

2019 Annual Report



2019 Autism Society of
America Affiliate of the Year



Howard County
Autism Society
Providing Support
Promoting Awareness
Advocating for Change

From the President

In many respects, 2019 was a year of highs for our organization. In July we received the honor of recognition by the Autism Society of America as the Affiliate of the Year, out of approximately 80 affiliates nationwide. This award is a reflection of the great work of our staff, board members, volunteers and members to advance our mission by providing support, promoting awareness, and advocating for positive change for our community. And, as demonstrated by the sampling of our activities and accomplishments in 2019, this year has been no different. We continue to be strong financially and organizationally, too. Thank you all for making this happen.



Madhu Thibaudeau, long-time volunteer, advocate, and staff member with Melissa Rosenberg, Executive Director.

At the same time, for our organization and many of us individually, 2019 will be defined by the passing of Madhu Thibaudeau in March. Madhu was a vital and vibrant “pillar” in our community for many years, as long-time HCAS member, volunteer, staff member, advocate, and much, much more. As I have said before, in many ways Madhu embodied everything that is good about HCAS. She demonstrated a remarkable commitment both to her own family’s journey with autism and to the journey of those in the HCAS family as a whole. We are glad to be able to celebrate Madhu’s memory with the creation of the Madhu Thibaudeau Family Fund and by permanently renaming our annual volunteer award in her honor.

With your participation and support, HCAS will continue to be a strong voice for our friends, family members, and the community at large. Thank you

Patrick Boxall, President, HCAS Board of Directors

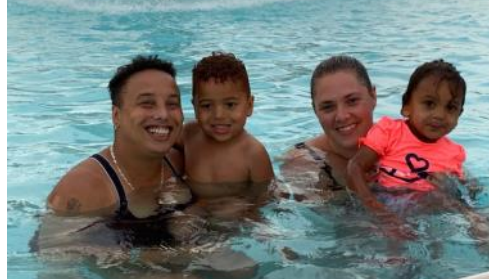
Programs at a Glance

- Free support for individuals with ASD and their families via phone, email, social media, or in-person visits
- Monthly support group meetings
- Social outings 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, if necessary
- 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/fitness activities
- 9 1 1 Flagging System in partnership with first responders
- Advocacy, both locally and nationally
- Patuxent Commons, our intergenerational housing initiative planned for Howard County

2019 — By the Numbers

4,293
served

177 hours of Family Navigator services



130
social events

606 Resource Center Consults

315 by phone

188 by email and social media

103 in-person

2,424
participants



146 received 1:1 special education assistance

Social Media Followers

2,500 Facebook

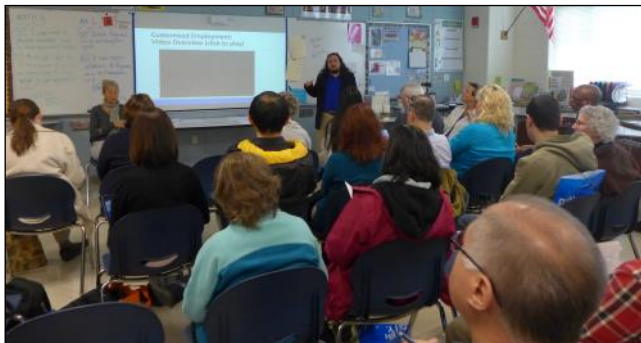
4,900 Twitter

659 Instagram



79
workshops, seminars, support group meetings, and trainings

1,263 attendees



Website Visitors, estimated

13,395 **3,210**

HCAS website

Special Education News Center

120,000+
community touchpoints annually

Providing Support

Social Events

- Mom's & Dad's Night Out Events
- Bi-weekly yoga classes for children and teens with ASD
- Fitness First Nights
- Semi-Annual Pool Parties
- Sensory Friendly Movies at AMC Columbia
- Fitness Classes for Teens with ASD who need assistance
- Monday Funday social group for Individuals with ASD Ages 16-23
- Adult Social Group formed for independent adults with ASD ages 24+
- New! A Women's Social Group
- Shine In Your Own Light Showcase, featuring performances and visual art by teens and young adults with ASD
- Annual Picnic and Pot-Luck Dinner
- Valentine's BINGO in partnership with Linwood Center

Support for Individuals, Families, and Professionals

- Offered 1:1 assistance through our Family Navigator to assist individuals and families needing additional supports.
- Presented a Special Needs Camp Fair to provide information on summer camp opportunities at Cedar Lane School.



The Monday Funday Social Group enjoyed the Holi-Festival of Colors in Clarksville with graduate OT students from Towson University.

- Hosted Monthly support group meetings – Asperger's Family Support Group, General Support Group, and a new Latino Parents Support Group.
- Offered a Monthly Speaker Series focusing on a variety of ASD-related topics including Autism & Mental Health, Respite Care options, ESY Services, Self-Care for Parents & Caregivers.
- Continued to provide Family Advocacy and Parent Education (FAPE) with the support of a generous grant from Howard County, MD. Funding enables HCAS to assist those with questions surrounding the school system.
- Posted updates to our Special Education News Center, information and articles pertinent to special education advocacy and support.



More than 700 walkers and runners participated in the 13th Annual One Step Closer Autism Walk & 5K Run.



Scott and Alisa Chernack at the Groovy 70s themed Pieces of the Puzzle Gala.



HCAS partnered with the Columbia Association to offer lifeguard training and establish MacGill's Common Pool as a sensory-friendly pool.

- Presented the 6th Annual Transition Symposium in partnership with the Howard County Transition Outreach Partnership, a full-day of presenters and workshops covering a variety of transition topics including a track for youth.
- Offered the Brown Bag Workshop Series in partnership with Pathfinders for Autism.
- Partnered with HCPSS Family Support Center to offer monthly Transition Parent-to-Parent meetings.
- Hosted Interns from both Community Connections and Project Search at the HCAS office.



HCAS consulted with the cast and crew of Reservoir High School's production of "Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time."

Promoting Awareness

- Hosted over 700 attendees at our 13th Annual One Step Closer Autism Walk & 5K Run.
- Distributed a bi-weekly eNewsletter to over 4,500 recipients, providing updates on activities, programs and workshops presented by HCAS and other organizations.
- Gave Presentations/Trainings to: McDaniel University Social Work Students, Crossroads Psychology staff, Robinson Nature Center Staff & Volunteers, Walter Reed, FDIC in Arlington, HCPSS local schools, Department of Defense, and the cast and crew of "Curious

Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" at Reservoir High School.

- Celebrated Autism Awareness Month in April with special presentations, recognitions and our "Photo Blitz" featuring members of the local community showing support for individuals with ASD.

Advocating for Change

- Held meetings with the Howard County Public School System's (HCPSS) Department of Special Education and Students Services leadership to continue work on improving services and opportunities for those with ASD.
- Participated on HCPSS Special Education Strategic Action Plan workgroups.
- Continued our work with the Howard County Transition Outreach Partnership, a coalition of eight cross-disability agencies and organizations, to increase outreach, programming and support of our youth transitioning from the school system into adulthood.
- Together with our HCAS Housing Task Force, moved the Patuxent Commons Housing Initiative forward with the selection of Mission First as its developer. Patuxent Commons is being designed as a community for people with and without disabilities that embodies values of diversity and inclusion in age, income, and ability.
- Participated in the 2019 Developmental Disabilities Day in Annapolis.
- Partnered with The Arc of Howard County and Service Coordination to host a Legislative Breakfast and discuss concerns of the disabilities community with elected officials – particularly concerns regarding the waiting list of the Maryland Autism Waiver and challenges in securing mental health services for youth and adults in the autism community.
- Participated in the National Autism Society Conference in Washington, DC, including a "Day on the Hill" to advocate for the needs of the individuals with ASD.



HCAS Board Member and Self-Advocate Matthew Plantz visited with Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford at Developmental Disabilities Day in Annapolis.

Thank You to Our 2019 Donors

The Howard County Autism Society expresses its sincere appreciation for the generous support of the individuals, businesses, and organizations who have contributed to its work on behalf of individuals with autism and their families.

\$5000 and Up

Kate & Eric Cha
Debbie & John Clutts
Community Foundation of Howard County
Dart Group II Foundation
Howard County (MD) Government
The John P. Hussman Foundation
Network for Good
United Way of Central Maryland

\$1,500 - \$4,999

Heidi Abdelhady & Mehdy Rahman
Autism Society of America/Hussman Foundation
BAF Group LLC / Donald M. Barrick
John & Kerry Benevides
John & Selena Benevides
Beyond the Badge Foundation
Linda Boit
Patrick & Lisa Boxall
Judith & Edwin Cohen Foundation
Kristen Detwiler
Elville and Associates
Harkins Builders, Inc. *
The Lisa Higgins-Hussman Foundation
The Horizon Foundation
McCabe Russell, PA
Lisa Olivieri
Melissa & Jim Rosenberg
Gene Ryan
Sabina & Michael Sambat
Heather Smyth
Bobby Syed
The Howard Hughes Corporation
Turf Valley Resort
Verbal Beginnings
Wegmans

\$500-\$1,499

A & G Management Co., Inc.
Stacy Aldrich
Beth Allen
America's Charities
Leslie Apgar
AutoStream Car Care
Theresa & Robert Ballinger
Pam & Steve Beck
Susan Bentivenga
Charlotte & Emil Bernhardt
Biegler & Waller LLC
Blunt Assessment Lab
Joanna Borowy
Boston Environmental & Contracting, Inc.
C. Thomas Jones, CPA
Carnegie Investment / Bryan Blackburn
Alisa & Scott Chernack
Chesapeake Employer's Insurance Company
Confidio LLC
Crafton Dental
Harinathrao Dacha
Christine Day
Carol & Richard Dean *
Charlene Depry
Linda Duvall
E. Class Personal Fitness / Efrain Larenas
ECHO of Northrup Grumman
Stephen Elville
Exelon Corporation Foundation
Kevin G. Fox
Fulton Bank
Tara Girch
Joyce Goodier
Janet Grove *
Guardian Life Insurance / Scott Hayes
Nora & Matthew Hart
Jonathan Hicks

Stacie Hung
 IBM Employee Services Center
 ICAT Logistics, Inc.
 Intellimar, Inc.
 Gabrielle Jacobson
 Maida Johnson
 Kennedy Krieger Institute
 Judy Kulawiak
 Michael Laric
 Kim LaRose
 Laurel Woods Elementary School
 LCA-Vision/Lasik Plus, Ohio
 The Legal Team of Long and Foster / Stephanie Maric
 Lewicky, O'Connor, Hunt & Meiser, LLC / Steven Lewicky
 Linwood Center
 Dawn Lucarelli
 Lisa Madden
 Kentmere Healthcare Consulting
 Jennifer & Chuck May
 Moseley Architects *
 Remy Nirschl
 Sriram Pemmaraju
 Lori Pfannenstein
 Charla & David Phillips
 Jane Plapinger
 Remedy Medical Dispensary
 Susan Robinson
 Jay Ross
 Sage Title Group
 R. Colfax Schnorf Jr. *

Mona & Deven Schroff
 Jenny Silva & Andrew Stettner
 SECU
 Mark Simons
 T. Rowe Price
 The Perfect Pour
 THRIVE Center for Emerging Young Adults
 Roger Thibaudeau, Jr.
 Trellis Services
 Cheri & Vincent Truett
 Maria & David Vershel
 Greg Wheeler
 Lisa Wilson
 Women's Giving Circle

In-Kind Donors

Columbia Presbyterian Church
 Howard County Recreation & Parks
 Howard Tech Advisors
 Jet Blue Airlines
 Market Impressions
 Brad Jobman
 Sharma & Associates

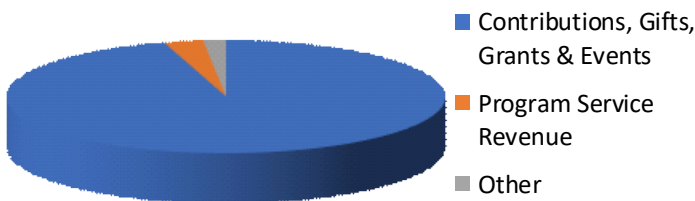
*Indicates donation to the HCAS Housing Initiative/
Patuxent Commons

The *Howard County Autism Society* is a 501(c)(3) non-profit 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.

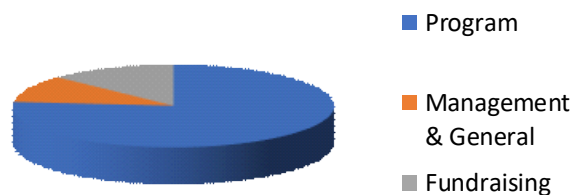
2019 Financials



Income: \$311,854



Expenses: \$269,777



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. Net income is added to the HCAS reserve fund to support future programming and operations.



The Autism Society of America named HCAS Affiliate of the Year in July 2019, recognizing the great work of staff, board members, volunteers, and members in advancing our mission.



The Howard County Council presented a special citation to HCAS for its recognition as the Autism Society of America's Affiliate of the Year.



About the Howard County Autism Society

The Howard County Autism Society serves individuals with autism, their families, and their communities by providing information, support, and advocacy; by promoting awareness of autism that values the dignity and uniqueness of each 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 autism 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 autism. Once people better understand autism, they are better able to welcome and support people living with autism into our community.

2019 Howard County Autism Society Board of Directors

- Patrick Boxall, *President*
- Donald M. Barrick, *Vice President*
- James W. Curran, III, *Treasurer*
- Jennifer May, *Secretary*
- Theresa Ballinger, *Immediate Past President*
- Alisa Kobrientz Chernack
- Bill Chevront
- Katie Gandy
- Nora Hart
- Victoria Martin
- Tracy Miller
- Erik Kristopher Myers
- Matthew Plantz
- Sabina Sambat
- Heather Stanley
- Mia Williams
- Lisa Wilson

Staff / Consultants

- Melissa Rosenberg, *Executive Director*
- Susanne Mason, *Resource Center & Event Coordinator*
- Beth Benevides, *1:1 Assistance, Special Education Inquiries Consultant*
- Mark Dunham, *Patuxent Commons*
- Dana Riley, *Bookkeeper*
- Sara Sommerville, *Special Education News Center*
- Michael Stromberg, *Family Navigator*



HOWARD COUNTY
AUTISM SOCIETY

NonProfit Collaborative of Howard County
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 308
Columbia, MD 21046

Phone : 410-290-3466
Fax : 410-290-5455

Email : info@howard-autism.org
www.howard-autism.org