

Anderson Center for Autism

October 2, 2009 for ERVK

Anderson School was founded by Dr. Victor V. Anderson in 1924. A pioneer in his time, Dr. Anderson believed that children with special needs are best served by an integrated program that comprehensively addresses their educational, emotional, and social needs. In 2006, in keeping with Dr. Anderson's philosophical view, Anderson School changed the corporate name to Anderson Center for Autism symbolizing the continuing and growing services for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Anderson Center for Autism is a residential school and home to 138 children through their residential school and soon to be 75 adults within their community homes and day programs. Their programs are geared towards challenging individuals on the autism spectrum. Anderson Center and its affiliates, Anderson Center Services and Anderson Foundation for Autism, have grown and employs over 600 staff with a streamlined and efficient management structure.

The Center is committed to enhancing the quality of life and provides many unique opportunities through their LIFELONG LEARNINGSM model built upon the foundation of Applied Behavior Analysis and Positive Behavioral Supports within their commitment to evidence-based services Through Community Service Coordination and a growing Consulting Practice help is available to school districts educating many more children, as well as adults and families throughout the full autism spectrum in their homes and communities.

Over the past few years, construction was completed on a new state-of-the-art school, new campus replacement homes were built, and several support service buildings, roadways and playgrounds were upgraded. The Anderson Village, designed specifically to meet the needs of children with autism, will be finished by the 2012. Major expansion of community adult homes and day programs also continues.

Anderson Center for Autism works collaboratively with Colleges and Universities embracing the opportunity to excite, entice and train graduates for the autism field. Among their many accomplishments are a large international Fellowship program and Anderson supporting the educational experiences for Marist College students in the fields of education, social work, psychology, technology and administration, as a major field placement site.

Neil J. Pollack, Executive Director & CEO of Anderson Center for Autism, joined the organization in 2001, during which time he transformed the organization into a specialty service provider for the full autism spectrum, growing ACA by 145%. Under Mr. Pollack's direction and leadership, the organization has increased its annual budget from \$17million, soon to be \$40million. He remains a tireless advocate for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders as well as the workforce serving them.