



HCAS Summer Pool Party

Howard County Autism Society members and their families enjoyed a funfilled evening among friends at the LifeTime Fitness outdoor pool on July 17.



Executive Kittleman Seeks Permanent Status for Transitioning Youth Commission

Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman has filed legislation to create two permanent county commissions - the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Holiday Commission and the Commission for Transitioning Students with Disabilities.

"Both of these commissions do important work for the County and requiring re-authorization every year makes no sense," Kittleman said. "The MLK Commission has existed for three decades. It's way past time to make it permanent. And the Transitioning Students Commission

EVENTS

13 AUG

[Sensory Friendly Showing of "Pete's Dragon"](#)

13 AUG

[Yoga for Children and Teens with Autism](#)

27 AUG

[Sensory Friendly Showing of "Pete's Dragon"](#)

27 AUG

[Yoga for Children and Teens with Autism](#)

10 SEPT

[Yoga for Children and Teens with Autism](#)

14 SEPT

[Transition and Adulthood Meeting with an Update from the Housing Committee](#)

**10th Annual One Step
Closer...Autism Walk & 5K Run
Saturday, Oct. 1**

time to make it permanent. And the Transitioning Students Commission - while relatively new - performs such an important function for youth with disabilities that I believe strongly in giving it permanent status as well."

Beth Benevides, who co-chairs the Commission for Transitioning Students with Disabilities with Dawson Robertson, Transition Program Head of the Howard County Public School System, said families of children with disabilities often face great uncertainty when planning for their children's futures.

"Our families often require greater coordination to prepare children for college, employment and participation in the community," said Benevides, a parent of a high school student with autism. "We are most grateful for Executive Kittleman's commitment to support students with disabilities through this legislation. Establishing a County Commission elevates our efforts to bring stakeholders together to address concerns facing transitioning youth with disabilities and their families and to create a roadmap for improvements in the transition process."

The Commission for Transitioning Students with Disabilities works to establish an effective, efficient and comprehensive delivery of services to meet the needs of county students with disabilities as they transition from high school to post-secondary education and employment.

[Read more.](#)

A Way to Help HCAS Supporter Sam Coyne Restore his Ellicott City Business

The devastating flooding that occurred on July 30 affected long-time HCAS supporter, Sam Coyne and his business, Craig Coyne Jewelers. Many of you may recall Sam was recognized as the Howard County Autism Society's 2014 Community Partner Award winner for the unique efforts he extended to partner with HCAS to raise both awareness and funds to support Howard County's autism community. Sam hosted several fundraising events in his Ellicott City store.



Sam Coyne designed a one-of-a-kind necklace featuring the autism puzzle piece as a fundraiser for HCAS.

In the aftermath of the devastation in Ellicott City, many are looking for a way to help. And while emotional support is great, at the end of the day, small business owners will be without income for longer than anyone wants to imagine. Please take the time to read some of [Sam's words on GoFundMe](#) about the flood and its aftermath.

Check Out the HCAS Lending Library

The Howard County Autism Society's resource center houses a collection of books, videos, and DVDs in its lending library. Members are invited to browse the shelves in person or download a PDF of the

[HCAS Lending Library inventory](#) for a list of materials available.



[Build Your Team Today](#)

News and Resources from the
SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS CENTER

[Starting a New IEP Advocacy Year: Back-to-School Tips](#)

Read Wrightslaw's back-to-school advocacy tips.

[Ensure a Smooth New School Year for Your Child with Special Needs](#)

Learn how to help your child navigate the stresses and uncertainties of a new school year.

[Download Back-to-School Letters](#)

Write a back-to-school introduction letter to your child's team. View and download examples.

Do you have questions about special education services and rights? We are here to help. Contact us at AskUsSpEdQuestions@howard-autism.org or 410-290-3466.

HCAS Perspectives
is Sponsored by

verbalLLC
beginnings
An Applied Behavior Analysis Group

Howard County
Autism Society

10280 Old Columbia Rd.

Columbia, MD 21046

Materials may be checked out for two weeks free of charge. Resources range from children's books and DVDs to memoirs and resource books, including law and self-development titles.

For more information, contact the HCAS Resource Center at info@howard-autism.org or 410-290-3466.

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