

CONNECTIONS

Maryland Works Awards Provider of the Year to Maryland Community Connection



Pamela Kumar, Cathy Raggio, Alexander Sanchez, Kumar Barve, Kimblynn Snyder, and André Coates.

Maryland Community Connection is pleased to announce that we received the Maryland Works Provider of the Year Award for our Supported Employment (SE) program.

MCC received this award in recognition of achieving significant outcomes in the employment of individuals with disabilities.

This award was presented to **André Coates**, Executive Director, & **Kimblynn Snyder**, Deputy Director by **Cathy Raggio**, Secretary, Maryland Department of Disabilities, Delegate **Kumar Barve**, and **Alexander Sanchez**, Secretary of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation at the Maryland Works Employment Awards Luncheon on June 24, 2010.

Maryland Works is a state-wide membership association

that advocates for & develops employment and economic opportunities for individuals with disabilities or other barriers to employment.

MCC continues our mission to ensure that people with developmental disabilities are contributing & participating in the workforce. On being honored for the award, Ms. Coates states, "Because of our staff commitment and efforts, businesses continue to recognize that some of the best qualified people for job openings are people with developmental disabilities.

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MCC Partners with TY Life & Employability Skills Training Program for 5th Consecutive Year

Maryland Community Connection is honored to participate in the 5th consecutive year of the Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program.

The Transitioning Youth Life & Employability Skills Training Program workgroup is a collaborative partnership between Maryland Community Connection, The Training Source, Inc., Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services, Maryland Department of

Health & Mental Hygiene/SMRO, Prince George's County Public Schools, Resource Connections of Prince George's County, Prince George's County / Office of the County Executive and other community providers.

The program provided 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

provide the skills necessary to compete in the job market.

MCC is proud to announce the 2010 graduates in our program have all obtained paid jobs or internships:

- Kevin Brown**
- Jetta Butler**
- Derek Gross**
- Antonio Holloway**
- Vivian Parham**
- Andrea Shubert**



LISS Off To Great Start In First Year!

In November 2009, the team at Maryland Community Connection (MCC) along with four other providers was given the task of heading the newly created Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) Program. LISS was created by the Developmental Disabilities Administration to help improve the quality of life for individuals in Maryland with developmental disabilities, LISS replaced Rolling Access.

As with any new project, regulations and standards were still being created when the project started on December 1st, 2010 however Maryland Community Connection stepped right in to organize and assist in developing standards and templates that were used by all four other LISS providers.

MCC went into the community to spread the word and hosted information sessions that allowed families to not only learn about LISS but also to discuss other issues and resources. MCC serviced Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince Georges and St. Mary's Counties and was there to provide needed information.

Always up for a challenge, team MCC adhered to all guidelines of the program in order to maintain integrity and the duration of the program servicing the individuals in need, whereby dedicated staff took time to visit individuals who were having trouble with the LISS processes and those who could not make it to the sessions or the

office. "We are in the service business!" said Andre Coates, Executive Director.

The outreach and service has paid off as well. With a statewide goal of servicing just under 200 individuals for the first year, Maryland Community Connection was able to serve over 500 individuals using minimal LISS funds!

With a successful first year, team MCC is excited about the possibilities of continuing to help individuals in the Southern Maryland Region. "We are all more comfortable with this program and continue to look forward to making a difference in the state."

For more information about LISS, please call 301-583-8880.

PERSONAL STORIES - INSIDE LISS

When deciding to enter the Human Service industry, I wanted to help individuals to achieve their goals both big and small. To promote an independence that we all take for granted. To be able to affect change and say at the end of every day that I made a difference. In December 2009 when the Developmental Disabilities Administration selected Maryland Community Connection as one of the 5 statewide LISS providers, the chance to make that change went from one county to five.

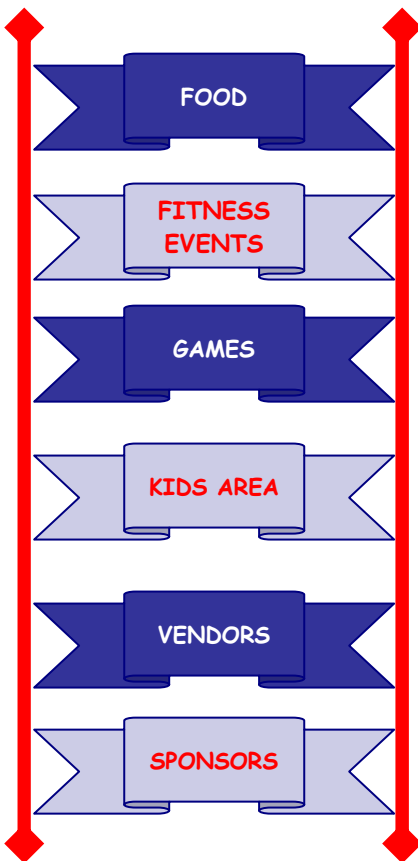
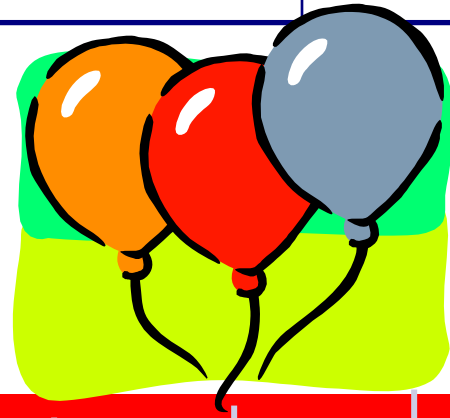
Understanding the magnitude of the program, I still did not understand the change that would be made for the individuals. As an organization, MCC serviced over 500 individuals in the Southern Maryland Region and each of those families made a lasting impression on not only the organization as a whole but each one of us individually. During the year, the countless number of individuals in their pursuit for independence was amazing and encouraging.

An 18 year old young lady in Montgomery County, took the opportunity to allow LISS to find products and services that would allow her to work beyond her disability. She was able to acquire communication devices that allowed her to communicate with her family and friends in order to enjoy her teenage years. During the year MCC has met several families just like hers, who we assisted their families in the way of inclusion of children with developmental disabilities and made efforts for everyone to feel included and accepted.

MCC was invited to various events throughout the state to implement the program. Most recently, we shared our information at the Special Olympics and in return, the individuals in attendance shared their stories of success and life.

These stories made all of us look at life and we are reminded of how precious it really is. As the next year of LISS moves forward, we will no doubt be able to serve individuals and families with LISS funding and assist them in finding other resources, hearing the stories that individuals share with us regarding the difference made through the program will always be the power with which the program runs.

Aisha Ferguson, Director of Community Services



**4th Annual
Family Fun & Fitness Day
September 18, 2010 Noon - 4PM
Bradbury Community Center
Rain or shine**

This is the event not to miss! We have such a great time! We're doing it again! On Saturday, September 18, 2010 at the Bradbury Community Center, Maryland Community Connection will host Family Fun & Fitness Day at 2301 Ewing Avenue, Suitland, Maryland to encourage healthy lifestyles.

This event is open to all Maryland Community participants, their family members, volunteers, supporters, and partners of Maryland Community Connection. Food, games, music, sports, fitness events, face painting, and dancing will all be a part of the festivities.

Please RSVP by September 10 to 301-583-0358.

To become a 2010 Family Fun & Fitness Day Vendor, Sponsor, or Donor call 301-583-0358.



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month



people with disabilities at our Annual Employer Breakfast on Friday, October 1, 2010.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The theme, "Talent Has No Boundaries: Workforce Diversity includes Workers With Disabilities" celebrates workforce diversity and workers with disabilities. The theme also serves to inform the public that workers with disabilities represent a diverse and vibrant talent pool ready for hire.

In 1988, Congress enacted a law declaring October "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." The recognition for the month enhances public awareness of those with disabilities and encourages their full integration into the workforce.

MCC participants are looking for employers to give them an opportunity to be productive employees and become taxpayers.

Maryland Community Connection kicks-off National Disability Awareness Month by honoring employers that have hired

Supported Employment

Maryland Community Connection's Supported Employment specializes in independent placement and will identify desired employment, provide employment training, and assist in maintaining independent employment. MCC Supported Employment services include job development, job acquisition, job training, and job retention.

Once employment is in place, MCC will continue training and services for achieving the successful employment outcomes.

MCC assists businesses in hiring and training employees with developmental disabilities. MCC staff provides customized on-site training, and helps the worker learn tasks or make suggestions to the employer about suitable adaptations to the workplace.

If you would like more information about MCC's Supported Employment Program or are ready to hire one of MCC's participants, please contact us 301-583-0358.

New Jobs

Maryland Community Connection continues to be aligned with Governor Martin O'Malley request for Marylanders to have jobs. MCC continues to assist individuals with developmental disabilities to find and maintain community based employment even in these tough economic times. MCC would like to congratulate the following individuals for obtaining and maintaining paid employment in the community:

- **Kevin Brown**
- **Clifford Hall**
- **Antonio Holloway**
- **Thomas Kennedy III**
- **Andrea Shubert**

Special thanks to the businesses for recognizing that these individuals have a valuable contribution to make to the workforce. We encourage our readers to support these companies that employed individuals with developmental disabilities:

- **Dollar Tree**
- **Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission**
- **Popeye's**
- **Rising Generations Daycare**
- **Safeway**
- **TGIF Friday**

Supported Employment Spotlight

Congratulations to **Lorraine Savadge** for being honored on her 3rd year anniversary as a child care aide at Rising Generations Daycare.

On November 1, 2006 Lorraine entered into Maryland Community Connection's Supported Employment Program unemployed but with a strong desire to work with children.

MCC arranged for Lorraine to begin volunteering at Rising Generations Day Care Center to obtain some experience in the child care field.

Lorraine is a natural working with the children and was hired in a paid position. Lorraine has become a valuable employee who loves her career choice.



Birthdays



We would like to wish the following individuals Happy Birthday for August, September, and October.

August

Christopher Kunkle

Aug 8

Omobola Ladega

Aug 10

Khadijah Jones

Aug 17

Adrian Parr

Aug 19

Dianne Brown

Aug 25

September

Antonio Holloway

Sept 2

Isaiah Johnson

Sept 2

Kevin Brown

Sept 14

Zainab Fagge

Sept 18

Barbara Hartnett

Sept 21

Mayra Rodriguez

Sept 21

October

André Coates

Oct 6

Emmanuel Haynesworth

Oct 7

Thomas Kennedy Jr.

Oct 27

Shawauna Mason

Oct 27

Employment

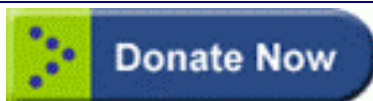
Opportunities at MCC

MCC continues to actively seek professional and energetic staff as **André Coates** recently served in the panel for In-



terns of Color, a networking event held at the Urban Institute for young professionals seeking careers in the non-profit sector. During the networking session, it was where Ms. Coates met and recruited MCC's newest intern Robyn Floyd.

MCC is a fast growing agency that is in need of qualified staff for the following positions: Part-time In-Home Aide – (Bi-lingual English/Spanish) Train individuals with developmental disabilities in home related skills, personal care & recreational services. Starting salary up to 14.42 a hour, paid holidays, tuition assistance, & credit union. Will train the right person. All interested applicants mail resumes to MCC. **No calls please.**



Please make a contribution to support individuals with developmental disabilities to ensure their continued success. With your donation, Maryland Community Connection will continue to help individuals with developmental disabilities in the community.

WWW.MARYLANDCOMMUNITYCONNECTION.ORG

301-583-0358

OR, MAIL DONATION TO:

6490 LANDOVER ROAD SUITE A-9, LANDOVER, MD 20785

Maryland Community Connection is a non-profit organization. Your donation to Maryland Community Connection is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Car Donation

MCC's Vehicle Donation program offers a free and quick way for donating your used car in all 50



states. If you would like to

donate your vehicle to MCC please call us at

301-583-0358 or visit MCC's website at

www.marylandcommunityconnection.org.

**Donate your vehicle to
Maryland Community
Connection**

Open Enrollment for Benefits



On June 21, 2010, MCC held it's annual open enrollment for employees. Employees were given detailed information regarding the great benefits that MCC offers to employees.

MCC would like to thank **Erica Denenberg** and **Barbie Hoffman**, both of Richard J. Princinsky & Associates, Inc for assisting in enrolments in the Health and Dental Insurance and the Pension Plan.

Barbara Draughn, Kaiser Permanente, offered detailed insight regarding health and dental insurance and the many options that MCC offers to our employees.

Kelly Levay, UNUM reviewed the Life Insurance and Long Term Disability that is offered free to all eligible employees including an Employee Assistance Program.

Tonya Jackson, Agape Health Consulting was also on hand to provide the annual training on OSHA, Universal Precautions, Bloodborne Pathogens, and Emergency Procedures.

MCC continues to provide the best possible benefits and training to our employees.

National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week

As declared by the US Senate, September 12-19, 2010 is to be marked with celebrations & events recognizing the essential role of Direct Support Professional (DSP) in all our communities. MCC wants to recognize the hard working DSP Staff who continue to provide outstanding services to individuals with disabilities. If you have been positively touched by a DSP, make sure to show your appreciation for their contribution in supporting our most vulnerable neighbors, family, & friends in our community by just giving them a kind word of thanks. MCC thanks our DSP for helping individuals with disabilities maintain their independence in the community through on-going support and commitment to making a difference.

"Tanks" to Staff

On June 1, 2010, all Maryland Community Connection employees received a free tank of gas as a thank you for their hard work and dedication. Each tank was filled by **André Coates, Executive Director**.

Special thanks to the Shell staff who also rewarded staff with a free soda. Maryland Community Connection is extremely appreciative for the hard work and dedication that our employees provide.

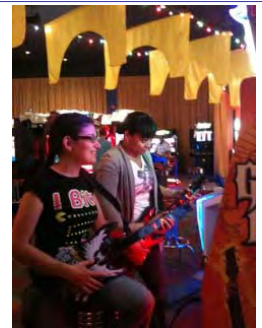
It was a pleasure to provide this benefit to staff.



André Coates and Lamar Dawn, Employment Specialist

Team Building

On May 12, all MCC employees attended a team building exercise at Dave and Busters. Employees worked together



Irish Amaya and Aisha Ferguson to build lasting bonds of support while enjoying the competitive games.

MCC continues to recognize that staff teamwork is an important factor in the success of the individuals we serve.

Smile Bright Dental Program (SBDP)

Maryland Community Connection continues the Smile Bright Dental Program (SBDP) for the 2nd fiscal year. SBDP offers financial and resource assistances for preventative and comprehensive, dental care to eligible Maryland participants. The SBDP is available to adults with developmental disabilities that reside in Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George’s, or St. Mary’s Counties. SBDP can be used as the sole dental coverage program, to supplement costs not covered by an insurance provider or to cover service co-pays.

Eligibility

You are eligible to enroll in the SBDP if you meet all of the following requirements:

- Diagnosed with a developmental disability verified by an Individual Plan (IP) and/or a medical statement of developmental disability
- 21 years old or older resident that lives in Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George’s, or St. Mary’s Counties
- A Maryland resident verified by a state issued ID card or bill noting the address

- Not currently receiving full residential services



Enrollment

Enrollment in Maryland Community Connection’s SBDP is voluntary. The enrollee must complete a Maryland Community Connection’s SBDP and the Maryland Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped applications and agree to the terms and conditions of the program. No application will be processed without necessary paperwork documenting eligibility.

For more information about

Maryland Community Connection’s SBDP visit

www.marylandcommunityconnection.org

The Clara Elizabeth Jackson Carter Foundation makes SBDP possible.



Welcome New Staff

The Maryland Community Connection family welcomes the following staff:

Robyn Floyd
Intern

Larry Williams
Employment Specialist

Maryland Community Connection is pleased to welcome staff that makes a positive impact on the lives of the participants we serve.



- 1 Choose Maryland Community Connection as your charity.
- 2 Shop Online Choose from more than 500 great stores.
- 3 GoodSearch Donates! Up to 30% of your purchase will go to Maryland Community Connection! It's that easy!

12-Week Walking Challenge

In a partnership with SHARE and the American Heart Association Search Your Heart, Maryland Community Connection completed a 12 week walking program. **Thomas Pruski**, SHARE Health Project Director and **Jessica Moise**, Director, Cultural Health Initiatives of the American Heart Association / American Stroke Association and an anonymous donor made this program possible

The group walked each Saturday, from March 6, 2010 to May 22, 2010 from 8:30 am—9:30 am . Walkers were given pedometers, t-shirts and special prizes for their participation.

Walking is one of the easiest ways to be physically active. This program was open to all participants, including family members, and friends of Maryland Community Connection and we were pleased that the families came out and joined in the walk. **Aisha Ferguson**, led MCC in the challenge and even held a health cooking demonstration.

Maryland Community Connection would like to thank the seniors at Forestville Mall for making us feel welcome and joining in the challenge. Even though the challenge ended, participants expressed interest to continue the walk for a healthy quality of life and MCC is pleased to see all are still motivated to keep their feet moving!



Change
Change
for
CHANGE



MCC Needs Your Help

Tired of all that loose change in your purse or pocket? Under the couch? Between the car seats? Why not gather it up and donate it to a worthy cause? With your funding support, Maryland Community Connection can continue improving the quality of our programs and services, partner to reduce the need for subsidized lifestyles for individuals with disabilities, and provide increased access and opportunities for these individuals to build strong, sustainable communities.

How can you donate? It's SIMPLE! Visit the T.D. Bank located on 8211 Annapolis Rd, New Carrollton, MD 20785. You do not have to wrap up your change since T.D. Bank has a change counting machine in the lobby. Put your coins in the change machine and you will receive a print out of the amount. Take your print out to any teller and tell them how much you would like to donate to Maryland Community Connection. No amount is too small, feel free to donate all or some of your change. You can do this in your own spare time and as many times as you want without any MCC agency representatives present!

Thank you, for being an agent of CHANGE!

MCC Participants in the Community

Some see recreation and community activities as luxury but Maryland Community Connection believes they are a necessity to improve the quality of life of Maryland Community Connection's participants.

Being an active member of the community positively influences the quality of

life for individuals.

Recreation experiences are a necessity for enhancing social integration and inclusion. Recreational supports are not just about having fun but a way of exposing individuals to new experiences.

Through community activity, MCC can

see an individual's lives change when incorporating employment and recreational support with the end result of increased social and communication skills and improved behavior which gives program participants the opportunity for a well balance life.



Helping individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their goals.



MARYLAND
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Web: www.marylandcommunityconnection.org

Helping individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their goals.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Maryland Community Connection (MCC) is primarily to establish, operate, and maintain services in the community for individuals with developmental disabilities. Through trained, qualified, and fairly compensated staff, MCC services will assist each person to achieve a greater degree of social and economic independence and reduce the need for subsidized lifestyles. MCC policy requires that these services be provided to eligible Maryland participants without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, gender, or marital status. MCC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in our 9th year of operation.

Important Dates

August

Aug 31 TY Graduation



September

Sep 6 Labor Day
MCC Closed
Sep 12-19 National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week
Sep 18 Family Fun and Fitness Day

October

Oct 1 National Disability Awareness Employer Breakfast
Oct 11 Columbus Day
MCC Closed
Oct 13-15 MACS Fall Conference



CFC #B1345
<http://aj/mcc/cfc.org>

“Helping individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their goals”