

PATHFINDERS FOR AUTISM • FY2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



FIVE PRIORITY ISSUE AREAS

- ✓ *Improve Early Detection & Effective Interventions*
- ✓ *Provide Timely, Accurate Information & Resources*
- ✓ *Improve the Number & Quality of Trained Professionals*
- ✓ *Expand & Increase Access to Lifespan Services*
- ✓ *Increase the Awareness & Understanding of ASD*



- 40,000 bookmarks were distributed through 187 public library branches participating in Pathfinders for Autism's statewide "Awareness Campaign" for National Autism Awareness Month in April.
- 4,500 individuals have signed up to receive Pathfinders for Autism's e-mail "News & Events", "Tips for Parents", and "Public Policy Alerts".
- 2,502 individuals were introduced to Pathfinders for Autism at more than 40 awareness raising events in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, Montgomery, Prince Georges, St. Mary's and Queen Anne's Counties and Baltimore City.
- 600 guests attended Pathfinders for Autism Free Family Fun Events at the Maryland Science Center and 10 sessions at Gymjam (locations in Eldersburg and Owings Mills).
- Due to the extreme generosity of Merritt Properties, LLC, in September 2008, Pathfinders moved into 2,600 square feet of donated state-of-the-art office space where we now offer a Walk-in Center, Resource Library, Playroom, and Training facilities.
- An average of 12,215 visitors per month used our website: www.pathfindersforautism.org
- 611 clients were personally served through telephone or e-mail inquiries through the Pathfinders for Autism Resource Center.
- Pathfinders on-line, searchable database now features over 1,000 listings of community service providers and vendors of products across the state.
- Pathfinders now offers in-house trainings featuring expert guest speakers on a variety of topics, such as Cyber-Bullying, Gluten & Casein Free Diet Interventions, and our new monthly Autism Spectrum Disorder Brown Bag Series for parents and professionals.
- 600 staff members from Maryland's Division of Rehabilitative Services (DORS) attended a five-part training series covering "best practices" in vocational rehabilitation, intake/assessment, job coaching, and supported employment for individuals with ASD.
- In partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics-Maryland Chapter, Pathfinders conducted six developmental screening trainings for 205 medical professionals representing 64 pediatric practices across the state.
- Pathfinders hosted its 8th Annual Golf Tournament – bringing our collective total raised through this event to more than \$1,000,000.
- In fall 2008, Pathfinders hosted "An Evening of Celebrity Fashion and Fun" with Michael Phelps, Katie Hoff, Brian Roberts, and other local celebrities which raised more than \$119,000.



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PATHFINDERS FOR AUTISM • TESTIMONIALS



“Without a doubt you guys have the most helpful information... thanks for the great work you do.”

“Wow...! Reading this article [“Let it Go, Let It Go, Let It Go”] was better than an hour with a therapist. It really hit home with me because I feel like I have permission now to “let it go”. Your articles do wonders for me. Thank you for this!”

– Mom of 7 year old son
with PDDNOS

“We really appreciate the e-mails and tips, finally we feel connected to someone who understands the whole child with autism, and the many situations of daily life that he perceives differently, from other children. Thank you.”

– Grandmother of 2 year
old boy with autism

“Thank you for your good and great work!”

– William Stillman, Autism Spectrum
Self-Advocate, Author, and Consultant



“You really get it!!! The part of your article about the cactus needles brought tears to my eyes. The part about the elevator buttons made me laugh. You really get it. You really understand. I have been hiding this ASD from people for so long. I have been so isolated. Thank you for being there.

Thank you for writing this.”

– An adult woman with autism

“I appreciate that when I call Pathfinders for Autism, whether I’m just looking for a resource or I’m calling in distress, I get a friendly voice and a person who really “gets it”.

– Anonymous

“This information you sent is wonderful! And want to thank you again for lending an ear when I needed it. “

– Mother of 37 year old
son with Asperger’s

“Wow! That really is a lot of options to consider! I would have never known about these resources! I will look into these to see what may be appropriate and beneficial!”

– Mother of college age
son with Asperger’s

“Pathfinders has allowed not only my child on the Spectrum but my typical children to enjoy and experience so many activities as a family. We appreciate every opportunity given to us.”

– Marlo Lemon, Mom of
Joshua, Matthew & Victoria

“Thank you for all of this wonderful information! Thank you for all of your time and assistance today, it was so wonderful speaking to you. You were such a huge help and you gave me more information in our 20 minute conversation than anyone has given me over the past year!”

– Mother of 3 year old son

“Thank you so much for your hard work and allowing us to go to the Aquarium on Sunday! We had a wonderful time. The kids really enjoyed it. I haven’t seen Elizabeth that connected in a long time. She wanted to see it all! We would never have been able to afford that trip. It was a wonderful outing for us. Thank you again!”

– Julie & Joe Polanin, parents
of twins with autism

“Thank you Pathfinders for a wonderful evening! My boys (both on the spectrum) said this was great because there were not too many people there and it was not “loud”. This made the evening not only enjoyable for the kids, but for the parents as well. I’m sure you are well aware that a simple day activity can be most challenging if things don’t go “as planned”. It seems that you all thought of everything to make it a most enjoyable time for everyone. Thank you again for a wonderful time!”

– Sharon Nobles, mother
of two sons with ASD



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