



HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY

2015 Annual Report

Providing Support | Promoting Awareness | Advocating for Change

Our programs and initiatives are possible because of a steadfast community of partners, supporters, board members, and volunteers who share our vision of improving the lives of individuals with autism and their families.

Theresa Ballinger, Current HCAS President



Top and Left: More than 550 walkers and runners participated in the 9th Annual One Step Closer Autism Walk and 5K Run.

Bottom: HCAS Social groups for young adults and teens teach social and life skills.



New and Ongoing Partnerships and Initiatives in 2015

- Established the Middle School Autism Workgroup, co-chaired by the Howard County Autism Society (HCAS) and the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), to evaluate issues and opportunities to improve the middle school experience for students with autism. The workgroup includes administrators, instructional facilitators, resource teachers, instructional team leaders, and parents.
- Held meetings with HCPSS Department of Special Education and Student Services (DSESS) leadership to continue work on improving the services and opportunities for those on the spectrum.
- Continued execution of our Family Advocacy and Parent Education (FAPE) Grant, offering assistance to those with questions and issues surrounding the school system.
- Updated our Special Education News Center with information and articles pertinent to special education advocacy and support.
- Expanded our social skills/opportunities program by adding an 11-15 age group. Both age groups (11-15; 16-23) met throughout 2015.
- Partnered with HCPSS, Howard County Recreation and Parks, and Howard County Department of Citizens Services to form the Transition Outreach Partnership with the goal to increase outreach, programming, and support of our children transitioning out of the school system in Howard County.
- Offered state-mandated autism training to new recruit classes of the Howard County Police Department.
- Through the work of our Housing Subcommittee, HCAS completed initial research into future housing solutions for those on the spectrum in Howard County.

A Few of the Activities Organized by HCAS in 2015

10th annual Pieces of the Puzzle Gala

9th Annual One Step Closer Autism Walk and 5K Run

2nd Annual Transition Symposium

Family pool parties and fitness activities

Annual special needs camp fair

Monthly support group meetings such as Asperger's Group, Transition and Adulthood Group, and general HCAS support group

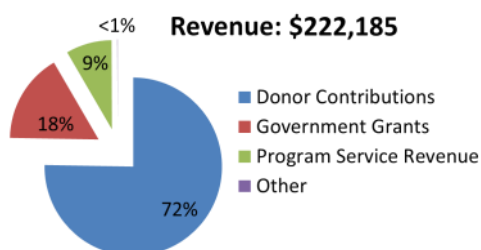
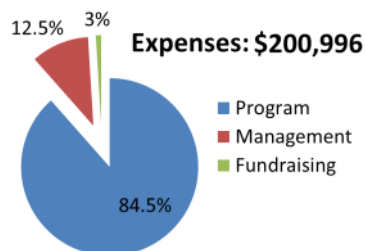
FAPE conference co-sponsored by Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) and RISE for Autism

Brown Bag Series workshops in partnership with Pathfinders for Autism



Guests enjoyed the Madri Gras theme at the 10th Annual Pieces of the Puzzle Gala.

2015 Financials



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. The net revenue in 2015, due primarily to lower than budgeted expenses, allowed us to achieve our financial stability goal of maintaining one year of operating funds available at all times.

2015 Howard County Autism Society Board of Directors

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Thank you to Our 2015 Donors

\$15,000+

Howard County Department of Finance
 The John P. Hussman Foundation

\$5,000-14,999

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 Rise for Autism, Inc.

\$2500-4999

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