

**GET INVOLVED**

You don't have to be part of the "LEX GO! Club" to make a donation. The XEL FOUNDATION deeply appreciates ALL forms of contributions. If you have time, resources or additional ways you'd like to support the foundation please [click here](#).

Need/Have Resources on Autism? Contact us at [resources@xelfoundation.org](mailto:resources@xelfoundation.org).



The XEL FOUNDATION is continuing to grow and create positive momentum thanks to the voluntary and generous donations of the "LEX GO! Club." The "LEX GO! CLUB" per truckload movement has raised a total of **\$415,913** (with R&R company match) as of 12/3/22. This contributes to our overall fund raising efforts of **\$579,650**.

**THE "LEX GO! CLUB"**

- **54 cents** of every truckload 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

**IMPORTANT UPDATES**

- The XEL FOUNDATION store is now open. 100% of profits are donated to the foundation. [Click here to view](#).
- The XEL FOUNDATION celebrated it's one year anniversary. [Check out the pictures from the event here](#).

**THANK YOU FOR A GREAT 2022**

Friends,

*This newsletter is our most exciting to date because within the past few months we have celebrated our one year anniversary, committed to a five year funding for a progressive and promising research and started an inclusion partnership all which is provided in further details in this newsletter. **In one year, we've raised over a half a million dollars.** This was all made possible because of the dedicated LEX*

*GO! members and generous donors. On behalf of our family and the board members we want to thank everyone for an amazing first year and wish everyone a happy and healthy new year!*

Love,

**Elisa, John & Family**

**2022 Key Accomplishments**

- One Year Anniversary
- Five Year Progressive Research Funding
- One Inclusion Partnership



[XELFOUNDATION.ORG](http://XELFOUNDATION.ORG)

**THE XEL FOUNDATION MISSION**

The XEL FOUNDATION is an advocate for autism research directed at ending the increasing rates of those affected and providing those already affected with autism an inclusive opportunity for a fulfilling life.



BEYOND AUTISM

Issue No. 3 • January 2023

# LEX MAKE A DIFFERENCE: GIFTING UPDATES

## Celebrating 365 Days of Generosity

On November 11th, 2022 The XEL FOUNDATION celebrated with the LEX GO! Club, corporate and personal donors **the first anniversary of the foundation**. The event was held at the R&R Express headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA. Thank you so much for everyone that contributed and attended in person and virtually. We appreciate the patience of those that attended virtually and experienced technical difficulties. Overall, the event was a wonderful success. As we mark the end of our first year, we would like to celebrate this incredible milestone with the people who helped to make it possible: **YOU!**



## Research Partnership Established with the Autism Discovery & Treatment Fund

After months of reviewing potential research opportunities, The XEL FOUNDATION has committed to partner with the Autism Discovery & Treatment Fund. This fund is headed by Dr. Richard Frye, MD, PhD, FAAP, FAAN, CPI. After meeting and reviewing his research the XEL board felt that his research most closely matched the foundations mission and values.

The board has agreed to fund a hand selected research, over a 5-year period. **Our first donation was for \$200,000.** We look forward to updating everyone throughout 2023 on the progress of this research.



## XEL Partners with KultureCity

KultureCity makes the nevers possible by creating sensory accessibility and inclusion for those with invisible disabilities. We are proud to announce our first inclusive donation to KultureCity towards a Sensory Activation Vehicle branded by The XEL FOUNDATION and powered by the R&R Express family of companies.

**What is a Sensory Activation Vehicle?** Our sensory activation vehicle, **S.A.V.E** for short, is designed to bring a mobile sensory experience to any event that lacks a physical space for a dedicated sensory room. From outdoor events like concerts and baseball games to indoor events like exhibitions and conferences, our S.A.V.E ensures that all guests can be included in all events.\*

**How will a Sensory Activation Vehicle benefit someone with autism?** Part of the mission of The XEL FOUNDATION is to support those affected with autism an inclusive opportunity for a fulfilling life. This mobile unit will provide a safe environment when an individual is overwhelmed in a sensory situation.

- Provides a quick sensory refuge for those with sensory needs
- Enables them to get a quick break and then go back to enjoying the event
- Enables families to attend these events together with their loved ones with sensory needs

We are thrilled to announce that **the first stop for this vehicle will be at Super Bowl LVII** events in Phoenix, AZ. This vehicle will continue to travel throughout the Southwest United States at events where it will provide inclusive opportunities for individuals. Follow the XEL vehicle in future newsletters and on the [XEL FOUNDATION social channels](#).



**KultureCity®**

Learn more about Kulture City [here](#).





BEYOND AUTISM

Issue No. 3 • January 2023



THE XEL STORE IS NOW OPEN. **CLICK HERE TO VIEW!**



# MEET ANTHONY!

*Written by Joe and Daniela, Parents of Anthony*



**Anthony is a happy, loving, and hard working eight year old boy.** He has a twin brother named Rocco, who loves him and is his protector. When Anthony and Rocco were approaching twelve months old, we noticed that Anthony was not doing a lot of the same things as Rocco such as clapping, waving, etc.

This led us to questions

for the pediatrician, followed by early intervention therapies, and ultimately an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis at two years old. This was of course devastating to us as his parents. Even though we knew that's what we were going to hear, having someone say the words out loud just rocks your world.

**From the beginning, our primary goal was to not see him struggle.** With many therapies put into place, and hard work at home as well, Anthony began to thrive on all fronts! He has done an amazing job at school, and he absolutely loves going there! He gets to ride the regular school bus with his brother and neighborhood peers. We have always given Anthony the same opportunities as his brother, and try to expose him to everything we can. It is a struggle having a twin who does not always have the same expectations as you do.

We have good and bad days, but Anthony is an absolute light in our world! He has the ability to bring a smile to anyone in his presence. His energy lights up the room and the world. We would not change a thing about our perfectly beautiful boy.

Anthony works so hard to do the things that his peers do daily without giving it a second thought. Outside of school, Anthony is very laid back and a total beach bum! He loves going on vacation, and asks daily to go to the beach or look at pictures of past vacations on our phones. Some of his other favorite activities include swimming, jumping, climbing, being outside, going places like restaurants, and eating his favorite food... pretzels! Anthony is such a joy! **His autism diagnosis does not define him, but rather a part of who he is.** He may see the world a little differently than us, but we would give anything to see it through his eyes, even for just a minute.

## 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

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

### CORPORATE DONORS



### THANK YOU TO OUR NEW PERSONAL DONORS

Ray & Kim Francis, Donna Hatcher, Susan & Mark Vitale, Mary Ann Walker,  
Carolina Cartage, Eyemg.com, Garden City Firehall Friday Bingo, Primacy Risk Services, Sanctuary Marketing Group, Vivino Selections

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.

©2023 The XEL FOUNDATION. For contact or donation information, please contact [youareheard@xelfoundation.org](mailto:youareheard@xelfoundation.org).