



Dear Friend,

For 30 years, Kennedy Krieger's Center for Autism Services, Science and Innovation (CASSI™) has been a place where science and compassion come together to create real change. Each discovery, every moment of progress reflects the dedication of our clinicians, researchers, families—and you.

Because of your generosity, families find more than answers. They find progress, reassurance, and a renewed sense of what's possible. Your support fuels research that shortens diagnostic wait times, therapies that unlock communication, and programs that nurture confidence and independence.

Hope is at the heart of this mission. It drives every study, every session, and every success story. With your continued partnership, CASSI will remain a place where innovation thrives and where hope truly happens.

Your support fuels the breakthroughs that change lives.

Rebecca Landa



Dr. Rebecca Landa

Founder, Executive Director, Vice President, CASSI
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Our Mission

At CASSI, we empower individuals with autism and their families through compassionate care, groundbreaking research, and community partnerships that open doors to possibility. Every breakthrough, every milestone, and every smile reflects a simple truth—this is **where hope happens**.

The CASSI team—including dedicated donors—transforms research discoveries into practical advances that improve quality of life for patients and their families, from the first signs of autism in infancy into adulthood.



7,140

Individuals and families served



56,318

Appointments provided



270+

Dedicated staff members



12,000+

Professionals trained



1,200+

Research visits supporting innovation



55

Trainees each year



111+

Publications and presentations sharing discoveries

Each number represents a life touched—and a story made possible through your partnership.

Research: Breaking Barriers, Impacting Lives



Innovation thrives when we work together.

From the first signs of autism in infancy into adulthood, the CASSI team—including dedicated donors—transforms research discoveries into practical advances that improve quality of life for families.



Infant Achievements

DR. REBECCA LANDA

Early-intervention research demonstrates that therapy can begin in infancy—empowering parents and shaping children's growth from the very start. This is where hope happens for families taking their first steps toward understanding.



Family Partnerships

DR. RACHEL REETZKE

By partnering with families to better understand communication differences across the autism spectrum, Dr. Reetzke's work aims to translate research findings into personalized, family-centered strategies to support communication growth in autistic children.



Girls and Autism

DR. ERICKA WODKA

Studies continue to uncover how autism presents differently in girls, reducing barriers to identification, ensuring supports are tailored to every individual's needs.

Award Highlight



Dr. Rachel Reetzke was awarded a major five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to better understand why some autistic toddlers develop spoken language while others do not. This work aims to guide the development of neurobiologically-informed early interventions.

Discovery at CASSI doesn't stay in the lab—it moves into homes, clinics, and classrooms, turning knowledge into action and research into lasting change.

Community and Clinical Impact

Together, we extend care and understanding beyond our walls.



Our partnerships ensure that progress at CASSI reaches families and communities, expanding access to care and building networks of support.

Community Partnerships

- **Carl the Collector:** A creative collaboration with PBS teaching children about acceptance and celebrating differences through storytelling and play.
- **Hope Grows Partnership:** CASSI bridges critical gaps for families and early childhood educators by embedding outreach specialists within a network of child care centers to expand access to developmental guidance, strengthen early learning environments, and build supportive pathways for every child's growth and confidence.

Clinical Programs Strengthened by Collaboration

- **RUBI:** Individual and group therapy focused on coaching caregivers to guide preschoolers' growth and behavior.
- **COPE:** Individual therapy supporting teens and families as they build emotional strength and resilience in the context of trauma experience.
- **Circle of Security:** Parent-child therapy aimed at strengthening family relationships and connection.
- **AAC and Communication:** Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) evaluations and speech/language intervention to provide tools that help children express themselves.



Faculty Highlight

Dr. Deepa Menon was named a Fellow of the Thought Leadership and Innovation Foundation, recognizing her leadership in advancing autism education.

Each partnership extends CASSI's mission into new spaces, building communities of care where understanding grows and **every family feels supported.**



Vision and Gratitude

Marcus Johnson: From Achievements to Independence

Marcus first came to CASSI's Achievements program as a young child learning to communicate. Over the years, he's worked with our clinicians, teachers, and therapists to strengthen his skills, confidence, and independence.

Now a young adult in CASSI's Life Skills program, Marcus is turning his love of numbers and basketball into a plan for the future. His dream job? Working in statistics for a professional basketball team—ideally, the NBA.

"They helped me believe I could do things on my own," Marcus says.

His story shows what happens when individualized care and a supportive community come together to help young adults discover their talents, pursue their passions, and imagine futures filled with purpose.

"They helped me believe I could do things on my own."

—Marcus Johnson

Learn More. Get Involved.
Stay Connected. Visit:
KennedyKrieger.org/Connect



For Our Friends and Partners

Thank you for being part of the CASSI team. Your collaboration transforms research into care, care into progress, and progress into opportunity for thousands of families.

To learn more or explore ways to strengthen this partnership:

Please contact the Office of Philanthropy at Foundation@KennedyKrieger.org or **443-923-7300** for more information.

The Future We're Building Together

As we celebrate **30 years of innovation and impact**, we're focused on what comes next—continuing to expand opportunity, inclusion, and independence for every individual we serve.

- Expanding early access to care through new, innovative service models
- Personalizing treatment using technology and data
- Growing transition-age programs that prepare young adults for meaningful work and community life
- Advancing care for individuals with complex support needs

From first words to first jobs, CASSI helps individuals build the skills and confidence to dream big—and to know that with teamwork and persistence, this is **where hope happens**.

Together, we're breaking barriers, building futures—and creating the place where hope truly happens.

KennedyKrieger.org/CASSI