



**Welcome to the Social Personal  
Skills Class - Parent Meeting**



**B R I D G E S**

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## Meet the



## Staff Members

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- The **HDS Foundation**, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization founded to provide **mentoring** services and **opportunities** to Teens and Young Adults who have Autism-related disabilities.
- The primary focus of the Organization is to promote the development of **work and daily living skills, build socio-educational transitional experiences** via specific school-based partnerships, and **support the post-secondary journeys** for this growing population.
- Bridging the gap that can **support** the diverse abilities of young adults and **facilitating** college-level and other post-secondary education will strengthen this population's chances for **meaningful, long-term employment and self-sufficiency**.
- Teens and young adults can be better **prepared** to meet these demands when they are addressed **utilizing a spectrum of solutions**.



## Mission Statement

To facilitate **Services and Resources** for the Autism Community, including the **families** and **organizations** who **Mentor, Teach, Develop and Support** the mission of enriching the lives of individuals on the Autism Spectrum, and, to **promote** and **support** the initiatives that **create Independence, Employment Skills and the ability to access Safe, Affordable Housing** opportunities as they reach maturity. This will be **accomplished** by the **HDS Foundation's School and Post-Secondary based Programs, Community and Government Partnerships, and Business Enterprise Initiatives.**

## Vision Statement for HDSF BRIDGES Grant

To address **social and** transitional needs of a niche group of ASD Students, who are seeking to **navigate** through **high school**, and, **attend college** or other **post-secondary** similarly to their non-ASD Peers who are looking to achieve the same. This will be done by creating a **partnership** with local High School's **identifying** these candidates who are typically **underserved** in these goals and providing certain **financial** and other **resources** and **support** to allow the teachers and students to engage in activities they would otherwise not have access to, separate and distinct from those provided by their school system.



Budgeting | Resources | Independent Functioning | Development | Growth | Empowerment | Social Skills

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- The **HDS B.R.I.D.G.E.S.** Program is structured in the form of a grant and supports the development of school-based **social and community life skills activities** designed to meet the needs of High School Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
- **Focus is on building better communication tools, peer mentoring, fostering friendships, and preparation for life after high school, including post-secondary.**
- Through **community- based field trips to local businesses** students learn about **employment opportunities, experience social outings, develop budgeting and banking skills, transportation and other community life skill experiences.**
- Experience High School activities such as **Homecoming, Football Games, Prom,** and many others.



**B R I D G E S**







- ☐ The **HDS College Mentors Program** strives to **identify** the peripheral needs of students living with Autism Spectrum Disorder or related disabilities, and who are seeking a College/University Degree and are living at a University or College Campus.
- ☐ Initiative **provides mentoring, guidance, support** and **helps** students to meet their needs by addressing the **academic, social, vocational, health and other demands of higher academic learning** and creates viable daily activities and strategies to support their success.
- ☐ The program supports the **on-going transition of young adults through graduation**, and focuses on **employment opportunities** in their respective fields of study.







## ***Social Activities Program***

- ☐ The **Social Activities** Program (S.A.P.) is a customized **social and life-skills** program designed to **enhance** the lives of older teens and young adults in their communities.
- ☐ The activities of the S.A.P. vary and are deployed at the **high school** age level, and in a **post-secondary setting**
- ☐ **Building social relationships** is foundational to **strong interpersonal skills, communication and building a network of peers.**









TOOLBOX FOR SUCCESS

[www.hdsfoundation.org](http://www.hdsfoundation.org)





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## For Parents & Students

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- ✓ Welcome Letter
- ✓ Parent Contact Sheet
- ✓ Interview Questions for Students
- ✓ Family Demographics
- ✓ Photo Release



Any  
1.1  
Questions



