

Organizational Overview and Program Descriptions

Blessed Be Hope For Three, Inc. (dba Hope For Three) | Founded 2010. Serving families of children and loved ones with autism in Fort Bend County, greater Houston, and Texas.

Hope For Three is a Candid Platinum-rated 501(c)(3) serving families of children and loved ones with autism in Fort Bend County and greater Houston. Our mission is “To walk alongside and support families on their autism journey” by removing the barriers between a child and the care they need. We do this through our flagship program and a wraparound continuum of care, surrounding each family with the community support that helps their child thrive.

The Need

Autism prevalence has risen steadily for two decades. Nationally, 1 in 31 eight-year-olds is identified with autism. In the South-Central Texas region, the rate is 1 in 51, a gap the CDC attributes to barriers in accessing identification services rather than to lower prevalence. Care is expensive and hard to reach. Supporting an autistic child costs a family roughly \$60,000 a year, with lifetime costs estimated at \$1.4 million to \$2.4 million (Buescher et al., 2014, in 2011 dollars). Families here also wait years for public help. More than 198,000 Texans are waiting on Medicaid waiver interest lists, some as long as 18 years. Autism is lifelong, and the need for sustained support is lifelong as well.

Our Approach

Hope For Three bridges the gap between families and the providers who can help, through free, evidence-informed programs built around early intervention, caregiver support, safety, and long-term independence. Every program is delivered at no cost to families. A family who contacts us receives a response within one business day. By helping families reach appropriate care earlier, we reduce long-term dependence on crisis systems and public resources while strengthening outcomes for the child, the family, and the wider community.

FARS: Family Assistance and Resource Support (Flagship Program)

FARS is the heart of what we do. Hope For Three pays approved healthcare providers, therapists, and treatment facilities directly on behalf of qualifying families, so every dollar reaches care and never touches a family's hands. FARS funds the therapies and supports that change life outcomes, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), speech, occupational, and behavioral therapies, swim safety courses, social skills training, tuition, guardianship, and other autism-related services.

Since 2012, FARS has delivered more than \$2.1 million directly to providers. In FY2025, 159 families applied and we funded 56 children with \$103,642. Demand outpaced available funding by more than twelve to one. Awards are targeted, not general aid; they pay for the specific service a family cannot cover, at the moment care would otherwise stop. Every family and every caller receives no-cost, customized resource navigation connecting them to our vetted network of nearly 600 community providers, with one-on-one guidance through diagnosis, services, benefits, and referrals.

Our Reach and Impact

1 in 31 U.S. 8-year-olds identified with autism (CDC ADDM, 2025)	1 in 51 South Central Texas 8-year-olds identified, a sign of under-diagnosis (CDC ADDM, 2025)	975,191 Fort Bend County residents, the 8th largest county in Texas (2025)
\$2.1M+ Paid directly to providers for 950+ families since 2012 through FARS	56 children Funded in FY2025 from 159 applications, with \$103,642 paid directly to providers	13,000+ Family and community members reached each year across our programs and events

In FY2025, that annual reach included more than 1,200 unduplicated individuals served across all programs, more than 400 caregivers supported through education and peer networks, more than 350 resources and referrals issued, and more than 670 student volunteer service hours contributed to siblings and caregivers. Our 736 volunteers make that reach possible.

Sources: CDC Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network, 2025 (South Central Texas site); U.S. Census Bureau population estimates, 2025; Buescher et al., JAMA Pediatrics, 2014 (2011 dollars); Texas HHSC, Interest List Data, March 2026; Hope For Three records, FY2025 audited financials.

Family and Community Programs

Care changes a child's outcome. Community changes a family's life. No family should navigate the autism journey alone. Our programs surround them with people who understand.

1. **Teen Huddle.** Student-led volunteer program overseeing two initiatives: Sibling Sessions, where students mentor the siblings of autistic children through hands-on activities, and Caregivers Time Out, which gives caregivers 2-3 hours of respite while we entertain all children in the family.
2. **It's Cool to Care.** An interactive, in-school awareness program that teaches students, educators, nurses, and counselors to understand and include their autistic peers. To date, more than 20,000 individuals have been reached in K-12 schools across Fort Bend County and greater Houston.
3. **H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Parents Excel) and Caregiver Empowerment Sessions.** Online and in-person strategy sessions led by in-kind professionals, equipping caregivers with practical tools for advocacy, daily life, and long-term planning.
4. **Let's Get Together.** Four monthly peer-support gatherings tailored to specific groups: Autism Dad's Social Club, Ausome Moms United, Gal Gathering, and Autism Caregivers Around the Bend.
5. **Autism All Star.** Recognition program celebrating the achievements of autistic individuals, including our "Where Are They Now" series.
6. **Scholarships Program.** Three awards: The Finley Eugene Hibbeler Scholarship for a sibling of an autistic person, The Nina Saha Gupta Scholarship for an autistic individual entering a technical or trade school, community college, or university, and Teen Huddle scholarships for outgoing seniors.
7. **Blog.** Autism resources, tips, and practical information for every stage, from diagnosis through adulthood.
8. **Family Fun Experience.** A restorative camp experience at Texas-based camps, giving families a rare chance to rest, play, and reconnect together.
9. **Take Me Home & Project Lifesaver.** Safety partnerships with the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office since 2014, including Crisis Intervention Training, Take Me Home registration, and Project Lifesaver tracking for individuals at risk of wandering. More than 5,000 first responders have been trained to date.
10. **Community Partnerships.** Inclusive family outings and events delivered in partnership with local providers and community supporters such as the Space Cowboys. Each year, Hope For Three hosts four large annual events and approximately 35 smaller outreach efforts.

Impact in Action

1. **Children who moved into mainstream classrooms.** Families funded through FARS have transitioned children from intensive one-on-one ABA into mainstream public education.
2. **A first word at age nine.** A nonverbal child spoke her first words to her parent at age nine, after therapy her family could not have afforded alone.
3. **Care in days, not months.** Families who had spent months getting nowhere elsewhere accessed critical services within days of reaching Hope For Three.

Every gift moves a family, child, or loved one closer to the therapies and community that impact them for life.