

Sounding the Alarm: Battling the Autism Epidemic

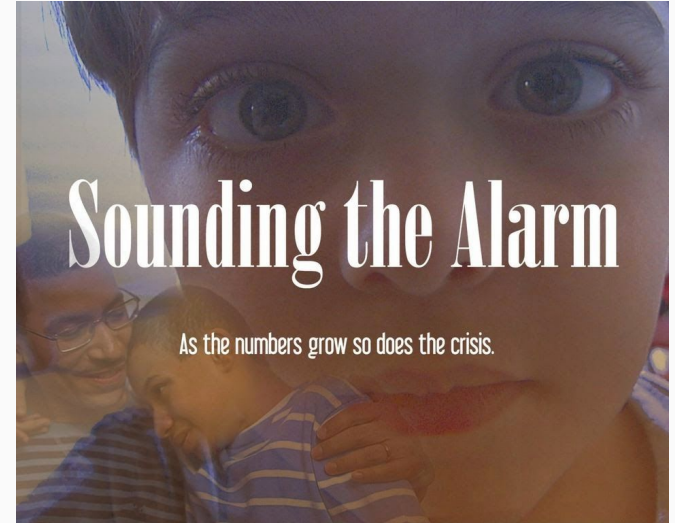
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Always
Unique
Totally
Interesting
Sometimes
Mysterious

Summary

Sounding the Alarm follows families with autistic children as they negotiate tangled rules and regulations, and steadfastly fight to find and afford the right care and treatment for their loved ones throughout their lives.



Positive Social Change

- Increased awareness
 - Autism speaks
 - advocacy groups/individuals
- Research
 - looking for a cure/cause



Advocacy



Autism Speaks

- Founded in 2005 by Bob and Suzanne Wright
- Sponsors research, spreads awareness and creates outreach activities
- by 2019, \$3 billion research dollars for autism
- partnerships in 60 countries, walks in more than 100 areas

Advocacy

-Light it Up Blue started by Suzanne Wright

-April 2nd

-Countries and businesses light buildings and communities blue, people wear blue

-Why blue? 4:1



Community

COMMUNITY

- Car wash- focuses on employment for adults with autism in Parkland, Florida. Gives these individuals a sense of purpose and allows them to earn their own money.
- Autism speaks – hosts walks and events that bring people together to educate and fight for the same cause



Service

- East End Disability Respite Center
- John D'Eri's car wash
 - McDonald's
 - Home Depot



Current day events and topics

- “In 1975, 1 in 5,000 children was diagnosed with autism. By 2001, the prevalence rate had climbed to 1 in 250. As of now, it is 1 in 68.”
- “This is more children than are affected by diabetes, AIDS, cancer, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy or Down syndrome combined.”
- There is no cause or cure which places an emphasis on the necessity for research and discovery as the rate of diagnosis is increasing.
- Autism Speaks created, which is an autism advocacy organization that helps raise funds for research, build awareness, and partake in outreach programs.
- Budget cuts to agencies across the states that provide programs and services to thousands of individuals with disabilities

Personal Connections

ACES at Lockport Township High School

- Started 5 years ago
- 1 on 1 partnerships
 - Autism, Downs Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, etc.



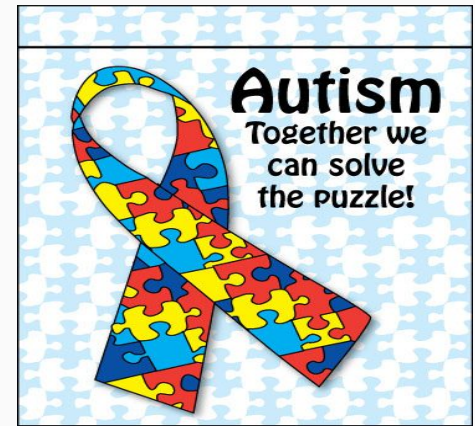
Critiques

- Showed a narrow demographic
 - 0/12 of the families showed females with autism
 - Did not show many minority families (only 1 African American)
- Didn't capture the lives of any autistic adolescents following them moving out of their parents houses
 - Only highlighted parental concerns

Most Beneficial Audience

-Government officials, they're ignoring the issue because they don't realize it's an issue

-Everyone, if we all educate ourselves on the issue, we can come together to fix it



Course of Action Encouraged by the Film

- Encourages government to cease cuts on supports and services
- Encourages an increase in research
 - Strong need to find a highly treatment
 - Need to find definitive causes (abnormalities in brain size?)
- Encourages states to develop autism reforms regarding health insurance
 - ABA therapy

