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## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

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### **Houston County Sharks Supporters Presented ASPIRE Award**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Several Houston County Sharks supporters received awards from the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP). The Adapted Sports Programs in Recreation and Education (ASPIRE) Awards recognize individuals who serve as role models and advocates for adapted sports. Adapted sports programs allow students with physical disabilities to reap the physical, social, emotional, and academic benefits of competitive athletics resulting in personal and social empowerment.

The 2021 ASPIRE AWARDS were held virtually on October 24. Thirty-seven nominees across the United States were recognized. The Sharks' nominees were represented in five categories and named the winner in two.

Dr. Jenny Millward, Director of Students Services for the Houston County School District, received the ASPIRE Advocacy Award. This award is reserved for those who demonstrate exceptional efforts toward the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities.

Rene Langlois, Houston County Sharks Volunteer and hearing impaired interpreter, received the Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award. This award is presented to an individual or organization that has demonstrated exceptional efforts in support of an adapted sports league.

Other Houston County Sharks supporters who were recognized were:

- Christy Jones, Coach of the Year Award nominee;
- Anna Henry, Coach of the Year Award nominee;
- Jeff McDaniel, The Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award nominee;
- Miranda Lawhorn, Outstanding Female Athlete nominee; and
- Houston County, Rachel Gerrity, Rene Langlois, Jamie Schneller, and Home Grown Yoga, School-Based Program Award nominee.

The AAASP represents a standardized approach to interscholastic sports programming for students with physical disabilities. Learn more at [www.adaptedsports.org](http://www.adaptedsports.org). For more information about the Sharks or Houston County's winners, please contact Jones at [Christy.Jones@hcbe.net](mailto:Christy.Jones@hcbe.net).

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