

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 & 2021



HOWARD-AUTISM.ORG



FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Like other nonprofits across the nation, COVID-19 impacted our community and operations in many ways, from a marked increase in requests for supports to the cancellation of our annual gala.

We are proud of our organization's work to address the unique needs of the Autism community during that time. Beginning in March 2020, HCAS pivoted to take the majority of its supports for families, social connections for adults, and fitness opportunities to an online platform. We reworked our annual Every Step Counts Walk & 5K to include a virtual component in 2020 then gradually returned to more in-person options in 2021.

Throughout 2020-2021, HCAS sought to address needs as they arose, assisting families and individuals most in need with emergency funding, the most up-to-date resources, or just a willing ear.

We moved our *Patuxent Commons Housing Project* closer to making this unique, inclusive, affordable housing model a reality. The *Autism Hiring Program* launched in 2020 to advance workplace neurodiversity and connect businesses to an untapped workforce of skilled Autistic jobseekers not supported by existing systems. And we debuted our *Communication Board* project, helping non-speaking students play more freely on school and neighborhood playgrounds.

Of course, none of this could have happened without the backing of generous volunteers and supporters like you who stepped up to make sure that our work continued and that the Autism community was seen and sustained.

Thank you for making our work possible!


PATRICK BOXALL

HCAS BOARD PRESIDENT 2019-2021


MELISSA ROSENBERG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Above: In 2020, HCAS created a Cornhole Tournament fundraiser to replace its annual gala as a fun, outdoor alternative during the pandemic.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

Below is a comprehensive report on HCAS' activities during this time:

- 79 Workshops, Support Group Meetings and Trainings for 690 Attendees
- 195 Families Received 1:1 Special Education Assistance
- 200 Social and Fitness Events for 1,710 Participants
- 784 Information & Referral Contacts
- 5,650 Individuals Served
- 9,801 Social Media Followers
- \$10,000 in Emergency & Respite Grants for 40 Families & Individuals
- 63,969 Website Visitors



Above: In September 2020, HCAS dedicated the first of eight Communication Boards at Waverly Elementary School in Ellicott City, MD. The boards were designed to help students who use assistive technology play more inclusively on the playground. They were a gift from HCAS to the Howard County Public School System.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Below is a comprehensive report on HCAS' activities during this time:

- 79 Workshops, Support Group Meetings and Trainings for 2,275 Attendees
- 225 Families Received 1:1 Special Education Assistance
- 144 Social and Fitness Events for 536 Participants
- 495 Information & Referral Contacts
- 5,250 Individuals Served
- \$6,250 in Emergency & Respite Grants for 25 Individuals and Families
- 11,973 Social Media Followers
- 42,148 Website Visitors



FINANCIALS

The Howard County Autism Society strives to operate on a balanced budget and relies on the generosity of the community to support its programs and services. Revenue comes from sources that include grants, events, corporate and personal donations as well as workplace giving.

The organization maintains a healthy reserve fund and annual net income is added to that fund to support future programming and operations.

HCAS has a board-approved investment policy. Finances are overseen by the Board Treasurer, Executive Committee, and Executive Director. Quarterly statements are reviewed by the full Board of Directors.

Major supporters (\$10,000 and up) during 2020-2021 included: Community Foundation of Howard County, Howard County Government, The Hussman Foundation, The Merrill Family Foundation, and United Way of Central MD

2020

INCOME: \$357,322

Contributions, Gifts Grants & Events:	\$341,227
Program Service:	\$ 4,110
Other:	\$ 11,985

EXPENSES: \$278,209

Program:	\$210,383
Management & General Expense:	\$ 28,538
Fundraising:	\$ 39,288

2021

INCOME: \$448,956

Contributions, Gifts Grants & Events:	\$417,258
Program Service:	\$ 2,084
Other:	\$ 18,254

EXPENSES: \$320,670

Program:	\$239,177
Management & General Expense:	\$ 26,225
Fundraising:	\$ 55,268

HCAS BOARD & STAFF



On September 15, 2021, HCAS Board Member Erik Kristopher Myers passed away.

Erik's thoughtful input and involvement with a wide range of HCAS activities was much valued and appreciated. With his creativity and expertise in communication, he played a vital role in our outreach efforts, serving as a very capable "MC" for many of our headline events, helping strengthen our presence on social media, and telling the HCAS story. And, in particular, Erik's leadership in launching and sustaining our Adult Social Group was outstanding, and revealed his capacity to meet everyone in our community where they are.

In honor of Erik's unparalleled contribution to their group, the HCAS Adult Social Group renamed its 2021 Walk & 5K Team as "Erik's Army," and asked for the event to be dedicated in his memory.

2021 HCAS BOARD

Patrick Boxall
President

Donald M. Barrick
Vice President

Katie Gandy
Secretary

James W. Curran, III
Treasurer

Theresa Ballinger
Past President

Brad Bernstein

Jackie Robinson-Cooper

Nora Hart

Robin T. Kittleman

Marianne Martinson

Erik Myers

Catherine Pakulla

Matthew Plantz

Sabina Sambat

Andrew Stettner

Pamela Stiner

Jorge Tirigall

Mia Williams

Lisa Wilson

2021 HCAS STAFF

Beth Benevides
Special Education Consultant

Mark Dunham
Housing Consultant

Stacy Hurley
Family Navigator

Susanne Mason
Resource Center & Event Coordinator

Dana Riley
Bookkeeper

Virginia Rodino
Social Media

Melissa Rosenberg
Executive Director

Sara Sommerville
Special Education News Center Coordinator

ABOUT THE HOWARD COUNTY AUTISM SOCIETY: The mission of the Howard County Autism Society is to serve individuals on the autism spectrum, 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.