2014 was a year of expansion for Pathfinders for Autism (PFA). Our staff grew from five to seven employees with the addition of Data Specialist and Fund Development Associate positions. The need for growth was in response to our continued program expansion into all areas of the state and increasing demand for First Responder training.

10,565 individuals (across all 23 counties and Baltimore City) were reached directly through resource referrals, training, recreational opportunities, and awareness events.

Community Safety Program

PFA's community safety program continues to grow, offering first responder training, swim safety and safety kits that include a vehicle window cling to inform first responders that an occupant in the car may have autism. Throughout the state, 667 first responders were trained, including the Maryland State Police and Anne Arundel, Harford, Garrett, and Queen Anne’s Counties.

Through our scholarship program and partnership with the Michael Phelps Swim School, 31 children learned water safety and swim skills.

Vocational Training for Individuals with ASD

Pathfinders serves as a job training site for interns from Forbush High School. Our interns assist with many office tasks including data entry, supply inventory, order fulfillment, document shredding, cleaning, and other office management tasks.

Maryland Steps Closer to Meaningful Insurance Coverage for Autism Treatment

2014 was a critical year in the fight for meaningful insurance coverage for children with autism. Long-awaited regulations clarifying autism treatment, including Applied Behavior Analysis, under Maryland’s Habilitative Services Mandate were finalized in March. PFA’s efforts now focus on implementation of the law, to include the creation of state licensure for Board Certified Behavior Analysts.
FY14 by the Numbers

**1,297 CLIENTS**
were served through telephone, email, or social media inquiries through the Pathfinders for Autism Resource Center.

**5,105 INDIVIDUALS**
were reached directly through awareness events such as resource fairs and presentations.

**2,170 PARTICIPATED**
in our free family recreation opportunities such as visits to the National Aquarium and the Maryland Zoo; enjoying a baseball game with the Aberdeen IronBirds, Delmarva Shorebirds, Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, Bowie Baysox and the Frederick Keys; and getting active with the Downtown Sailing Center and Earth Treks Climbing Gym.

**1,295 PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS**
attended workshops, hosted by PFA and project partners, featuring experts in the field presenting on a variety of relevant topics.

**667 FIRST RESPONDERS**
were trained throughout the state, including the Maryland State Police and Anne Arundel, Harford, Garrett and Queen Anne’s Counties.

**31 CHILDREN**
learned water safety and swim skills through our scholarship program and partnership with the Michael Phelps Swim School.

What our Families are Saying

“I want to say a personal thank you to Trish and Neal. Since the first time you came to talk … you have opened my eyes and given me the comfort and security that there are others in my place and there is somewhere to go for help, questions, and advice!”

“…. personally thank you for everything that Pathfinders does for the autism community. My family has benefited in many ways from the services that you provide. Thanks so much!” - Cindy Russo

“Thank you (and all of the Pathfinders for Autism supporting staff) for offering this wonderful event. My son and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to visit the aquarium without the stress of worrying about big crowds. It felt like everyone in the building was one giant extended family where complete strangers were courteous to each other and it was so comforting to spend time without any fear of social judgment.”

“Thank you again so much, my son had an awesome time and so did we watching him soar...er, climb!!!” - Karyn Cornell Mitchell

“…. through your presentation, I discovered that every person/child with autism is as unique as everyone else. What makes one person tick may be completely different for the next person... Your tips on engaging a person with autism will be beneficial to all of our employees as we interact with autistic victims/witnesses.”

Terry A. Sullivan, Victim/Witness Coordinator, Harford County State’s Attorney Office

“Great presentation — very informative but presented in a real way. The information provided would definitely help determine not only how to proceed with an interview but how not to proceed as well. While you get the personal side of life with someone who has ASD, it was presented in such a professional open manner. I really appreciated the education!” - Tammy Fitzgerald

4th Annual Run Wild for Autism 5K
Teams ran wild at the Maryland Zoo, raising over $50,000.