

NONPROFIT

Kerson presents at national autism summit

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Saenen Kerson, associate director of Vine Village, was a featured speaker on May 1 at the “Spectrum of Possibilities: Decreasing Barriers — Increasing Options” conference at Johns Hopkins University Summit in Maryland, organized by the Madison House Autism Foundation in partnership with Purple Cherry Architects, a news release said.

Kerson served as opening speaker at the summit, which brought together service providers, national foundations, national news media and family members. Kerson presented insight into how Vine Village has grown and evolved over its 40-year history, which makes it one of the longest-running community-based residential programs for people with developmental disabilities in the U.S., said the release.

Vine Village was invited to present after being referenced in a letter from U.S. House of Representatives member Mike Thompson to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on pending legislation that could deny funding for housing communities that serve people with intellectual and development disabilities.

Vine Village is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing people with developmental disabilities the quality of life that should be the birthright of every person, the release said. “Its residential and day programs are designed to meet each individual’s needs for personal development, social interaction, independence and the security of knowing he or she is accepted and valued.”

Info: VineVillage.org

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