HCPSS Family Ambassador Resource (FAR) program:

A <u>family-to-family support</u> network where families of children with disabilities can find community among themselves and connect with each other to share their experiences, supportive strategies and resources as they navigate the special education systems.

Each HCPSS Family Ambassador Below:

- Is a family member of a child with disabilities who is currently enrolled or has graduated from Howard County Public School System (HCPSS).
- Is a graduate of parent leadership and the Family-as-Host (FAH) model trainings that position families as experts in their own lives, with lived experience and expert knowledge and valuable school partners who contribute towards shared goals and successful outcomes.
- Serves as a <u>family-to-family support volunteer</u> who encourages parents to advocate for themselves without the need of a third party unless necessary.
- Is NOT a formal parent advocate in special education.

Angela Nichols

Family Ambassador Parent of a child with a disability Speaks English warnic6@gmail.com

Beth Benevides

Family Ambassador
Parent of a child with a disability
Speaks English
Elizabethbenevidesl@gmail.com

Bunmi Okikade

Family Ambassador
Parent of a child with a disability
Speaks English, Yoruba
bunmioludairo@yahoo.com

Colleen Cleveland

Family Ambassador
Parent of a child with a disability
Speaks English, French
colleen.c.spedgrowth@gmail.com

Heather Walker

Family Ambassador Parent of a child with a disability Speaks English breniswalker@gmail.com





Jackie Cooper

Family Ambassador Parent of a child with a disability Speaks English, French jackierobinsoncooper03@gmail.com

Jennifer Hu

Family Ambassador Parent of a child with a disability Speaks English, Chinese Mandarin jennifer.hu2015@gmail.com

Nichelle Paisant

Family Ambassador
Parent of a child with a disability
Speaks English
Nkpaisant@gmail.com

Sarah Sherry

Family Ambassador
Parent of a child with a disability
Speaks English
sarah@holdinggracewellness.com

Yvonne Hu-Cotto

Family Ambassador
Parent of a child with a disability
Speaks English, Chinese Mandarin
yhucotto@hotmail.com



Family Support Resources for Families

Connecting Families to Local Family Support Agencies and Services

Ann Scholz

Family Support & Resource Center <u>Howard County Public School System</u> Speaks English (410) 313-7161

Email: FSRC@hcpss.org

Amanda Mummert

Executive Director

<u>Down Syndrome Association of Maryland</u>

Speaks English
(410)-321-5434

Email: director@dsamd.org

Catalina Ramos

Resource Coordinator
<u>Autism Society of Maryland</u>
Speaks English, Spanish
(410)-290-3466

Email: Catalina.ramos@autismsocietymd.org

Kim Birnbaum

Parent Educator
The Parents' Place of Maryland
Speaks English
(410)-768-9100
Email: Kim@ppmd.org

Loleta Dixon

Family Peer Support Specialist Maryland Coalition of Families Speaks English (443) 878-6716 Email: Idixon@mdcoalition.org

Michele Green

Family Support Staff

Maryland Coalition of Families

Speaks English
(410)-730-8267

Email: mgreen@mdcoalition.org

Rosie Rivera Lily

Director of Equity and Engagement The Parents' Place of Maryland Speaks English, Spanish (410)-768-9100 Email: rosie@ppmd.org

Sara Sommerville

Resource Coordinator
<u>Autism Society of Maryland</u>
Speaks English
(443)-518-7680

Email: sara.sommerville@autismsocietymd.org

Resource Finder Program

Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities Phone: 1-800-390-3372; TTY 443-923-2645 Email: ResourceFinder@KennedyKrieger.org ResourceFinder.KennedyKrieger.org



The FAH & FAR project is supported by the Family Engagement grant from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services.





