



## **25+ ACHIEVEMENTS of the Howard County Autism Society 1993-2019**

1. Supporting individuals with ASD throughout the lifespan
2. Serving as a resource for families – parents, siblings, grandparents – caregivers, professionals and community members
3. Offering materials in both Spanish and Korean
4. Building ASD awareness and acceptance during Autism Awareness Month each April
5. Advocating both locally and nationally
6. Presenting educational workshops for families and individuals with ASD
7. Offering training for caregivers, businesses, government agencies, schools, 1<sup>st</sup> responders and others in the community
8. Sustaining a robust Family Advocacy and Parent Education Program (FAPE)
9. Nurturing and advancing a Special Education Advocacy and Partnership with the Howard County Public School System
10. Presenting Sensory-Friendly Santa and Easter Bunny events in partnership with the Mall of Columbia
11. Maintaining a Special Education Online News Center for families of children with all disabilities
12. Holding social outings year-round for Moms and Dads
13. Recognizing the important role of Siblings with special events designed just for them
14. Offering regular fitness activities – yoga and fitness classes, Fitness First nights, Hiking Club
15. Originating the now nation-wide AMC Theatres Sensory Friendly Movies in Columbia, MD in 2008
16. Hosting monthly support group meetings for parents and family members
17. Offering free advice and support on special education issues and services in Howard County through 1:1 consultations, workshops and seminars
18. Funding free phone consultations with Disability Rights Maryland when needed
19. Partnering with the Howard County Police Department to create the 911 Flagging Program that alerts 1<sup>st</sup> responders, before they even arrive, that the person involved has ASD
20. Championing an Annual Transition Symposium with other disabilities organizations to strengthen the focus on transition youth
21. Presenting 12 annual Autism Walk & 5K events and 13 annual Pieces of the Puzzle Galas to support our work
22. Hosting Social events through the year to prevent isolation -- picnics, pool parties, fitness events, family trips, potluck dinners, sibling events, trampoline nights, bowling events and more!
23. Moving forward with a Housing Initiative that will offer an innovative solution to the insufficient supply of affordable, accessible housing for adults with ASD and other disabilities.
24. Recognized by the Autism Society of America as Affiliate of the Year in 2007
25. Recipient of the 2016 Howard County Commission on Disability Issues Award
- 26. Recognized by the Autism Society of America as Affiliate of the Year in 2019**