



HCAS Partners with Howard County Police to Enhance Recruit Training on Autism

HCAS families met with the Howard County Police Department's Academy Class 40 recruits during the annual winter pool party on Jan. 17 at Lifetime Fitness.

The recruits served pizza, greeted children, and spoke with parents about the best ways to interact with their children out in the community.



Police Chief Gary Gardner has tasked each academy class to identify and partner with a local organization to increase community policing efforts. Academy Class 40 selected HCAS. The winter pool party was the first of several social events in which recruits will meet families and learn about the many characteristics and abilities associated with autism spectrum disorders.

"The partnership with the police department has proven to be invaluable to our families," says Theresa Ballinger, HCAS president. "There's peace of mind in knowing that responding officers will have a basic understanding of autism and

EVENTS

18 FEB

[HCAS Monthly Meeting - Options and Alternatives with Supplements and Medications](#)

27 FEB

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

2 MAR

[Dad's Night Out at the Corner Stable](#)

10 MAR

[Asperger's Support Group Meeting](#)

12 MAR

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

12 MAR

[Fitness First at Lifetime Fitness, Members Only](#)

19 MAR

[Third Annual Transition Symposium](#)

News and Resources from the

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS CENTER

[Transition Planning: Setting Lifelong Goals](#)

Help your child make a successful transition from school to employment or further education.

[Six Tips to Make Sure Your Child Does not Get Lost in the Classroom](#)

Look beyond tests, homework, and projects to

how it may affect someone in an emergency situation."

[Read more.](#)

Executive Director Search

HCAS is seeking candidates for executive director. The executive director will be the voice and face of the organization and will guide the organizational systems and processes. The executive director will oversee all fundraising, grant writing, and community outreach, as well as program planning and evaluation, policy development and administration, personnel supervision, and fiscal management of the organization. Working closely with the board of directors, the executive director will lead and motivate both staff and volunteers to provide the highest quality of programs and services for HCAS members and partners.

View the [position description](#). For additional information or to send a resume, email info@howard-autism.org or call 410-290-3466.

Transition and Adulthood Committee

The HCAS Transition and Adulthood Committee addresses a growing need in the Howard County community: to provide education and advocacy for issues related to the transition from youth to adulthood. The committee focuses on issues affecting all aspects of lives of adults with autism from housing and transportation to employment and recreation as well as social and community inclusion and safety. The committee meets the second Wednesday of each month; guest speakers often attend to share knowledge and expertise. All are welcome.

The committee will host its [Third Annual Transition Symposium](#) on **March 19 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** This year's symposium is a collaborative effort between Howard County Department of Citizen Services, Howard County Recreation and Parks, HCPSS, Accessible Resources for Independence, and the Howard County Autism Society. Join us for this in-depth seminar on transition issues, which is offered free of cost to youth ages 16 - 26 years old. The cost for general registration is \$25 per person (\$35 per person after March 11). Space is limited, visit the [Third Annual Transition Symposium](#) website to register.

Want to be a sponsor or exhibitor? Email info@howard-autism.org or call 410-290-3466 for more information.

Special Needs Summer Camps

HCAS hosted a Special Needs Camp Fair in partnership with the Cedar Lane School on Feb. 1. Summer camp opportunities included day and sleep-away camps and ranged from horseback riding and nature camps to STEM and social skills camps. See the [2016 Special Needs Camp Fair booklet](#) for a

uncover your child's abilities and talents.

[Should Poor Organizational Skills be Accommodated in an IEP?](#)

Yes, providing a daily assignment list is a reasonable accommodation.

Do you have questions about special education services and rights? We are here to help. Email

AskUsSpecialEdQuestions@Howard-Autism.org or call 410-290-3466.



[Pieces of the Puzzle Gala](#)
[Registration is Open!](#)

HCAS Perspectives
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verbal LLC
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Autism Society**

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social skills camps. See the [2019 Special Needs Camp Fair Booklet](#) for a complete list of camps represented and contact information.