Are You Autism Aware?

The Howard County Autism Society is promoting autism awareness and celebrating our loved ones on the autism spectrum every day in April.

We will be posting photos of groups and businesses in the community, holding a Howard County is Autism Aware sign. If you have a group who is autism aware, send your photo to info@howard-autism.org and we will feature it on the HCAS Facebook page during the month of April.

Send us your Howard County is Autism Aware photo and we’ll post it to the HCAS Facebook page.

We have a calendar full of activities for all ages and interests from shopping experiences and fitness classes to a preschool music and movement class and a parent-child group hike -- culminating with our 12th Annual Pieces of the Puzzle Western Gala.

4th Annual Transition Symposium a Success

The 2017 Transition Symposium, Stop Waiting, and Start Planning, included 105 attendees, 25 sponsors/exhibitors, 22 different workshops, and two plenary sessions on March 18 at Cedar Lane School.

The full-day conference was designed to increase knowledge.

EVENTS

APR 8
"The Baby Boss" Sensory Friendly Movie

APR 8
Yoga for Children and Teens with Autism

APR 13
Asperger's Support Group Meeting

APR 19
Music and Movement for Ages 3-8

APR 20
HCAS General Support Group Meeting

APR 22
"Smurfs" Sensory Friendly Movie

APR 22
Yoga for Children and Teens with Autism

APR 23
Fitness Class with Spirit Club

APR 27
Sensory Friendly Grocery Night at Giant

APR 27
Dad's Night Out at Pub Dog

APR 29
Parent and Child Group Hike

APR 29
12th Annual Pieces of the Puzzle Western Gala

APR 30
Fitness Class with Spirit Club
designed to increase knowledge, skills, and resources needed for a successful transition to post-high school employment, education, and independent living for youth ages 14 plus with disabilities. County Executive Allan Kittleman opened the symposium and Maryland Secretary of Disabilities Carol Beatty provided an update on state initiatives. Several of the speaker presentations are available on the [HCAS website](https://www.hcas.org).

The event is a collaborative effort of the Transition Outreach Partnership - the Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services, Howard County Recreation and Parks, Howard County Public School System, Accessible Resources for Independence, and the HCAS. We thank event sponsors and the Cedar Lane School staff for its support of the event.

Maryland Secretary of Disabilities Carol Beatty speaks to attendees.

Tracy Wright and Ken Cappone of People on the Go lead a session on self-advocacy.

Young adults take a cooking class with the staff of Accessible Resources for Independence.

The HCAS Resource Center is Moving

Beginning May 15, the HCAS Resource Center will be located at 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046.

The move will make better use of office space and resources. HCAS will be sharing space with 12 other nonprofits and the Howard County Housing Commission, part of the Association of Community Services program.

Meetings and events will be at the Old Columbia Rd. location through the end of May and will move to the new location beginning in June.

News and Resources from the SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS CENTER

***HCPSS Department of Special Education Spring Update***

Nancy FitzGerald and her team shared information on HCPSS data, assessments, new and ongoing initiatives, and more. See her presentation.

***Extended School Year (ESY) 2017***

HCPSS offers a continuum of ESY services. Find out the locations, target populations, and services provided for summer 2017.

***Reach Independence Through Self Employment (RISE)***

Self-employment is a vocational option for individuals with severe disabilities. Learn how the RISE Program facilitates and encourages the successful launch and operation of consumer-owned ventures.

Do you have questions about special education services and rights? We are here to help. Call 410-290-3466 or email [AskusSpEdquestions@howard-autism.org](mailto:AskusSpEdquestions@howard-autism.org).

**Howard County Autism Society**

10280 Old Columbia Rd.
Columbia, MD 21046
410-290-3466

info@howard-autism.org
4th Annual Transition Symposium

Sponsors

Symposium Level
Shared Horizons, Inc., Managing Pooled Special Needs Trusts for the National Capital Region

Partner Level
Howard County Commission on Disability Issues
Pathfinders for Autism
The Curran Knittle Group at Harbor Investment Advisory, LLC

Exhibitor Level
Abilities Network
Autism Society Baltimore-Chesapeake
First Maryland Disability Trust, Inc.
Howard Community College, Division of Continuing Education and Workforce Development
Hussman Center for Adults with Autism
Linwood Center
Maryland Center for Development Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger
Obyrne Law, LLC
Service Coordination, Inc.
The Arc of Howard County
The Shafer Center
Total Care Centers for Support Services

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