



Join us for the 10th Annual One Step Closer Autism Walk and 5K Race

The Howard County Autism Society 10th annual autism walk and 5K running race, One Step Closer will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1, at Centennial Park in Ellicott City.

The event features a timed 5K run around Centennial Lake, a Lake Walk of the same distance and a shorter three-quarter mile Piece of Cake Walk. There will be children's activities, including face painting, princess and Star Wars costume performers, a moon bounce, and other inflatable games. A complimentary continental breakfast will be available for runners and walkers.

Event timeline
9 a.m. - Registration and packet pick up, complimentary breakfast
9:40 a.m. - Welcome and introductions
10 a.m. - Starting time for the 5K race participants
10:10 a.m. - Starting time for the walk participants
11:15 a.m. - Awards and closing remarks

Proceeds from the event support HCAS' programs and services for individuals on the spectrum, their families, and the local community.

Individuals on the Spectrum Screen Print Autism Walk/Run T-Shirts



Register online through Sept. 25. Same day registration is available on site.

EVENTS

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

29 SEPT
[Dad's Night Out](#)

1 OCT
[One Step Closer Autism Walk/5K Run](#)

5 OCT
[2016 Howard County Transition Fair](#)

8 OCT
[HCAS Social Groups](#)

8 OCT
[Sensory Friendly Movie "Storks"](#)

10 OCT
[Pathfinders for Autism Brown Bag: Socializing Safely in Cyberspace](#)

12 OCT
[HCAS Transition and Adult Support Group](#)

13 OCT
[HCAS Asperger's Support Group](#)

News and Resources from the **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS CENTER**

School 411
Now that the 2016-2017 HCPSS school year is underway, find out who to contact when extra support is needed.

[Important Contacts in Special Education](#)

[Regional Early Childhood Centers and Programs](#)

Individuals on the autism spectrum put their job skills to work screen printing 30 One Step Closer t-shirts for this year's walk/5K run. Screen printing is one of the job training skills offered at [My Life Learning Center](#) in Ellicott City.

Somnath Sengupta, founder of My Life Learning Center, explains the center's mission: "We are focused on entrepreneurial preparation for young adults with autism. The micro businesses created through this training program provide earning opportunities for these young adults."

The learning center will demonstrate the screen printing craft at an open house on Oct. 21 from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Arc of Howard County.

Q&A with Autism Walk/Run Star Wars Actor

The Star Wars actors are a mainstay at the One Step Closer Autism Walk/Run. For our 10th annual walk/run, the Howard County Autism Society is pleased to welcome back the costumed performers from the [Rebel Legion](#) and [501st Old Line Garrison](#).

Chris Harper, veteran performer, agreed to tell us more about the actors and their characters.



Star Wars costume performers are long-time supporters of the HCAS One Step Closer Walk/Run, delighting participants of all ages with their light saber shows.

Who are the performers? We have 15 performers who take on various roles as characters and behind the scenes support. All of our members are volunteers and have full-time jobs and families in addition to the time they generously give to rehearsals and performances.

Do you get to choose your character? Yes. And many of our performers have more than one character they can choose from depending on the show.

Where do you get the costumes? They are all custom creations. We rely on the talents of our members and trusted crafters around the world to bring our characters to life.

What types of events do you attend? We are dedicated to community and charity events. Our events range from something as large as Star Wars Day at the Washington Nationals to an intimate hospital visit to cheer up an ill child.

What reactions do you get from kids and adults to your performances? Star Wars resonates with all walks of life; it never ceases to amaze us. Darth Maul is a bit of a rock star--we frequently have crowds chanting for him. Everyone loves a bad guy. We also never ever tire of hearing, "That's a girl Jedi!"

[Regional Early Childhood Centers and Programs](#)
[Resource Teacher School by School Assignments](#)

[Behavior Specialists](#)

The recent [U.S. Department of Education Dear Colleague Letter](#) emphasizes the requirement that schools provide positive behavioral supports to students with disabilities who need them.

Do you have questions about special education services and rights? We are here to help. Call 410-290-3466 or email AskUsSpEdQuestions@howardautism.org.

[Pathfinders for Autism Announces Fall Brown Bag Series](#)

10 OCT

Socializing Safely in Cyberspace

Speaker: Drew Fidler, LCSW-C, Baltimore Child Abuse Center

7 NOV

Cyber Safety: Tips for Gaming and Socializing

Speaker: Vincent P. Culotta, Ph.D. ABN, NeuroBehavioral Associates

Seminars are free, but [registration is required](#). Workshops will be held at the HCAS Resource Center.

**HCAS Perspectives
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