



March 01, 2022

Mayor Patrick Brown and Members of Brampton Council  
City of Brampton  
2 Wellington Street West  
Brampton, ON, L6Y 4R2

Dear Mayor Brown and Members of Council:

**Re: Request to help us create an autism centre in Brampton**

Something wonderful is happening in Scarborough, and we'd like to bring it to Brampton!

In the east end of Toronto, there now exists a place of safety and support for hundreds of kids with autism and their families. It's a sanctuary where they can access therapy, counselling and educational programs that weren't available to them a decade or so ago. What started in our founder's basement has grown--with the help of the City of Toronto--into the South Asian Autism Awareness Centre (SAAAC), a 13,000-square foot gathering place, offering 13 educational programs to over 450 children from a wide variety of cultural, linguistic, and economic backgrounds.

Years ago, we saw the dire need for these services in Scarborough but as our success in meeting these needs has grown, so has our awareness of other places that need our help and expertise, including Brampton.

In order to help hundreds of Brampton families access these same services and support, we are proposing that the City of Brampton partner with SAAAC to create a similar centre in your city. While we would provide our expertise, passion, and extensive community partnerships, we are hoping that Brampton could provide the "bricks and mortar" to house this wonderful amenity.

Such a centre would allow us to provide the following free and subsidized programs:

- Applied Behaviour Analysis
- Speech Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Caregiver Mental Health Program
- Foundation for Success Program
- Functional Fitness and Movement Skills
- Living N Learning Day Adult Program
- Creative Arts Program
- Just Dance Program
- Mobile Development Outreach Clinic
- Case Management
- Everyday Practical Strategies for Caregivers
- Entry to School program



As well, SAAAC would bring to the table our extensive array of existing partnerships:

- Professional staff: Part-time in-house doctors, therapists, mental health experts
- Partnerships with numerous community agencies
- Partnerships with long-established autism service providers
- Partnerships with provincial hospitals and physicians
- Partnerships with public health departments, schools and Ontario government ministries
- Partnerships with established foundations and donors
- Stable fee-for-service funding model
- Strong volunteer base

By providing city-owned space and funding for renovations, the City of Toronto played a pivotal role in helping Scarborough's autism centre grow into the large campus it is today. To make an autism centre a reality for Brampton, we are asking the City of Brampton to contribute:

- a 10,000- to 15,000-square foot building (preferably close to a park or other community amenity)
- any necessary renovations to the building
- the annual operating cost of the building.

If you have any questions about how we can work together to dramatically improve the quality of life for children with autism and their families, please feel free to call us at **416-289-0100**.

With your help and our passion, we can ensure that all of Brampton's children reach their full potential. Thank you for your time and attention in this exciting endeavour!

Sincerely,

*Geetha Moorthy*

Geetha Moorthy  
Founder & CEO of SAAAC Autism Awareness Centre

*Glenn De Baeremaeker*

Glenn De Baeremaeker  
Chair, SAAAC Autism Awareness Centre