



MEDIA RELEASE

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NOVA RECEIVES \$25,000 GRANT FROM RAAB FOUNDATION TO EXPAND REACH OF ITS SHARE CURRICULUM

SHARE is a primary prevention program designed for neurodivergent youth

(BUCKS COUNTY, Pa.) –NOVA, Bucks County's comprehensive crime victim services agency, is pleased to announce that it has received a \$25,000 grant from the Norman Raab Foundation (www.raabfoundation.org) to be used to expand the reach of its evidence-based SHARE ([Smart Healthy Appropriate Relationship Education](http://SmartHealthyAppropriateRelationshipEducation)) curriculum throughout Bucks County. SHARE is a multisession primary prevention program designed for neurodivergent youth. It empowers young people to build healthy and fulfilling relationships by addressing important social issues such as boundaries, friendships, dating, consent, sexual violence, and safe practices with technology.

For young adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other neurodivergent conditions, SHARE provides tools to understand appropriate behaviors in public and within relationships—skills that strengthen employability and healthy relationships.

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SHARE also provides participants with skills and guidelines to safely navigate the digital world. Above all, SHARE helps reduce the risk of victimization, helping participants lead safer, more independent lives.

"We are deeply thankful to the Norman Raab Foundation for helping to make this work possible," stated Mary Worthington, Director of Prevention Education and Training, NOVA. "With their support, we are excited to see how SHARE continues to grow and evolve, reaching even more young people in the years ahead."

"The SHARE program's momentum and growth are a direct result of NOVA's Prevention Education and Training team," stated Penny Ettinger, Executive Director, NOVA. "We are grateful for the evidence-based foundation built under Mary Worthington's leadership and the continued dedication of High School Primary Prevention Coordinator Katie Sanford, Prevention Educator Tory Baram, and Personal Empowerment Program Educator Amanda Carter, who are carrying this important work forward."

"The Norman Raab Foundation is pleased to support NOVA in its efforts to empower neurodivergent youth to build healthy and fulfilling relationships and provide tools to

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help them understand appropriate behaviors," said Sara Raab McInerny, Executive Director. "We are continually impressed with NOVA's thoughtful design of curriculum for youth of all abilities. Programs like SHARE help neurodivergent students develop critical skills that strengthen their independence."

About NOVA

NOVA supports, counsels and empowers victims of sexual assault and other serious crimes in Bucks County and works to prevent and eliminate violence in society through advocacy, training, community education and prevention programs. Founded in 1974, NOVA is a non-profit 501(c)(3), community-based organization operating out of three offices in Fairless Hills, Jamison and Perkasie. Services are made possible through the financial support of federal, state and local government grants and contracts, corporations, foundations and private donations. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. For more information, visit www.NOVABucks.org.

About The Norman Raab Foundation

The Norman Raab Foundation was founded in 1968 by businessperson Norman Raab to promote active philanthropic giving by his descendants. The foundation supports organizations focused on education, health and research, and community-based human services. To learn more, visit: <https://www.raabfoundation.org>.

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Editor's Note: Interviews are available with NOVA and Norman Raab Foundation staff. To schedule an interview, please contact Debbie Goetz at dgoetz@dgmediaconnections.com or 215-630-5408.