

HOMETOWN HERO:

# Wanda Gleason

**“Nancy and Wanda’s patience, inventiveness, and creativity opened the world to Alexa.”**

Nancy and Wanda have been pivotal in building a team at Old Mill Middle South that is supportive of students with ASD and that educates the school community. Their creative solutions and dedication to the students as individuals have led to new ways of viewing students with ASD. They are eager to share their knowledge and to learn more — this eagerness eventually led to the invitation to bring Deborah Lipsky to our school in January.

On a personal note, Wanda was my daughter, Alexa’s aide throughout her time at OMMS, and Nancy was her case manager. She came into the school with few strategies for coping with her disability and left with the ability to participate fully in the general education curriculum, including academically challenging coursework. Nancy and Wanda’s patience, inventiveness, and creativity opened the world to Alexa and provided the bridge she needed to help her connect.

Their creativity, passion for students, and dedication make them Heroes for ASD.



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHAPTER

**NOMINATED BY:** Michelle Appel, Parent