

SUMMARY 2018



Honestly Autism Day

THE
Partnership
Project

 **AUTISM SOCIETY**
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Baltimore-Chesapeake

 **TOWSON UNIVERSITY™**



SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH

Red Lion Hotel North Baltimore

2004 Greenspring Drive, Timonium, MD 21093

HONESTLY AUTISM DAY 2018



ABOUT

Honestly Autism Day is a day devoted to understanding autism and is presented by the Partnership Project, which is a collaboration between the **Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake**, the **Baltimore County Public Schools' Office of Special Education**, and the **Department of Special Education at Towson University**. It is held in April to celebrate Autism Awareness month. Parents, family members, professionals and people with autism come together to listen, ask questions and learn from each other.

Experienced speakers share their knowledge of vast topics related to autism and individuals with autism give open and honest insight into their lives on the autism spectrum. It is a positive, uplifting day filled with revelations and shared ideas.

THE HEART OF IT

When planning we come from a place of generous abundance, planning to bring the best to our community and then making it happen. By adhering to the underlying theme of presuming competence and highlighting the gifts of the autistic community, while never shying from or apologizing for the honesty; we create an atmosphere where perspectives can and do change. It is our ultimate goal to inspire and to generate the goosebumps and the passion that is necessary for creating a world of opportunities, acceptance and meaningful change.

**THIS YEAR WE ADDED A SPECIAL THEME
"DREAM BIG"**



HONESTLY AUTISM DAY



HAD 2018

the numbers

Registered Attendees 2018 - 405

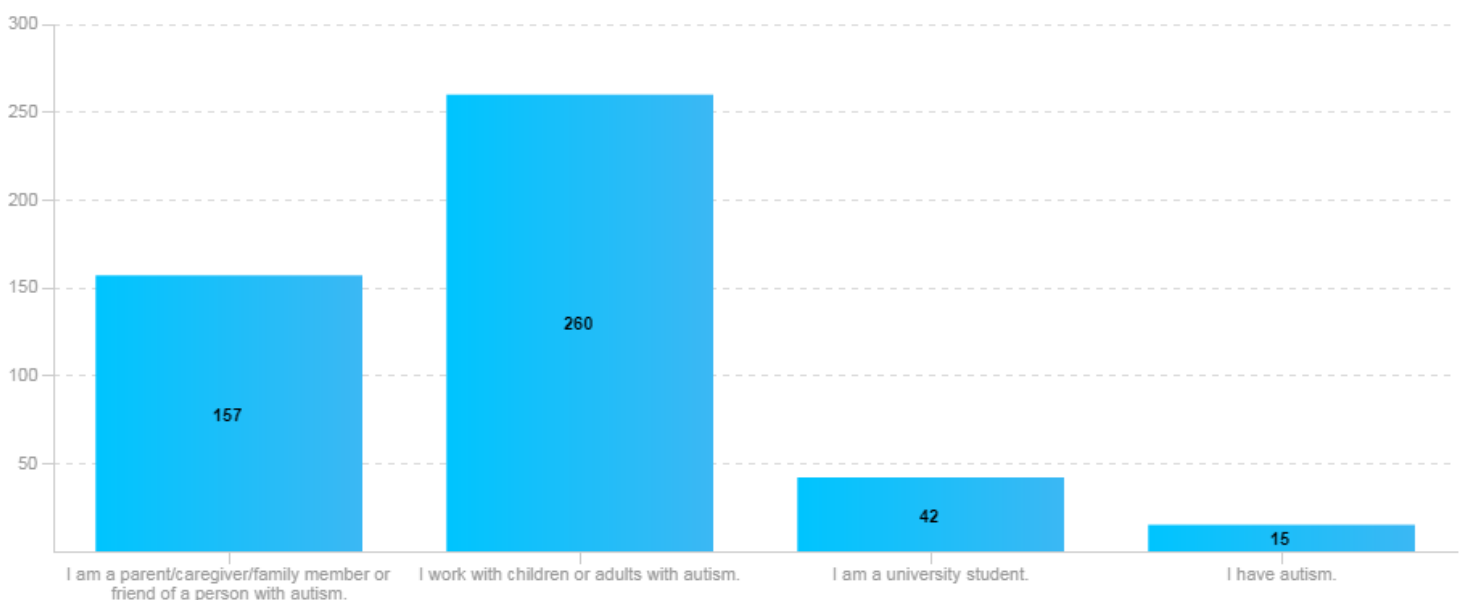
Volunteers - 66 (mostly TU Special Education Undergrads)

Vendors/Exhibitors - 45 organizations

Breakdown of Attendees



Check all that apply.



Total in breakdown is higher than number of attendees because they were asked to choose all that apply.



CHASE & MARY BAILEY

Chase Bailey is the host and co-creator of the YouTube cooking show Chase 'N Yur Face. He also happens to be a teenager with autism whose mother was told when Chase was a toddler that he might not be able to speak or take care of himself. But Chase is proving the nay-sayers wrong! Not only is Chase hosting his own cooking show with prominent chefs and celebrity foodies as his guests, he has also been featured in GE's Our American Kitchen series and a GE commercial; appeared in magazines and local, national, and international newspapers; and made TV appearances on The Chew, and The Meredith Vieira Show.

In addition to pursuing his ambitions in the culinary and entertainment industries, it is especially important to Chase that he inspire and tangibly support others who need help achieving their own dreams. So Chase's endeavors also include establishing his Chase Yur Dreams Foundation (CYDF), to provide resources and opportunities for those on the autism spectrum who are working toward independent living. With this goal in mind, Chase is donating a portion of all proceeds from his cookbook to CYDF. Chase believes that, "We're ALL doing life with a little bit of help. We all have dreams, and need help fulfilling those dreams. And when you have a dream in your heart, you must chase it!"

ALIX GENEROUS

Alix Generous (born 1992) is a mental health activist, speaker, and writer. Her TED talk "My Inner Life..." has received over 1.6 million views. Her works have been featured on NPR, Bloomberg Businessweek, TEDx, and the Sydney Opera House. Through high impact media, comedy, and clinical expertise, she advocates on a wide range of issues concerning mental and developmental disabilities. She grew up in Washington DC. In 2016, She graduated from the College of Charleston & The University of Vermont where she studied Psychology, Molecular Biology, and Neuroscience. As a mental health advocate, she has successfully consulted families, companies, and academic institutions and points them towards resources and values that improve the status of disabled individuals. She has spoken all over the world, from the Sydney Opera House to Budapest, Hungary stressing the importance of mental diversity. As a writer, she works with several companies writing guest blogs and articles that increase awareness on issues concerning disability rights. She lives in Los Angeles.

LINDA HODGDON

is a Speech-Language Pathologist who is internationally known as a pioneer in developing the use of visual strategies to support communication for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders and related learning needs. Her training programs are packed with best-practices and effective ideas for using a range of low tech to high tech visual tools, including video and tablets like iPads and Apps, to meet the communication, behavior and social needs of these students.

A powerful and entertaining presenter, Linda shares practical information that inspires program participants to accomplish new goals with students immediately.

Linda is the author of Visual Strategies for Improving Communication and Solving Behavior Problems in Autism. Considered essential resources for professionals and parents, these are two of the most recommended books in the field. She provides support for Speech-Language Pathologists, educators and parents of students with special learning needs with her online blog and video training materials.



Flame is a group of musicians with powerful vocals, smooth harmonies and a rich array of instruments, the 10-person cover band from Gloversville, NY happens to have disabilities. The lead singer has autism.

Named for the Special Olympics torch, Flame was born at a 2003 talent show put on by Lexington, an agency that supports people with developmental disabilities. Like many bands, Flame started small as a recreational band within the agency and gradually gained momentum outside of Lexington.

Today, Flame is known and celebrated worldwide for their music and inspirational message.

Flame's mission is to change the world through music.

A segment about Flame aired on Good Morning America in 2009 and People magazine ran a two-page spread about them in October 2010. They have performed at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the House of Blues in Cleveland, Ohio; New York's Apollo Theater; Harvard Law School; the Parthenon in Athens, Greece and; the 2009 Special Olympics. Lead Singer Michelle King even sang at the funeral of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the Special Olympics. Most recently Flame performed in Carpi, Italy for the 19th Annual International Festival for Different Abilities.

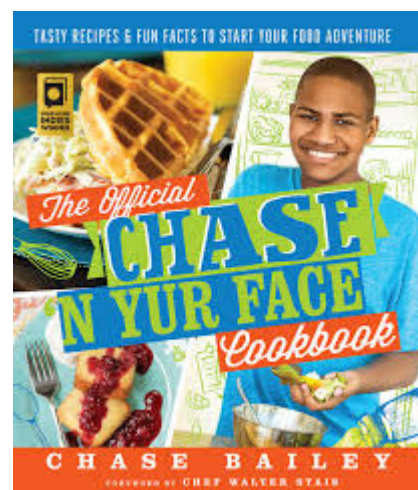
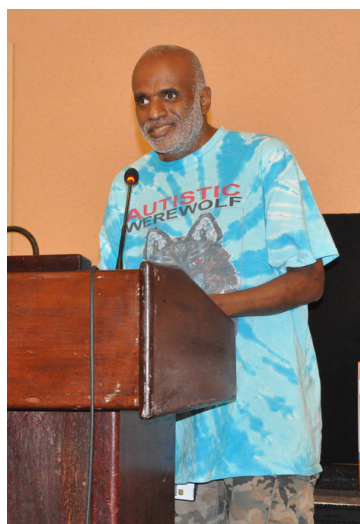


**FLAME
Rocked
HAD 2018!**



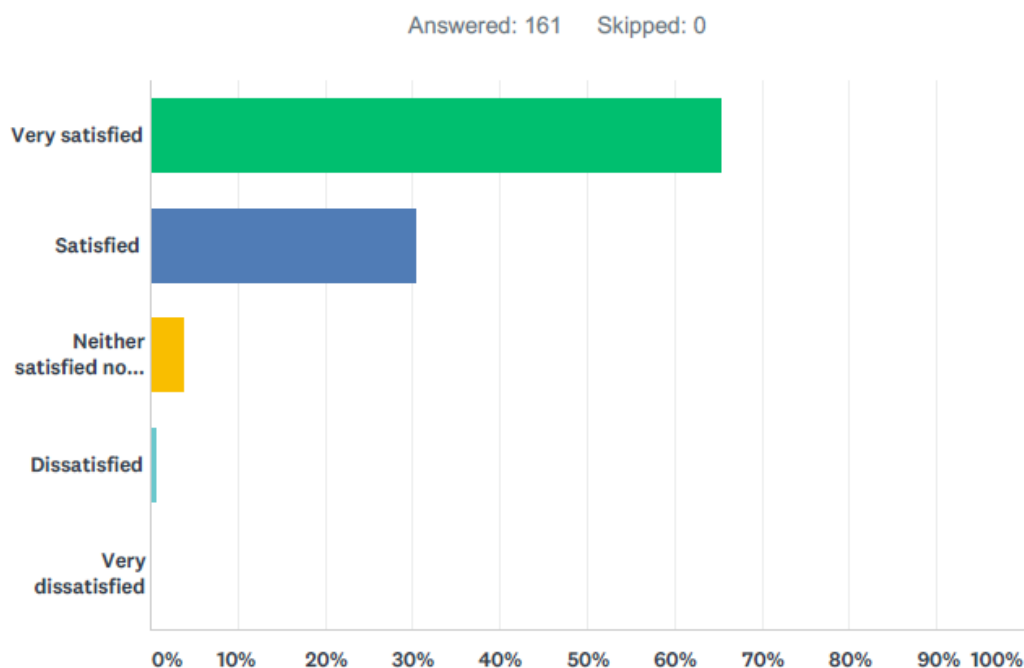


- **A RESOURCE FAIR!** 45 exhibitors/vendors shared autism related resources, products, books and information with the attendees.
- **PAT ON THE BACK AWARD** Slide Show- Individuals have the opportunity throughout the year to honor people in the community who do the big and seemingly small things that make a huge difference in their lives. We honor these individuals at the start of every Honestly Autism Day; opening the event with gratitude.
- **EXPRESS YOURSELF CONTEST** – individuals submitted essays and artwork to share their understanding and experiences. We had 6 winners: 4 Self Advocates, 1 Parent and 1 Sibling who all read their essays. Steven Macalester presented his video explaining the difference between person-first and identity-first language during the morning general session.
- **SCHOLARSHIPS!** The cost of the conference was \$50 and included the full day conference, breakfast, lunch and a cookie break. Scholarships were available to those for whom this cost is a hardship. This conference is not a fundraiser. The cost to participants is offset by donations, grants, and sponsorships. This year we gave out **over 100** scholarships!
- **THE LAVONNYA GARDNER AWARD FOR AUTISM ACCEPTANCE & ADVOCACY** was awarded to **Zosia Zaks** for his contributions to the autism community.
- **EVERY ATTENDEE RECEIVED KEYNOTE SPEAKER, CHASE BAILEY'S, INSPIRATIONAL COOKBOOK!**

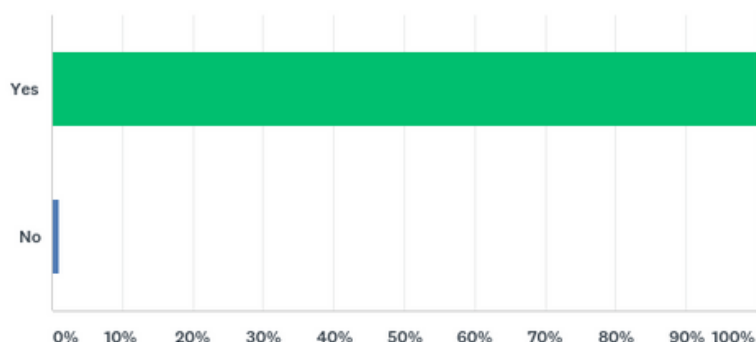




Q1 Overall, were you satisfied or dissatisfied with Honestly Autism Day 2018?



Q7 Would you recommend Honestly Autism Day to others?



More feedback from our online and paper survey available upon request.



Breakout #1

Choose 1

1. Re-defining Your World to Create a Fulfilling Life for You and Your Family
2. Getting Started with Visual Strategies for Autism: 7 Essentials for Every Classroom or Home
3. Ask the Autistic Werewolf: Autism Insight
4. The Life of Alix Generous
5. Supporting Social Skills Through Accessible Technology
6. Anxiety & Behavior: Both Sides of the Story
7. Sex on the Spectrum: Teaching Health, Relationships, and Sexuality
8. Pre-Employment Skills and Transition Strategies for Students & Young Adults with ASD
9. Language Fun in the "LAB"



Breakout #2

Choose 1

10. Solving Social & Behavior Problems in Autism: Using Visual Strategies for Communication Success
11. Dream Big: Intentional Planning for a Positive & Purposeful Life
12. Successful Autistic Adults are the Work of a Lifetime!
13. Promoting a Sense of Belonging within Our Schools
14. Thinking and Language for Anxiety, Autism, and Everyone
15. Employment Preparation: Teaching Your Child to Tell Their Story
16. Sensory Strategies for Home and School
17. Honestly IEP: A Parent Panel
18. Parent Transition Empowerment Overview





What did you like the best?

- Essay readings
- Keynote Speakers/Presenters
- Everything!
- Flame
- The Honesty
- Hearing from autistic teens and adults
- Breakout topics
- Important to the community
- Positivity
- Teen Panel
- Variety of attendees
- Sense of Community
- Information & Resources

Sharing of personal experiences by students with autism and sharing of journey of the keynote speaker - gives me hope for my grandson

I like how it felt like a collaborative event for families and professionals - I think it can be hard to hit that balance and this event is successful in that.





How do you plan to use what you've learned?

- Increase use of visual supports
- Continue to grow/ learning from parent and student perspectives
- Tell others about Honestly Autism Day
- generally try new strategies and techniques in my classroom
- Will use the language lab materials all summer with my child
- new sensory strategies for home
- I will share the strategies with my coworkers
- I will share the info and resources with my parents
- Be more empathetic
- Build skills for independence w/my daughter
- Advocate at my school
- Learned new life skills resources to implement
- Looking into different groups and programs
- I can better empower my students and parents



I will also use the information from the "Sex on the Spectrum" breakout session to initiate some important conversations with my child.

I will be making a picture board for my grandson and try to help him communicate better.

When transition planning for my son (going to) DREAM BIG!



More pictures of the event can be found here:
<https://honestlyautismday41418.shutterfly.com/>



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For more information contact:
Debbie Page
dpage@baltimoreautismsociety.org
410-655-7933