

**CONNECTIONS**



**Maryland Community Connection Partners with  
Pilot Program**

**The Transitioning Youth Life &  
Employability Skills Training Program**

**Inside this issue:**

The Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program held its open house on, Thursday, May 24, 2006 at the Training Source for the 2006 Transitional Youth Students and family members.

The Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program workgroup is a collaborative partnership with **André Burno Coates**, Maryland Community Connection, **Evelyn Kim Rhim**, The Training Source, **Bea Rodgers & Karen Oliver**, Resource Connections of Prince George's County, **Rita Pinkney**, The Prince George's County Public School System, **Tonya Stellar**, The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), and **Megan Jefferson**, The Arc of Prince George's County.

The Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program will

provide individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to complete an 8 week intensive skills training course that will bridge the transition from school to the workforce and the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to compete in the job market.

Evelyn Kim Rhim, Executive Director of the Training Source, presented a power point presentation about the Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program. Special recognition went to Bea Rogers, Executive Director of Resource Connections of Prince George's County, for creating the Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program. All the Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program's partners discussed their roles and how they will be working with the participants. The students were excited to

receive information about the program.

Maryland Community Connection is proud to announce the 2006 graduates in our program that have been selected to participate in the Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program:

- EvaMarie Anthony**  
Potomac High School
- Lolita DiCarlo**  
High Point High School
- Sean Douglas**  
Potomac High School
- Brian Greene**  
Central High School
- Everett Kegler**  
Duval High School
- Terrell Rawles**  
Potomac High School
- Charles Schultz**  
Parkdale High School
- Dane Thomas**  
Potomac High School
- Ebony Walton**  
Duval High School

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*André Coates presents winner, EvaMarie Anthony, with 2 tickets to the Washington Mystics and a Mystic backpack.*

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André Coates, Executive Director of Maryland Community Connection, stated that the developmentally disabled youths in the program are committed to working towards becoming a viable part of their communities and this 8 week comprehensive training program will build workplace skills and confidence for success in the workplace.

**Cynthia DiCarlo**, mother of **Lolita DiCarlo**, is extremely excited that her daughter has been selected to participate in the program, that they completed the program application that evening. **EvaMarie Anthony** was also overjoyed to win the door prize of two Mystic tickets and a Mystic backpack, all donated by MCC staff. **Dane Thomas** stated that his family will be on vacation when the program starts but he felt it was more important for him to participant in the program than go

on a vacation. **Brian Greene** stated he cannot wait until he finds a job in the community.

The Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program has the following companies who have agreed to become Employer Partners:

- Greenbelt Marriott
- NW Works, Inc.
- Federal Highway Administration
- CVS Pharmacy

The Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program is in need of additional employers as partners. As an Employer Partner, businesses agree to one or all of the following commitments:



Dane Thomas & his mother, Sarita Green

- Tour of your company
- Mock interviews with the youths
- Guest Speaker
- Hire a graduating youth



Bea Rodgers & Evelyn Kim Rhim

Maryland Community Connection is thrilled to help our participants develop the life and professional skills needed for independent workplace success and to assist them with securing meaningful employment aligned with their goals.

For more information about The Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program, contact André Coates at 301-583-0358.

## MCC become a DORS Vendor

On May 30, 2006, **Christine Johnson**, DORS Staff Specialist for Community Rehabilitation Programs, notified Maryland Community Connection that our organization has been approved for DDA Supported Employment and Non-Supported Employment Job Coaching Services with the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS).

The DORS mission is to provide leadership and support in promoting the employment, economic self-sufficiency, and independence of individuals with disabilities. MCC is pleased to incorporate the DORS mission with our services.

The MCC staff has worked many hours with **Tonya Stellar**, VR Supervisor and Christine Johnson from DORS to be a qualified vendor under the DORS system. The DORS has programs and services that help people with significant disabilities go to work in careers of their choice and become independent in their homes and communities.

If eligible, individuals with disabilities can work with a DORS counselor to choose from programs and services such as:

- Career decision making, counseling and referral

- Rehabilitation Technology Services
- Employment training
- Job search, placement and job-keeping services
- Supported employment/job coaching

To find the nearest DORS office, call toll-free 1-888-554-0334 or visit [www.dors.state.md.us](http://www.dors.state.md.us).





OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY

## MCC Annual License Review

On April 24, 2006 **Betty Allen**, from the Office of Health Care Quality, came to Maryland Community Connection for our annual license review. The Office of Health Care Quality's mission is to protect the health and safety of Maryland's citizens and to ensure that there is public confidence in the health care and community service delivery systems through regulatory, enforcement, and educational activities.

André Coates, MCC's Executive Director, welcomed Ms. Allen as the license review began.

Ms. Allen was charged with implementing the vision of the Office of Health Care Quality's to achieve excellence in the quality of services provided by the health care and community service delivery systems through the regulatory process. Ms. Coates provided the necessary information to complete the license review.

The Office of Health Care Quality's values are:

- To promote a work force that is qualified, competent, honest, and possesses integrity.
- To promote principles of fair-

ness, consistency, objectivity, and accountability.

- To create an environment of creativity, cultural sensitivity, pride, dignity, respect, and process improvement.
- To promote partnerships with customers and maintain their trust.

Ms. Coates knows that MCC is aligned with the values of the Office of Health Care Quality. MCC is proud to announce our organization passed its annual license review with flying colors.

## Transitional Youth Initiative Fair

On April 26, 2006, the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) sponsored its Annual Transitional Youth Initiative (TYI) Fair at Glenarden Church. Students and parents of individuals with developmental disabilities all came to hear information about services from DDA, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), Resource Coordination, and DDA licensed agency providers.

The TYI fair opened with a greeting from **Ruth Kummings**, Bowie High School Special Education Coordinator, greeting all the students and families, and introducing teachers and Special Education Representatives, **Elizabeth Burley** and **Rita Pickney**. The evening led with **Latricie Demmings**, DDA, **Karen Oliver**, Resource Connection, **Tonya Stellar**, DORS, and Elizabeth Burley, Prince George's County Public

Schools.

The speakers shared a wealth of information about life after the students graduate from the school system. Under the TYI, Individuals with developmental disabilities will be able to access funding for Supported Employment and other day services after they have aged out of the school systems at 21 years of age. After the students and families received basic information about the services, they moved to another room where they were able to meet providers and ask specific questions about their programs.

**André Coates**, Maryland Community Connection's Executive Director, shared literature and information about our Supported Employment Program to students that will be graduating in 2007.

Ms. Coates discussed our program, the opportunities for independent placement, and how MCC will support individuals in job skills training, job development, job club, job coaching, and door-to-door transportation. For more information, request, the *Transitioning Youth Handbook: Navigating the Developmental Disabilities Administration Service System 2004*. from your teacher or download a copy from our web site at



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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 wants to give special thanks to **Curtis Lynch** for his generous donation of printer cartridges.

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](http://www.marylandcommunityconnection.org)

## Bowie Baysox Baseball

MCC participants continue to enjoy watching the Bowie Baysox live minor league baseball games at Prince George's Stadium in Bowie, Maryland. MCC participants are able to meet players and obtain autographs from their favorite players.

MCC has made going to the ball park a family event. MCC distributes free tickets to individuals with disabilities and their family members. Participants and families expressed great appreciation for the wholesome fun enjoyed at the games. For free Bowie Baysox tickets, contact MCC administrative offices at 301-583-0358.

## Important Dates

June 12, 2006	SHARE Food Network Order Deadline
June 22, 2006	MCC Agency Meeting
July 3, 2006	First Day of The Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program
July 4, 2006	MCC Offices Closed for Holiday
July 17, 2006	SHARE Food Network Order Deadline
July 20, 2006	Quality Assurance Meeting

**“Helping individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their**