



Hope for the future, power in the present.

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION | WINTER 2011

KEYWORDS



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

Welcome to a New Year and a New Look

The Board of Child Care and its Board of Directors is proud to unveil a new brand identity for the agency this year that conveys a clearer, more unified message about the goals, objectives and services provided by the Board of Child Care. This new identity encompasses a new logo, tagline and overall freshened image to our communications and marketing materials.

BCC is excited to launch its new look throughout the agency this spring with the publication of new program brochures and stationary, as well as updated designs to BCC's website and, as you see here, to the quarterly *Keywords*.

Both the logo and BCC's new tagline, "Hope for the future, power in the present" are modifications and extensions

on the agency's former tagline, "Bridging the hurt." The new logo features a person standing on a bridge with his or her arms outstretched and silhouetted within a sunburst. The person symbolizes someone in the present moment. The person's outstretched arms represent hope. The bridge symbolizes the future and the sun represents the person's empowerment in that future. Thus, the logo provides the visual complement to



"Hope for the future, power in the present."

The new logo and tagline were designed in blue and gold for their inspirational qualities. Blue and gold are also commonly connected to the sun and the sky, tying together *(continued on page 4)*



President's Message

I am happy to wish all of our readers a Happy New Year on behalf of the Board of Child Care. We anticipate the year ahead to be yet another exciting one for our agency. This summer we plan to open a new residential campus on the Eastern Shore, our newly acquired program in Southern Maryland— Alternatives for Youth and Families— is becoming stronger, and everyday within our other programs we are seeing our youth overcoming obstacles in their lives, achieving goals, and growing into mature young adults.

After 137 years, we are proud to continue to thrive and grow in our work to serve the community's children and families. To celebrate our continued evolution and to sustain excitement behind our mission, we feel it is appropriate to begin the year

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The Keywords Redesign

Along with the launching of BCC's new logo, the agency is also happy to publish our newly redesigned *Keywords* newsletter, beginning with this edition. The most notable change is to the masthead, which contains BCC's new logo and tagline and a new font style used for the word "Keywords," but elements of the new design are carried throughout the publication.

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President's Message

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by launching a new logo and brand identity, a project that has been in the making for some time now.

We believe our new logo and tagline, "Hope for the future, power in the present," best represents the work that BCC does day in and day out, 365 days a year on behalf of children. At the same time, the cross and flame remains a part of our identity on all of our materials, representing our continued connection to the United Methodist Church, a connection for which we have long been proud and blessed.

Our new look represents a new era for BCC. We have grown and changed tremendously over the decades and we will continue to do so in the future. Now, more than ever, many families in the community need an agency like BCC to lift themselves up from economic and social hardships. When these families seek out information about BCC and see our logo portraying a person crossing over a bridge and reaching for a sun-filled sky, they will know that the Board of Child Care is there for them. They will know that our services mean hope, inspiration, and a bridge to a better life and a brighter future.

Thomas L. Curcio
President and CEO



Our Holiday

Celebrating the Christmas Spirit

For the many residents and foster care youth in the Board of Child Care's programs, the holiday season can be a difficult time to be without biological family or any family at all. That is why BCC makes every effort to make this time of year extra special and interactive for them. This is done in partnership with the Auxiliary and churches within the Baltimore-Washington and Delaware-Peninsula Conferences, which consistently display incredible generosity and Christian love toward our children at this time of year.

In looking back at the 2010 holiday season, it all began with the Auxiliary Christmas stores where BCC residents were invited to shop for their loved ones at deep discounted prices. Each store featured thousands of new or nearly new items donated by Auxiliary members and churches. Three stores were set up at the

Baltimore campus, the Falling Waters campus in West Virginia and in Southern Maryland at BCC's Alternatives for Youth and Families program.

The Auxiliary also sponsored Christmas parties for the DC Foster Care program and the Treatment Foster Care programs in Baltimore and Southern Maryland. Each party featured food, music and visits from Santa Claus for the foster children and their foster parents, in addition to various other activities such as gingerbread house making, karaoke, a magician, and the drawing of personal caricature portraits.

On the residential campuses in Baltimore and West Virginia, each cottage decorated a Christmas tree and residents made gift wish lists that were fulfilled by donations from dozens of churches and organizations.

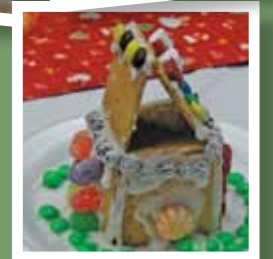


Each campus also held its own Christmas program. The Baltimore campus Christmas program featured holiday songs sung by the campus choir, liturgical dancing, skits and readings. A holiday dinner followed, along with the opening of gifts in the cottages.

The Falling Waters Christmas program included a "radio show" program written and directed by one of the campus therapists that featured music, a drama play and interviews with the campus

life director and director of clinical and community services. The clinical staff also sang their own version of *The Twelve*

Days of Christmas. A holiday dinner, that included a visit from Santa Claus, and the opening of gifts in the cottages followed.



All of our Christmas festivities clearly had a positive impact on the residents who participated and several chose to share their thoughts and thankfulness for BCC in their lives. Tina R., 17, a resident of BCC's Colesville Sibling Group home, wrote and read the following essay during the Baltimore campus Christmas program:

Christmas? What is Christmas to me?

It is the beautiful white snow falling from the heavens. It is putting up the pine tree, gathering families, selecting ornaments to put on the Christmas tree, bright lights and decorating the outside of the house. From the outside, you can see winking lights on and off. It is that stomach warming smell of grandma's famous apple pie and cookies, and children behaving well for good old Saint Nick.

What is Christmas without songs and

caroling? Or everyone at the big table laughing and eating Christmas dinner? It is the time for family and friends to come together and celebrate a glorious day! You know it is Christmas time when you can feel it in the air, and one breath of it makes your heart grow ten times bigger.

But my favorite part is not giving and receiving gifts, but actually giving something that makes me feel good inside. Don't get me wrong; I love the big

ones such as a brand new Wii or maybe a flat screen TV. Whatever it is, I thank that person and I know I am grateful to have a person that cares about me. That is what Christmas truly means to me.

For as long as I have been at the Board of Child Care, which has been four years, they have given me that beautiful Christmas, and I thank them with all my heart! I look forward to another Christmas with my second family, the Board of Child Care.

Welcome to a New Year and a New Look *(continued from page 1)*

the logo's representation of a person reaching for the sun and the sky and a bright new future.

BCC's name continues to be placed next to the United Methodist Church's cross and flame to emphasize the agency's

continued connection to the church, but the new logo takes greater prominence in all marketing materials.



The Keywords Redesign *(continued from page 1)*

BCC's newsletter has gone through many transformations over the years. The very first *Keywords* was actually called *Our Boys* and served as the official publication of the Strawbridge Home for Boys after it opened in the 1920s. In the 1940s, *Our Boys* was renamed *Our Boys and Girls* when the Baltimore Conference of the United Methodist Church established the Board of Child Care to oversee the administration of the Strawbridge Home, Kelso Home for Girls and Swartzell

Methodist Home for Children.

In the 1970s, BCC began using a logo containing the figures of a boy and girl against the backdrop of the United Methodist cross and flame, and this logo appeared in the masthead of each issue of *Our Boys and Girls*. In the 1990s, the newsletter's name was changed to *Keywords*, reflecting the work of the Auxiliary key people in each church who help spread news about BCC using the newsletter and other activities.

The newsletter also went from being published in black and white to being printed in one color. Shortly after the start of the new millennium, *Keywords* was again redesigned with a brightly colored masthead and the entire publication printed in full color.

Now, BCC has transformed *Keywords* again to become consistent and unified with BCC's new appearance agency-wide and better communicate the important work being done by BCC today.

Thank You!

Once again, the Board of Child Care's annual Christmas Offering campaign received an impressive response from the many readers of *Keywords* who responded with cash donations this year. Nearly 1,000 individuals contributed as of January. We thank you for every dollar donated because every single dollar counts.

BCC also sends a gracious thank you to the churches and organizations that sponsored and provided gifts for the cottages this past Christmas season, including:

- Annapolis/Southern MD District Clergy
- Asbury UMC
- Beddington UMC
- Bernice Paugh
- Bixler's UMC
- City Hospital
- Community College of Baltimore County
- Emmanuel UMC
- Glen Burnie UMC
- Howard County Community College
- Linthicum Heights UMC
- Mayo UMC
- Mays Chapel UMC
- McCormick Spice Plant-Hunt Valley
- Mt. Harmony UMC
- Mt. Zion UMC-Finksburg
- Northwood-Appold UMC
- Oakland UMC
- Potomac UMC
- Providence UMC
- Washington Square UMC
- 365 Church

The following Auxiliary districts and organizations sponsored foster care parties:

- DC-Greater Washington
- MD-Baltimore Suburban
- Southern MD-Annapolis Southern Region
- Red Hatters (Seagulls) of the North Beach Senior Center
- Calvert County Nursing Home Auxiliary
- Chesapeake Care Drugs

The churches of the Baltimore Metropolitan District, with the help of the Baltimore Suburban Districts, sponsored this year's Christmas stores. Churches that donated items and worked with the Christmas Store were:

- Calvary UMC
- Epworth Chapel
- Oxen Hill UMC
- Wards Chapel
- Bethany UMC
- Mt. Zion UMC
- Arnolia UMC
- Salem UMC
- Northwood Appold UMC

Our Son Remembered: A Young Man Committed to Making the Most of Life

Charles and Cindy Hutchinson, the parents of a former Falling Waters resident, wrote the following essay about their son CJ for publication in Keywords. CJ lived at Falling Waters from 2005 to 2007 before passing away suddenly last year. In his memory, and as a gesture of thankfulness for the difference BCC made in their son's short life, the Hutchinsons recently donated \$5,000 to BCC for the purchase of recreation equipment and other supplies for the Falling Waters campus.

Like most teenage boys, CJ would have much rather spent his time playing video games and hanging out with the guys on the street. He, instead, attended classes and meetings at the Board of Child Care. He would admit that the time spent there changed his life.

Diagnosed with ADD at an early age, he attended special education classes at his elementary school. He was constantly acting out and finding himself further behind academically. When CJ moved to a different school district he continued to fail in the system. He struggled to find acceptance and seemed committed to a path of self

destruction. Eventually he found himself jailed for his poor choices and was admitted into group care at the West Virginia Campus of the Board of Child Care.

For the first time, he was surrounded with kids in similar situations as his. The staff reached out to guide him, and he found acceptance. He discovered a sense of community that did worlds for his self esteem. CJ learned to take ownership of his choices and new ways to communicate.

There was a new light in his heart. CJ played football, basketball and softball while he was a resident. He continued to struggle with school, but BCC kept him on track. His focus on his education consumed his final year at BCC with him taking on additional classes to achieve the necessary credits to be able to graduate. When offered the opportunity to graduate with his high school class, he wanted to graduate on the campus since BCC had helped him so much. It was one of his proudest moments. He was committed to making the most of his life.

After leaving the Board of Child Care, CJ decided to join the Armed

Forces. He found himself unable to obtain a score high enough for his enlistment. Commitment and using those skills he learned while at BCC, he studied until he was able to score high enough to earn the rank of a United States Marine.

It was with profound grief that CJ was called to be with the Lord on Nov. 27, 2009. He was killed in an automobile accident while stationed in Twenty Nine Palms, CA. His organs were donated to several recipients in the California area and all recipients are doing very well and living their lives to the fullest because of CJ's gift. His untimely death left a great void in our lives.

The following was written by CJ in his "all weather memo book" provided by the U.S. Marine Corp:

"Live everyday like it's your last. Show all the people in your life that you wanna be a friend. Show everyone you love that you know what love means and you would do anything for them and just love everyday you're alive and then when you step in front of the King tell him you're sorry for all your mistakes in the world." Semper FI

Alumni Note

The Strawbridge Alumni Association is sad to report the passing of **Earl G. Fowler**, one of the earliest residents of the Strawbridge Home for Boys, on Sept. 19, 2010. He was 91 years old. To inquire about making a donation to the Alice G. Seymour Education Fund in Mr. Fowler's memory, contact Jim Mathis at 410-795-3810 or cts jimmy@aol.com.

Board of Director News



The Board of Child Care recently lost *emeritus* board member and long-time friend and advocate, **F. Duncan Cornell**, who passed away Dec. 31, 2010 of pneumonia at the age of 94. Mr. Cornell served

in numerous capacities as a BCC Board Member for nearly 50 years before retiring in 2008. Mr. Cornell owned his own legal practice and was a long-time member of Towson United Methodist Church.

Thomas Curcio, BCC's President and CEO, says Mr. Cornell was highly engaged in the business and activities of BCC and always acted in the best interest of the children and families served by the agency. Mr. Curcio and BCC Board Member Sally Ransom Knecht both spoke at the memorial service for Mr. Cornell, sharing remarks about his many contributions and his half-century of dedicated service to the agency.

"He was a compassionate man and passionate about our mission, and had helped thousands of children during his time here," says Mr. Curcio. "We are blessed and fortunate to have had people like Duncan."

The Auxiliary

Fifty Years After Joining Auxiliary, Volunteer Remains "Gung-ho" about BCC

When Katherine Rigney talks to other members of Towson United Methodist Church about joining the Board of Child Care Auxiliary, she always points out it is "a privilege" to belong. She then personally follows up with a written or in-person thank you to every person who submits dues.

It is this personal touch and passion Mrs. Rigney has for BCC that has resulted in untold numbers of new members added to the Auxiliary over the years, and thousands of dollars donated to BCC. This year she celebrates her 50th anniversary with the Auxiliary, and is perhaps one of the longest serving, active members in the volunteer group's 57-year history. She was recently inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizen's Hall of Fame for her volunteer work with the Auxiliary, as well as with many other organizations.

Some of the enjoyment Mrs. Rigney says she has had as an Auxiliary member is "seeing the development of children and their successes."

"We are primarily successful in educating children and providing a home life for them and stability they've never had," she says of BCC.

Mrs. Rigney joined the Auxiliary in April 1961, one year after the Strawbridge Home for Boys, Kelso Home for Girls and Swartzell Methodist Home for Children



physically merged into the Board of Child Care with the permanent move to today's Baltimore headquarters on Gaither Road. Then a member of St. John's UMC in downtown Baltimore, Mrs. Rigney jumped at the chance to support BCC's children by joining the Auxiliary when the church's minister asked her to volunteer.

Over the years she has held various positions with the Auxiliary and today serves as a Member-at-Large on the conference and district levels (Baltimore Metropolitan District) and as Towson UMC's Key Person. But perhaps the work she has enjoyed the most has been fundraising and event coordination. For a period of 10 years in the 1970s and 80s, she organized yearly Auxiliary dinner theaters to raise funds for BCC. One year she helped sell 800 tickets and organize the seating for two sold-out shows. She also served as co-chair of

the 50th anniversary celebration of the Auxiliary on June 28, 2003. More recently, Mrs. Rigney, who is an avid baseball fan, suggested taking BCC's residents to Aberdeen IronBirds baseball games and this has now become an annual summer trip sponsored by her Auxiliary district.

"If anyone is gung-ho about the Board of Child Care, its Katherine," says fellow Auxiliary volunteer Missy Yates who worked alongside Katherine for many years when they both belonged to the Baltimore North District. Missy herself has served on the Auxiliary since 1964.

"She's not shy about asking people to do things or to do things herself," Ms. Yates says of Mrs. Rigney. "She'll tackle a job and go for it."

Mrs. Rigney's activism and love for supporting children and their education began with volunteering in her two daughters' schools when they were growing up. She has endowed a



scholarship for students at Averett University, her alma mater, and actively raises money for the scholarship program for student servers at Oak Crest Retirement home, where Mrs. Rigney resides. Within her own family, she has set-up college savings funds for all of her 15 great-grandchildren.

Even with all of her volunteer activities, Mrs. Rigney still finds time to bowl, golf, and travel and is a bocce ball and Wii bowling champion at Oak Crest. And of course she rarely misses an Auxiliary meeting.

Spring Auxiliary Meeting Dates

Sat. Mar. 19	Central Maryland
Tues. Mar. 22	Greater Washington
Sat. Mar. 26	Executive Committee
Sat. Apr. 2	Baltimore Suburban
Sat. Apr. 9	Frederick
Tues. Apr. 26	Annapolis/Southern
Sat. Apr. 30	Baltimore Metropolitan
Thurs. May 12	Cumberland/Hagerstown <i>(changed from the previously published date of May 5)</i>
Thurs. May 19	Auxiliary Conference-Wide Annual Meeting
Sat. June 25	Executive Committee

Check local fliers for times and locations.

Auxiliary Fills Record Number of Thanksgiving Baskets This Year

The Board of Child Care sends a big thank you to the Auxiliary for donating enough food items to fill a record 216 Thanksgiving baskets this year distributed to families involved with BCC's Treatment Foster Care Program, Strawbridge School, Outpatient Mental Health Clinic and the residential programs. The baskets contained ham, stuffing, canned vegetables and cake mix.



In 2009, by comparison, the Auxiliary filled 174 baskets but increased the number this year to meet growing economic needs among BCC's families. The staff of the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic (OPHC) in Pasadena was especially grateful for the baskets, according to Clinic Director Susanne Goetz who reported the following:

The OPHC delivered 58 Thanksgiving baskets this year thanks to the hard work of the Auxiliary. This is the largest number we have delivered and was a more than 25 percent increase over last year.

Many of our families that we serve are suffering more this year due to severe economic hardship. The families were extremely grateful for the extra holiday food to serve to their loved ones. Some of our families who have been attending the OPHC for several years have come to count on this basket. Families who are new to the OPHC were overjoyed and appreciative for the generosity of the Board of Child Care.

One grandmother who supports a large family of 10 came to pick up the basket with her grandson and stated "Thank you so much, we just could not manage without you."



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of The United Methodist Church, Inc.

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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.

Rejoice with the Handel Choir of Baltimore!

Join us for an afternoon with the Handel Choir of Baltimore as they raise their voices in celebration of the Board of Child Care and our work to give children hope for the future, and power in their present lives.

Benefit Concert for the Board of Child Care

April 3, 2011 at 3 p.m.

Kraushaar Auditorium, Goucher College

1021 Dulaney Valley Road

Towson, MD 21204

Tickets: \$40

(Up to \$15 of ticket purchase is tax deductible)

Net proceeds to benefit the Board of Child Care

Mozart's *Overture to Don Giovanni*

Ralph M. Johnson's *This House of Peace*

Beethoven's Op. 80 *Choral Fantasia*

Michael Sheppard, *pianist*

Handel Choir of Baltimore & Orchestra

Melinda O'Neal, *conductor*

Sponsorship opportunities available ranging from \$100 to \$2,500. Playbill advertising also available.

Call 922-2100, ext. 5610, to purchase tickets and secure sponsorships and advertising. Or visit www.boardofchildcare.org.

Order concert tickets:
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/153474>



PHOTO CREDIT: WILL KIRK

The Handel Choir of Baltimore is an oratorio society of 50 auditioned singers with a 76-year history of performing choral and choral-orchestral repertory.