FRIENDS OF JAMES ANNUAL REPORT 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear FOJ Community,

Friends of James Inc. had an incredible inaugural year in 2024, marked by significant milestones and meaningful community engagement. The organization was officially formed in July, quickly establishing its legal foundation with initial board meetings and securing 501(c)(3) exempt status in August. Our first fundraising event, the Friends of James Oktoberfest, took place on September 21st at Brook Valley Farm in Chatham, New Jersey, and was attended by over 150 people.

The organization's core mission centers on three pillars: increasing awareness of Angelman Syndrome, funding research to advance therapeutic treatments, and supporting initiatives serving people with special needs. To this end, Friends of James made substantial contributions to key organizations including FAST (Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics) and ASF (Angelman Syndrome Foundation) during November and December, demonstrating our commitment to meaningful impact.

After our donations to FAST and ASF, the organization concluded 2024 with total assets and liabilities of $25,893, reflecting a strategic approach to resource management. We are incredibly excited for what's to come in 2025 including continued fundraising, community outreach and we pray, advancement in therapeutics through the clinical trial pipeline.

Kathryn Poerio ("Katie")

President

MISSION STATEMENT & FUNDING PHILOSOPHY

Friends of James aims to increase awareness of Angelman Syndrome, fund research to advance therapies for treating the disorder and support local initiatives serving people with special needs.

There are currently several treatments for Angelman Syndrome that are progressing through clinical trials and many more in the pipeline. We will continue to donate a large portion of funds toward research until treatment options are available for those with Angelman Syndrome. At that time, we will shift our focus towards other initiatives to support people living with disabilities by giving them resources to thrive in the community.

2024 MILESTONES

March	July	August	September	Nov.–Dec.
Advocacy day in Washington DC	Formation of Friends of James Inc	Initial Board Meeting 501c(3) Tax Exempt Approval	First Fundraiser: Friends of James Oktoberfest	Contributions given to FAST and ASF

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Katie joined a group of Angelman Syndrome advocates in Washington, D.C. in March to lobby for specific initiatives related to AS and rare disease. She spent the day meeting with the offices of both NJ senators and three NJ house members. Read more about the success of our inaugural year visiting the Hill here
- FOJ held our first annual Oktoberfest Festival on Saturday, Sept 21st at Brook Valley Farm in Chatham, NJ and hosted more than 150 attendees with activities including a magic show, face painting, and a food and ice cream truck
- Katie and Anthony attended the FAST (Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics) Summit and Gala in Orlando, Fl in Nov and proudly donated $20,000 on behalf of Friends of James
- FOJ donated an additional $5,000 to ASF (Angelman Syndrome Foundation) in December

Read More

View Gallery

fast

FAST is the leading patient advocacy organization working to cure Angelman syndrome.

As the largest non-governmental funder of Angelman syndrome research in the world, FAST's goal is to drive forward transformative research and development programs as quickly as possible for those living with Angelman syndrome—regardless of age or genotype.

MONEY IN ACTION

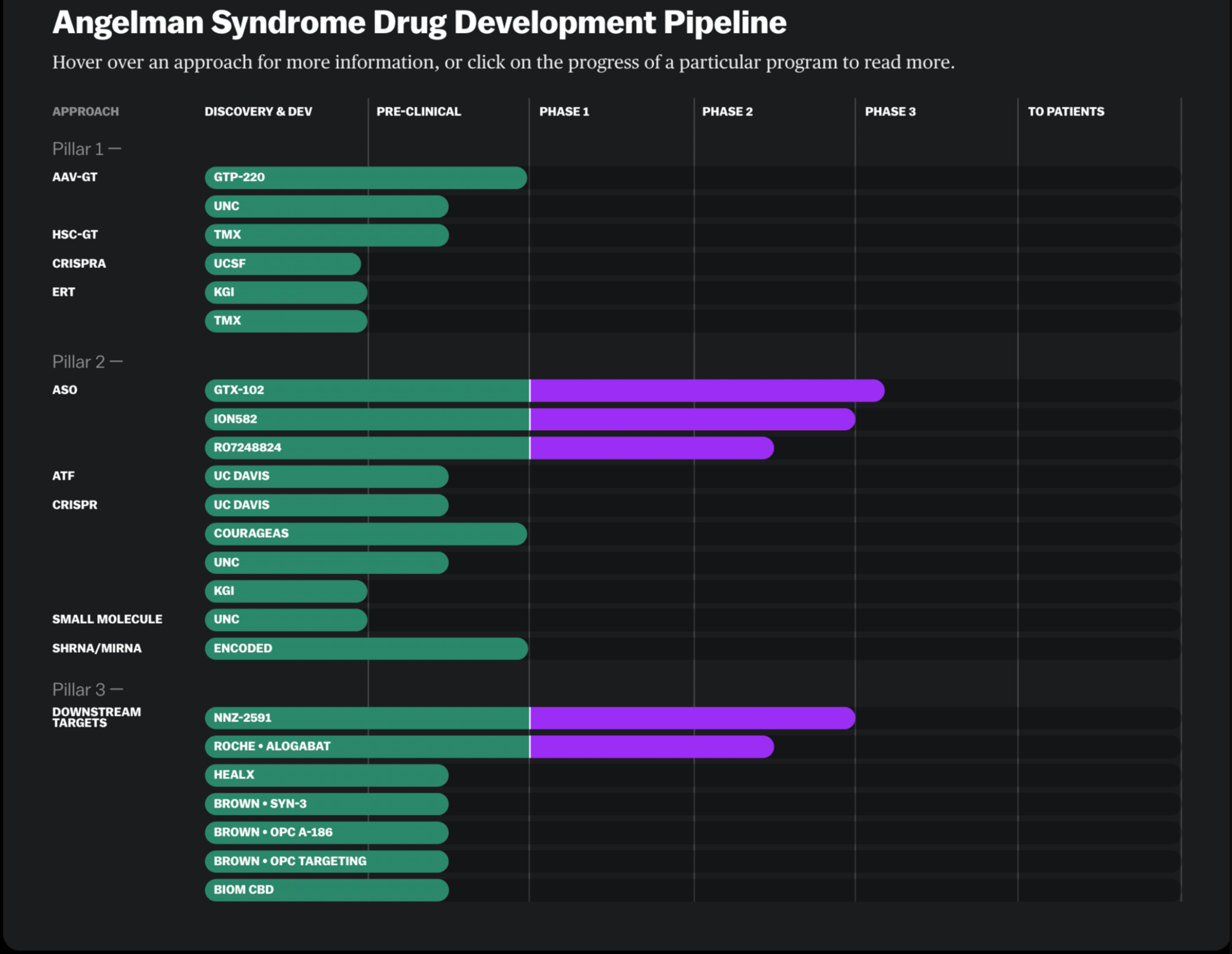
Friends of James proudly donated $20,000 to FAST in 2024. Prior to the creation of Friends of James, we previously raised over $100,000 in funds donated directly to FAST in 2022 and 2023.

FAST is deeply invested in bringing promising interventions into current medical practice, as safely and quickly as possible. To this end, FAST is driving translational research and supporting the advancement of therapeutics for animal models to humans living with Angelman syndrome.

The results are incredibly promising, and the Angelman Syndrome community looks forward to seeing progress in the chart on the following page each year. This chart shows the drug development pipeline as FAST aggressively pursues multiple treatment options

FAST ROADMAP AND TREATMENT DESCRIPTIONS

As of Q4 2024, one drug entered Phase 3 clinical trial. This is incredibly exciting for the Angelman community and we can't wait to hear more results as it progresses.



Angelman Syndrome Drug Development Pipeline

Hover over an approach for more information, or click on the progress of a particular program to read more.

Disclaimer

This website contains information for a broad audience and may include information on current and upcoming programs that are not yet approved or accessible The information provided is for general informational purposes only and is not intended as medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. While FAST strives to provide accurate and up-to-date information, the content on this site may not always reflect the most current research or clinical guidelines. The inclusion of clinical trial information, treatments or specific healthcare providers does not imply endorsement, recommendation or guarantee of safety, efficacy, or availability. Reliance on any information provided by this website is solely at your own risk. FAST disclaims any liability for any errors or omissions in the information provided or for any decisions made based on this information. For personalized medical advice or specific health concerns including participation in any clinical trial, please consult a qualified healthcare professional.

The mission of the Angelman Syndrome Foundation is to advance the awareness and treatment of Angelman syndrome through education and information, research, and support for individuals with Angelman syndrome, their families and other concerned parties.

MONEY IN ACTION

Friends of James proudly donated $5,000 to the ASF, directing funds toward a new program - *ASF Virtual Adult Care Clinic (VACC).*

VACC is a pilot program to address the critical care gap faced by adults living with Angelman syndrome. This initiative will leverage the expertise of the ASF Clinics and healthcare professionals to provide comprehensive, accessible care to adults with Angelman syndrome. The clinic will operate once a month, offering virtual consultations with specialized medical teams, caregiver guidance, and connections to critical resources.

BOARD MEMBERS


Kathryn Poerio
President


Anthony Poerio
Secretary & Treasurer


Sarah Ambrosino
Director


Lauren Cochran
Director


Erin Falco
Director


Tom Trapani
Director

THANK YOU DONORS

Platinum - $10,000+

Fred & Ellen Gentzel

Gold - $5,000+

Tom & Jeanette Cowen

Silver – 1,000+

Maureen & Frank Poerio
Local 138
Eleanor Van Ness

Tom & Eliza Trapani
Minuteman Press (Nick Titus)
Kathi & Bill Macholz

Bronze – 500+

Chris & Claire McWade
Bangerter Family
Stan & Linda Lahoda
Bill & Lisa Muller

Schultz Family
Russell Indemaio
Tom & Ginger Quinn
Greg Arnold

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

Current Assets:	2024
Cash & Cash Equivalents	25,893
Investments	0
Total Current Assets	25,893

Current Liabilities	2024
Accounts Payable	18
Accounts	0
Total Current Liabilities	18

Property & Equipment	2024
Office	0
Computer Hardware	0
Software	0
Website	0
Total Property & Equipment	0

Net Assets	2024
Net Income	25,965

TOTAL ASSETS: 25,893

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS: 25,893

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

PUBLIC SUPPORT & FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Public Support & Revenue	2024
Contributions	40,756
Net Investment Return	0
Total Revenue	40,756

TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE: 40,756

Functional Expenses	2024
Management & General	551
Fundraising	3,239
Contributions*	11,000
Total Expenses	14,791

TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES: 14,791

NET ASSETS

Equity	2024
Change in Net Assets	25,965
Net Assets, beginning of year	0
Net Assets, end of year	25,965

*Total amount donated to FAST was $20,000 when including company matches. ASF donation occurred in fiscal year 2025.

Friends of James

Thank you!

Join Our Community