



# A JOSHUA'S GIFT PRESENTATION *for* Cal-TASH

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# JOSHUA'S GIFT FOUNDATION



Founded in 2017, Joshua's Gift is a 501c(3) nonprofit that financially supports the social, mental, emotional, wellness and economic needs of families living with autism. As a foundation we are strongly focused on developing a society that invitingly accepts, respects and includes individuals on the autism spectrum. Joshua's Gift was inspired by our personal journey and our commitment to supporting individuals and families living with autism. The financial and emotional tolls are high, and our foundation aims to provide relief through funding and social experiences that might otherwise be inaccessible to families in the autism community. By equipping families with the support and tools to navigate an autism diagnosis, we foster an environment of awareness and inclusion.

# AN INTRODUCTION TO CODE JOSHUA

Often mistaken as uncooperative or even dangerous, people with autism have had harrowing encounters with police and emergency personnel. To educate responders and prevent more tragedies from happening, we created CODE JOSHUA. An alert code and database registry that raises awareness and support for people living with autism and IDD.



# THE VISION



It was a peaceful evening out with the family as we strolled into Joshua's favorite restaurant for dinner. The atmosphere was busy, so we knew Joshua's sensory triggers would likely flare up. His father decided to take him for a walk to calm his anxiety but an unexpected phone call by a stranger to the local police, created a heightened level of discomfort. It was this experience that became the inspiration behind CODE JOSHUA

**CODE JOSHUA**



**AUTISTIC PERSON  
ON BOARD  
APPROACH QUIETLY**

[www.joshuasgift.org](http://www.joshuasgift.org)

## HOW IT WORKS

When a dispatcher receives a call about someone who may be exhibiting autistic behaviors, they access the CODE JOSHUA database through dispatch, to review the person's behavior profile and relay the information to the responder. The profile helps the dispatcher guide the responder in safely managing the call. Further raising awareness is a CODE JOSHUA window decal to display on the rear of a car, on a front window at home or elsewhere.

# SHOW KRON-TV STORY

- <https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/fremont-family-creates-non-profit-to-help-people-with-autism/>

## THE NEED FOR FIRST RESPONDER TRAININGS

There is a tremendous need for first responders to be appropriately trained on how to manage and approach individuals on the autism spectrum during an emergency. The need to educate law enforcement about autism is critical and we believe our training can become a part of the solution to a traumatic situation that is too often faced by autistic individuals. Our goal is to help First Responders understand how disabilities can affect a person's response to a command and how biases can affect an officer's reaction to that individual on the autism spectrum.

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# OUR TRAINING TACTICS *for* FIRST RESPONDERS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS

- How to identify the characteristics of autism
- How to use positive and effective communication
- How to use brief, simple instructions on the scene
- Ask to approach with empathy and patience
- Attempt to de-escalate by meeting the individual's sensory and communication needs
- Preserve the rights of the individual
- Mitigate risk of harm through preparation
- Respond with the least amount of force needed for safety



# CLOSING REMARKS

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