

# The Homestead

[www.TheHomestead.org](http://www.TheHomestead.org)

*When it comes to autism, the numbers are clear:*

- Prevalence studies show that **1 in 88** children born today is expected to develop autism.
- According to the 2009-2010 report by the Iowa Education Association, there were over **4,000 students** with autism or displaying autism characteristics in Iowa.
- After a child impacted with autism becomes an adult, he or she could require a 24-hour residential program that costs taxpayers **\$320 to \$600 per day (\$116,800 to \$219,000 per year)**.
- The Harvard School of Public Health Journal projected the total cost of caring for a person with autism **over a lifetime can be as high as \$3.5 million**, which does not include the dramatic and emotional impact on the lives of the families experiencing autism.

*But The Homestead has some impressive numbers of its own:*

- Replicated research shows that Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) intervention—which is the core of The Homestead’s services—**may eliminate the symptoms of autism for more than 40-50% and alleviate the symptoms for up to 90% of those able to receive that treatment** when it is provided early and for an intensive number of hours.
- The Homestead is already **servicing hundreds of children with autism and is committed to servicing hundreds more** with new facilities across the state that will bring ABA to areas where it is desperately needed.
- Enabling a child to learn and become a productive member of his or her school and eventually, his or her community, often allows a stay-at-home parent to return to work. **This benefits the economy at the family, community, and state levels.**

*Here’s a number that would help us provide this essential service:*

- A **state appropriation** will provide essential funds that will help The Homestead carry out its ambitious plans to bring ABA services to children and families across Iowa.
- **This investment will quickly pay for itself** as more and more children and individuals with autism experience the dramatic gains made possible by ABA—gains that not only **save the state money over the long term**, but also allow these individuals to lead **more productive and fulfilling lives.**

