



Since 1993, the Howard County Autism Society has provided support for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), their families, and the community. Our parent-founded organization serves as a resource to over 2,000 individuals annually, including persons with ASD, families, professionals, and the greater community.

Theresa Ballinger, President, HCAS Board of Directors

New and Ongoing Partnerships and Initiatives in 2017

- Organized the 4th Annual Transition Symposium with the Howard County Transition Outreach Partnership, providing a full day of presenters and workshops on a wide variety of transition topics, including a youth track.
- Hosted a Special Needs Camp Fair, providing information on summer camp opportunities.
- Held our 12th Annual Pieces of the Puzzle Gala.
- Continued execution of the Family Advocacy and Parent Education (FAPE) Grant, offering assistance to those with questions and issues surrounding the school system.
- Hosted the FAPE conference co-sponsored by Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) and RISE for Autism.
- Held Brown Bag Series workshops in partnership with Pathfinders for Autism.
- Continued with updates to our Special Education News Center with information and articles pertinent to special education advocacy and support.



Hundreds of walkers, runners, volunteers, families, and supporters joined HCAS for its 11th Annual One Step Closer Autism Walk & 5K Run.

- Held meetings with HCPSS Department of Special Education and Student Services leadership to continue work on improving the services and opportunities for those on the spectrum.
- Continued "The Lions Den," a Best Buddies like program at Murray Hill Middle School and looking for opportunities to expand to other schools.
- Advocated for the implementation of the 10 recommendations from the Middle School Autism Workgroup Report.
- HCAS Education Committee members participated in strategic plan workgroups and were instrumental in the development of the HCPSS Special Education Strategic Plan.

New and Ongoing Partnerships and Initiatives *Continued*



In May 2017 HCAS moved to our new location, the Nonprofit Collaborative of Howard County.

- ➔ Provided a grant of \$1,200 to HCPSS to train a few SLPs in the use of PROMPT method.
- ➔ Met with HCPSS to express our support for maintaining the current Collaborative Funding Agreement.
- ➔ Provided posters to all HCPSS schools to help the school system promote Inclusive Schools Week, held across the country in Decem-



HCAS families started a Hike Club. Hikers enjoy meeting friends and exploring the outdoors.

ber 2017.

- ➔ Partnered with Community College of Baltimore County to expand the PATH Single Step program to the Catonsville Campus.
- ➔ Created an organizational strategic plan for 2017-2022.
- ➔ Hosted our first Community Connections intern at the HCAS office.

Summary of Programs and Services

- Monthly support group meetings for families
- Social outings for individuals and families that help prevent isolation
- Advice and support on special education issues and services in Howard County through consultations, workshops, and seminars
- Free phone consultations with Disability Rights Maryland, as needed
- Autism trainings for caregivers, businesses, government agencies, first responders, schools, and others
- Workshops for families and individuals with autism-related to lifespan topics
- Sensory-friendly events
- Exercise and fitness activities
- 9 1 1 Flagging System in partnership with first responders
- Advocacy, both locally and nationally

➔ Continued our work with HCPSS, Howard County Recreation and Parks, and Howard County Department of Citizens Services on the Transition Outreach Partnership to increase outreach, programming, and support of our children transitioning out of the school system in Howard County.

➔ Created a Housing Initiative Task Force to secure funding and support for the next phase of the project that will create an intergenerational, affordable housing model to serve individuals with disabilities, seniors and families in Howard County. During 2017, the project was selected as a finalist in the Changemaker Challenge competition sponsored by the Horizon Foundation and United Way of Central Maryland; was highlighted at the Howard County Community Foundation annual fall dinner; received a grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation; and was the topic of an article in the *Baltimore Sun/Howard County Times*.

➔ Co-sponsored the Howard County Legislative Breakfast with The Arc of Howard County and Coordinated Services.

➔ Participated in Developmental Disabilities Day in Annapolis with the Arc of Maryland and a "Day on the Hill" with the Autism Society of America.



We launched the Volunteer/Social Corps, a group for older teens and young adults with autism. The group meets monthly to volunteer in the community or socialize with the support of volunteers.

Thank You to Our 2017 Donors

\$5,000+

John and Kerry Benevides
Eric and Kate Cha
Community Foundation of Howard County
Dart Group II Foundation
Howard County (MD) Government
The John P. Hussman Foundation

\$1,500 - \$4,999

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Autism Society of America/
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\$500 - \$1,499

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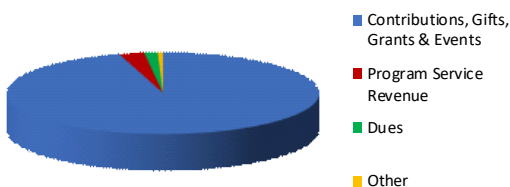
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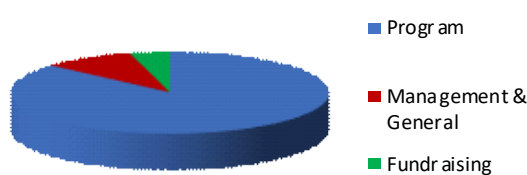
The Howard County Autism Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, donations to which are tax-deductible under section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. The Howard County Autism Society is an affiliate of the Autism Society of America. Our Federal tax identification number is 52-1857721.

2017 Financials

Income: \$297,549



Expenses: \$276,769



The Howard County Autism Society typically operates on a balanced budget and relies on the generosity of the community to support its programs and services.

2017 By the Numbers

2,000

individuals served

24
social
events



113 people
received 1:1
special education
assistance



460 participants



43 workshops, seminars,
support group meetings,
and trainings

Answered
350
phone calls

200
emails

713
people
attended



3,373
visits to the
Special Education
News Center

2017 Howard County Autism Society Board of Directors

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Patrick Boxall, *Vice President*

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Jenn May, *Secretary*

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About the Howard County Autism Society

The Howard County Autism Society serves individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), their families, and their communities by providing information, support, and advocacy; by promoting awareness of ASD that values the dignity and uniqueness of every individual; and by working to improve the quality of and access to services and to educational opportunities.

We believe there is a place for every person with ASD in our world, a place of value, and a place of worth. Much of our work is directed at raising awareness and educating the public about the complexities of ASD. Once people better understand ASD, they are better able to welcome and support people living with autism into our community.



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AUTISM SOCIETY

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