



January 2015

## Happy New Year!

The last two months have truly been a special time for me as I experienced Board of Child Care's holiday traditions in action. Thanksgiving sent many a piece of pumpkin pie my way from the Strawbridge Breezeway market, and I coupled that with great, festive food enjoyed by all.

At the end of November our Baltimore honor roll students were treated dinner out at the Olive Branch (more on that below). They deserved every sauce-covered bite for their efforts in school. Bravo!

One word best describes my first Christmas season at Board of Child Care, and that word is magical. I know it felt that way for our staff and for our youth in a very large part because of YOU, our supporters!

The volunteer Auxiliary hosted a Christmas store and Christmas parties for our children and their families. Our incredible United Methodist Church partners and gracious individual donors sponsored the vast majority of the gifts under the trees. A big shout out to the army of volunteer elves who spent days wrapping each present just perfectly, and the hundreds of donors who pledged their aid towards our annual Christmas Appeal. Thank you to each and every one of you!

Wishing you and your family a very joyous and happy New Year!!

Laurie Anne Spagnola



**Laurie Anne Spagnola**  
President



## **Thank You To Our Volunteers and Donors!** **You made Christmas extra special for our youth!**

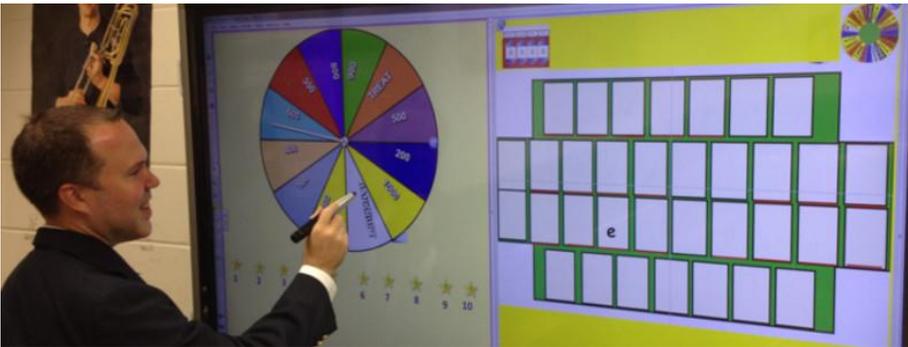
Over the last two months, we have had many community angels representing Board of Child Care in the halls of toy stores and on the web pages of Amazon.com. To everyone who sponsored a child, cottage, or even just contributed a few dollars to their office collection, please accept our sincere and heartfelt thanks. For so many of our youth, the holiday season is a difficult one. You have really made them feel loved, cared for, and believed in.

BCC's Baltimore staff would also like to send a special thank you to Rev. Stacey Nickerson for not only her incredible efforts in obtaining our generous gift sponsors, but also for coordinating the massive task of getting the wish lists from the kids, inventorying what was purchased or donated, and wrapping everything with her volunteer elves. Thank you Stacey for going above and beyond!





*From top left: Treatment Foster Care Christmas Party, Laurie Anne's job has many "other duties as assigned," Resident tries on his brand new bike. From bottom left: Christmas celebration in Baltimore delivered laughs and smiles all around, youth unwrap gifts in their cottages.*



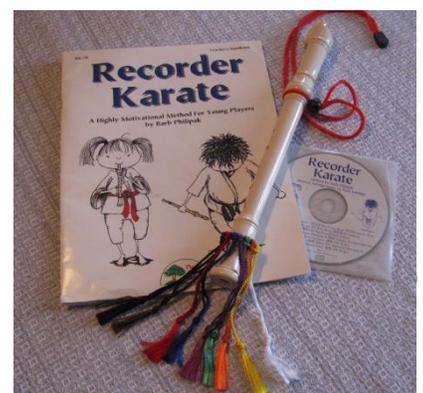
## **Caution - Black Belts in Training!** **Music class using new curriculum**

Teachers have long used classroom games like bingo, Jeopardy, and Wheel of Fortune to keep students engaged in learning. Dr. James Walton (Dr. Jay, as he is called by the kids at Strawbridge School), has been taking a slightly different approach with his elementary school music students this year.

"For some kids the mere satisfaction of learning music and being able to perform a more difficult piece is a reward in itself," said Dr. Jay. "But for others, you need to find a different approach so they want to learn the material."

"Imaginative and creative academic lessons are something we strive greatly for here at Strawbridge," added Dr. Angela Chambers, Vice President of Educational Services. "Dr. Jay has done an amazing job at creating meaningful lessons while still having fun."

Recorder Karate is a music curriculum designed to show each student his or her progress in a tangible way. The kids earn colored karate belts by playing progressively harder pieces. They start out performing "hot cross buns" to receive their white belts. Over the course of the school year, they can work



all the way up to a black belt by performing "The Bird Catcher's Song" from the Magic Flute opera, by Mozart (also known as "Papagena's Song").

Dr. Jay added, "What I love about Recorder Karate is that it allows my class to learn the music at their own pace. A few have graduated onto yellow belts already, and I can see they are eager to keep going."

*Dr. Jay is in his first year teaching at the Board of Child Care Strawbridge School, but has been a musician for his entire life. From Dundalk, Maryland originally, he graduated from the prestigious Peabody Conservatory with a masters in tuba performance, and went on to get his doctorate of education from Jones International University in Colorado. Prior to Strawbridge School Dr. Jay taught in Baltimore city public schools for three years, and spent two years prior to that teaching music in China. Dr. Jay has also been a member of the Baltimore brass quintet for ten years and plays - you guessed it - the tuba.*

## **Honor Roll Youth Celebrate!**

### **BCC students making great academic strides**

A number of our programs hosted celebrations for our youth who made honor roll in school last quarter (some for the first time!).

Laurie Anne congratulated fifteen members of our Baltimore Campus and group homes by hosting a dinner out at Olive Branch. Strawbridge School had 27 youth on the honor roll for this past quarter.

Out in West Virginia, eight of the Falling Waters residents made honor roll and two additional youth received the needed grades from the Campolina Way group home. The Falling Waters campus hosts a special lunch that is catered by a local restaurant (favorites are Chinese and Mexican), and at Campolina Way they kids earn "behavior bucks" to spend in the "star store." There they can purchase treats, decorations for their room, and other little goodies.

Last but certainly not least, one of our Denton campus youth got his choice of dinner out and chose his favorite – Burger King!

**Congratulations to all our youth for doing such a great job in school!**

*To everyone who donated to our Back to School drive this past fall – THANK YOU! Your donations really do make a difference and our kids are still using all those supplies every day!*





## **Unlikely Duo Raises Money for Board of Child Care 11 year old and 16 year old host video game tournament**

It is not often you see a middle school student and a high school student join forces for charity (especially when they did not know each other beforehand). That is exactly what happened, however, when Ethan (age 11) told his mom he wanted to do something for “the kids in the group home.”

Ethan’s mom heard there was a video game club run out of the library, which is how the idea of a video game tournament was born. Dustin, age 16, and a student at North Caroline High School, was an active member of the video game club, and was happy to help recruit players for the event held at the end of October. The game of choice? Super Smash Brothers™!

With some help from the parents, the boys charged admission and a low \$3 entry per game played. In total they raised over \$400 for Board of Child Care’s Eastern Shore program! The money purchased new board and video games for the residences. Plans are already underway for a repeat tournament in the spring.

Many thanks Ethan and Dustin!



*Ethan, age 11, who is in sixth grade at Lockerman Middle School, and Dustin, age 16, who is attending North Caroline High School.*

*If you would be interested in learning how to set up a fundraiser like Ethan and Dustin did, please contact Kristian Sekse in our development department at (410) 922-2100 x5284 or email him at [ksekse@boardofchildcare.org](mailto:ksekse@boardofchildcare.org)*



## Auxiliary News

### Thanksgiving & Christmas Drives Helped Hundreds!

The busy fall season was a huge success – thank you to every volunteer who came to help assemble the Thanksgiving boxes or worked on the Christmas Store. The Auxiliary would also like to extend a huge thank you to all the churches and Key Persons who make these events possible every year!

#### *How does the Auxiliary store work?*

The purpose of the store is to allow our youth an opportunity to purchase Christmas presents for others in their lives. Prior to arriving at the store, each youth receives a shopping sheet and they fill out whom they would like to purchase presents for. Once they arrive at the Christmas Store, they are given \$5 in store credit and record each of their purchases, checking to make sure they didn't forget anybody on their list. Most items in the store are between five and twenty-five cents, with some of the larger gift baskets priced at a dollar. All the store items are donated by United Methodist Churches from around the region!



“The store is a very special event because many of the children come through the doors not expecting to be able to buy anything,” said Julie Wernz, President of the Auxiliary. “But once they see our bargain prices, they all walk away with bags full of gifts for their families and those who are closest to them. It’s a great moment and one of my favorites each and every year.”



*Pictured above: The Baltimore Christmas store is ready for customers, the Mental Health Outpatient Clinic once again received gifts from the Auxiliary to hand out to their clients*

Get the latest Auxiliary information and upcoming dates online: [www.boardofchildcare.org/help/auxiliary.php](http://www.boardofchildcare.org/help/auxiliary.php)



#### **Box Top Update!**

Thank you to everybody who continues to collect Box Tops for us! In the second half of 2014 over 20,000 labels were snipped, clipped, and mailed into BCC's Auxiliary office. The Strawbridge School received a check for over \$2,000 in December thanks to your efforts! Wow!

#### **Save the dates!**

*\*Regional meeting dates will be set by the end of January*

January 24, 2015 - Executive Committee – Baltimore Campus 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

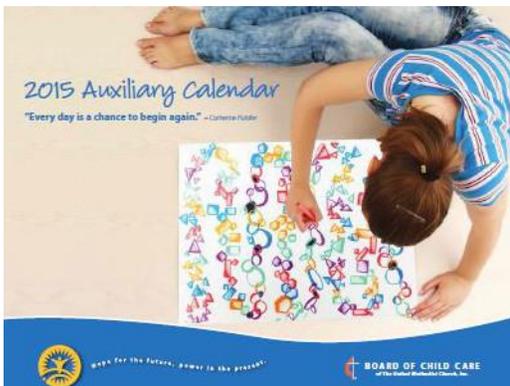
March 28, 2015 – Executive Committee – Baltimore Campus 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**May 14, 2015 – Auxiliary Annual Meeting – Baltimore Campus - 10:00 am with lunch following**

June 13, 2015 – Executive Committee – Baltimore Campus 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

October 10, 2015 – Executive Committee – Falling Waters Campus 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

## In Brief



### Auxiliary Calendars Mailed!

Our 2016 calendar is in the mail! If you did not receive one this year please send an email to [communications@boardofchildcare.org](mailto:communications@boardofchildcare.org) or call 410-922-2100x5284 and we will be sure to both send you one and add you to our mailing list for next year. Many thanks to all our youth who contributed artwork and sculptures for this year's pages!



### Congratulations to Dr. Angela Chambers on being published!

The staff of Strawbridge School requested a special shout-out in this issue of Keywords! Dr. Chambers was selected as a contributor to the book, "Why the Sun Rises," a collection of stories showcasing the faces and experiences of women in education. Release is scheduled for March of next year. Way to go Angela!



### Buildings and Grounds Tour Wraps Up

Board of Child Care's program locations are over 150 miles apart in some cases, but that did not deter our dedicated Building and Grounds committee! They conducted in person inspections to many of our group homes, off-sites, and all our residential campuses at the end of October. Their dedication was so great they took notes in the car just so they could fit all the locations in!



### Just for Fun!

Laurie Anne challenged all BCC employees to put on some festive holiday sweater decor. Creative uses of iPads, “make your own kits”, and Christmas lights really set the stage for a stiff competition!



### 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](http://www.boardofchildcare.org/careers.php)



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Comments or suggestions? We want your feedback! E-mail us at [communications@boardofchildcare.org](mailto:communications@boardofchildcare.org)