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!
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 2020, HCAS created a Cornhole Tournament fundraiser to replace its annual gala as a fun, outdoor alternative during the pandemic.
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
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: $341,227
  - Grants & Events: $4,110
  - Program Service: $11,985

- **Expenses:** $278,209
  - Program: $210,383
  - Management & General Expense: $28,538
  - Fundraising: $39,288

### 2021

- **Income:** $448,956
  - Contributions, Gifts: $417,258
  - Grants & Events: $2,084
  - Program Service: $18,254

- **Expenses:** $320,670
  - Program: $239,177
  - Management & General Expense: $26,225
  - Fundraising: $55,268
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.

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.