

FY2011 YEAR-END ACCOMPLISHMENTS



PATHFINDERS
FOR AUTISM

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



PATHFINDERS
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443.330.5341

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- ▶ Could my child have autism?
- ▶ We're newly diagnosed. Where do we begin?
- ▶ Calendar of Events
- ▶ Read Pathfinders' "Parent Tips" articles

Pathfinders launched a new website offering the only Autism by Age checklist in Maryland

"I am a regular user of the Pathfinders website and want to express my delight to you and whoever else may have worked on the design. **It is very user friendly and interactive, and I absolutely love the checklists under 'Autism By Age'.** As a case manager for the Autism Waiver and an outreach worker as well, I often refer families to the Pathfinders website for events in their neighborhoods, and now I can refer cold calls to look at the checklists for their children too. Thanks for all you and the staff at Pathfinders do; it is very much appreciated."

— Joanne M.

"Thank you very much again for your hard work (and expense) putting together yesterday's baseball outing. I had a great time, and hope we have another event like this in the foreseeable future."
— Jeff D.

"My husband, son, and I attended last night's event at the aquarium. We are members of the aquarium, and we go often because my three year old loves fish, sharks, and dolphins. We have never been so impressed as last night. The aquarium staff was great, and the Pathfinders staff were so friendly and helpful! The biggest delight was watching the faces of kids and adults alike light up because they were experiencing the aquarium for the first time, in the best environment possible. It was truly amazing. Thanks a million times for making my son's night, and I'm sure the nights of many others!"
— Heather F.



▶ 1,018 clients

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

▶ 3,230 individuals

were reached directly through awareness events such as resource fairs and presentations.

▶ Over 1,000 family members

attended Free Family Fun events across the state including visits to The National Aquarium in Baltimore, IronBird games, the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, and swim events in Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties.

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Pathfinders for Autism hosted **30 workshops** attended by **687 parents** and **professionals**.

Each workshop featured experts in the field presenting on a variety of relevant topics such as: behavioral issues, language processing, sensory integration, the transition years, co-existing conditions, self-advocacy, and sleep challenges.



In partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics-Maryland Chapter and Parents' Place of Maryland, Pathfinders supported **69 developmental screening trainings** for **305 medical professionals** on the use of standardized screening tools at regular intervals to detect developmental delays, including Autism.

Grassroots fundraisers such as Band Together for Autism and Longaberger Basket Bingo, along with events organized by The Main Street Tower Restaurant, Ravens Roosts #115 and #118, and others, helped raise **over \$50,000**.

"You guys do awesome things! Every time I read your newsletter, I am so pleased that there is a resource like Pathfinders available in MD. Too bad not every state has one. Especially as I read this holiday newsletter, with all the special sensitivity-awareness events, you guys are awesome! Just thought it was time to tell you."

—Jenny



Over **600 participants** attended our first Run Wild for Autism 5K at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore which raised **\$23,876**.

*"Congrats on hosting a wonderful event and for achieving such a fantastic turnout. It was a great idea and for my family in particular. We used to be Zoo Members and just haven't gotten down there this year so **we couldn't have asked for a better venue for your inaugural run/family fun walk**. It was especially gratifying since my daughter has been having some challenges recently and has only really started to return to her normal self on Friday. Getting out on a beautiful day for some family fun (and of course supporting a great cause) made for a very enjoyable morning. We look forward to future events." — Monty K.*



In 2011 Pathfinders teamed up with Denny's restaurants in Elkton, Edgewood and Westminster to make dining out even easier for families. Denny's hosted **15 nights** with special accommodations for families affected by Autism.



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