



Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter | June 2022



An Extraordinary Journey to Ordinary



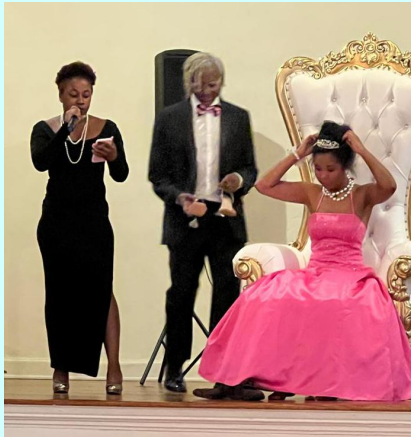
I recently had the pleasure of meeting with the president of Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital and their Foundation lead. We chatted about our family's relationship with the hospital over the past 15 years and the significant impact the many physicians, behavioral, occupational, physical and speech therapists have had on our life.

As I recounted the various stories we were all in awe of what community means and how much resources matter. Our daughter entered what was then All Children's Hospital, (ACH) with sensory overload and communication challenges. Each week we learned how to help her understand OUR Neuro typical world and the ACH team taught us how to connect with our daughter. There are no words to express our emotions during those early years.

We had an incredible medical team at ACH. They made us feel relevant. One of the more successful programs during that time was a forum titled "Meet The

Professionals". The Professionals, by the way, were AUTISTIC. What I remember most is the feeling of gratitude. During the forums we HEARD and LISTENED to the autistic population. ACH has no idea how these opportunities lessened our isolation and helped us learn how to navigate solutions to our activities of daily living.

When our daughter finished services at ACH the hospital was transitioning to Johns Hopkins. Shortly after, she was asked to participate in their Campaign, An Extraordinary Journey to Ordinary. We thought we were done with the hospital but we were just beginning. Just after finishing the campaign our daughter was diagnosed with Kawasaki disease. Our daughter's pediatrician, neurologist and the hospital saved her life.



The little girl in this picture is not the same person. She is strong, aware of who she is, graceful, kind and super creative. She enjoys **eclectic music**. Our daughter had a big birthday bash and it was evident during her celebration that she understands who she is and is grateful for the many people who supported her. What a journey!



**It's an Extraordinary Journey
Back to Ordinary**

[Watch Video](#)

More to Come!



Fast Forward to Johns Hopkins ACH continues to elevate our community. Our family tends to follow issues in the autistic community as our daughter transitions. A few years ago you may recall an unfortunate incident with a police interaction with an autistic person.

In response, many legislators stepped in to ensure police officers across the country understood the importance of how to appropriately engage with persons with special needs. Our state enacted House Bill 39. The bill requires training for officers and hopefully enlightens the public about the challenges children with special needs face when they approached by law enforcement.

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Johns Hopkins All Children's simulation center helps police get insight into autism

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ACH responded quickly. One of their lead physicians trains officers on the appropriate level of engagement with persons who live with ASD. The program is one of many led by ACH. As parents who have used and have benefited from programs at ACH we can candidly confirm they matter. WHEN we educate our community we grow infinitely. I am certain after speaking with leaders at ACH there is **MORE to come.**

P3 steps toward understanding autism challenges during traffic stops

As the number of citizens diagnosed with high-functioning autism increases, LE interaction with these individuals is more likely



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