



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Founded in 1990, The Parents' Place of Maryland was created by parents of children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs to help other parents and families facing similar challenges. For 20 years, The Parents' Place has made significant contributions to improving the quality of life for children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs and their families in Maryland. The Parents' Place is unique in that it serves children with **all** disabilities; learning, physical, emotional, mental, and health. No other organization in Maryland offers this broad range of service to families.

Mission: Our sole purpose is to enhance the ability of people with disabilities and special health care needs to participate as fully as possible in home, school, and community life through education, information, individual assistance, and support activities for them, their parents, and families.

Philosophy: The philosophy of “families helping families” guides the work of the Parents' Place which strives to serve all children, youth, and families in their communities in a culturally competent manner. We believe that families have strengths and resilience as well as needs and challenges. We believe that through knowledge and support, families are better equipped to obtain appropriate services for their sons and daughters.

Our Governing Board

PPMD is governed by a Board of Directors who are dedicated to the mission of the organization. The board is composed of parents of children with disabilities and special health care needs, individuals with disabilities, educators, health care professionals, community and business members, and other individuals interested in children and youth with special needs.

Terms of Office: Board Directors serve three years, up to a maximum of two consecutive terms, pending approval of the board.

Board of Directors Responsibilities:

- Determining how PPMD carries out its mission through long and short range planning and review of progress.
- Adopting an annual budget and providing fiscal oversight.
- Recruiting, orienting and developing board members.
- Hiring and evaluating the Executive Director.
- Evaluating the overall performance of PPMD in achieving its mission.
- Establishing policies for the effective management of the organization.
- Raising funds and developing resources.



Individual Director Responsibilities:

- Understand and promote PPMD's mission.
- Be familiar with PPMD's programs and operations.
- Attend board meetings on a regular basis (at least 5 out of 6 meetings).
- Attend at least one PPMD sponsored event.
- Participate on a committee of the board.
- Make an annual financial gift to The Parents' Place in a manner commensurate with one's ability.
- Identify any potential conflicts of interest.
- Be alert to community concerns that can be addressed by Parents' Place mission, objectives, and programs.
- Help communicate and promote Parents' Place mission and programs to the community.

Time Contribution (approximate):

- Attend board meetings on a regular basis (at least 5 out of 6 meetings) held in the PPMD office or by conference call.
- Participate in committee work as needed.
- Attend at least one PPMD sponsored event.
- Participate in fundraising events.

Organization and Management

The Parents' Place is a nonprofit organization with a Board of Directors and an Executive Director who supervises the work of the employees, contract personnel, and volunteers. PPMD offers programs for parents and families of children and youth with all disabilities and special health care needs.

Designated as the federally-funded Parent Training and Information Center in Maryland since 1991, the Parents' Place provides training, information, and support to families of children with disabilities. Since then, Parents' Place has grown to serve individuals with disabilities and special health care needs and their families through a variety of programs.

The staff is mostly parents of children with disabilities or special health care needs. They provide a variety of services to families of children with disabilities including one-on-one assistance in navigating the special education and health care systems. They conduct a variety of information dissemination activities, including conferences, workshops, parent leadership training programs, print materials, web-based information sharing, and other activities to ensure that families of children with special needs throughout Maryland have access to timely, up-to-date information in order to make effective decisions for their children.



Application Form

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date: _____

NAME: _____

Home address: _____ Home phone: () _____

City: _____ Zip code: _____ County: _____

Occupation: _____ Title: _____

Employer: _____

Work address: _____ Work phone: () _____

City: _____ Zip code: _____ County: _____

Primary email address: _____

Secondary email address: _____

I am a:

____ Parent ____ Educator ____ Attorney ____ Business person

____ Other: _____

Please answer the following question:

How did you learn about The Parents' Place of Maryland?

Why are you interested in serving on the Board?



What areas of expertise can you contribute to the board?

What ways you can **contribute to PPMD's fund raising efforts?** (please check at least one area)

- Finding corporate donors/sponsors
- Writing fund raising letters
- Soliciting donations
- Coordinating a fund raising event
- Developing public relations products
- Connecting PPMD with corporations that can contribute to PPMD's business operations
- Other: _____

Additional Comments:

Please attach your resume to this application. THANK YOU!

Please fax, mail, or email to: The Parents' Place of Maryland
801 Cromwell Park Drive, Suite 103
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
Fax: (410) 768-0830
suzie@ppmd.org