



Dear Community Partner,

I am writing to share an important update from Autism Tennessee.

*Autism Tennessee is a 25 year old non-profit organization serving the Middle Tennessee community and the approximately 54,000 individuals on the autism spectrum who live here. AutismTN exists to maximize independence for individuals on the autism spectrum through education, advocacy, and support. Did you know many individuals on the autism spectrum have no cognitive impairments and go on to college and join the workforce just like the typical population? Knowing this population will enter the workforce with limited peer relationships and support is why AutismTN believes it's important to raise autism awareness and acceptance in high school.*

We are excited to announce the launching of our Junior Ambassador Program in some area high schools this year. The purpose of the program is to provide high school students with an opportunity to connect peers who have autism to support, and help create a more inclusive environment for neurodiverse students. Participating students will learn public speaking, build friendships with other teens involved in the program, gain leadership and advocacy skills, and represent the autism community as they raise awareness through JA Program activities. The Junior Ambassador Program will be educator-led.

We are in need of an educator to volunteer to create a chapter at your school. Will you share this opportunity with educators who may be excellent partners for the mission of AutismTN? Interested educators can contact me, Egbhai Uriri, MSPH at [outreach@autismtn.org](mailto:outreach@autismtn.org)

Sincerely,

*Egbhai Uriri*

Egbhai Uriri, MSPH  
Director of Education, Outreach,

and Advocacy  
Autism Tennessee

*Babs Tierno*

Babs Tierno, M.Ed.  
Executive Director  
Autism Tennessee