



Greetings!

Thank you for reviewing our request for sponsorship of Akoma Cares' annual Neurodiversity Among Us event. This is a free and public event taking place on Saturday, April 5th, 2025. We have worked enthusiastically to achieve this for our families in the disability and neurodivergent community, and we are excited to make our 3rd year even more impactful with your support!

Who We Are at Akoma Cares

Akoma Cares is a grassroots 501c3 non-profit homeschool and community resource organization established in 2019. Since our inception, we have provided resources, education, and enrichment for close to 400 families homeschooling melanated children in the Carolinas. At Akoma Cares we prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion with the desire to provide quality opportunities for education for all. As both Disability Advocacy Coordinator and mom of a child with Autism, it is my honor to make positive changes within the melanated neurodiverse community. You can find out more about us, our mission, and our advocacy journey at [Akomacares.org](https://akomacares.org).

What is Neurodiversity Among Us

Neurodiversity Among Us is an annual event that aims to teach children and adults of the community about neurodiversity and acceptance in a fun and engaging way. We are proud partners with the [Carolina Autism Neurodevelopment Research Center](#) at the University of South Carolina as they are one of the leading contributors for active and progressive research on neurodevelopment. The theme for NDAU 2025 is “Be Your Own Superhero”, where we will focus on the crucial role of advocating alongside loved ones and advocating for self. We want our families to learn that there



is so much power in advocacy and in turn our children will learn how to advocate for themselves in the future.

With that in mind, we have created an event full of superhero-themed activities to enjoy while building confidence, acceptance, and neurodiversity inclusion. This event welcomes families, friends, caregivers, guardians, educators, and other professionals who want to expand their knowledge and understanding of neurodiversity. It also provides the opportunity for attendees to connect with resources, quality support, advocacy, and accommodations for the melanated neurodiverse community.

We are planning for an expected number of 80 attendees at this year's NDAU event. Our activity stations this year include a superhero cape and shield creation station, an amazing kid-friendly face and body paint art space, a fun photography area hosted by professional photographer and [Hippy Mama Vibes](#), a full multi-sensory room to include a silent disco party led by the owner and occupational therapist of [All Kinds of Minds](#). Everyone can listen to their music of choice, at a sensory level that is comfortable for them, while having fun and socializing. There will be vendors from disability advocacy organizations and local supporting businesses. This year, [SC Respite Coalition](#) will host in-person mini workshops giving vital information on support and resources for parents and caregivers throughout the event. Guests can also participate in our raffle prize gift sets to take home.

Why Neurodiversity Among Us is Necessary

Neurodiversity Among Us allows us to bridge the gap between stigmatization and education in the melanated community while providing a safe and fun way for families to access the resources they need. The stigma surrounding disability—and more singularly, neurodivergence, is often thought of by many, whether consciously or subconsciously, as a state of helplessness and incapability. People of the African diaspora are often misdiagnosed based on bias and typical indicators of neurodiversity are



often disregarded as behavioral or emotional disorders. Proper diagnosis, genuine acceptance, and access to resources can drastically improve the quality of life of our children and families. NDAU allows us to do just that.

How You Can Support

By helping us reach our fundraising goal of \$3,000, your valuable contributions will go to helping us accomplish the following:

- Keep NDAU an annual event that gives allyship for the neurodivergent and disabled community
- Bring us closer to creating a staff of classroom aides to support students and assist teachers
- Expand our sensory kits selection for students that will provide supportive tools and techniques for learning

Sponsorship Tiers:

We are offering three categories of sponsorship packages this year. Each category is in tier levels of bronze, silver, and gold. Below you will find the tiers and incentives:

Gold: \$1,000.00

- Recognition as a Gold Sponsor at our welcome area **and** sponsorship table
- Business/Organization's name **and/or** logo added to our website as a sponsor post event
- Recognized as a sponsor in **any** relevant press releases, social media, and other opportunities surrounding the event
- Option to have a representative **in addition** to promotional and marketing materials at the sponsorship table at the event
- You will **receive** an Akoma Cares Neurodiversity Among Us hoodie!



Silver: \$500.00

- Business/Organization's name **and/or** logo added to our website as a sponsor post event
- Recognized as a sponsor in **any** relevant press releases, social media, and other opportunities surrounding the event
- Business cards **and/or** marketing materials will be displayed on the sponsorship table at the event
- You will **receive** an Akoma Cares Neurodiversity Among Us T-shirt!

Bronze: \$250.00

- Business/Organization's name **and/or** logo added to our website as a sponsor post event
- Recognized as a sponsor in **any** relevant press releases, social media, and other opportunities surrounding the event
- Business cards **and/or** marketing materials will be displayed on the sponsorship table at the event

In-Kind Sponsorship: In-Kind sponsorship refers to a type of sponsorship where goods, services, or resources are provided instead of monetary support.

The In-Kind sponsorship is of equal value to the Gold, Silver, and Bronze packages. Examples of In-Kind sponsorship include the following:

Goods:

- Gift certificates from your business or organization



-Customizable promotional items for Neurodiversity Among Us 2025 (NDAU 2025)

-Products for raffle and/or giveaways

-Supplies for the event (a list will be provided upon request, OR you may inquire if supplies are not listed that you wish to donate for the event)

Services:

-Printing services for pre-event promotion

-Sponsorship of an activity room at the event

-Photography/videography services for the duration of the event

-Video editing, or social media marketing pre-event or duration

-Live news coverage for the duration of the event

To participate in sponsorship, you can visit our website Akomacares.org to view the Neurodiversity Among Us event section. There, you will find information on how to become a sponsor and support this significant cause. You may also contact me via phone at (803) 386-1731 or by email at aj.ford@akomacares.org or Assistant Event Coordinator and Executive Director, Shamay Oware at shamay@akomacares.org or (803) 470-4666.

This is going to be an incredible event, and we would love your participation. As an event sponsor, we see you as more than a financial support or donor. You are investing in our vision, and that does not go unnoticed! We look forward to your sponsorship of Neurodiversity Among Us 2025.

With gratitude,



Anastasia I. Ford

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Akoma Cares

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