

Media Advisory

Comptroller to Present Schaefer Award to Montgomery County Mom

*Dekeda Brown created 'Walk One Day In Our Shoes' to
promote acceptance, build community for families of
children with special needs*

WHO: Comptroller Peter Franchot

WHAT: Comptroller Franchot on Saturday afternoon will present the 2021 William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award for Montgomery County to Dekeda Brown for her work promoting acceptance and awareness for people with special needs.

Brown launched the blog, "[Walk One Day In Our Shoes](#)," after her oldest daughter, Leilani, was diagnosed with nonverbal autism and sensory processing disorder in 2008. Through Dekeda's advocacy, the blog has spawned a community for parents of children with special needs to share strategies, serve as a support system for each other and host social events in a judgment-free environment. The award presentation will be held during the organization's annual "Spring Fling" celebration.

The [William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award](#) was created to honor the legacy of public service exemplified by former Governor, Comptroller and Baltimore City Mayor William Donald Schaefer. One winner is selected annually from each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. This is the 10th year that Comptroller Franchot has presented Schaefer awards to worthy recipients throughout Maryland.

WHEN: Saturday, April 2, 2022
3 p.m.

WHERE: Strathmore Elementary School
3200 Beaverwood Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20906

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