



KEYWORDS



BOARD OF CHILD CARE
of The United Methodist Church, Inc.

President's Message



The project was long in coming, but we are happy to finally share the news about the dedication of our new Eastern Shore group home for youth.

As I stood before a crowd of about 100 friends of the Board of Child Care gathered on the grounds of our new campus in October, the list of people to acknowledge was long. First, we gave thanks to the Wicomico Partnership for Families and Children, the local management boards and the Governor's Office of Children for giving us the opportunity to fill a gap in much needed services for children placed out of their homes on the Eastern Shore.

We also thanked the Peninsula-Delaware Conference for their prayers;

(continued on page 10)

Eastern Shore Expansion: A Vision Realized

Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference of the United Methodist Church stood before a crowd assembled at the Board of Child Care's dedication of the new Eastern Shore group home for boys on October 14 and declared, "The Board of Child Care comes East! Bring our people home."

About 100 people turned out to celebrate the newly constructed facility in rural Caroline County for 16 boys, ages 12 to 18. With the opening of the home, BCC now provides residential care for youth in all regions of Maryland referred by local human services agencies.

On the Eastern Shore, BCC becomes one of only a handful of group homes for youth.

Currently, local departments of social services must send dozens of youth to the "Western Shore" for out-of-home care.

"I'm glad the Board of Child Care is dedicated and committed to being with us here on the shore," said Dina Daly, Director of the Caroline County Department of Social Services, during the dedication ceremony. "There are many more who we can bring back home. Having a facility here close to home will allow the children and families the resources they need to reunify."

While serving as Master of Ceremonies during the dedication, Thomas Curcio, BCC's President and CEO, called Daly's department and *(continued on page 11)*



BCC's On-Campus Schools

The Board of Child Care's residential programs in Baltimore and West Virginia provide on-campus schooling. Both programs are unique and different from one another.



Strawbridge School Profile: Q&A with Angela Chambers, School Director

The Strawbridge School on the Baltimore campus is a nonpublic school attended by both BCC residents and youth from the community. The school is licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education for students in grades 5 through age 21.

Strawbridge students enroll in one of two programs: The Type I program is a special and regular education day school program serving students primarily with emotional and behavioral disabilities. The Type III program is a short-term, transitional education program designed to support students living in BCC's short-term residential program.

Here, Angela Chambers, Strawbridge School Director, answers questions about some of the exciting things going on within the school program during the 2011-12 academic year.

This year Strawbridge School's enrollment was the highest in its history. What accounts for the increase?

We currently have 82 students enrolled at Strawbridge. The increase is due in part to the expansion of the types of youth we serve. We now serve students with Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) and autism. We also have a program called the hybrid program that

has tripled in size since its inception in 2009. The hybrid program is a blend of traditional high school academic classes, with a self-contained classroom model, meaning the students do not rotate as traditional high school students do—the teachers rotate in and out of the students' rooms. This model works very well for students with anxiety, difficulty with transitions and those who need high levels of consistency and structure.

This year Strawbridge added regular education to its Type I Program, in addition to special education. Why was this done and about how many students are participating?

Currently we do not have anyone enrolled in this program, however, this has opened the door for Strawbridge School to serve youth on the residential campus who may require a more structured placement in the future.

Now, more than ever, Strawbridge School is being integrated with and used as a resource for BCC's residential program. Can you give examples?

We have a GED preparation program that began this fall as an exciting alternative for our youth in residence. It is a half-day program for youth who are at least 17-years-old. Residents also have the opportunity to participate in culinary arts and life skills instruction at the school that will assist them with life after BCC.

What are some of the new technologies being used in the school?

Technology is a huge area of expansion in the school. Every academic classroom is now equipped with a Smart Board (an interactive whiteboard that uses touch detection) that gives students an opportunity to interact with computer-based programs. We also just purchased NEO 2's, which are small lap top devices that also interface with the Smart Boards, allowing students to take quizzes and participate in virtual discussions, all through technology. For some of our students, communication, both expressive and receptive, is an area of difficulty. These new devices give students an opportunity to participate in class discussions without worrying how they sound to their peers.

What new programming is in store for this coming academic year?

We have a music program, horticulture program and a career, research and development program that are all new or returning programs to Strawbridge. The music program will assist children in furthering their artistic abilities and will give them the opportunity to play the steel drums, guitars and keyboards. The horticulture and culinary programs will work in conjunction with each other to grow herbs, vegetables, and fruits, in addition to other projects for the students such as making flower arrangements.

Falling Waters School Profile:

Q&A with Jeff Krystofiak, Director of Campus Life

All residents living at BCC's Falling Waters campus in Martinsburg, WV, attend the on-campus school. The West Virginia Department of Education provides the school's educational program, which is designed to meet the individual needs of every student and help them earn a high school diploma or GED.

Here, Jeff Krystofiak, Falling Waters Director of Campus Life, explains how the school functions in partnership with BCC to help residents reach their greatest academic potential.

Do all Falling Waters residents attend the campus school?

Yes, all Falling Waters residents attend our on-campus education program. The school provides instruction 220 days a year, August through June, for grades 6 through 12. A summer session is also offered for residents to recover missing credits. The school is not open to the community and is strictly for Falling Waters residents only. The education program is held to the same standards as all other West Virginia schools and all credits earned are transferable.

Why are Falling Waters residents educated on-campus, and how do they benefit?

As a Level III Residential Treatment Facility, we are required by our licensing

body to provide educational services on-campus due to residents' complex needs. BCC staff believe academic success serves as a strong therapeutic intervention. The school's staff, as well as other professionals on campus, provides intensive support to students throughout the school day. Small class sizes and the high ratio of education professionals to students gives every youth the opportunity to develop to his or her full academic potential.

How does BCC work in partnership with the West Virginia Public School System to operate the on-campus school?

The school's principal, the teachers, guidance counselor, transition specialists, and secretary are all employees of the state school system. All of the instructional curriculum and behavior expectations fall under the West Virginia Department of Education Office of Institutional Education Programs. The principal reports to his supervisor out of Charleston and has an operating budget that he handles.

BCC provides seven program aid staff members assigned to a group of residents throughout the school day. The program aids play a vital role in the success of our residents by assisting them with their academics, helping them through difficult times, holding them accountable for their behaviors

and ensuring the educational routine is consistent. An educational liaison employed by BCC serves as a link between BCC and the West Virginia State Department of Education.

Do all students work toward either a high school diploma or a GED?

All students who attend our school receive credits towards their high school diplomas. Residents who graduate receive a West Virginia diploma from their home school and, depending on their individual situation with that school, efforts are made for them to be recognized and participate in the home school's graduation ceremony. For residents who feel obtaining a GED is the best option for them, we help them register for pre-testing study classes and take the GED test.

Does the school offer career development?

One of the goals of our on-campus school is to prepare students to apply their academic skills to real-life job experiences. All students age 14 and older take an aptitude test to help them choose a "career major" to focus on within the educational program. These majors include: health, business, fine arts/humanities, engineering/technical, human services and science/natural resources.



Our Educational Advocates

Ron Caplan

Director of Community Education, Baltimore Campus

As the Board of Child Care's Director of Community Education, Ron Caplan is more than just a liaison between the agency and the local public schools. He is an advocate for the residents of the Board of Child Care's Baltimore group living programs.

Most of the approximately 100 residents on BCC's Baltimore campus attend the local public schools. BCC's residents also attend BCC's Strawbridge School.

When children and youth enter the residential program, Mr. Caplan ensures they are placed in the appropriate

education setting and their paperwork is in order. He also works one-on-one with school personnel so that they understand BCC youth's unique needs. Many of the youth have complex behavioral and mental health needs and have faced multiple school interruptions.

"The Board of Child Care is genuinely supportive of the kids," Mr. Caplan says. "We think outside the box for them."

Mr. Caplan formerly served as the Howard County school system's Instructional Facilitator for Nonpublic and Community Alternatives. He also worked 15 years for the Baltimore County school system, handling students' nonpublic school placements and compliance.



"We think outside the box for them."

Mr. Caplan hopes to expand BCC resident's access to vocational training opportunities in the community and on-campus to better prepare them for the working world. He also wants to broaden residents' exposure to community cultural experiences.

Billy Coleman

Education Liaison, Falling Waters Campus

When new residents are admitted to Falling Waters, one of the first people they meet is Billy Coleman, BCC's Education Liaison. Mr. Coleman's job is to ensure all Falling Waters residents' educational goals at the on-campus school are in line with their therapeutic goals.

Mr. Coleman works with the on-campus school guidance counselor to administer aptitude testing and develop an educational plan for each youth. At the same time, he keeps BCC's therapeutic staff updated on the youth's educational goals and all school activities and scheduling.

Mr. Coleman also assists with ongoing training for the on-campus school staff, all of whom are West Virginia public school system employees. Some have never worked with the type of youth residing at Falling Waters. He has helped them to understand the kids' points of view and how to verbally handle misbehavior.

"Most of our kids have not succeeded in school, and that is the battle we face," Mr. Coleman says. "We have to be creative in how we reach them to show them the importance of education."

In the summer, Mr. Coleman develops a summer program so that residents continue to learn. He has personally taught photography, golf, bowling and lifeguarding for the program.

As a BCC employee, Mr. Coleman



"We have to be creative in how we reach them..."

knows how important it is to recognize the behavioral achievements of BCC youth, in addition to their educational accomplishments. So he has created a monthly rewards club, the 95-100 Club, for those youth who have received high points for good classroom behavior. Club activities have included pool parties, fondue parties and a traditional campfire.

He has also organized school dances, and a popular "name that tune" events. Winners receive an MP3 player.

Aiming for Success and Giving Joy



LEFT *"There is no reason you can't succeed," says Lashea, studying at Coppin State University.*

RIGHT *"They were good kids and it gave me joy to help them...", says Tasha, studying at University of Maryland Eastern Shore.*

The Board of Child Care was happy to have two of its young alumni back on the Baltimore campus last summer. Lashea, an alumnus of the Baltimore campus residential program and Nicodemus Group Home, spent the summer working for the maintenance department, and Tasha, a former resident of the Colesville Group Home, worked for Strawbridge School.

Lashea reports she is enjoying her studies in criminal justice at Coppin State University. Her goal is to become a police cadet and eventually a police officer in preparation for a future career in the FBI. As an FBI agent she wants to work to combat child trafficking.

Lashea is particularly proud of an hour-long presentation she was asked to give

to one of her classes at Coppin State about foster care, which made a strong impression on her fellow classmates. "Everybody loved it and learned something," she says.

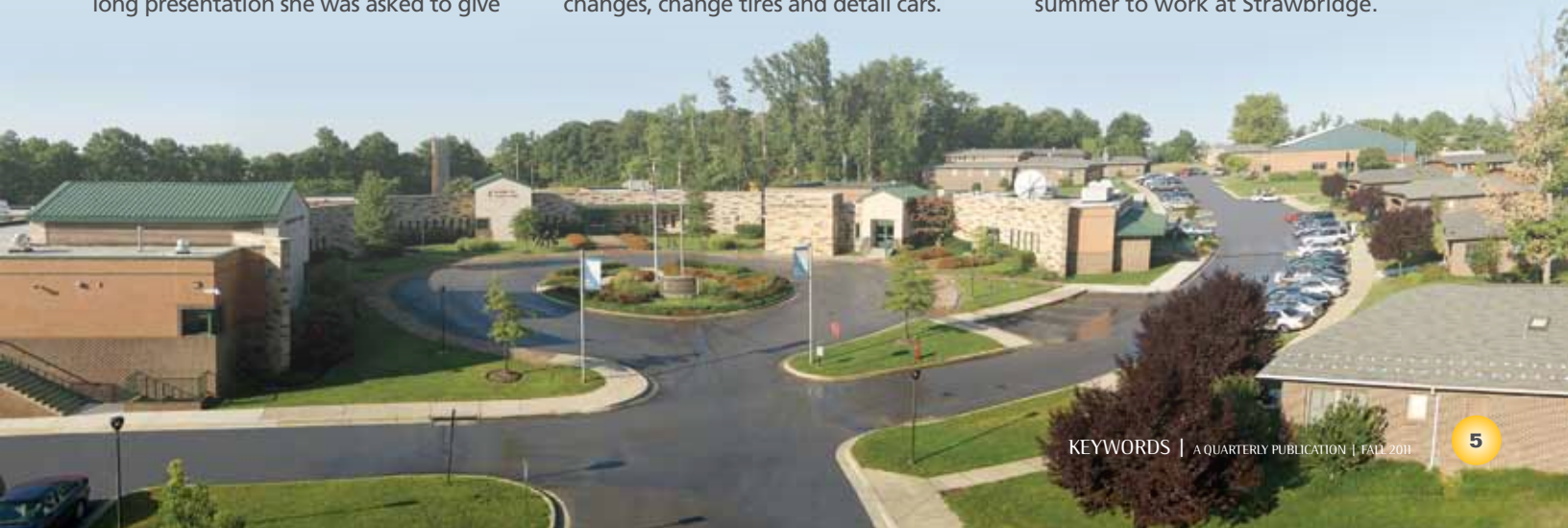
When not studying or working, Lashea mentors other youth coming out of foster care, like herself, because she has seen many of them not make it. "There is no reason you can't succeed," she says. "You can always make something of yourself and that is what I am aiming for."

While working for BCC's maintenance department, Lashea did a lot of paperwork but she also worked closely with the agency's mechanic, learning how to do oil changes, change tires and detail cars.

Tasha, who is entering her junior year at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, worked at BCC's Strawbridge School as a teaching assistant. From June through August, she worked in one classroom to help maintain stability and assist students with their classwork.

"I enjoyed it," Tasha said. "They were good kids and it gave me joy to help them out."

Tasha has maintained a 3.0 GPA in college where she is studying exercise science and running on the track team. She wants to become a personal trainer one day, but after her experience this summer, she is also considering working as a physical education teacher for students with special needs. She hopes to return again next summer to work at Strawbridge.



Strawbridge Home Alum Inducted Into Hall of Fame



The Board of Child Care recently heard some noteworthy news from one of its original alumni. Jim Cassaday, who entered the Strawbridge Home for Boys in 1956 and was among one of the first residents of the newly established Board of Child Care Baltimore campus, was inducted last May into the University of Baltimore’s Sports Hall of Fame.

After graduating from Milford Mill High School in 1961 and leaving BCC, Mr. Cassaday attended the University of Baltimore (UB) on a full sports scholarship. He played baseball, basketball and soccer at UB before graduating with a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 1966.

He has since spent much of his adult life living in Switzerland, working in sales for various international companies. Despite the distance, he has maintained contact with the Strawbridge Home for Boys Alumni Association.

“It was a tough time in my life and this organization saved my life,” Mr. Cassaday said of his time growing up at the Strawbridge Home and BCC.

Take Advantage of BCC’s Adoption Resources

Did you know that the Board of Child Care has an active Adoption Search, Contact and Reunion program that serves both adult adoptees and birth parents for whom the agency provided adoption services in the past?

If you placed a child for adoption or you were adopted through BCC, you are invited to access these services. We provide non-identifying background

information that was gathered at the time and we can conduct an actual search for an individual, if desired. Our adoption social worker is a trained Confidential Intermediary who understands the emotional, legal and ethical issues involved and provides supportive services all along the way.

Also, if you are interested in any of our other adoption programs, including our adoption information and referral services, or our home study and post placement services, please contact us at: 410-922-2100, ext. 5350, or adoptions@boardofchildcare.org.





Annual Agency Tournament

The Board of Child Care's annual Play Fore! Children golf tournament served once again this year as a special way for us to interact with the many friends and businesses that support the agency. Held September 20 at the Woodlands Golf Course in Baltimore County, more than 100 golfers participated and numerous business partners who work regularly with BCC took out sponsorships for the event. All of the proceeds directly support BCC's programs. Thank you to the following:

Our 2011 Sponsors and Donors

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Tee Signs

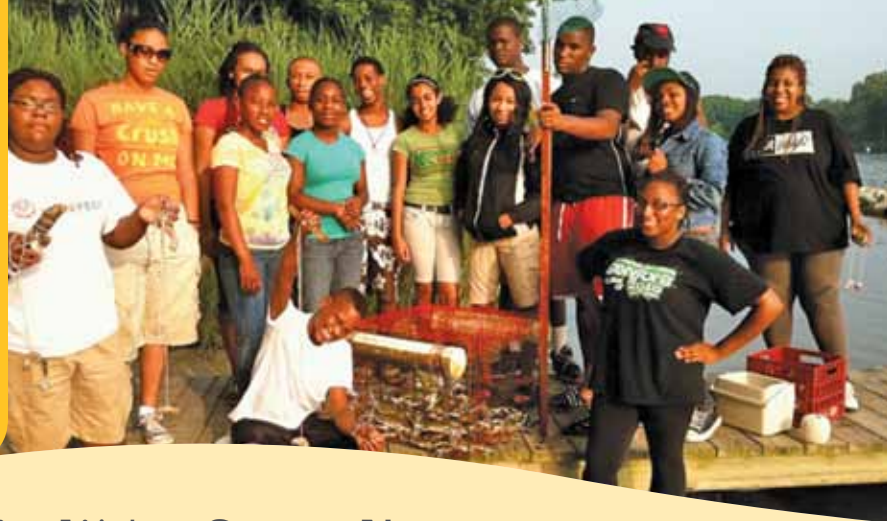
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- U.S. Trust Wealth Management





Falling Waters Campus News

Resident Activities

During the 2011 summer break, the 50 residents of the Falling Waters campus in West Virginia were treated to a number of different activities and excursions.

Recreationally, the residents participated in photography classes, bowling and golf lessons. Spiritually, they learned about different religions by visiting a Buddhist Temple in Poolesville, Md., and the Islamic Center in Washington, DC. Residents also participated in an invitational swim meet and female residents took a tour of the Martinsburg Beauty Academy to learn about vocational opportunities.



Off-campus, residents visited the historical sites of Harpers Ferry and Antietam Battlefield. They enjoyed the rollercoasters at Hershey Park, the beach at Sand Point State Park, and hiking, biking and paddle boating at Rocky Gap State Park. Residents also enjoyed the annual trip along the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, from Cumberland to Frostburg.

Other Campus News

In other campus news, Falling Waters hosted several important meetings with state officials and providers of services last summer. The West Virginia Governor's Commission to Study the Residential Placement of Children held its quarterly meeting on the Falling Waters campus and more than 65 dignitaries and guests attended, including the Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Children and Families, and numerous state department heads.

Falling Waters also hosted meetings of the West Virginia Child Care Association, attended by providers from throughout West Virginia. BCC staff prepared lunch and provided tours of the campus for the participants.

BCC Makes Summer Camp Possible for Baltimore Youth

The Board of Child Care once again this year provided counseling, therapeutic support and scholarships to the camping ministries program of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Baltimore clinical department social workers Dan Smeragliuolo and Beth Hanline and child care workers Barry Jenkins and Tiffany Truss braved the heat and worked more than 100 hours as camp counselors at Camp LIFE at West River and Camp Manidokan in June and July. In addition to lending their expertise in working with children, the BCC staff swam, crabbed, sailed, canoed, did arts and crafts and worshipped and met once a day for Bible reflection with the campers.

Baltimore City youth who have experienced some type of personal trauma participated in the camps. BCC provided scholarships for all of the camp participants. BCC staff will be participating in a Camp LIFE reunion in November.



The Baltimore campus residents, as part of the 2011 summer program under the theme of "giving back," created care packages they mailed to Recreation

Director Jesse Green (pictured) and his Army National Guard unit serving in Egypt. The packages included handmade thank you cards and shirts and bandanas decorated by the residents.

Member Spotlight: Jan d'Hedouville



Several years ago, Jan d'Hedouville was flipping through a catalog from the National Association for the Education of Young Children and noticed a small gold pin for sale portraying a group of children in a circle holding hands. It made her think of the bronze statues located on the Board of Child Care's Baltimore campus that show children smiling and playing together, symbolizing the happy childhood BCC strives to restore and give to children.



Ms. d'Hedouville, a long-time member of BCC's Auxiliary and the Hughes United Methodist Women (HUMW) in Wheaton, Md., proposed that the two groups work in partnership to purchase the pins in bulk and sell them as a fundraiser for BCC.

The idea took off and since 2004 approximately \$5,000 has been donated to BCC from the sale of the pins. Ms. d'Hedouville says she has become very attached to her pin and wears it every day, which gives her the opportunity to sell more pins and talk about the good work BCC does anytime someone comments about her pin.

"No matter where I go, I carry the pins in my bag," Ms. d'Hedouville says. She and other members of the Auxiliary, including the Greater Washington and Central Maryland Districts, and HUMW have sold the pins in doctor's offices, the post office and on travels. Ms. d'Hedouville also hands out small cards with each pin sale that summarizes BCC's mission and gives the agency's phone number.

To purchase a pin for \$10 to benefit BCC, or to learn more about how you can use the pins as a fundraising tool for BCC, contact Jan d'Hedouville at 301-655-2410, 10247 Gainsborough Road, Potomac, Md. 20854.

The Tree of Life: A Great Way to Commemorate BCC's Supporters

Do you know someone in your church or community who has been a dedicated supporter of the Board of Child Care, or of children's issues in general? If so, you may want to consider commemorating their work by purchasing an engraved leaf in their honor on the Auxiliary's Tree of Life, located in the Archive and Welcome Center on BCC's Baltimore Campus.

Many leaves are still available to

purchase on the tree. The money raised directly benefits children in BCC's programs for things like school activities, college visits and spiritual life enrichment programs.

Pictured is Marguerite Ensor, an Auxiliary member of more than 50 years at Cedar Grove UMC in Parkton, Md., who was recently honored with a leaf on the tree. Many of the tree's honorees have enjoyed visiting BCC to see the *Tree of Life* and have their pictures taken.

For more information about participating in this fundraiser, call the Auxiliary office at 1-800-CARE-734, email auxinfo@boardofchildcare.org or



visit <http://www.boardofchildcare.org/help/auxiliary.php>.

Hands-On Help Needed this Holiday Season

The Auxiliary is in need of many helping hands to assemble gift baskets, price items and set up and break down the Auxiliary's annual Christmas stores this year. The

Baltimore and Falling Waters residents shop at the stores for their loved ones at discount prices. Call the Auxiliary office at 410-922-2100 ext. 5473 for more information.



Check your mailboxes: BCC's 2012 Auxiliary Calendar is on the way!

We are sending you another beautiful calendar this year, again featuring the photography talents of our residents. You will also find a Christmas Offering brochure inserted inside, making giving easy.



Date	Event
December 2-5	Christmas Store, Baltimore
December 5-7	Christmas Store, Falling Waters
December 17	Christmas Store/Treatment Foster Care Party, Southern Maryland
December 10	Treatment Foster Care Party, Baltimore
December 3	DC Foster Care Party

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

our neighbors in the Denton-area community who stood behind us; our Board of Directors who helped provide leadership and direction; architects Hord/Coplan/Macht and Linden Contracting for putting bricks and mortar to the project; and our staff who finalized many last minute details to help bring the project to fruition.

We also send our thanks to those of you who could not join us on dedication day. Your financial and spiritual support has helped BCC thrive and expand beyond our home base in Baltimore to meet the needs of children throughout Maryland, including the Eastern Shore.

You are also the architects and builders of this new home.

In early 2012, we will begin admitting the first residents to the Eastern Shore campus. As our visitors in October witnessed, everything is in place.

Our cottages are fully furnished and brightly painted, and the grounds are landscaped. Every effort has been made to make the facility as inviting and home-like as possible.

Our new Director of Campus Life, Karen McGee, has also joined us. She began her career as a child care worker on our Baltimore campus and worked her way up to become a program

director. She left us when she moved to Delaware, but is now returning to run and build-up our Eastern Shore program. She will instill the BCC culture and way into this new facility and we are excited to have her.

As a final note, I share with you some of the benediction given during the dedication ceremony by Board member and life-long Denton resident, Rev. Earle Baker, "O Lord, we pray this is a place where love lives, hope is born, and lives are transformed." I can assure you it will be.

Thomas L. Curcio
President and CEO



Eastern Shore Expansion: A Vision Realized

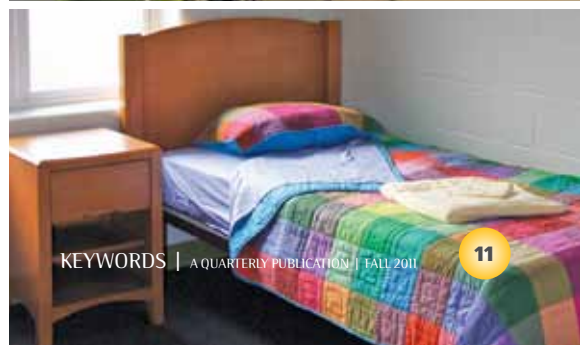
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the other local departments of social services on the shore “super advocates” for BCC’s new group home. He pointed out that BCC’s Baltimore campus currently had 10 residents from the Eastern Shore, underscoring the need for services in the Eastern half of the state.

After the dedication ceremony, visitors were treated to a catered lunch under sunny skies on tables setup on the new basketball court. Tours of the campus’ two cottages and administrative/activities building followed.

Designed to be bright and open, each cottage contains a large common area underneath cathedral ceilings and skylights, and is furnished with couches, dining tables, a flat-screen TV and sports-themed décor. A fully equipped kitchen contains stainless steel appliances and a countertop island. Along the perimeter of the common area are eight single bedrooms, a laundry area and offices for staff.

The administrative/activities center contains a large classroom with desks and new laptop computers. Each building on the 117-acre campus is connected by paved walkways lined with benches. BCC will begin admitting youth to the facility in 2012.





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www.boardofchildcare.org

The Board of Child Care is a nonprofit, multi-service organization serving children and families in Maryland, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Programs include residential care, foster care, early childhood education, therapeutic counseling, adoption services, special education and a car loan program.

Please help us update our mailing list by emailing address corrections to communications@boardofchildcare.org. Thank you.

"The best thing that happened to me was moving to the Board of Child Care," JON H., BALTIMORE CAMPUS RESIDENT 2005-2011 ★ *"I am positive that I would never have turned out this well without all the help and support I got here on campus,"* TIFFANEE S., BALTIMORE CAMPUS RESIDENT, 1998-2002 ★ *"I'm still alive because of the Board of Child Care,"* STEVE K., BALTIMORE CAMPUS RESIDENT, 1986-1990 ★ *"It was a tough time in my life and this organization saved my life,"* JIM CASSADAY, STRAWBRIDGE HOME FOR BOYS RESIDENT, 1956-1961 ★

These quotes from our alumni, illustrate how supporting the Board of Child Care's Christmas Offering impacts our children, or how it could impact them.

The underlying theme in these words—BCC changed their lives for the better.

You, our supporters, saved them as well through the spirit of Jesus Christ,

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved."
John 3:17 (KJV)

To help us spread the word about our annual Christmas Offering, church congregations can place their orders for BCC's Christmas brochures and cardboard red stockings for the

Sunday School children by calling 410-922-2100, ext. 5307, or emailing order@boardofchildcare.org.

Sample church bulletin articles about our Christmas Offering and a PowerPoint® presentation about the work we do are also located on our website: www.boardofchildcare.org/help/christmas_offering.php.

