

CONNECTIONS

MCC Expands Our Supported Employment Program

In 2006 Maryland students will be graduating soon and will be transitioning into adult services through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) under the Governor's Transitioning Youth Initiative (GTYI). Through the GTYI, DDA will fund MCC's Supported Employment (SE) program in assisting individuals with developmental disabilities obtain competitive employment in their communities.

MCC is proud to announce the following students will be entering MCC's SE program after graduation:

- **Eva Anthony**
- **Lolita Dicarlo**
- **Everett Kegler**
- **Terrell Rawles**
- **Charles Schultz**
- **Ebony Walton**

MCC will support these six

individuals with job development, job skill training, job club, job coaching, and door-to-door transportation. One of the goals of the GTYI is to create collaborative interagency efforts between various state and local agencies to ensure a seamless transition from school to adult life.

In fulfilling this GTYI goal, MCC has developed a partnership with DDA, Division of Rehabilitative Services (DORS), Resource Connections (RC), the Prince George's County School System (PGCPS) and families of individuals with disabilities in forging successful placements in the community.

MCC sends out special thanks to our partners of the GTYI Program:

- Janice Stallworth, DDA
- LaTricie Demming, DDA
- Karen Oliver, RC
- Elizabeth Burley, PGCPS

- Rita Pickney, PGCPS
- Mary Russo, Parkdale High School
- Rhonda Bobo, High Point High School
- Pat Arvidson, Potomac High School
- Anthony Dorsey, Potomac High School
- Linwood Walls, Duval High School
- John & Ruth Anthony, Parents
- Cynthia DiCarlo, Parent
- Desiree Kegler, Parent
- AlPhill & Audrey Rawles, Parents
- Rose Richmond, Parent
- Tiajuana Sizemore, Parent

MCC looks forward to working with the different agencies, parents, and MCC participants in 2006.

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MCC is proud to announce six students will be entering MCC's SE program after graduation:

Making a Difference

MCC believes that those that are more fortunate than others can make a difference. It is not uncommon to see individuals with disabilities living below the poverty level. MCC believes it is the responsibility of the fortunate to help those in need whenever possible.

MCC knows we make a difference in people's lives by providing Supported Employment (SE), Individual Support Services (ISS), Community Supported Living Arrangements (CSLA) and Recreation Programs for Individuals with Disabilities.

MCC has developed a wish list to help continue implementing our mission statement. Please contribute the following Wish List items to MCC:

WISH LIST

1. Share Food Basket delivered to needy family.
2. Sporting event tickets
3. Recreational gift certificates (movies, bowling, theater, concert, etc.)
4. Amusement Park tickets (Six Flags, Kings Dominion, etc)

MCC wants to give special thanks to the following individuals who made generous contributions:

- **Curly A. Gilbert**
- **Curtis Lynch**
- **Toya Lynch**
- **Faye L. Richardson**
- **Tony Richardson**
- **Troy Richardson**
- **William & Patricia Stokes**
- **Robert & Peggy Taylor**

THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE!

Donate Now
Network for

All individuals or organizations that make a product or monetary donation to MCC will be spotlighted in our newsletter section, "Making a Difference", on our web site, and receive a tax-receipt letter.

Every dollar helps those in need to stay independent in the community. Your generous contribution can make a difference.

If you believe in Maryland Community Connection's mission and are ready to make a contribution, go to our web site for live donations at
www.marylandcommunityconnection.org

or mail a check payable to Maryland Community Connection at 6490 Landover Road, Suite A9, Landover, Maryland 20785.

MCC Holiday Celebration

On December 23, 2005, MCC celebrated the holidays with Karaoke Night at André Burno Coates, MCC Executive Director's home.

The night began with a welcome address from Ms. Coates sending holiday greetings to staff, family, and friends. MCC also acknowledged the contributions of the following Board of Directors:

- **Bryant Baldorado**
- **Toya Lynch**
- **Tony Richardson**
- **Peggy Taylor**

Those Board of Directors were presented with framed certificates for

their dedicated service and loyalty to MCC.

The karaoke festivities begin with a medley of Destiny's Child hits from the staff's children. Ms. Coates surprised everyone when she belted out a rousing rendition of the Jennifer Holiday's classic, *I'm Not Going*.

MCC staff, family, and friends sang the night away with songs from Al Green, Tina Marie, Rick James, Earth Wind and Fire, and Wild Cherry.

Early in the night, MCC had people say they could not sing but later we could not take the microphone away from them as the night progressed.

We will not call any names but everyone enjoyed a "night to remember" including the wonderful buffet of appetizers.

MCC staff had so much fun that all have requested another karaoke night next month. Ms. Coates thanked everyone for their support and encouraged everyone "**to keep their day jobs**" as singing careers are questionable.



SHARE Food Network

SHARE
Food Network

Purchase a Package

Save Money on Groceries

In November 2005, MCC began a partnership with SHARE (**S**elf **H**elp **A**nd **R**esource **E**xchange) to help feed our families. SHARE is a self-help non-profit food network made up of community partnerships. SHARE opened in 1990 to serve residents of Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The SHARE network is dedicated to:

- Providing wholesome and nutritious food to families and individuals at a reduced cost.
- Promoting volunteer service in our communities
- Building partnerships with community organizations.

FOOD BASKET and TOY DRIVE

On Saturday, November 19, 2005 and Saturday, December 17, 2005, MCC held it's Food Basket and Toy Drive for needy families with individuals with disabilities.

During the drive, generous individuals donated non-perishable food items, toy cars, action figures, books, coloring books, crayons, dolls, stuffed animals, watches, and monetary donations. The supporters of the drive came to MCC's administrative offices and dropped off their donations

SHARE is committed to supporting local community groups where all may participate, serve, and lead with dignity.

SHARE is a self-help program that is open to anyone who wishes to participate. *If you eat, you qualify!* There are no income restrictions. Every participant must pay \$16.00 and perform two hours of volunteer work in their community to receive a delicious package of food worth approximately \$35-\$40.00. The food package contains frozen meats, fresh fruits, and vegetables, and staple items such as rice, pasta,

beans, and potatoes.

SHARE helps families to stretch valuable food dollars, while receiving a thank you for their volunteer service. For more information about SHARE, you can call them directly at 301-864-3115 or 1-800-21-SHARE.

MCC was able to purchase and deliver food baskets to needy families with individuals with disabilities in November and December



Robert & Peggy Taylor presented a generous contribution and canned goods to our Executive Director, André Burno Coates.



Tony Richardson and Faye Richardson gave canned goods and a generous contribution for the drive.

MCC was able to distribute food and toy baskets to students from Duval High School, Parkdale High School, Fairmont Heights High School, and Forestville Military Academy with the help of our donations.

MCC want to thank our supporters of the 2005 Food Basket and Toy Drive.



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Supported Employment (SE), Individual Support Services (ISS), Community Supported Living Arrangements (CSLA), and Recreation Programs for Individuals with Disabilities

Donations

MCC will accept all donations in good condition.

To make a donation to MCC, please contact us (301) 583-0358 or visit our website:

www.marylandcommunityconnection.org

Important Dates

January 2, 2006	MCC Offices Closed for New Year's Holiday
January 13, 2006	SHARE Food Network Order Deadline
January 16, 2006	MCC Offices Closed for MLK Holiday
January 19, 2006	Quality Assurance Meeting
January 24, 2006	MCC Agency Training
February 10, 2006	SHARE Food Network Order Deadline
February 20, 2006	MCC Offices Closed for President's Holiday

“Helping individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their