



A Vision for a Viable, Inclusive Housing Community

Local school system enrollment data show approximately 600 students with autism or other intellectual/developmental disabilities will be transitioning from Howard County high schools and into adulthood over the next five years.

Due to their poverty-level incomes, many adults with disabilities in Howard County and across the country are forced to live with aging parents and in less than ideal conditions. In response, the Howard County Autism Society (HCAS) Housing Committee spent nearly two years researching housing models from across the country to identify viable, supportive housing options.

On April 1, HCAS contracted with [Generations of Hope \(GOH\) Development Corp.](#) to conduct a feasibility study for its housing approach; a unique brand of integrative, innovative housing that is portable, replicable, and flexible to new or existing housing. In the GOH approach, people on the spectrum are not just housed and supported, but are of service to others in community such as older adults. This intentional neighboring concept would be the first of its kind in Maryland.

The feasibility study will culminate with a Discovery Workshop, a one-and-a-half-day meeting held in mid-September 2016. The Discovery Workshop is designed to achieve enhanced clarity around goals and a sharpened, albeit preliminary, assessment of housing feasibility. Key partners and experts such as agency leaders and architects will be invited to participate as appropriate.

Housing Committee members are grateful for HCAS's commitment to the effort and are attempting to match the remaining contract balance of \$15,000 through fundraising efforts on its [youcaring website](#). Donations from local businesses in the housing development community are also being sought. Please lend your support and outreach efforts to help the Housing Committee test this exciting, innovative, and groundbreaking initiative.

EVENTS

9 JUNE

[Asperger's Support Group Meeting](#)

11 June

[Sensory Friendly Showing of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows"](#)

11 June

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

15 JUNE

[Dad's Night Out at Bare Bones Grill and Brewery](#)

16 JUNE

[HCAS Monthly Meeting - LISS](#)

25 JUNE

[Sensory Friendly Showing of "Finding Dory"](#)

25 JUNE

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

9 JULY

[Sensory Friendly Showing of "The Secret Life of Pets"](#)

SAVE THE DATE

The Out-of-Sync Child Sensory Challenges and Sensible Solutions Workshop a Success

Carol Kranowitz, author of [The Out-of-Sync Child](#), spoke to a sold-out audience on May 14 at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center in Columbia. During the day-long workshop parents and professionals learned how sensory processing disorder affects children at home and school and how to recognize underlying sensory issues.

The workshop was sponsored by the Howard County Autism Society, Howard County Public School System, and Rise for Autism. The Corner Bakery donated box lunches for the event. Ms. Kranowitz donated the proceeds of her book sales to HCAS; over \$1000 in books were sold.

HCAS Congratulates the Graduates of Academy 40

Congratulations to the graduates of Academy 40. Thank you for [partnering](#) with the Howard County Autism Society (HCAS) and choosing HCAS as your community service project.



The class began last September as a class of 19. After 31 weeks of intensive training, eight recruits from the Howard County Police Department and one from the Frederick County Sheriff's Office began their law enforcement careers. They will now undergo 14 weeks of field training. As part of a community service project, the class also raised \$3,660 for HCAS and participated in several HCAS events with youths and their families.

HCAS Continues Search for Executive Director

The Howard County Autism Society (HCAS) is interviewing 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](#). Resumes can be submitted to info@howard-autism.org with the subject line: "ED Search." For



HCAS Summer Pool Party

July 17 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Life Time Fitness Columbia

Join HCAS families at LifeTime Fitness for our annual Summer Pool Party. We'll provide the pizza party, you provide the fun! Free to current HCAS members.

News and Resources from the SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS CENTER

[Extended School Year \(ESY\) 2016](#). See the list of HCPSS ESY programs, locations, and services provided.

[Strategies to Handle Anxiety with Your Child During the Summer](#). Summer brings downtime and unpredictability that can be challenging for our loved ones on the autism spectrum. Find out best practices for alleviating stress and anxiety over the summer months.

[Volunteering Opportunities for People With ASD](#). Volunteering in the community can give individuals with autism opportunities to practice social and life skills, build confidence and friendships, and more.

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

Email AskUsSpEdQuestions@howard-autism.org or call 410-290-3466.

HCAS Perspectives is Sponsored by

additional information, call the office at 410-290-3466.

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