



Anastasia I. Ford

Akoma Cares

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January 22, 2024

Greetings!

Thank you for reviewing our request for sponsorship of Akoma Cares' second annual Neurodiversity Among Us event. This is a free and public event taking place on Saturday, April 6th, 2024. We have worked enthusiastically to achieve this for our families in the disability community, and we are excited to make this 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 300 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 affect positive change 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. This year we are proud partners with the [Early Social Development Lab at USC Institute for Mind and Brain](#) at the University of South Carolina as they are one of the leading contributors for active and progressive research on neurodevelopment. 2024's theme for NDAU is "Creative Art

Expression,” where the world of art meets neurodiversity. Art expression is diverse much like our minds. With that in mind, we have created an event with a variety of artistic activities across artistic mediums to encourage the building of 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 60 attendees at this year’s NDAU event. There will be a variety of mixed media art stations like creating your own floor mural using everyday household and recyclable items to crafting your own African-inspired djembe drum. Attendees will also be able to enjoy a silent disco party led by the owner and occupational therapist of [All Kinds of Minds](#). Everyone can listen to the music they like, at a sensory level that is comfortable for them, and still have fun and be social. There will be vendors from disability advocacy related organizations, raffle prizes, and gift bags for attendees to take home.

Why is Neurodiversity Among Us 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:

- Grow our Neurodiversity Among Us event team of planners and volunteers
- Cover and/or reduce the cost of resources needed for the art stations and other NDAU event activities
- Cover the cost of the headphones rental for the silent disco
- Expand opportunities for future neurodiversity events
- Increase awareness and acceptance of neurodivergence
- Help mitigate the cost of future programming and provide sensory kits for our student classes offered through the Akoma Cares Hybrid Learning Center
- Provide an amazing community event that is educational and much needed

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:

<p>\$250</p> <p>BRONZE</p> <p><small>*FINANCIAL DONATION OR IN-KIND DONATION OF EQUAL VALUE</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your business name or logo added to Akoma Cares website as a sponsor for three months Recognized as a sponsor in any relevant press releases/opportunities surrounding the event Your business cards or marketing materials will be displayed at the event on our sponsorship table 	<p>\$500</p> <p>SILVER</p> <p><small>*FINANCIAL DONATION OR IN-KIND DONATION OF EQUAL VALUE</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your business name or logo added to Akoma Cares website as sponsor for six months Recognized as a sponsor in any relevant press releases/opportunities surrounding the event Your business cards or marketing materials will be displayed at the event on our sponsorship table You will receive an Akoma Cares "Neurodiversity Among Us" T-shirt 	<p>\$1000</p> <p>GOLD</p> <p><small>*FINANCIAL DONATION OR IN-KIND DONATION OF EQUAL VALUE</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition as a "Gold Sponsor" at the event's welcome area Name or logo added to Akoma Cares website as our "Gold Sponsor" for one year Recognized as a "Gold Sponsor" in any relevant press releases/opportunities surrounding the event Option to have a representative at our "Gold Sponsors" table during the event You will receive an Akoma Cares "Neurodiversity Among Us" hoodie
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In-Kind Sponsorship: In-kind sponsorship refers to a type of sponsorship where goods, services, or resources are provided instead of monetary support.

EXAMPLES OF IN-KIND DONATIONS	
GOODS	SERVICES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gift Certificates From Your Business or Organization Customizable Promotional Items for Neurodiversity Among Us 2024 Products for Raffles or Giveaways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printing Services for Pre-Event Promotion Sponsorship of an Art Station(s) for the Event Photography and/or Videography Services During the Event Video Editing and Social Media Promotion

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 important cause. You may also contact me via phone at (803) 386-1731 or by email at aj.ford@akomacares.org.

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 2024.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anastasia I. Ford'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Anastasia' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Ford'.

Anastasia I. Ford

Disability Advocacy Coordinator

Akoma Cares

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