



GET INVOLVED

You don't have to be part of the "LEX GO! Club" to make a contribution to the XEL Foundation. Simply contact Elisa at elisa@xelfoundation.org.

Need/Have Resources on Autism? Contact us at resources@xelfoundation.org.



The XEL Foundation is continuing to grow and create positive momentum thanks to the generous donations of the "LEX GO! Club." The "LEX GO! CLUB" per truckload movement has raised a total of \$75,641.52 as of 1/1-3/25. This contributes to our overall fund raising efforts of \$317,091.90.

THE "LEX GO! CLUB"

- 54 cents of every load will be donated to the XEL Foundation
- R&R Express will match the 54 cents
- 54 cents represents the 1 in 54 children diagnosed with autism based on CDC statistics in 2021 when the foundation was established

WHAT'S COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- The new XELFoundation.org website coming in late Spring 2022
- Announcement of The XEL Foundation board members and committees
- Introduction of partnerships with hospitals for inclusion opportunities
- Details on the first research and fund donation with a world-renowned neurologist

A LETTER FROM ELISA



Friends,

When we started this journey in November of 2021, we could not have imagined the overwhelming support. For anyone that is new to the R&R family of companies or was not in attendance in Las Vegas, my dad, Rich Francis and his wife Kathie, handed my husband and I a check for \$100,000 and asked that we start a foundation for Autism Research and inclusion. In addition to the \$100,000 he asked that every terminal present would consider donating 54 cents a truckload – and that R&R Express would match it. WE CAN'T BELIEVE ALL OF THOSE THAT JOINED THE MOVEMENT! From the bottom of our family's hearts, thank you.

At that time the rate of autism was 1 in 54. A few short weeks later, the number increased 23% to 1 in 44. That's a number we won't accept. We've decided to continue to use 54 to show the increasing numbers of those affected by autism. For all of those that joined the per truckload movement, welcome to the "LEX GO! CLUB". Lex who is introduced in this newsletter, is our six-year-old son. I always knew his name would mean something bigger, now it stands for a movement in Autism Research and inclusion. We decided to name the foundation The XEL Foundation. It spells Lex backwards, which also represent the word "EXCEL". The definition of excel is to surpass in accomplishment or achievement.

I promise, as President of The XEL Foundation and with the support of the "LEX GO! Club", our corporate partnerships, and the love from all our family and friends, that we will XEL any expectations and we will make a movement for all of those with Autism and the families that love them.

Love,

Elisa (President of The XEL Foundation) **and John Krakowski**

DID YOU KNOW? FACTS ABOUT AUTISM

About 40% of children with autism do not speak.

nationalautismassociation.org

Autistic children are 160 times more likely to die from drowning in comparison to the general pediatric population.

autismparentingmagazine.com



BEYOND AUTISM

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10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP AN AUTISM FAMILY. **CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE.**

www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/autism-in-real-life/201101/10-things-you-can-do-help-autism-family



LEX'S STORY

Meet our handsome son, Lex. Today I won't share with you the terrible and negatives about autism and how it's affected our son and our family because that's not Lex as a person. Lex, although he is non-verbal, shows his love with his contagious smile and those big beautiful brown eyes. If you take the time to acknowledge him, he will acknowledge you back with a friendly smile and if you're lucky, a hug that will melt your heart. Autism has its challenges, and they are different for each individual and family. For our family, the biggest challenge is inclusion into a world that doesn't understand. Our mission is to not only give to research, but to help people with autism feel safe, welcomed, and understood. We want Lex and others with autism to live a life most fulfilling. If you ever get the chance to meet our son in person (or anyone with autism), please say "hello" and know that's a step forward in creating a more inclusive world for him and others.

WHAT IS AUTISM?

"Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. There is often nothing about how people with ASD look that sets them apart from other people, but people with ASD may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from most other people. The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged. Some people with ASD need a lot of help in their daily lives; others need less."*

*Source CDC

APRIL IS WORLD AUTISM MONTH

Every April, the world celebrates World Autism Month – beginning with the United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on **April 2nd continuing throughout the month.** The XEL Foundation is proud to join in this focused awareness and share our first newsletter and progress on this very important month in the journey to make a difference to those impacted by Autism.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

CORPORATE DONORS



PRIVATE DONORS

Cynthia Hutzell, Fred Brock & Sons Trucking, Vincent and Janice Coppola, Diane Oberleitner, Mark and Patti Riccardi, JAK Transportation, Inc., Donna Lee Hatcher

As well, we'd like to extend our gratitude to the LEX GO! Club and dedicated employees across all the R&R families for their generous contributions.