



FOUNDERS STATEMENT

The incidence of autism in young children has become increasingly prevalent over the last decade. Only recently has this troubling disability come into the public eye with regularity. Clearly, there is not enough being said or done to bring solutions to children and families living with this disability, particularly children, who are often disadvantaged socially and economically.

Autism Answers was founded to assist such families and children, and to make our society more aware and responsive to the need for “*diversity and inclusion*” in education, medical and legal services for the special needs of these children. My name is Linda Pedraza. I have two sons -- Michael and Francisco. Francisco is 9 years old and Michael is 8 years old. They are my joy.

Michael is diagnosed with autism. It is this diagnosis that has launched my journey, and the reason why I have founded Autism Answers. I thank God for his vision, grace, and guiding hand, I am confident that he, who began a good work in me, will carry me and our family through this journey.

My love and passion for children, the elderly, and the developmentally disabled -- especially children and families living with autism -- has led me to my purpose in life. Like many mothers of children diagnosed with autism, I have relentlessly searched for answers to the cause and cure of this developmental learning disability, and I have tirelessly advocated for appropriate educational services for my son.

Unfortunately, the search for answers to the cause and cure of this neurological learning disability continues to baffle leading medical experts, and the educational, medical and financial needs of these children still remain severely under-served by the states, the federal government and our local school authorities.

A major goal of Autism Answers is to create an indispensable fund for scientific research into the cause and cure of autism. I am further dedicated to global solutions in providing appropriate educational and medical services to children on the autism spectrum. I hope to preserve and protect developmentally disabled children’s right to equal access and delivery of medical and educational services. I am also committed to global vaccine education and safety.

I hope to move the conscience of this great nation to respond to the medical, educational and legal needs of children with autism by raising the awareness of this multifaceted neuro-learning disability. Through perseverance, we build character and hope, and it is this “hope” that I hold fast, and to which gives me faith to see the unseen, and to do the impossible through God’s grace.

Please join me in this journey.