

THE CENTER FOR AUTISM & NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

Patient Testimonial, February 2017

Seventeen years ago when Nellie's second child was just over two years old, he was diagnosed with autism. At that time, she had no idea what autism was but she knew intuitively that something life-changing was happening to her family.

Nellie had researched extensively for the birth of her first child. Yet after the birth of her second child, she found that nothing in the books she'd read had prepared her for the atypical and maladaptive behaviors that they were both exhibiting. Those behaviors ranged from unusual ticks, twitching and flicking of hands, to extreme and oftentimes volatile reaction of anger or frustration when denied access to something.

Nellie now has four children, two who were adopted, ranging in age from seven to 21 years old. Each has had a unique experience with autism, ADHD, behavior disruptive disorder, depression and intellectual disability.

At the age of two, her youngest son David, now seven years old, was referred to The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders due to global developmental delays. Thus began an important and wonderful relationship incredibly beneficial to her family.

"In the last five years David has been treated by The Center, he has gotten and continues to receive the support he needs," Nellie said. "The Center has been very involved from a treatment

standpoint, beginning with thorough assessments, scheduling appointments with specialists, opportunities for learning and overall engagement with both the child and the parent, as well as collaborating with others providing treatment."

It's been five years since David's first visit to The Center. "David's growth has been remarkable due to The Center's treatment, as well as additional ABA Therapy and other support," she added. "At the age of two, David was not communicating, exhibiting extreme atypical behaviors and was very combative, hitting and biting when frustrated. Today his progress has been profound."

Nellie's 12-year-old son also receives continuous treatment at The Center and her 21-year-old daughter participates in The Center's F.A.S.T workshops.

"I appreciate The Center's individualized support for the children to whom they provide services," Nellie said. "In each case, all of our children are on the spectrum but at different phases of development. The Center has a comprehensive way of communicating, investigating and obtaining data from families to design an individualized support program for us. It is not only seen in their staff of doctors and others providing treatment, but also in the community support they provide and the complementary workshops offered to enhance each child's development."



THE CENTER FOR AUTISM
& NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

THE CENTER FOR AUTISM & NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

Patient Testimonial, February 2017

As a passionate advocate for her kids, Nellie knows custom-tailored, progressive programs are equally as important as ensuring her children on the spectrum feel included.

“The Center also values the importance of providing families on the spectrum with social opportunities within the community and have supported many organizations to that end,” she added.

A couple years ago, she decided to create a swanky Halloween Ball for her kiddos and their friends, who love the holiday. The Center willingly participated on many levels, making the Ball a great success.

“The Center has definitely changed our lives,” concluded Nellie. “Not only by providing exceptional treatment to my children, but just as importantly for giving families with ASD access to comprehensive care, as well as research data and outcomes. It also helps that they work diligently to improve service on every level to those they serve.”



THE CENTER FOR AUTISM
& NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS