2025 IMPACT AT A GLANCE



**24**

COMPREHENSIVE  
AUTISM EVALUATIONS  
COMPLETED

Goal achieved!



**49** DAYS

AVERAGE WAIT TIME

↓ FROM 6-8 MONTHS



**36** MONTHS

AVERAGE AGE  
AT EVALUATION

National median:  
~48 MONTHS



**46%**

EVALUATIONS  
CONDUCTED  
IN SPANISH



**83%**

CHILDREN RECEIVED  
AN AUTISM SPECTRUM  
DISORDER DIAGNOSIS

- 83% Autism Spectrum Disorder
- 13% Speech Sound Disorder
- 4% Other Neurodevelopmental Disorder

### A COMPREHENSIVE, FAMILY-CENTERED EVALUATION PROCESS

- Caregiver Interview**  
Understanding your child's history and strengths
- Standardized Autism Assessment**  
Using gold-standard, evidence-based tools
- Developmental Observation**  
Learning through play and interaction
- Individualized Report**  
Clear results and personalized recommendations
- Referrals & Recommendations**  
Connecting families to the right supports and resources

### BUILDING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE

- 7 DOCTORAL INTERNS TRAINED**  
in autism evaluation and early relational health
- 1 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW**  
completed ADOS-2 training and became lead evaluator
- 13 EVALUATIONS**  
observed and co-facilitated
- 12 EVALUATIONS**  
independently led under supervision

### WHY EARLY IDENTIFICATION MATTERS

Earlier identification and support during the preschool years can lead to better long-term outcomes in communication, learning, independence, and quality of life.

#### EARLIER IS BETTER



*This is life-changing. Finally, we have answers and a plan to help our child thrive. We are so grateful.*

— YCS Parent