



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2017

Contact: Joan Driessen
410-715-9545
Joan.driessen@acshoco.org

Five Organizations Receive 2017 Audrey Robbins Collaboration Award

Columbia, Maryland—The Association of Community Services (ACS) is honoring the public-private collaboration that created the extraordinary response and restoration efforts after the July 30, 2016 Howard County flood. This was one of the most extensive natural disasters in Howard County’s history, destroying or damaging major parts of historic Ellicott City and severely impacting homes in other neighborhoods. The 2017 ACS Audrey Robbins *Collaboration Award* recognizes the commitment of, and coordinated planning and execution by, the county’s elected officials, government agencies, nonprofit organizations and faith community.

Representing the relationships fostered, alliances formed and team approach forged across dozens of organizations in response to the tragic flood are the Office of the Howard County Executive, Howard County Council, Howard County Office of Emergency Management, the Ellicott City Partnership and St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. While each of these organizations played an important role, their recognition is intended to highlight the broader spectrum of organizations within the government, nonprofit and faith communities that were, and continue to be, critical to an Ellicott City successful recovery.

For the past 43 years, the Audrey Robbins Awards have celebrated the accomplishments and contributions of volunteers, volunteer teams, employees and employee teams who have consistently gone “above and beyond” in service to the Howard County community. Consistent with its organizational priorities, ACS has this year initiated the Audrey Robbins *Collaboration Award* to underscore its nonprofit membership’s commitment to increasing partnerships across community sectors to better respond to the needs of Howard County’s vulnerable populations.

In announcing the award, Executive Director Joan Driessen noted, “There has been no better example this past year of high level collaboration having the power to organize across the entire fabric of a community when so many people are threatened as they were in this flood.”

“Ellicott City residents and business owners became a vulnerable population seven months ago and our community united to help them recover their homes and their livelihoods. The quickly formed network of public and private organizations amassed an exemplary level of teamwork and accomplishment that ACS honors with this Audrey Robbins award.”

The Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards will be held April 5, 2017, from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., at the Ten Oaks Ballroom, Clarksville MD. Luncheon tickets and information are available for purchase at www.acshoco.org.

###