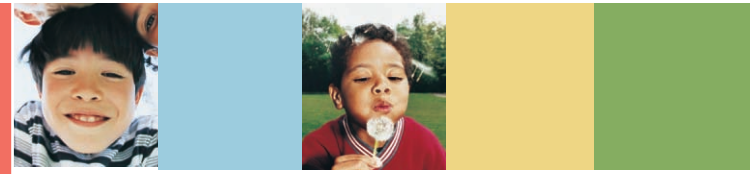




# OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE



*TheOpFoundation*

## Volunteer your time

A wide range of opportunities exist.

Please contact us at 706-346-6346

[www.theopfoundation.com](http://www.theopfoundation.com)

The Op Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Your in-kind gifts, professional services and financial, charitable donations are all crucial to our mission.

Our ability to meet the needs of our community is limited only by our collective vision and generosity.

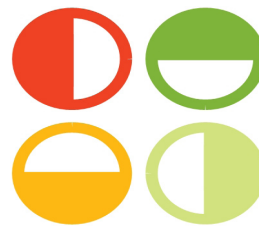
Thank you for partnering with us to open the world to our children.



Paul A. Walker, MD, Board Certified Otolaryngologist  
*President*

Joy K. Walker, PharmD  
*Executive Director*

Jessica L. Bost  
*Executive Administrative Assistant*



THE OP FOUNDATION  
109 JOHN MADDOX DRIVE, SUITE 210  
PHONE: 706.346.6346  
WEB: [WWW.THEOPFOUNDATION.COM](http://WWW.THEOPFOUNDATION.COM)

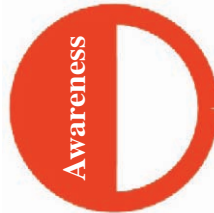
Optimizing the potential of children with developmental delays and disabilities

# Providing HOPE

## Opening Doors



**MISSION**  
TO SERVE AS A RESOURCE AND FACILITATE THE EDUCATION AND COLLABORATION OF FAMILIES, HEALTH PROVIDERS AND EDUCATORS CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS AND DISABILITIES



*TheOpFoundation*



### BACKGROUND

Our community is facing a devastating epidemic. **Developmental Disabilities**, including Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), are being diagnosed in alarming numbers. Prior to 1980, ASD was a rare disorder seen in 2 to 5 per 10,000 children. In 2007, however, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported **1 in 150 children are diagnosed with ASD.**

### Prevalence of childhood diseases

*Leukemia*  
1:25,000

*Muscular Dystrophy*  
1:20,000

*Pediatric AIDS*  
1:8,000

*Juvenile Diabetes*  
1:500

**ASD**  
**1:150**

### IMPACT

Using these numbers, one child with ASD will be born each week in Rome, Georgia.

The social and financial burdens associated with this epidemic are staggering!

Divorce rates for families approach 80% and the lifetime cost of taking care of a child with ASD has been estimated at \$3.3 million greater than that of a neuro-typical child.

### HOPE

Desperate times do not require desperate measures. They require thoughtful deliberation on basic principles that can ultimately lead to low risk, high benefit solutions.

Current medical and behavioral science research focuses on innovative, therapeutic options to help our children.

The Op Foundation is committed to bringing this knowledge to families, educators and health care providers in Northwest Georgia.

*Statistics from Autism Speaks, CDC and Georgia OASIS Database*