

FY2010



## PATHFINDERS FOR AUTISM FY2010 YEAR-END ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Celebrating 10 Years of Making a Difference in the lives  
of Individuals with Autism and their Families by:

- ✓ Providing personalized, accurate information and resources
- ✓ Offering training on pertinent topics to individuals, parents, and professionals
- ✓ Increasing awareness and understanding of Autism



► 337 guests

attended Pathfinders for Autism's Free Family Fun Events at the National Aquarium, the Michael Phelps Swim School, and the B&O Railroad.

**"If I could give you a hug through the phone I would!"**

— distraught mom of 12 year old son

**"Your kindness and patience with me did my heart well!"** This experience has been bittersweet. I have reached out and only been given the run around or response of "give us your email and we'll send you some information". You have been the only person to assist me with actual information and resources. You're an asset to Pathfinders for Autism, I truly appreciate your great assistance!" — Mother of 7 year old son

**"Thanks again for sharing with me the information regarding Pathfinders and the wonderful opportunities that your organization provides."** — Tressa M. Harris

► 964 clients

were personally served through telephone or e-mail inquiries through the Pathfinders for Autism Resource Center.

► 20,000 visitor

sessions per month (on average) to our website

[www.pathfindersforautism.org](http://www.pathfindersforautism.org)



**Brooke Poklemba,** Miss Maryland 2009 and Pathfinders' official spokesperson in 2010, addressed over 2,600 elementary school students about acceptance, understanding, and recognizing talents in everyone. The children were so excited to have a "princess" come to visit and share a positive message along with her vocal talents.

Pathfinders for Autism hosted **17 workshops** attended by **517 people**. Each workshop featured experts in the field presenting on a variety of relevant topics such as: vocational rehabilitation, behavioral interventions, special education, financial planning, dietary interventions, sensory processing, and more.

*"Thanks for this and all the information. And more importantly, thank you for caring."*  
— Renee Smoot



In partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics-Maryland Chapter, Pathfinders conducted **9 developmental screening trainings** for 203 medical professionals on the use of standardized screening tools at regular intervals to detect developmental delays, including autism.

Through a very generous grant from the WBAL Kids Campaign, Pathfinders offered **FREE** recreational opportunities, such as swimming lessons, music therapy, therapeutic riding, and gymnastics for **84 individuals** with autism.

*"I just wanted to let you know that my son started swim lessons a couple weeks ago.....and absolutely LOVES it!!!! He can hardly wait for Thursday nights. We spend so much time and money on therapies, and there isn't always the money for something that is "recreational".....it is so nice for him to have this opportunity to do something that is all about fun!!! Thank you so much."* — Michele Clune

**"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." — Heather Baginski

► **6,833** individuals were introduced to Pathfinders for Autism at more than 34 awareness raising events in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince Georges, St. Mary's, and Queen Anne's Counties, and Baltimore City.

*"Thank you Pathfinders, you're always such a life saver. I tell EVERY parent that I meet with about Pathfinders! You guys are the best!"* — Melanie Pinkett-Davis, Kennedy Krieger Institute, CARD Center



In fall 2010, Pathfinders hosted "An Evening of Celebrity Fashion and Fun" with MLB star pitcher Curt Schilling, former Ravens all star Qadry Ismail, Baltimore Oriole Brian Roberts, American Idol Finalist Michael Johns, veteran 98 Rock DJ Stash, WBAL TV anchor Marianne Banister and other local celebrities. 400 guests attended the event which raised more than **\$180,000.**



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