



2020 Year-End ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FY2020 October 2019-September 2020

PATHFINDERS FOR AUTISM works to support and improve the lives of individuals affected by autism through expansive, customized programming, and by providing resources, training, information and activities free of charge.

Wandering & Elopement Awareness • Prevention • Response



Wandering and Elopement Resources

PFA is one of 12 organizations across the country to be awarded the Dept. of Justice grant made available in response to Kevin and Avonte's Law that passed in 2018 to promote initiatives that reduce the risk of injury or death related to wandering. PFA will use this grant award to increase public awareness of missing persons with developmental disabilities, provide prevention and response information and training to caregivers, as well as first responders and school personnel across Maryland.



Celebrating 20 Years!

The year started off as a celebration of PFA's 20th Anniversary and recognizing 20 individuals and businesses/groups that have made a significant impact on our growth and development over the last 20 years. From developing programs to raising the funds needed to deliver them, the 20 for 20 honorees shaped who PFA is today and have laid an incredible foundation for the next 20.



Individuals

PFA Legacy Board Members:

Brad Donovan
Mike Ford
Becky Galli
Brian Mund
Rick Opfer
Alisa Rock

Bruce Schindler
B.J. Surhoff
Polly Surhoff
and in memory of
Linda Carter-Ferrier
Glenn Carr
Dr. Steven Czinn
Jennifer Gilbert

Dr. Rebecca Landa
Mary Beth Marsden
Deputy 1st Class Janelle Myers
Rebecca Rienzi
Dr. Maria Aurora Soriano
Dr. Abilia Tazanu
Jode Zito

Business/Group

Bob Davidson Ford Lincoln
Curran Knittle Group
of Harbor Investment
Advisors
Maryland State Police

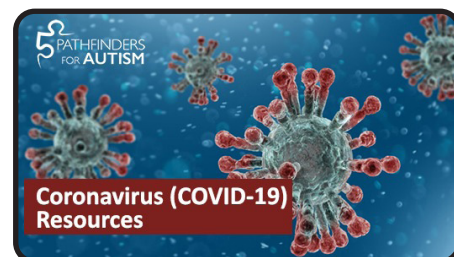
Media Star Promotions
Merritt Properties
Michael Phelps Swim
School
National Aquarium in
Baltimore

PFA Self-Advocate Training
Team: Eric Kane, Jake
Edwards, Dylan Moore,
Glenn Myers, Josh Smith
and Tom Whalen
Techtronic Industries

Just as our year of celebration was underway, COVID-19 shook the globe. Despite closures and cutbacks, PFA continued to serve Maryland's autism community. Using the creativity and boldness that carried us through our first 20 years, we saw the need, found solutions, and got the work done. Not only did all our programs continue, but for many we were able to expand our scope and reach.

COVID Webpage

When the pandemic hit, PFA quickly jumped into action by creating a COVID Resource Webpage to help our families. The page includes at-home activities, coping tips, education resources, social stories, virtual field trips, etc. In less than five months, the resource was accessed over 7,517 times and continues to serve as a valuable resource for families.



Service Numbers

19,382 Individuals served

5,820 **Resource Center contacts** – includes resource fairs (virtual and live), resource calls, e-mails and Facebook messages

10,812 **Recreational activities participants** – includes in-person events and newly defined COVID-inspired, fun-seeking alternatives to in-person recreation

2,750 **Training attendees** – parents, professionals, students, first responders and healthcare professionals

What the Community is Saying

“What a wonderful yoga session this afternoon. My son Gabe participated with the support of his sisters and, me/mom. He fully worked at every pose, laughed and enjoyed himself. His mood was clearly happier and lighter for the rest of the evening. We look forward to joining next month. Kudos to your instructor.”
~ Peace, Catherine G.

“It was fun for the whole family! Our family moved from Maryland to St. Lucia last summer and it was nice to still be connected and feel like we were part of something awesome! Well done guys!”
~ Stephanie V.

“I just wanted to reach out and share. Last Friday we had an incident involving an autistic boy who left his family's quarters, slept in the woods, and walked approximately 3 miles along Rte 175. Fortunately, based on training and information we have received (from Pathfinders), we were able to ask the right questions, develop the right plan, and identify the right methods to approach the boy to ensure we could reunite him with his family. We were able to locate him in less than two hours. I wanted to say thank you because what you provided us helped immensely.”
~ LTC Jeff Knudso, Fort Meade



Fundraising in the Time of COVID

2020 proved to be a challenging year to fundraise in person with COVID-19 cancellations. PFA Board and Staff quickly pivoted, and working with volunteers and our 20 for 20 Ambassadors, were

able to host a variety of virtual events. Donors and families stayed engaged online with our Facebook Dance Parties, BINGO, Scavenger Hunts, Trivia and an Auction – all of which raised over \$26,000!



Fall 2020 Events

We were busy fundraising in Fall 2020 with our 19th Annual Golf Tournament and 10th Annual Run Wild for Autism. Over 100 golfers enjoyed a rare in-person event sponsored by Bob Davidson Ford Lincoln and raised \$141,000.



Although Run Wild was virtual, it was not short on enthusiasm as the top team, Torny It Up raised over \$10,000. A special thank you to this year's Lion Sponsor, Behavioral Framework and a HUGE shout out to Rob Long, host of 105.7 The Fan, for serving as our 2020 Ambassador family. To celebrate our 20th



Anniversary in 2020 fashion, we took the party online with our UN-Gala and paid tribute to our many donors, partners and families that have shaped the success of PFA since our

inception. Over 400 participants joined our festive Zoomcast that included a Red-Carpet Preview, commercials, celebrity shout outs, live updates, an online auction, and Fund the Mission. In all, the event raised over \$275,000.