



Annual Report 2026

Activities, Engagements, and Impact Summary



Who We Are

Advocacy Without Borders (AdvocacyWithoutBorders.org) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that promotes *everyday advocacy* via meaningful community leadership and engagement, collaborative partnerships, social justice, and education fostered *through service, support, and solutions*.

When Advocacy Without Borders was created, a concept that our founder had long envisioned came to life - the simple yet critical need for all people to discover their "inner advocate." Though small and "grassroots," Advocacy Without Borders seeks to put disability justice into practice, particularly collective access, leadership of the most impacted; intersectionality; inherent worth of all people; and cross-movement solidarity.

Our work is driven by the belief that ALL voices matter, and that everyone deserves an opportunity to strive for growth and change.

Mission and Vision

Our mission is a simple yet important one: *To encourage ALL people to make a difference, regardless of their differences*. We do so by actively serving the community in various capacities, providing technical and material support, and offering knowledge-based solutions. Our programming serves a broad range of communities and conditions, including autism, HIV, individuals from marginalized racial and gender groups, foster youth, survivors, people with disabilities, and historically minoritized and/or underrepresented identities.

Advocacy Without Borders envisions a world where everyone has the opportunity to strive for growth and change, regardless of their background or circumstances. We are dedicated to meaningful community engagement, social justice, education, and collaboration.

Our vision is to foster a world where all perspectives are valued, amplifying the perspectives of marginalized communities via *service, support, and solutions* that are rooted in principles of intersectionality, disability justice, neurodiversity, and radical inclusion.

Learn More and/or Support Our Work!

To learn more about our organization, please feel free to visit our various sites online and/or contact us:
Link: <https://linktr.ee/AdvocacyWithoutBorders> Email: admin@advocacywithoutborders.org

We welcome partnerships, volunteers, donations (which are tax-deductible!), sponsors, grants/funding, and of course opportunities to continue to offer services, support, and solutions in order to carry out our mission "to encourage all people to make a difference...regardless of their differences."



What We Do

Service

- **Community-Engaged Research & Advisory Participation:** Ongoing participation in and/or coordinating community advisory boards (CABs), executive and advisory committees, and expert panels supporting autism, disability, health equity, and early childhood intervention research initiatives.
- **Community Partnerships and Collaborative Projects:** Continued collaboration with nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, advocacy networks, and community groups through joint projects, co-hosted events, and shared initiatives.
- **Autism, Neurodiversity, and Disability Advocacy:** Active involvement in autism and disability-focused networks, including recurring meetings, strategic planning sessions, mentoring, and various roles addressing access, services, healthcare, and inclusion.

Support

- **Mutual Aid and Material Support:** Provision of microgrants as well as funds paid on behalf of struggling community members for short-term housing and rent for homeless individuals and families; utilities assistance, meals/groceries, medication, diapers, clothing, school supplies, and transportation for disabled and low income/indigent Americans, particularly those located in southern states.
- **Intersectionality Initiatives:** Sustained and novel engagement in various justice-focused projects and intersectional initiatives addressing the intersection of multiply marginalized identities (race, socioeconomic status, gender, disability, etc.) and related health disparities.

Solutions

- **Public Education, Training, and Speaking Engagements:** Development and delivery of keynotes, presentations, workshops, panels, training, and lectures at conferences, institutes, summits, universities, and community events.
- **Knowledge Production and Dissemination:** Active involvement in scholarly as well as community-centered and creative knowledge creation and translation, including participatory research endeavors, manuscript co-development, editorial work, peer review, digital education, and various dissemination activities for a range of audiences (laypersons, clinicians, investigators, etc.).
- **Media, Communications, and Public Dialogue:** Participation in podcast recordings, interviews, webinars, and journalism to contribute to public conversations on autism, disability, and related topics.

Overview of 2026 Annual Report

The report details an extremely active year of Advocacy Without Borders' leadership and output in participatory research partnerships, executive and advisory positions, policy committees, invited speaking engagements and media appearances with academic, nonprofit, and public sector partners, scholarly and creative output, mutual aid, material support, and resources for homeless and disenfranchised individuals and families, etc. In 2026 Advocacy Without Borders engaged with major as well as emerging national, global, state, and even local networks, projects, and community initiatives across various institutions and disciplines in a combination of both ongoing and novel collaborations.

Our "tiny-but-mighty" organization works hard to have a positive influence on the community. We are incredibly proud of our numerous 2026 achievements. To provide a better understanding of what we did this year, key examples of our work are summarized below and in the remaining pages of this annual report. Hyperlinks are included where appropriate to enhance the written explanation or descriptions.

2026 Mutual Aid and Material Support

In 2026 Advocacy Without Borders gave mutual aid and material support in the form of microgrants to a number of individual families and organizations helping a number of other families in order to assist them in overcoming unforeseen financial difficulties and/or transitioning out of homelessness.

As a small private operating foundation that directly runs various charitable programs, Advocacy Without Borders is not required to give grants. However, as we believe in giving back both in actions and in coin, we proudly commit a substantial portion of our annual revenue to microgrants to community members in need and to support the work of like-minded public charities.

In 2026 we supported 18 US families from eight different states and six organizations - totaling 54% of all annual revenue. Grantees included disabled single parents, unemployed parents seeking employment, autism parents, families experiencing homelessness, people living with HIV/AIDS, survivors of cancer and abuse/intimate partner violence, veterans, foster children/alum, formerly incarcerated individuals, people recovering from substance use, and a recently widowed parent.

Our mutual aid and material support microgrants helped cover vital expenses including the following:

- Relocation support
- Hygiene
- Transportation costs
- Groceries
- Hotel costs
- Education
- Gas cards
- Rental assistance
- Utilities assistance
- Public transportation
- Legal fees
- Medical costs
- Family emergency
- Therapy costs
- Vehicle repair
- Diapers
- School uniforms
- School supplies

2026 Research & Scientific Collaborations: Autism and Disability Research

2026 was another productive year of community participatory research (both new and ongoing) for Advocacy Without Borders. **Seven of these multi-institution autism and IDD research partnerships are summarized below.** Project activities included community involvement, collaborative work, investigator meetings, trial engagement, study design, and related tasks.

[Project REACH](#) is a multidisciplinary research study focused on Black families raising young autistic children. Project REACH seeks to explore health disparities through the lens of the mental health and experiences of Black parents and caregivers of children ten years old or younger with an autism diagnosis and evaluate how these experiences may influence the child's behavior and development. The long-term goal of the project is to improve support and understanding for Black autism families.

Role: Community Science Navigator



[The Autism Research Consortium on Communication \(ARCC\)](#) is a multi-site consortium that connects researchers and community partners nationwide to generate innovative, evidence-based approaches enhancing communication and language opportunities for nonspeaking/minimally speaking autistic children and adults. The goals of the grant are to create ways to encourage and support the use of AAC devices, share results with both scientists and the public, and train new researchers and build partnerships for future studies supporting nonspeakers. **Role: Steering Committee**



[EmpowerHER Spectrum](#) is a collaborative project with Family Voices (funded by the WITH Foundation) to develop, train, and support a national cohort of Black autistic adolescent girls and women who are prepared to participate in research, outreach, and advocacy initiatives related to autism as well as healthcare and the transition to adult care. The project also facilitates an online community offering learning opportunities, peer support, and updates on engagement opportunities and resources relevant to Black autistic girls and women. **Role: Co-Lead**



2026 Research & Scientific Collaborations: Autism and Disability (continued)

[Can You Hear Us Now? Engaging Adults with IDD in Health Research Rehabilitation Research and Training Center \(RRTC\)](#) is a national center seeking to improve long-term health and quality of life for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), including groups who tend to be underrepresented in research, by developing accessible health measures, identifying mental health prevalence, and creating tailored psychotherapy interventions. The project emphasizes inclusive research practices and outputs, such as validated tools, treatment manuals, and educational resources. **Role: Co-Investigator**



[Empower EI: Comparing Early Intervention Approaches to Improve Communication in Toddlers with Developmental Delays](#) is a research initiative funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. The project evaluates early intervention strategies to strengthen communication outcomes for toddlers with developmental delays and to equip families with evidence-based information and resources. Study findings will inform caregivers, early intervention therapists, service coordinators, and policymakers, support more effective service delivery and contribute to improved long-term communication and health outcomes for children. **Role(s): Co-Investigator & Community Co-Lead**



[Adapting and Testing a Novel Method of Engagement in Research: Centering Autistic Perspectives in Behavioral Intervention Discussions](#) (known colloquially by the acronym CAPBID) is a Science of Engagement Award examining different community engagement approaches for bringing together autistic people, autism parents, ABA providers, and others in the autism community to advance a shared equitable dialogue around research priorities for ABA-related research. Existing transformative and restorative justice methods and frameworks co-developed with researchers and community will be utilized. **Role: Leadership Team**



[The Future of the Neurodivergent Workforce: Systems Thinking and Participatory Research](#) is a NIDILRR funded project of the Touchstone Co-Lab (via Dora Raymaker of Portland State University) which utilizes a participatory, holistic approach informed by the principles of disability justice, neurodiversity, and systems thinking to find a realistic and actionable path forward for improving long term

employment outcomes for neurodivergent workers in skilled settings. Its objectives are to define which problems are most urgent to address and their desired outcomes or goals, create actionable strategies with potential leverage for generating those desired employment outcomes, and develop a plan or map for action that can be used to identify pathways to skilled employment. **Role: Project Expert**



2026 Presentations, Panels, Webinars, and Speaking Engagements

*Advocacy Without Borders engaged in a wide array of conference presentations, webinars, panels, lectures, trainings, and discussion activities in 2026. Below, **ten of these are highlighted.***

Webinar, Center for Publishing, Writing & Media at New York University School of Professional Studies: “Rest, Renewal, and Belonging: Listening Together.” (The initiative [funded by a [Caring Culture grant](#)] sought ways to build team performance and cohesion in academic hybrid environments by positioning rest not as a reward for productivity, but as a radical assertion of worth, community, and sustainability that is both an individual necessity and a communal responsibility within the workplace.) **Role: Keynote Speaker**



- *The Center for Publishing, Writing & Media at the NYU School of Professional Studies is a leader and innovator in publishing, professional writing, translation, storytelling, and media offering various courses of study.*

Course/Training, American Public Health Association: “[Disability Justice: Public Health for Collective Liberation](#).” (The webinar, the first of a four-part professional development webinar series designed for public health and health care professionals committed to equity, accessibility and systems change, established a shared foundation for understanding disability, ableism, and Disability Justice as critical public health frameworks.) **Role: Presenter**



- *American Public Health Association, the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the world, champions optimal, equitable health and well-being for all.*

Podcast, Disability & Philanthropy Forum: “[Disability Inclusion: Required. Episode 30 – Parenting While Disabled](#).” (Centering the experiences of disabled parents.) **Role: Speaker**

- *The Disability & Philanthropy Forum mobilizes philanthropy to dismantle ableism by increasing funding for disability inclusion, rights, and justice; amplifying the leadership of disabled people in the philanthropic sector; and educating philanthropy to build a culture of inclusion.*

A promotional graphic for the podcast "Disability Inclusion: REQUIRED". It features a blue stylized logo on the left, a small photo of Justice Shorter in the center, and a green microphone icon on the right. The text "Disability Inclusion: REQUIRED" is prominently displayed in green and blue. Below this, it says "A podcast from the Disability & Philanthropy Forum hosted by Justice Shorter". At the bottom, it lists "EPISODE 30: Parenting While Disabled" and "FEATURING: Melissa Lomax, Director of Employment & Transition Services at Family Resource Network; and Morénike Giwa Onaiwu, Ph. D., Board of Directors Co-President, and Health Committee, AWN". Two circular photos of the featured speakers, Melissa Lomax and Morénike Giwa Onaiwu, are shown on the right side of the graphic.

Disability Inclusion: REQUIRED
A podcast from the Disability & Philanthropy Forum hosted by Justice Shorter

EPISODE 30:
Parenting While Disabled

FEATURING:
Melissa Lomax
Director of Employment & Transition Services at Family Resource Network
Morénike Giwa Onaiwu, Ph. D.
Board of Directors Co-President, and Health Committee, AWN

2026 Presentations, Panels, Webinars, and Speaking Engagements (continued)

Symposium, Association for Autism and Neurodiversity (AANE): "[Intersectionality as Lived Reality: Navigating Race and Neurodivergence](#)." (Presentation reflected on intersectionality as a lived experience, exploring how race and neurodivergence shape identity and belonging. It centered visibility, resilience, and what it means to navigate the world while holding multiple, interconnected identities.) **Role: Presenter**



experience, exploring how race and neurodivergence shape identity and belonging. It centered visibility, resilience, and what it means to navigate the world while holding multiple, interconnected identities.) **Role: Presenter**

- Association for Autism and Neurodiversity (AANE) helps Autistic and Neurodivergent people build meaningful, connected lives by providing individuals, families, and professionals with education, community and support, in an inclusive atmosphere of validation and respect.

Panel, Special Education Advocacy in the South: "[Specific Barriers to Special Education and Special Education Advocacy in the South](#)." (Hybrid conference highlighting factors impacting special education litigation and related advocacy efforts on behalf of youth with disabilities, particularly within the Deep South.) **Role: Panelist**



- *Special Education Advocacy in the South, a collaboration between Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, Disability Law Bar Association, Southern Poverty Law Center, and ExceiCentered Consulting, is an organization and networking group focused on special education litigation, disability rights, and legal advocacy for youth with disabilities across the Deep South.*

Interview, Lurie Institute for Disability Policy: "[2026 Carrie Buck Distinguished Fellowship](#)." (Highlighting the work of disability advocate/writer Evan Sweeney to illuminate ways to eliminate ableist bias and create a healthcare system that meets the needs of all.)

Role: Featured speaker

- *The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy's Carrie Buck Distinguished Fellowship is intended for activists, independent scholars, and community organizers with disabilities whose work draws national attention to systemic ableism in reproductive health policy.*



Roundtable and subsequent **workgroup**, Leavitt Partners: "Increasing Value and Access to High Quality Autism Care." (Expert discussion and invitation-only workgroup with payers, stakeholders, clinicians, researchers, and state and federal policymakers evaluating different perspectives on how Applied Behavior Analysis is currently being used, and how best to ensure that it is used and paid for appropriately.) **Role: Discussant; Workgroup representative**

- *Leavitt Partners helps clients thrive at the intersection of healthcare and the federal government by partnering with healthcare and human services organizations to understand and influence the policy, political, stakeholder, and other dynamics impacting healthcare. Their team is driven to use decades of government and private-sector experience to help improve lives by advancing value and making health care more accessible, effective, and sustainable.*

2026 Presentations, Panels, Webinars, and Speaking Engagements (continued)

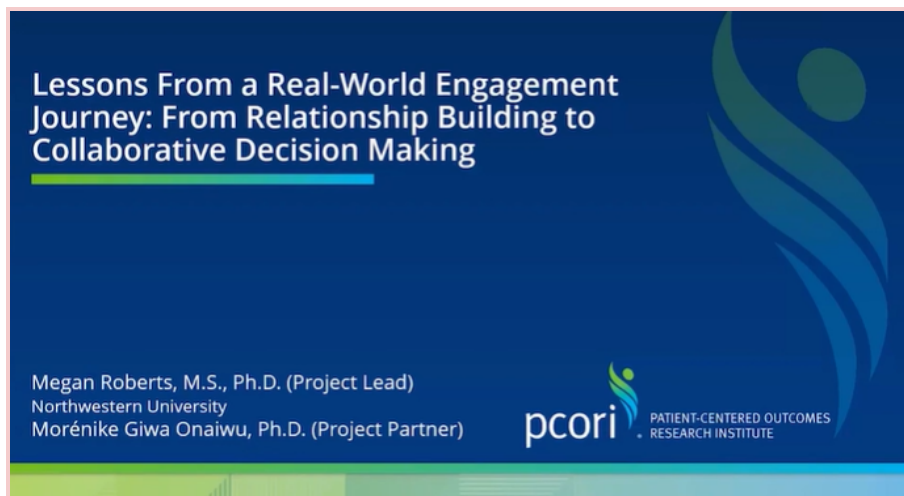
Panel, Autism Research Consortium on Communication: "[Voices That Matter: Centering AAC Users in Research, Practice, and Policy](#)." (In person conference that engaged stakeholders and community partners involved with a qualitative study seeking to inform development of an educational technological solution to improve coordination of AAC implementation for non-speaking autistic pre-k-5th grade students across home, school, and community settings.) **Role: Facilitator.**

- *The Autism Research Consortium on Communication connects researchers and community partners nationwide to generate innovative, evidence-based approaches that enhance communication and language opportunities for autistic individuals.*



Webinar, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute: "[Engagement Awardee Lunch and Learn: Lessons From Real-World Engagement Journeys - From Relationship Building to Collaborative Decision Making](#)." (Exploring the progression from community engagement projects to comparative patient-centered clinical effectiveness research studies with an intentional focus on accessible capacity building meaningful stakeholder involvement throughout the research process.) **Role: Presenter.**

- *The PCORI Engagement Award Program's "Engagement Awardee Lunch and Learn" webinar series provides a platform for Engagement Awardees to share success stories, lessons learned and strategies for engagement across awardee communities that arise from their PCORI-funded project(s). Topics are designed to reach patients, caregivers and the broader healthcare community, offering innovative approaches to consider in real-world engagement and partnership development or maintenance.*



Webinar, Felicity House: "[Exploring the Black and Autistic Experience](#)." (A free live virtual event commemorating Black History Month by bringing together community members, service providers, caregivers, and guests for an evening of reflection, education, and dialogue centered on research and the lived experiences of Black autistic women.) **Role: Presenter**

- *Felicity House is a non-clinical community space for women with autism offering a variety of programs for its members.*

2026 Publications and Media Features

In 2026, Advocacy Without Borders continued to expand our knowledge-translation efforts with co-authored publications, media interviews, and other initiatives, **eight of which are shown below.**

Peer reviewed article: *Mental and Physical Health Conditions Among Sexually Diverse and Gender-Diverse Autistic Adults* (LGBT Health Journal, DOI: [10.1177/23258292251414440](https://doi.org/10.1177/23258292251414440))



Our study, which examined five years of electronic medical records of 4000+ autistic adults in an integrated health care system, found that those who were sexually diverse and/or gender-diverse (SGD) had greater odds of diagnosis of some mental health and physical health conditions (including pain, migraines, gastrointestinal disorders, psychoses, and alcohol or drug dependence) than autistic adults not identified as SGD, warranting further research on structural and interpersonal factors that affect their well-being and determining how best to support them.

Abstract: *Understanding Intersections: Identifying Network Indicators of Caregiver Empowerment and Cultural Capital among Black Caregivers* (International Society of Autism Research Meeting, 2026).
Abstract program book:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.autism-insar.org/resource/resmgr/2026_annual_meeting/abstract_final_book_5.6.26.pdf

Our study, which investigated specific network features in Black autism parents related to caregiver empowerment in service, family, and community contexts, particularly network trust, interaction frequency, and density, found that Black caregivers of autistic children who trust people in their network are more likely to feel more empowered in accessing services for their children and that talking to people more often is linked to feeling more supported and empowered overall.



Article: [Who gets to speak for mothers of autistic children?](#)

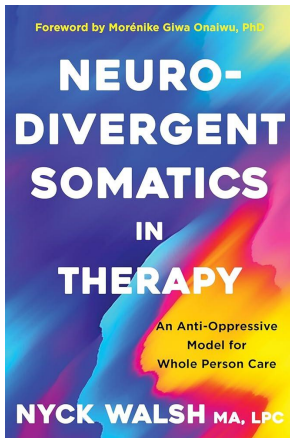
“When I looked at the committee that I was a part of, I saw the United States that we live in,” said Morénike Giwa Onaiwu, a former member who served on the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, or IACC, from 2022 to 2025.

“I saw people with intellectual disabilities and I saw people who had been born in other countries, and also people with Brown skin and Black skin and White skin. And now when I look at the committee, I just see a sea of Whiteness.”



2026 Publications and Media Features (continued)

Book Foreword: In: *Neurodivergent Somatics in Therapy: An Anti-Oppressive Model for Whole Person Care*. This book by neurodivergent author Nyck Walsh takes readers on an anti-oppressive, intersectional journey into a new standard of care for neurodivergent clients and their therapists. Focusing on autism and what is medically known as ADHD, readers receive practical and theoretical guidance on how to support neurodivergent clients in a way that prioritizes their well-being, honors their self-expertise, encourages their anti-ableist embodiment, and celebrates their joy.



The [foreword](#) (written by our organization's founder) sets a heartfelt and bold tone, emphasizing the importance of dismantling oppressive clinical practices and uplifting the inherent autonomy, joy, and sacred experiences of neurodivergent individuals.

"I want to encourage you to take the lessons in the book to heart. To lean in, truly examine yourself, make space for reflection and growth, and find within yourself the courage to both learn and unlearn...anti-oppressive work is not easy, but it is of immense value, and we are worth it - you, me, and your clients..."

Article: [Autistic Barbie Is a Milestone. It's Also a Compromise](#)

"We have to start somewhere, and this is a pretty good start," said Dr. Morénike Giwa Onaiwu, founder of Advocacy Without Borders...When I asked Dr. Onaiwu what it would have meant for her to have Autistic Barbie growing up, she said it would have meant "everything."

"I spent my days as a young girl regulating my body as if I was in a prison," Onaiwu said. As a child, she learned to closely monitor her body and behavior, studying those around her and practicing how to blend in, all in an effort to avoid being seen as different. To have something that affirmed her as she was, she said, would have been "life-changing."



Abstract: *Pre-pregnancy Health among Autistic Individuals in an Integrated Healthcare Setting in California* (International Society of Autism Research Meeting, 2026). Abstract program book: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.autism-insar.org/resource/resmgr/2026_annual_meeting/abstract_final_book_5.6.26.pdf



Our study, which compared pre-pregnancy health status in pregnant autistic people and non-autistic peers two years prior to pregnancy in a northern California healthcare system, found measurable differences in the 431 autistic pregnancies and the 43,100 non-autistic pregnancies over a 25 year period. Autistic people were more likely to be diagnosed with various mental and physical health conditions (including perinatal depression, hyperemesis gravidarum, preterm labor, and increased visits to the emergency department), many of which are known to be associated with pregnancy complications.

2026 Publications and Media Features (continued)

Film Festival Screening: [Celebrating Black Maternal Health](#)

Our founder was featured in a short film that was selected for the APHA Public Health Film Festival. The American Public Health Association (APHA)'s Annual Meeting and Expo is the largest public health gathering of the year, convening ~11,000 public health professionals and partners from around the world. APHA 2026, whose theme is "Together We Thrive: Health Across the Lifespan." The film, *Celebrating Black Maternal Health*, discusses the joys and challenges of Black disabled motherhood as well as hopes for a more equitable future.



Article (preprint): *"We love our jobs!" Systems Thinking and Participatory Action Research for the future of neurodiversity and skilled employment* (DOI: [10.31234/osf.io/dg6at_v3](https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/dg6at_v3))

Our project utilized a systems thinking and community-engaged approach to examine disproportionate unemployment and underemployment levels in neurodivergent individuals and further our long-term aim of improving skilled employment outcomes. The objectives were to define which problems in neurodiversity and skilled employment are most urgent to address and their desired outcomes/goals for intervention and to create actionable strategies with potential leverage for generating the desired employment outcomes.

2026 Board, Advisory, Executive and Committee Engagements

*Advocacy Without Borders served in several executive leadership, advisory committees, international editorial work, and public health/policy roles in 2026. **Eleven of these are highlighted below.***

· [National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities](#): Housed within the [Lurie Institute for Disability Policy](#) at Brandeis University, this multi-year collaborative research and advocacy project conducts research and provides training and technical assistance to improve the lives of parents with disabilities and their families. **Role:** [Advisory Board Member](#)

· [Coalition of Autism Scientists](#) is a global collective of autism researchers committed to advancing rigorous, evidence-based science. The Coalition promotes research integrity, counters misinformation, and supports policies and initiatives that strengthen autism research and benefit the autism community. **Role:** [Autism Researcher](#)

· [Disability & Philanthropy Forum](#) is a national initiative committed to transforming philanthropic practices so that disability is fully included as a priority across funding, policy, and grantmaking. By centering the voices and leadership of disabled people and advancing equity-driven values, the Disability & Philanthropy Forum works to increase investments in disability rights, inclusion, and community-defined priorities. **Role:** [Advisory Board Member](#)

2026 Board, Advisory, Executive and Committee Engagements (continued)

- [Institute for Exceptional Care \(IEC\)](#) is a national nonprofit dedicated to improving healthcare for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by partnering with individuals with lived experience, families, and healthcare professionals to transform how care is taught, delivered, and paid for. IEC's innovative programs, advocacy, and collaboration drive systems-level change, centering the community's priorities and needs for safer, higher-quality care. **Role:** [Board Member](#)
- [National Center for Disability and Pregnancy Research](#): Housed within the [Lurie Institute for Disability Policy](#) at Brandeis University, this center conducts multidisciplinary research about reproduction, pregnancy, and disability, including reproductive health, sex education, prenatal health, childbirth, interactions with obstetricians, and support networks. **Role:** [Advisory Board Member](#)
- [Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network \(AWN\)](#) is a national nonprofit that fosters community, support, and resources for autistic women, girls, nonbinary people, and others with marginalized gender identities. AWN is committed to recognizing and celebrating diversity and the many intersectional experiences in the autistic community. **Role:** [Board Member](#)
- [Foundations for Divergent Minds \(FDM\)](#) is a nonprofit founded and run by multiply-neurodivergent autistic leaders. The organization advances education, community support, and fulfilled lives through innovative, practical, and affirming programming and resources for individuals, families, professionals, and communities across the globe. **Role:** [Board Member](#)
- [The Color of Autism Foundation](#) is a national nonprofit dedicated to expanding autism awareness, support, and services within Black communities and other communities of color. The Foundation works to address disparities in access to resources and ensure that autistic individuals and their families from diverse backgrounds are seen, supported, and empowered. **Role:** [Board Member](#)
- [Kind Theory](#) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting acceptance, understanding, and inclusivity for autistic people and other neurodivergent individuals through community-centered education, advocacy, and support. amplifying lived experience, fostering respectful dialogue, and advancing neurodiversity-affirming practices that build kind, equitable, and connected communities. **Role:** [Board Member](#)
- [Autism in Adulthood Journal](#) is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary international journal advancing research, practice, and policy focused on the lives of autistic adults across the lifespan. Centering autistic perspectives, the journal publishes scholarships that inform inclusive approaches to health, employment, community living, and systems of change. **Role:** [Editorial Board Member](#)
- [SPARK Outreach & Engagement Advisory Board](#) is a group of autism scientists, clinicians, and community leaders that offer valuable insights into strategies for building partnerships and raising awareness to help guide SPARK (an autism research study with 415,000+ participants that seeks to advance the understanding of autism) in its efforts to ensure greater involvement of all communities in autism research. **Role:** [Advisory Board Member](#)

2026 Professional Memberships

Our **eight organizational memberships (below)** demonstrate Advocacy Without Borders' growing professional recognition and our dedication to research, activism, inclusion, and community impact.

- [Black Empowerment in Autism Network \(BEAM\)](#) advances equity in autism research, policy, and practice by centering the voices, leadership, and lived experiences of Black autistic individuals and their families. Through community-engaged research, advocacy, and cross-sector collaboration, BEAM works to address systemic disparities and promote more inclusive, culturally responsive approaches to autism services and supports. **Role: Member**
- [Association for Women in Science \(AWIS\)](#) is the leading advocate for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to achieve business growth, social change, and innovation. In alignment with its mission is to ensure that all women in science can achieve their full potential, AWIS champions the interests of women in science across all disciplines and employment sectors to be the voice for driving change and equity for all women in science. **Role: Member**
- [International Society for Autism Research \(INSAR\)](#) is a nonprofit scientific organization dedicated to advancing autism research worldwide. INSAR is governed by an elected, volunteer Board of Directors and supported by committees that oversee and advance the Society's mission. **Role: Member**
- [Sigma Xi. The Scientific Research Honor Society](#) is an international honor society for science and engineering. Among the world's oldest and largest scientific organizations, Sigma Xi has more than 125 years of distinguished service advancing science, research, and societal impact. Its membership spans a wide range of scientific and technological disciplines. **Role: Full Member**
- [ASPIKA](#) is leading a global movement for accessibility, inclusion, and communication equity - empowering individuals across over 65 countries to create a world where every voice is heard and valued. A prominent global media network and ecosystem dedicated to supporting, connecting, and empowering the neurodivergent community, ASPIKA's mission is to enrich, empower, and transform perceptions, fostering a more inclusive society for neurodivergent individuals. **Role: Member**
- [International Network of Personal Meaning \(INPM\)](#) is a global community dedicated to promoting meaning, purpose, and well-being across diverse cultures and disciplines. Through education, research, conferences, and public engagement, INPM supports individuals, practitioners, and scholars in applying meaning-centered approaches to enhance personal resilience, mental health, and social connection. **Role: Member**
- [The Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science \(SIPS\)](#): An organization committed to strengthening the quality and credibility of psychological research. Through community engagement, education, and advocacy, SIPS promotes transparent and trustworthy scientific practices that improve how psychology is conducted and applied. **Role: Member**
- [International Leadership Association \(ILA\) Global Network](#): Connects scholars, practitioners, and organizations from around the world who are engaged in leadership research, education, and practice. Through shared resources, convenings, and collaboration, the network supports inclusive leadership development and advances solutions to complex social and organizational challenges. **Role: Member**