### WE WELCOME YOU!

We hope you are being safe and aiming to create new connections

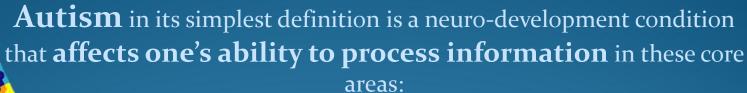


#### One World Center for Autism, Inc.

Linking those living with autism to their world







Social Interaction Communication Behaviors

Developmental Disability

Mental Health

# Life in its simplest form is a journey in processing information that gives us experiences and helps us create relationships

#### **Experiences:**

 Requires the ability to process our feelings and senses as it relates to events or interactions



### **Relationships:**

 Require the ability to process communication, social cues and behaviors in a reciprocal manner that is mutually beneficial to those involved



#### The HEART of the Matter.

Autism impacts one's ability to pursue experiences and build relationships in life ultimately affecting .....



the QUALITY OF LIFE for those affected and those who love and care for them **if they are not supported!** 

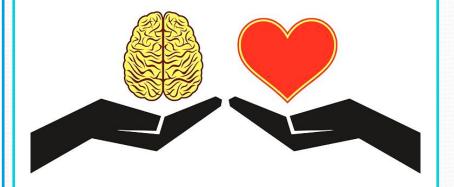
#### **CURRENT ADULT OUTCOMES ARE DISMAL**

#### Less involvement in

- Postsecondary Education
- 2. Gainful Employment
- 3. Independent Living
- 4. Community Integration and Meaningful Relationships
- 5. Supportive Community Based Programs

#### Greater risk for

- Poor Health: Emotional and Physical
- Compromised Safety



The path to adulthood is filled with the unknown for everyone, the difference for those with autism lies in the amount of OPPORTUNITY to LIVE and LOVE!

**Typical Path** 



**ASD** 





### Autism in Prince Georges County

Greater than 1900 children and youth in Prince Georges County with an ASD diagnosis

according to MSDE Special
Education Census

2% of Maryland Children are affected with ASD, given this prevalence there should be greater than 4,000 children and youth identified. This highlights challenges with diagnosis.

Prince Georges County has the second highest population of children and youth with autism in the state of Maryland according to the same census



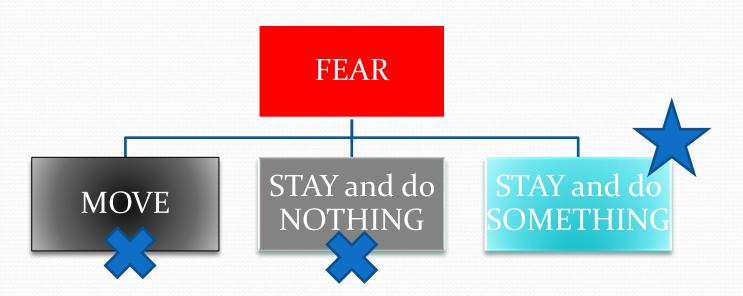
#### **TOP FIVE NEEDS**

- 1. Access to care
  - ✓ Diagnosis and referral
  - ✓ Needed therapies
- Global support for youth transitioning to adulthood
- 3. Access to childcare
  - ✓ Before and after school care
  - ✓ Respite care
- 4. Training and education for:
  - √ Families
  - ✓ School and childcare personnel
  - ✓ Healthcare Professionals
- 5. Adequate health insurance coverage and finances

2012 Focus Group conducted by OGPSHN and OWCA

"I hate to tell you, but Prince George's County is the worse county to have a child with autism"

Words of a developmental pediatrician shortly after the diagnosis of my first child with autism.



# That something was building relationships with other caregivers, educators and community members to create the

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- \*We care because we are the faces of autism. We are are parents, providers, and individuals who have a passion for helping those living with autism.
- \*We understand that autism is a unique developmental disability, that is not well understood and challenging to treat.
- \*We believe that there is HOPE for those living with autism, when there is access knowledge, support, and quality multi-disciplinary interventions.

### **OWCA History**

- Our organization started as a coalition of parents, medical providers, educators, and therapists who initially met in November of 2007. Our goal was to create an initiative to improve the lives of those diagnosed with autism.
- Our coalition was awarded a grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics to successfully plan a Center of Excellence for autism in our county in December 2007.



### **OWCA History**

- In 2008, we conducted needs assessments
- In 2009, we finalized the services and programs that we would develop for greater than 1100 at the time children, adolescents and their families affected by autism in Prince Georges County.
- In **2010**, we acquired our **first dedicated space** within a Prince George's County Public School.
- In 2017 we acquired our current dedicated space here at Forbes Blvd to expand services to meet the needs of those we serve



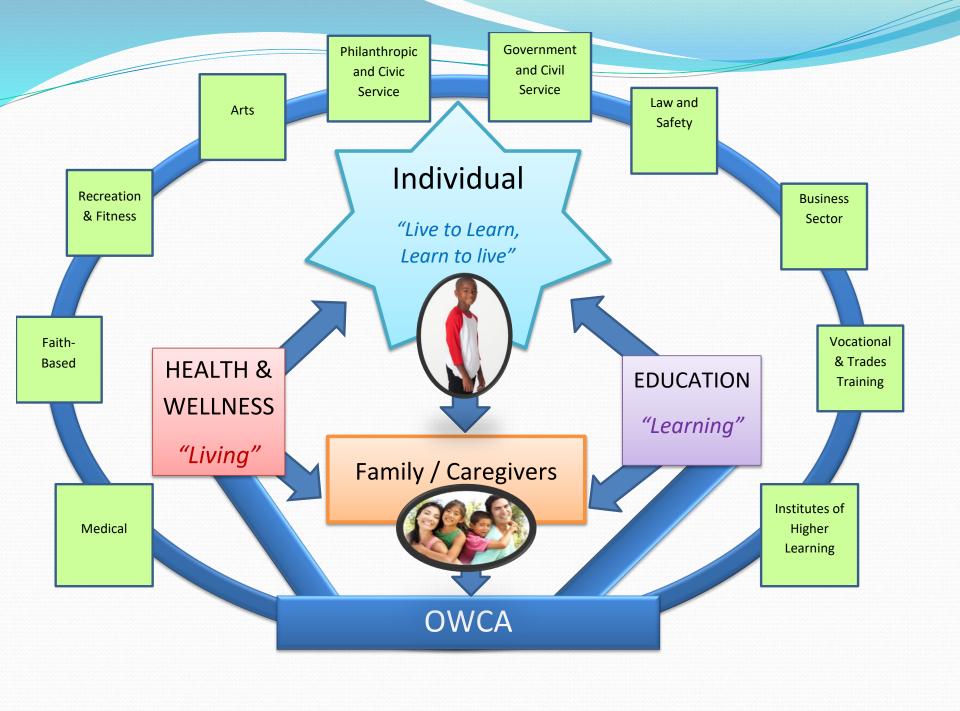
#### **OWCA's Vision**

Our VISION is to create a world of genuine acceptance where individuals and families living with autism realize their greatest sense of wellbeing and achieve their highest potential in their community!









#### **OWCA's Mission**

OWCA's mission is to link individuals living with autism in Prince Georges County and neighboring communities to their world in an all-embracing manner through the following services:

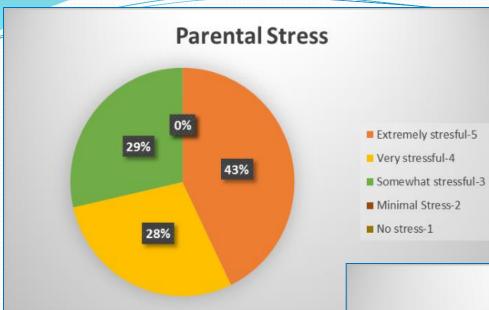


### **Family Support**

These services directly empower and support families living with autism and provide opportunities for meaningful participation in our community

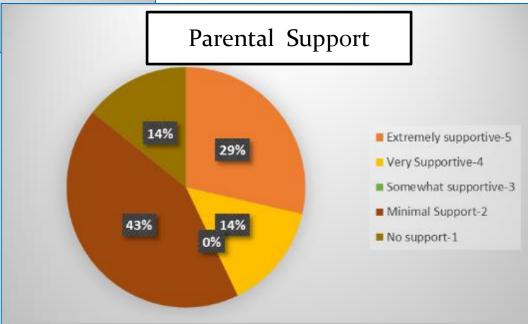












### **Current Family Support Services**

 SOAR Medical Family Guidance- assessing the challenges that a family identifies and working together in family- professional partnership to prioritize needs and provide supports and referrals to educational and community resources





Samuel Gonzalez

Edwinna Reed

### **Current Family Support Services**

# EMBRACE OURWORLD

- "Embrace Our World "Family Enrichment Workshops
  - Autism 101
  - GPS for SPED



### Caregiver Support – moving to virtual!





#### **One World Center for Autism's**



### **DADS 4 DADS**

Fathers and Male Caregivers
Support Group



### Respite- on hold

### OUR WORLD OUR TIME

Ages 3-13 years



**County Executive Grants** 





### **Individual Support Services**

These services directly empower children, adolescents and adults living with autism.

89% of parents of children and youth with autism mention concerns about development prior to 36 months of age, however the average age of diagnosis is 56 months which is a tremendous barrier to receiving life-changing early intervention

1<sup>st</sup> Step Identification

There are significant disparities in the diagnosis of minority children with autism when compared to their white peers in Maryland and nationally

#### **Prevalence by race**

1/63- White, Caucasian

1/81- African American

1/93- Non-white Hispanic, Latino



ONE WORLD CENTER FOR AUTISM, INC. Linking those living with autism to their world

Autism Spectrum Diagnostic and Medical Consultative Services

### **Individual Support Services**

#### **Primary Care Services**

#### Dr. Yulanda Swindell — One World Pediatrics



#### Dr. Yulanda Swindell

One World Pediatrics — making a world of difference for children and youth of all abilities!

#### **Available Hours:**

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mon Tues Thurs Fri On-call coverage other days We are pleased to welcome Dr. Yulanda Swindell as a primary care pediatrician for the One World Center for Autism (OWCA). As one of our founding members and a longstanding board member, Dr. Swindell is no stranger to OWCA. However, in her current role she greatly expands our capacity to serve you. Children of all abilities can now receive health care at OWCA. Services include well child visits, sick/urgent care visits, developmental screenings/consultations, emotional and behavioral health screenings/consultations, immunizations, and care coordination.

Dr. Swindell comes to us as a strong children's advocate with more than 25 years of pediatric experience. Her approach is collaborative, child-centered, and family-focused. She has a special interest in children with exceptional needs, and as a bilingual practitioner, she is wellequipped to serve the English and Spanish-speaking communities in Prince George's County.

Prior to joining the OWCA team Dr. Swindell served as a pediatrician at Riverdale Park Pediatrics, a Spanish-speaking private practice. She was also a primary care pediatrician with Kaiser Permanente and later Board of Child Care. She has also served in student health at the University of Maryland, community medicine with Greater Baden Medical Services, Inc., and in group medicine with Potomac Physician's Associates in Annapolis, Maryland. Dr. Swindell earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from Howard University College of Medicine in 1994 and completed her pediatric residency training at Children's National Medical Center in 1997.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Step Support





### 3rd Step Enrichment- transitioning to Virtual



#### Let's Move Fitness Classes!

Special-Needs Fitness Enrichment!









### Community Outreach and Awareness Services

 These services provide educational outreach to our community to foster greater awareness and understanding of autism as well as the challenges faced by fellow residents living with this disorder.



### Current Community Outreach and Awareness Services

• "Autism 101 Community" Trainings

• Prince Georges County Special-needs
Identification Physician Support Program
(PGCSNIPS)- healthcare provider training in
regard to the early developmental and autism
screenings and the support of children and youth
with special healthcare needs in the medical home

• Prince George's County Professional & Community Outreach Program for Children and Youth with Developmental Differences – revised the above program to include Childcare Providers, Behavioral/ Mental Health Providers and Educators -thanks to continued support of the Prince George's County Health Department



### Our TRUE (Qualitative) Impact

- Identification
- Stress Relief
- Support and Linkages
- Enrichment and Education



## **HOPE** and Resilience!



A safe space that provides a weekly dose of simple TLC- Thoughtful Learning and Connections!

# Thank you!

"NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS." -MARGARET MEAD