



October 2014

Message from the President Back-to-School Appeal A Huge Success!

Summer has officially ended and the air is crisp with the smell of fall! Our entire staff is abuzz with the energy only a new school year can bring.

For many of our residents, the summer months were filled with job placement programs, extra tutoring sessions, or continuing to earn high school credits during summer school. Our staff used every opportunity they could to keep the kids focused on their studies to make up for the distractions they have already had in their lives prior to joining BCC. We want nothing to take away from their chance to succeed in school. The more school – the better!

A new year of amazing possibilities lies before each and every resident thanks to all of you! Through your incredible collective efforts our Back-to-School appeal was quite successful. I saw many of our youth proudly sporting new backpacks, new calculators, and of course many a sharpened pencil. (On a personal note, it's great to see the Ninja Turtles™ making a comeback!)

I continue to be humbled at the support and strength shown by the United Methodist Church. They truly embrace our mission! I met with Bishop Johnson and Bishop Mathews and was delighted with their down-to-earth approachable style and thankful for their support in finding more ways that BCC and the UMC can partner to help strengthen outreach efforts.

Please enjoy this edition of Keywords and be moved to help us in our special work with children and families.

Warmly,

Laurie Anne Spagnola



Laurie Anne Spagnola
President



Eastern Shore Program Prepares Boys for Independence

“Ready By 21” Initiatives Remain Focus For Staff

Who taught you to do laundry? To grocery shop? To shave? For most of us the answer is obvious - our parents. For children in the foster care system, however, they are not such easy questions to answer.

Agencies caring for children in the foster care system are assigned benchmarks by the state that the youth need to reach by certain ages. They comprise many of the skills that independent adults will ultimately use every day.

In Maryland, these benchmarks are referred to as the “Ready By 21” initiatives. There are four areas of focus: education, employment, health, and housing. Within each of those categories are many skills that need to be mastered. For a 14 year old, this could be learning the basics of cooking and laundry. A 20 year old, by contrast, needs to understand household budgeting and how to look for an apartment.

“Getting our boys ready for life on their own is about more than academics,” said Karen McGee, Director of Campus life for BCC’s Eastern Shore campus. “Yes completing school is very important, but teamwork, social responsibility, and professionalism are needed just as much as good oral communication and reading comprehension skills.”

All of Board of Child Care’s youth are working towards their Ready By 21 benchmarks. The Eastern Shore campus has continued to build on last year’s successes. The after school tutoring sessions, cooking lessons by some of BCC’s social workers, and summer job program are already showing huge dividends. “Some of the kids are really getting into it,” said McGee. “The cooking lesson last week was to make manicotti – impressive for a group of guys who a few months ago hated the thought of cooking for themselves. Now it’s one of the group’s favorite activities!”



Laurie Anne Visits With Bishops
Strategy for stronger engagement discussed

During the month of September Laurie Anne Spagnola, BCC’s President, met with both Bishop Johnson of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference (top left), and Bishop Marcus Matthews of the Baltimore-Washington Conference (top right). Board of Child Care has been blessed to have an excellent relationship with both conferences and the support of both Bishops for many years. Bishops Johnson and Matthews expressed a keen desire to see more partnership opportunities occur in the coming months and years. Thank you to both Bishops for their hospitality!



Annual Golf Outing – September 16, 2014

Thank you to the many vendors and individuals who made this year’s event a huge success!

The ninth annual Board of Child Care golf tournament was a huge success once again. At the end of the day our vendors, sponsors, and players donated a collective \$28,000 to our programs! Special thanks to ASG Security and Sodexo for once again being our Gold Level sponsors. You can check out photos from this year’s event here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsk3cwTmj>





Campolina Way Celebrates One Year!

Martinsburg group home thriving

Please help us extend a hearty shout of “Congratulations!” to our staff at Campolina Way in Martinsburg, West Virginia. At the end of August, they celebrated their first anniversary of their program opening. What a year it has been! They have quickly become the residential location of choice for local attorneys and the Department of Health and Human Resources workers who seek a quality, professional treatment facility focused on providing a family-like environment for the youth.

Jackie Columbia, BCC’s longtime staff member in charge of West Virginia’s operations, made sure to celebrate each of her staff in reaching this milestone. As you can see below, each staff member received an individual superhero title with a corresponding superhero certificate. Congratulations to everyone at Campolina Way – keep up the incredible work!

YOU GUYS ARE SUPERHEROS!



Doug Campbell - Lieutenant Logic

David Cunningham - Colonel Calm

Andrew Benbark - Mister Meticulous

Cathy Irizarry-Barron – Capt. Communicator

Brenda Martell - Adaptable Woman

Susan O’Donnell - Coverage Commander

Shawn Roman-Polanco – Dr. Dependable

Tammy Castleman - Sergeant Structure

Jenn Blanchard - General Group Guru

Kristen Fischer - Super Scheduler

Kristin Cosner - Chief Organizer

Christina Wolfe - Princess Pleasant

Bob Snurr - Captain Kindness

Pat Andrews - Professor Positive

Tracy Wells – Princess Problem Solver

Anne Morrison, Chelsea Fox, & Alesia Brand - Superheroes-in-training



Join BCC for Children's Sabbath **Saturday, October 18, 2014**

You are invited to join the Baltimore Region of the United Methodist Church and the Board of Child Care for our first annual Children's Sabbath Celebration on Saturday, October 18, 2014.

The celebration is an interactive advocacy event that will encourage people of faith to improve the lives of children and their families both locally in Maryland and globally. The weekend observance is part of a national campaign organized by the Children's Defense Fund.

Attendees will learn about several existing ministries in our area and what opportunities are available to get their congregations or themselves personally involved. The workshops are designed to empower each individual to take action following the conclusion of the event.

This year's Children's Sabbath theme is "Precious in God's Sight: Answering the Call to Cherish and Protect Every Child." Our goal as United Methodists is to multiply our impact as advocates for all God's children.

You are invited to come as an individual or to bring a team from your congregation. This event is appropriate for adults, youth, and children who are middle school age and above.

Please join us and others committed to serving God's precious children.

Register online: <http://2014-baltimore-childrens-sabbath.eventbrite.com/>



Auxiliary – Fall Volunteer Dates and Meetings Posted

Cost for Auxiliary Membership = \$2

Cost for a Board of Child Care Pin = \$10

Cost for childhood memories = Priceless

The Auxiliary would like to thank Laurie Anne Spagnola for becoming our newest member! Julie Wernz, Auxiliary President, and Laurie Anne met to discuss the wonderful, caring group of individuals Board of Child Care is lucky to count as its volunteers.

From Thanksgiving baskets, to field trips for the kids, and of course operating a Christmas Store for the youth to shop for their families, the memories the Auxiliary help create really are priceless – please consider joining our Auxiliary!

Volunteers young and old are needed this fall! It is the busiest time of year for the Auxiliary and they need your help! [All the dates volunteers are needed are now posted on the website.](#) If you are available, please call and leave a message on the Auxiliary office line at 410-922-2100 x5473 or email Julie Wernz, Auxiliary President, at jwernz@gmail.com.

See the full lineup of volunteer dates online: www.boardofchildcare.org/help/auxiliary.php

October Auxiliary Meetings

Oct. 11 Baltimore Region Fall Meeting – 10:00 am

St. John's UMC of Lutherville, 216 W. Seminary Avenue, Lutherville, Maryland

Oct. 18 Conference Executive Committee Meeting – 10:00 am

Board of Child Care Chapel, 730 Brown Road, Martinsburg, West Virginia

Auxiliary Thanksgiving Baskets for children's families.

Below is a listing of each District's/Region's assigned items for the Auxiliary's Thanksgiving Baskets in 2014. Please have your items to either your church or the Auxiliary's office on the Baltimore Campus by Tuesday, November 4, 2014. Baskets will be assembled Thursday, November 13, 2014 and volunteers are needed on that date. Leave a message on the Auxiliary line if you can help! Projected number of baskets to be assembled this year: 220!!

District / Region	Item
Annapolis	Canned Fruit – 20–29 ounce cans
Baltimore Metropolitan	Cranberry Sauce (15 ounce cans) and Green Beans (15 ounce cans)
Baltimore Suburban	Cake Mix & Icing
Central Maryland	Sweet Potatoes – 40 ounce cans
Cumberland Hagerstown	Money to purchase Hams
Frederick	Money to purchase Hams
Greater Washington	Corn & Peas – 15 ounce cans
Washington East	Powdered Drink Mix – such as Crystal Light

Note – Monetary donations for the purchase of Hams are welcome as well!

In Brief



Guatemalan Embassy Visits BCC!

The Board of Child Care was honored to host a delegation from the Guatemalan embassy last month. The group had an opportunity to both tour our facility and meet with some of our international residents. They asked each of them about their journey to the United States, what it means for them to be here now, and how they like it so far. Hummus and macaroni and cheese were both mentioned as foods they'd never had before but liked!



Pictured Left to Right: Dina Mogollon (Vice-Consul), Sara Solis- Casteneda, PhD (General Consul), Laurie Anne Spagnola (BCC's President), Kelly Berger (Director of BCC's Unaccompanied Youth Program), Susana Valdivia (Legal Assistant Consulate General of Guatemala)



Thank you Ron & Jan Hayden for the Orioles Tickets!

A very special thank you to our Board of Directors Chair, Jan Hayden, and her husband, Ron, for donating 40 tickets to an O's game last month! (to the game where they clinched, no less!) Children from our residential campus, group homes, and treatment foster care families all enjoyed themselves as the O's triumphed over the Toronto Blue Jays! Thank you again Jan and Ron!



Prayer Shawls and Spanish Bibles donated!

August 31, 2014 was Unity Sunday for the Boring, Piney Grove, Mt. Gilead UMC Charge. Rev. Stacey Nickerson, BCC's Director of Church & Community Engagement, was the guest preacher at Mt. Gilead UMC. BCC extends a very special thank you to the churches below for donating the following items:

- Spanish bibles from Eastern UMC, Ames UMC, and the Boring, Piney Grove, Mt. Gilead UMC Charge
- Prayer Shawls, hats and gloves from Bel Air UMC
- Prayer Shawls from Hiss UMC
- Welcome Kits from Ames UMC

Designate Board of Child Care on your Paystub!

Under workplace giving programs, employees make one-time donations or regular paycheck deductions for charity. BCC is a participating charity in the Combined Federal Campaign (Chesapeake Bay Area and National Capital Area) and the Combined Charity Campaign for Baltimore City.

- Combined Federal Campaign # 31042
- Combined Baltimore City Campaign # 5634



We're Hiring!

Do you want to make a difference in a child's life? Child care worker, registered nurse, social worker, and special education teacher positions are just a few of the openings we have. Check out all available fulltime and part time positions on our careers webpage.

www.boardofchildcare.org/careers.php



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Comments or suggestions? We want your feedback! E-mail us at communications@boardofchildcare.org