

To: Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Subject: Thank You for supporting autism research

I just read this morning how your foundation has funded a pre-doctoral fellowship in medicine specifically to encourage research into autism. As the father of a nine year old boy who struggles with autism, I wanted to write to say thank you.

Autism has taken the mind of my beautiful boy, ravaged our family's finances as we try to pay for our son's medical care, and strained our marriage to the point of very nearly breaking. And we are but one family - and there are thousands upon thousands like ours.

Because we have often felt like autism is ignored, and parents are left to deal with autism alone, it came as great encouragement today to see that Stavros Niarchos Foundation is supporting the fight against autism, particularly by encouraging bright young doctors to dedicate themselves to the field of autism research.

Your grant brings some hope to the future, for our family and for our son. And for that, again, I thank you.

Sincerely,

Kirk Mylander

Portland, Oregon, USA