



A Message to the Autism Community from the Autism Society of the Mahoning Valley.

The Autism Society of Mahoning Valley expresses deep concern regarding the Department of Health and Human Services statement on Autism on September 22, where claims about the “cause” and “treatment” of Autism were presented.

At the Autism Society of the Mahoning Valley (ASMV), our mission is clear: to provide connections, eliminate barriers, foster inclusion, and empower ALL affected by Autism in our community. Guided by our core values of acceptance, empathy, empowerment, and unity, along with the Autism Society’s national values of dignity, equity, inclusion, diversity, and integrity, we are dedicated to ensuring that every voice in the Mahoning Valley is heard and supported. We know that when public conversations arise about the causes of Autism, it can stir up many emotions, especially for families who have spent years seeking answers, compassion, and understanding. Please know: **we stand with you.**

What We Know About Autism’s Causes

Decades of research have shown:

- Autism is influenced by a combination of genetic, biological, and environmental factors.
- Autism has no single cause.
- Autism is not the result of something parents did or didn’t do.

The Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics affirms: “Autism likely results from many different genetic variations interacting with environmental factors during critical periods of brain development. No single factor causes Autism on its own.”

At ASMV, we support this evidence-based perspective and remain committed to advancing rigorous, ethical research that reflects the diversity of the Autism spectrum and the lived experiences of Autistic people and their families right here in the Mahoning Valley and beyond.

Beyond advocacy, ASMV provides practical connections that make a difference in daily life. From Mom’s Night Out and Dad’s Night Out events that give caregivers a chance to recharge, to Social Connections that help our individuals build friendships and community, to our Holiday Mini Grants that provide relief and joy during the holiday season, we are committed to walking alongside families in both big and small ways.

Above all, ASMV is focused on building a strong, connected community in the Mahoning Valley. We remain dedicated to sharing resources, creating spaces of belonging, and promoting understanding, not fear. Together, we can create a world where every person is accepted, included, and empowered!