

# CONNECTIONS

## "Together" is the theme for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2011



Maryland Community Connection would like to remind everyone that March has been recognized as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness month was declared in 1987 as a call to get involved in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities to increase awareness and to promote individuals' potential by providing encouragement and opportunities needed to live a successful and independent life in the community and to achieve their dreams.

Since the establishment of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, much has changed in this country for people with developmental disabilities, and more people than ever seem to be aware of the contributions that can be made by people with developmental disabilities.

There have been successful public cam-

paigns to end the use of the "r" word, and instead use "intellectual disability" which have resulted in more respect. But there are still challenges to be faced in achieving inclusion for these individuals in our community. Many budgets are being slashed, and services for people who need support to reach independence in living and working are in jeopardy.

March is the month to join us in raising awareness: to volunteer, donate, speak out to elected officials on issues impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Talk to your employer about their practices for recruiting and hiring people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Make the effort to support businesses that employ people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

People with developmental disabilities can be friends, neighbors, co-workers, volunteers, or classmates. During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, get to know someone with a disability. You'll see that everyone has something to offer.

Together we accomplish more.

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## MCC awarded MDASPA 2011 Nonprofit Agency Public Service Achievement Award

On March 14, 2011, MCC was awarded the **2011 NonProfit Public Service Achievement Award** by the Maryland American Society of Public Administration (MD ASPA). The MD ASPA recognized that MCC is making tremendous strides in enhancing the lives of individuals with developmen-

tal disabilities in Maryland.

The MD ASPA is a leading public service organization that: advances the art, science, teaching, & practice of public and nonprofit administration; promotes the value of joining and elevating the public service profession.



Left to Right - André Coates, Dr. Ann Cotton, ASPA, & Christine Spencer, ASPA.

## Save The Date!



*You're invited to the  
Maryland Community  
Connection*

*10-year Anniversary Celebration  
November 14, 2011*

For details contact us at 301-583-0358

## Inspiring Others is MCC Participant Reality

The months of January, February, and March have been quite busy for Donald Gallimore. Donald is a participant in Maryland Community Connection's Supported Employment Program and has been with the organization since July 2007. Donald recently launched his own public speaking business, Inspiring Others. Donald hopes to use his motivational speaking talent to speak all across the country some day inspiring people to always strive for more.

Donald has already had three speaking engagements. He spoke at the Transitional Youth Open House about the obstacles that he encountered post graduation and entering into the job market. Donald stressed the importance of being dedicated to the job hunt and he explained that Maryland Community Connection



Left to right: Howard A. Burnett, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health and Human Services at the TY 2011 Open House with Donald Gallimore.

helped him stay motivated and kept him focused on his goal, which was to achieve full-time employment at Animal Management Division.

Donald delivered a speech at the Head Injury Rehabilitation and Referral Services Graduation. Donald discussed the importance of individuals understanding that they must start at the bottom and work their way up to the top. He wanted

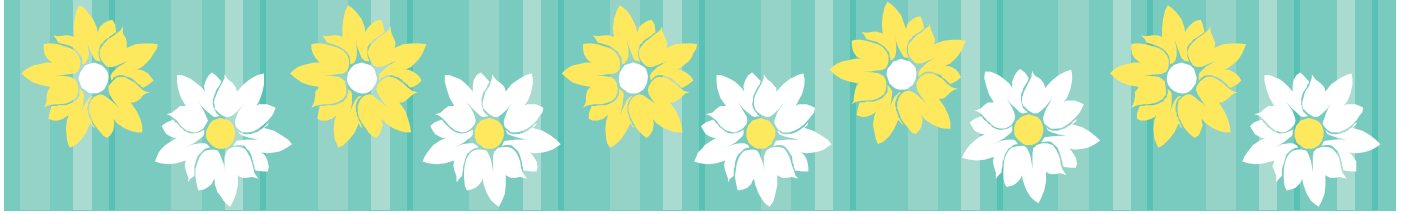
his audience to recognize that nothing will be handed to them and that they will have to work just as hard as the next person to achieve superior status.

Donald also spoke at Maryland Community Connection's Board of Directors Retreat. His speech was about the services that he receives from MCC and the impact that these services have had on his life.

With Inspiring Others just getting underway in January, Donald has been very successful with three speaking engagements under his belt thus far. Donald is eager to continue speaking and excited about what the future holds for his business!

To learn how to hire Donald for next event, contact Shawnice Williams at 301-583-0358.

**"Helping individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their goals"**



# *Spring Dance*

*Saturday, April 9th, 2011*

**MCC Participant Dinner & Dance**

**Maryland Community Connection participants are admitted free!**

Non-Maryland Community Connection participants \$15.00.

Call for tickets 301-583-0358

Make Check Payable to Maryland Community Connection.

**RSVP BY March 31 , 2011**

**No money accepted after March 31, 2011**

No parent or children's room is available.

## **Supported Employment Spotlight**

Yolanda Jackson has been employed at Marshalls located in in the Forest Village Shopping Center for 21 years. Yolanda works in the dressing room where she assists customers and works on the sales floor, organizing clothes and items throughout the store.

Yolanda is knowledgeable of the store which is a great quality to have in an employee. Yolanda is a very hard worker who helps to make certain that the dressing rooms are neat and orderly for customers.

Yolanda became a participant of Maryland Community Connection's Supported Employment program in February 2007. Yolanda's supervisor states that Yolanda has been a big contributor to Marshalls and that Yolanda is phenomenal. Yolanda has progressed tremendously and consistently does a great job. Yolanda has been described as a "model employee" who has an upbeat attitude and always goes out of her



Yolanda Jackson

way to help customers find what they need.

## Birthdays



Maryland Community Connection would like to wish the following a Happy Birthday!

**March**

**Irish Amaya**

**March 14**

**Vivian Parham**

**March 19**

**Abey Thomas**

**March 21**

**Theresa Randall**

**March 22**

**Yoseph Philipos**

**March 25**

**Kimblyn Snyder**

**March 27**

**Kimyatta Holmon**

**March 28**

**April**

**Thomas Kennedy III**

**April 8**

**Ann Washington**

**April 9**

**Latoya Jones**

**April 12**

**Alonzo Brown**

**April 14**

**Larry Williams**

**April 19**

**Margaret Nicholas**

**April 22**

**May**

**Tony Richardson**

**May 4**

**Clifford Hall**

**May 6**

**Ikea Colter**

**May 10**

**Antoine Hillard**

**May 20**

**Cortez Jordan**

**May 22**

**Everett Kegler**

**May 23**

**Aisha Ferguson**

**May 28**

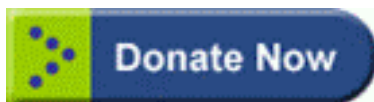
## Change for CHANGE



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, for individuals with disabilities, and provide increased access and opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. 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 your change since T.D. Bank has a change counting machine in the lobby. Put your coins in the change machine, 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!



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

**Donate your vehicle to  
Maryland Community  
Connection**

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

## Maryland Community Connection Board Retreat Offers New Leash on Agency Outlook

January 2011 literally marked the beginning of a new start for Maryland Community Connection. Since its inception in 2001, MCC always strived to assist individuals in the community to maintain their independence. With our 10-year anniversary underway, what better opportunity to re-group, brainstorm and challenge each other going forward than the Board Retreat? The MCC Board Retreat took place from January 21–22, 2011. The Board Retreat provided an opportunity for MCC staff and Board of Directors to get to know each other and to come together in efforts to help take the organization to the next level.

Caryn Anthony of Maryland Nonprofits kicked off day one of the retreat by engaging board members in critical thinking and strategizing on how to build a stronger Board of Directors. Members of the board discussed MCC's

history, services, fundraising partnerships and board recruitment which are all critical in the shaping and continued growth of MCC. Each member of the board and staff introduced themselves and shared the contributions that they makes to ensure quality services are provided to all MCC participants.

Kim Rhim of The Training Source provided tools and techniques along with team-building activities to assist MCC staff on handling organizational change. MCC staff participated in group activities designed to express how change effects the organization and accept the changes in order for the organization to prosper.

MCC staff were given the opportunity to individually express ways the organization can change and improve by providing ideas and suggestions which were very helpful.

We are excited that Board



Andre' Coates, pictured with Caryn Anthony, Maryland Nonprofits and MCC BOD President, Jeanette Glover at Board Retreat.

Members make a rewarding contribution and help improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities.

### **Board Members**

**Jeanette Glover**, M-NCPPC

**Latora Blair**, TD Bank

**Ashante Abubakar**, Prince George's Community College

**Dorris Dennis**, Dennis Enterprises

**Sarah Novak**, Washington Wizards

**Tony Richardson**, Retired GSA

**Elnora Wilson**, Educator

## Welcome New Staff

The Maryland Community Connection family welcomes the following staff:



***Shawnice Williams***

*Employment/ Community Specialist*

Maryland Community Connection is pleased to welcome staff that make 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!

## Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Moves and Inspires MCC Participants



Maryland Community Connection participants and staff at the Kennedy Center on February 15, 2011

On Saturday, February 15, 2011, supported Employment participants attended a show-stopping performance of the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater at The John F. Kennedy Center.

All attendees enjoyed watching the colorful per-

formances and were amazed at the passion and skill level shown throughout the performance by each dancer. MCC was grateful to have the experience to see the world-renown Alvin Ailey Dance Theater in action.

### Make Every Gift Count Through Good Shop!

Please make every item you purchase count every time you use GoodShop. More than 1,600 top stores including Amazon, Toys R Us, Best Buy, Apple, Gap and more will donate a percentage of virtually every sale to "Maryland Community Connection".

Just go to GoodShop.com, designate us as the cause you support and then click over to your favorite store. You pay nothing extra - and you can even save money as GoodShop lists thousands of money-saving coupons and free shipping offers.

Or, add our toolbar to your browser at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar> - and your purchases will count even if you forget to go to GoodShop first! There's no easier way to support Maryland Community Connection than with the click of a button! Don't forget to spread the word.



### New Jobsites

Maryland Community Connection would like to congratulate the following individuals for obtaining and maintaining employment in the community:

**Jetta Butler**

**Crystella Hernandez**

**Nikia Williams**

No one can deny that in the face of the current economic climate, the number of available jobs has dwindled. But members of the developmental disabilities community are often faced with others invisible challenge: assuaging and overcoming the fear of potential employers.

Thanks to **Ashley Stewart, Maxway** and **Voca (ResCare)** for recognizing that individuals with developmental disabilities have valuable contributions to make to the workforce!

## Join us for Coffee and Conversation with MCC Executive Director

Stop by Starbucks Coffee at 3450 Donnell Drive, Forestville, MD on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 8:00 am to 9:00 am for “Coffee and Conversation” with Maryland Community Connection’s Executive Director, Andre Coates. This is an opportunity for attendees to find out about resources and services that MCC offers to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Ms. Coates has been active in serving the developmental disability community for over 25 years with a commitment to enhance the quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities.



Saturday, April 30, 2011  
8:00 am to 9:00 am  
3450 Donnell Drive  
Forestville, MD

## Summer After-school Recreational Program offered at Margaret Brent School



Looking for a low-cost solution to providing recreational activities and a safe environment for your child? Then look no further!

The Summer After-school Recreational Program at Margaret Brent School provides a wrap around service to the summer Extended School Year (ESY) program

and will operate Monday-Thursday, after school hours until 6:00pm at 5816 Lamont Terrace New Carrollton, MD 20784.

For more information, please contact Marion Speight, Therapeutic Recreation Specialist for county-wide programs at 301-446-3443.



CFC #81345

<https://give.cfcnca.org>



#7174



### MARYLAND COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Maryland Community Connection is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2001 dedicated to assisting individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve a greater degree of social and economic independence. Annually, staff and volunteers work diligently to ensure the success of this organization.

**Yes**, I want to make a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities and support Maryland Community Connection by donating the following:

Enclosed, is my tax-deductible donation to Maryland Community Connection for:

\$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Donation Card

Support Maryland Community Connection

A copy of the current financial statement of Maryland Community Connection is available by writing 6490 Landover Road Suite A9 Landover, Maryland 20785 or by calling (301) 583-0358. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, (410) 974-5534.

## Maryland Community Connection to Partner with area Chuck E Cheese's to raise awareness

Each day the staff of Maryland Community Connection tries to find ways that will re-enforce our mission statement. A key line of the mission statement reads "to establish, operate, and maintain services in the community for individuals with developmental disabilities." This line not only talks about what MCC wants to do as an organization but also where it will be done.

When MCC was established, the basis was that just because someone had a

developmental disability did not mean they should not be able to participate in the community and enjoy all of resources that the community had to offer. In an effort to reinforce this goal, MCC is partnering with Chuck E Cheese located in Landover, Maryland on Tuesday, May 24 from 3:00pm-9:00pm, to help families that have children under the age of 12, learn about resources that may be available to assist a loved one in the community.

The proceeds will go

towards assisting individuals with



developmental disabilities. This event is open to all children for a chance to come out and have fun. The event will also give parents a chance to learn about and share resources in the community.

All of those who attend will receive a token of appreciation in supporting Maryland Community Connection's efforts to assist individuals in maintaining a life of independence in the community.

If you or someone you know would like to attend or make a donation to the event, please contact Aisha Ferguson, Director of Community Services at 301-583-8880.

### CHUCK E. CHEESE'S® Non-Profit Fundraising Event

**Giving Back to Kids in your community**

Chuck E. Cheese's donates 15% of purchases generated by your group back to your non-profit organization. Friends & family members are encouraged to lend their support.

Purchases includes all food, merchandise and token deals sold at the register. Just notify cashier that you're participating in your organization's Fundraising Event.

#541



**CHUCK E. CHEESE'S®**

**10 FREE TOKENS**

Receive an extra 10 FREE TOKENS with any food purchase. Only valid during your group's Fundraising Event.

**Giving Back to Kids in your community**

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Location: **Chuck E. Cheese's**

Event Address: 1100 Shoppers Way Largo, MD 20774

(301) 324-8970

Event Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Event Time: **3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**



**SUPPORTING**

- ✓ Children's Charities
- ✓ Youth Scouts
- ✓ Kids Sports Organizations
- ✓ Religious Youth Groups

Bring this flyer to your fundraising event.

### Basic Needs Program

Each year through the Basic Needs program, MCC provides undergarments, winter coats, hats and gloves for those individuals with the greatest need during the harsh winter months.



Special thanks to the generous donations of MCC supporters who enable MCC to make this possible for those in need.

## MCC Executive Director in Annapolis



Maryland Community Connection and the Maryland Association for Community Services (MACS) continues to advocate for budget issues for Developmental Disability Providers. André Burno Coates, Executive Director of Maryland Community Connection, Laura Howell, MACS Executive Director, and Sandy Adkins provided testimony at the House Appropriations Committee in Annapolis on March 1, 2011. André addressed issues about the FY 12 Budget Bill and the Budget Reconciliation and Finance Act (BRFA) which include major system wide changes to rate-setting and payment structure for DD services.

The BRFA also proposes moving from quarterly payments to monthly payments,

significantly increasing the administrative burden not only for community providers, but for the Developmental Disabilities Administration, the General Accounting Office of DHMH, and the Comptroller's Office

The proposed FY 12 budget would implement a new policy that creates a funding bias against people with health and medical issues, and more significant disabilities. When people with disabilities miss a day of attendance in a residential, day or employment program (absence days), providers are compensated for only a portion of those days.

Reasons for "absence days" include illness, hospitalization, inclement weather, and doctor's appointments. Even when one individual is absent, providers must remain open, pay staff and

other operating costs. The new policy would defund the majority of absence days.

The small increase in funding in the budget does not compensate for the loss of payment for absence days. Under the proposed policy, an individual who has a few doctor's appointments, two brief illnesses and one vacation will be underfunded. An individual with more serious health issues and hospitalizations will be in jeopardy of losing services completely because of the loss of funding.

MCC and MACS will continue our efforts to ensure that children and adults with developmental disabilities are receiving services in the community.

### Magic Johnson Theater offers Sensory-Friendly Films on Saturdays



For one Saturday each month at 10:00am, the Magic Johnson Theaters will present sensory-friendly films for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Each person will be admitted for a cost of \$6.00 regardless of age. Sensory-friendly movies include dim lighting, adjusted movie sound/ reduced volume and best of all no previews!

The Magic Johnson movie theaters are located at the Capitol Center 800 Shoppers Way, Largo, Maryland. If interested, you should contact the Magic Johnson movie theater for listings and updates.

### Wicked

Maryland Community Connection's Supported Employment program will host Wicked on June 19, 2011 at the Kennedy Center in

downtown, Washington, DC. Wicked is

a tale between the beautiful and the ugly in the story about two girls in the land of Oz that would become the Wicked Witch of the East and Glinda the Good Witch.





**M**ARYLAND  
**C**OMMUNITY  
**C**ONNECTION

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Landover, Maryland 20785  
Phone (301) 583-0358  
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Email: [info@marylandcommunityconnection.org](mailto:info@marylandcommunityconnection.org)  
Web: [www.marylandcommunityconnection.org](http://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**

**March 2011**

March 14 MD ASPA Award  
March 30 MCC Quality Assurance Meeting

**April 2011**

April 5 SMRO QA Meeting  
April 9 MCC Spring Dance  
April 30 Coffee and Conversation

**May 2011**

May 9 MACS Direct Support & Supervision Conference  
May 30 MCC Closed for Memorial Day



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