

## ***REIMAGINING THE AUTISM RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE: QUALITY OF LIFE AND STATE-OF-THE-ART RESIDENCES***

### **Our Mission**

*ACE is dedicated to the creation of state-of-the-art model residences for people within the autism spectrum who cannot live independently, which provide a positive and humane environment and house, nurture, supervise, protect, maintain, and continue to educate each resident – for life. We will set the standard for excellence in providing this care and maintain the standard with ongoing research and development. The fruit of our labors will be accessible to the public and disseminated via the Internet, the social networks and the latest in information technology.*

### **Strategic Alliances Set ACE Apart**

- Stony Brook School of Medicine (SBM) is developing a strategic alliance with ACE, which will create the highest quality behavioral and environmental models for residential living as well as the first comprehensive empirically-based training program for staffing a residential facility specific to the needs of ASD adults.
- SBM will develop curricula to educate candidates to manage and staff ACE residences and, working with ACE, will set standards for operating and maintaining residences including certifications for direct care workers and managers and accreditations for residences.
- SBM will also create programs to identify vocational opportunities in the business community for those on the spectrum and then develop educational and training modules to enhance employability.
- SBM will develop screening protocols for the selection of residents to maximize the benefits of social interaction and quality of life.
- Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County is developing a strategic alliance with ACE, which will identify vocational opportunities in the farming community and then develop educational and training modules to enhance employability. Universities with agriculture programs provide support to farming communities all across the country. There is also

substantial linkage on a national basis among Farm Bureaus and 4-H Clubs, which can be found in many counties with operating farms. This will enhance our ability to identify potential employers. Residents in the ACE rural Demonstration Project will have the choice of working on a farm or in other traditional employment opportunities in the larger community. They will directly benefit from the related programs ACE is developing through the research at SBM.

- Vanderbilt University Law School is developing a strategic alliance with ACE, which will research the legal and regulatory landscape related to autism including, licensing, building and funding in each state in which ACE operates through the use of supervised law students, professors and the ACE legal team.

### **Community and Faith-Based Initiatives**

- Solving the conundrum of all parents with an ASD child – who will be there for my child when I die?
- Non-denominational opportunities for long-term social interaction and support for residents when they are alone in this world, most vulnerable and in need of stability.
- Partnering with organizations that include people with a humanitarian bent is the key to facilitating acceptance and participation of ACE residents in the larger community.

### **Demonstration Projects – Modular Design and Construction**

- ACE plans to build urban, suburban and rural residences all across the country. Initially it will build two Demonstration Projects in Suffolk County on Long Island in the vicinity of SBM and Cornell; one will be a suburban unit on the South Shore and the other a rural unit on the North Fork in the vicinity of the farming community. These Demonstration Projects will be within easy driving distance to SBM and Cornell.
- Modular design and construction allows for easy replication and lower construction costs. The flat topography on Long Island is considered excellent for modular housing.

- SBM is part of the State University of New York system (SUNY), which has 64 universities, colleges and community colleges throughout the state. The strategic alliance with SBM will provide access to the SUNY system and facilitate the growth of ACE throughout New York State and will serve as a springboard to the contemplated national reach of ACE.
- The design of the ACE residences will create a new standard for accommodating the visual, auditory, olfactory and tactile sensitivities of the ASD residents. The design will also incorporate the latest advances in environmentally friendly systems for the physical plant that may offer the opportunity for the residence to be self-sustaining as to its physical plant and facilities.

### **Shared Data Registry**

- Data collection will be built into the DNA of the ACE program.
- A comprehensive digital registry of sharable web-based databases will be created to disseminate the ACE experience, including the research from the strategic alliances.

### **The ACE Team**

- ACE was founded by Arnold S. Schickler, who serves as Board Chairman, President and CEO.
  - ❖ Co-founded the first NYC school totally dedicated to children with learning disabilities: The Churchill School and Center.
  - ❖ Co-founded the first NYC outpatient clinic for mentally disabled children: New York Institute for Child Development, Inc.
  - ❖ Co-founded the first NYC preschool for 18-month old socio-economically deprived children: Countee Cullen Early Learning Center.
  - ❖ Co-founded the Valentine Kline Foundation dedicated to supporting research for children in the areas of mental disability, brain damage and learning disabilities.
  - ❖ Co-produced the first public service film for national television dedicated to ending the institutionalization of people with mental disabilities: the award winning, “Where Do the Children Play”.

- ACE has 15 members on its Board of Trustees and 28 members on its Board of Advisors. These consist of leaders in the fields of medicine, education, psychology, architecture, engineering, information technology, religion, law, business, the arts, banking, communications and, most importantly, parents with children on the spectrum.
- ACE was launched on September 9, 2014, shortly after receiving its 501(c)3 tax-exempt status from the IRS.

***For further information, please contact:***

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