

Achievements of HCAS

- The Society provides services to over 600 Howard County families and professionals annually.
- As part of its strategic plan, the Society has hired an Executive Director and opened the first county-based **Autism Resource Center**—a place where families and professionals can come for support, training, resources, and services.
- The Society's advocacy efforts have resulted in improvements to early intervention and special education services for children and youth with autism.
- The Howard County Public School System and the Society worked collaboratively to create a new intensive preschool program based on the Applied Verbal Behavior method of teaching children with autism.
- The Society was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Victims of Crime and has developed a training curriculum on autism for crime victim-serving professionals.
- The Society distributes a quarterly newsletter to families, educators, medical professionals, and service providers.
- The Society's website includes a resource guide for families receiving a new diagnosis or moving into Howard County. The website is visited by nearly 15,000 people throughout the year.
- The Society was awarded "Chapter of the Year" by the national Autism Society of America in 2007.

www.howard-autism.org



THE MISSION of the Howard County Autism Society is to serve individuals on the autism spectrum, their families, and their communities by:

- ♦ providing information, support, and advocacy;
- ♦ promoting awareness of autism that values the dignity and uniqueness of each individual;
- ♦ working to improve the quality and access to services and to educational opportunities.

All individuals on the autism spectrum have a contribution to make to their family, their community, and society at large. The Society supports meaningful participation and self-determination in all aspects of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

Howard County Autism Society



www.howard-autism.org

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Autism

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability. It is a neurological disorder, which presents itself in a variety of symptoms that affect individuals differently. Autism knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries.

People with autism typically have difficulties with communication, sensory input, and appropriate behaviors, as well as deficits in social understanding.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the prevalence of autism has risen to 1 in every 150 American children, and almost 1 in 94 boys. As many as 1.5 million persons nationwide.

Autism in Howard County

Howard County has the largest per capita population of children with autism in the state of Maryland. The state average is about 4% of the special education population; in Howard County over 8% of its special education population are children with autism. Autism affects nearly 450 children and youth and an unknown number of adults in Howard County.

Welcome from the Board of the Howard County Autism Society

At its heart, the Howard County Autism Society is an organization created, inspired and powered by loving parents helping their own children as well as others with autism find their place in this world. Our Board consists of a group of parents, brought together in their individual journeys through the world of autism.

There is a place for every person with autism in our world—a place of value and a place of worth. Much of the work undertaken by our organization is directed toward raising awareness and educating the general public about the complexities of autism. We believe that once people better understand autism, they are better able to welcome and support people living with autism into the greater community.

2009 Executive Board Members:

Beth Benevides Hill, *President*
Stephanie Maric, *Immediate Past President*
Cynthia Schwanz, *Vice President*
Patrick Boxall, *Treasurer*
Lori Krausz, *Secretary*

Executive Director:

Kim Manning
kim.manning@howard-autism.org

Email: info@howard-autism.org

Join Us!

- YES, I/We will support the Howard County Autism Society with the following donation:
- \$20 (annual membership)
 - \$50 (professional membership)
 - \$75
 - \$100
 - other \$ _____

The Howard County Autism Society gratefully acknowledges donors in its monthly newsletter. If you would prefer that your donation remain private, please check here.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is a check payable to the Howard County Autism Society. Amount: \$ _____

Please bill my Visa/Mastercard: \$ _____
Number _____
Exp Date _____
Name _____
Signature _____

Please return this form with payment to:
Howard County Autism Society
10280 Old Columbia Road, Suite 215
Columbia, MD 21046

[www.howard-autism.org/
hccasa/membership/membership.html](http://www.howard-autism.org/hccasa/membership/membership.html)