

# Stepping Stones



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Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities Volume 24 No. 1 February 2010

## SPOTLIGHT

### on Shorehaven



Shorehaven Inc. is a community-based agency serving the educational and residential needs of students with autism, intellectual and/or multiple disabilities. Our school and residences are located in Cecil County, Maryland, an area which boasts access to both rural charm and urban opportunity. Our residential program is open 365 days per year, 220 days of which school is in session. Residential activities continue to provide our students continuity and consistency of programming while school is on break. A unique feature of our service to families includes coordinating all medical appointments as part of our commitment to individual wellness.

Shorehaven School, designated as a School of Excellence by the National Association of Special Education Teachers for 2009-2010, serves 34 students between the ages of 6

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### on Jefferson School

The Jefferson School educational program is dedicated to serving students who have emotional difficulties that have hampered their educational progress. The school serves both residential and day school students, who are bussed from the surrounding counties: Frederick, Carroll, Montgomery and Washington. There are approximately 53 residential students and up to 56 day school students. The school averages between 80 and 90 students on a daily basis.

The academic programming at The Jefferson School is different than traditional educational programs. Our staff is committed to providing as much hands-on activities and experiential learning as feasibly possible. We are constantly striving to increase the state mandated test scores. The school staff continue to self evaluate educational programming and make appropriate adjustments as needed, with the addition of our School Leadership Team, with its members including; the Principal, the Assistant Principal, the Resource Supervisor, the Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Coordinator, the IEP Coordinator, the Day Treatment Supervisor and the Day School Nurse.

The School Leadership Team is currently working on the following programming developments: Improving the TJS Behavioral Program, an initiative to decrease physical interventions, as well as constantly working on improving state test results. From 2007 until 2009 we have increased the number of passing HSA test scores nearly 70%.

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So, I repeat the "instructions" that each of us must follow for the foreseeable future:

What should you do?

1. Find out who your elected representative is in Annapolis. Go to the state web site [www.mdelect.net](http://www.mdelect.net) and type in your

home address: your state representatives' names will appear. Click on the names of the legislators and their contact information will appear.

2. Call your state senator and delegates or write personal letters to each of them. Be sure to tell them that you live in their district.

3. Tell them:

a. You work in a nonpublic school that receives funding from the state.

b. The school provides critically needed and cost-effective services to young people with serious emotional, physical and development disabilities - students who can not be adequately served in the public schools.

c. You want them to oppose any cuts in state funding or changes to the state funding formula for nonpublic schools.

4. For more information, contact Dorie Flynn, 410-938-4413; [mansef@aol.com](mailto:mansef@aol.com)

Please help. Services to our children and our abilities to be viable employers of quality staff are at stake.

Best Wishes,

Jack Pumphrey  
President MANSEF



Greetings!

In our last newsletter, I issued a "call to arms." Governor O'Malley and the Maryland legislature were considering cuts in state funding for the nonpublic special education facilities. Such cuts would put undue pressure on local school systems to provide most of the funding for nonpublic special education placements and, more importantly, adversely affect the special children we serve.

As of this writing, it appears that the funding formula for non-publics will go untouched this legislative session. However, it is clear that our tuition rates will once again be frozen.

We are relieved, of course, that the formula will not change - although we hear that it will be under consideration in 2011. We cannot, as you all painfully know, suffer another year into 2011-12 without some rate relief. Our schools have ever-increasing fixed costs (utilities, health insurance, etc.) not to mention the ever concerning loss of compensation for our dedicated staff members. In time, we will be unable to compete with the public systems and other education related employers in retaining the best and the brightest.

We must all, therefore, be poised and ready to double our efforts, as soon as this session is over, to reach out to and educate and involve our legislators and other state officials in becoming aware and sensitive to who we are and what we do.

### ***Meet Eustacia Cutler - Temple Grandin's mother***

Family is Important - HBO has a new movie on the life of Temple Grandin --- but you should meet her mother.

On February 19, 2010 you will have a chance to meet, Eustacia Cutler. This Harvard graduate, author of "A Thorn in My Pocket" and nationally known speaker will discuss being the mother of a child with autism in 1950.

### ***Also Featuring: Tim Linton's Sister - Sally Burton-Hoyle, Ph.D. Brothers and Sisters***

These AMAZING PEOPLE have come together again to talk to professionals and parents about the importance of family in providing services to our children.

February 19, 2010 • Manor Country Club • Rockville Maryland. For more information go to [www.families.together.org](http://www.families.together.org) or call 1-866-326-4864. Joining us to share about their son:

Alex's Mom and Dad Barry Gordon, M.D. and Renée Gordon, J.D.

### ***Transitioning - Special Guest: Arlene Mantegna with Karen Pfindler - Including Your Child***

We are grateful to Arlene for giving us this time to talk about the work that she and her husband, Joe Mantegna, have done for children with autism.

## SPOTLIGHT

*Continued from page 1 - column 1 - Shorehaven*


through 21. While predominantly residential, our school also serves students in day placement from both Cecil and Harford counties.

Ascribing to the philosophy that education is a process and not a place, Shorehaven students are in the community daily. Be it shopping for groceries for the Shorehaven Café or swimming at the YMCA, our students are active consumers of all our surrounding geography has to offer. Being community-based affords students the opportunity to practice what they have learned and apply those skills in real life situations while concurrently expanding their transition portfolios.

Our students are engaged in service projects which incorporate a global reach. In response to the recent tragedy in Haiti, students are commencing fund raising efforts. The project, known as "Hearts for Haiti", involves students creating handmade Valentines to sell to outside local vendors.

Recognizing the importance of communication with families and caseworkers of our students, Shorehaven School has recently launched a weekly e-newsletter known as "Shorehaven Snapshot." The newsletter serves as a vehicle to keep family members, and those that support our individuals, "in the know" about happenings throughout the school.

When walking through Shorehaven School, one can see the dedication of our team. Murals lovingly painted by two very gifted team members beautify our halls, and written appreciations encompasses our entryway. The interaction between our team and our students is truly inspiring. The dedication of our team was particularly evident this past holiday season when staff donated their own gift cards to fund the purchase of clothing, toys, food, sheets and blankets for specific families in need.

Shorehaven School nears full enrollment capacity - yet the capacity to provide innovative, individualized learning experiences for the students served is limitless. All members of our education team are actively involved in the delivery of service and are committed to adhering to our motto for 2010 - "Shorehaven School - not limited by our challenges - we challenge all limits." 


## SPOTLIGHT

*Continued from page 1 - column 2 - Jefferson School*

The school has finalized the Learning Lab. The Learning Lab is for students who need additional supports in reading and mathematics. Utilizing the Wilson Reading Program for reading remediation and adding math remediation should help the students improve academically. Last year alone between the reading intervention and the dedication from all of the school staff, the student population increased its average reading level 1.7 grade levels.



While we are a special education program utilizing novel and unique teaching opportunities, we try to incorporate as many traditional middle school and high school activities as possible. Throughout the school year we have school dances, culminating with our annual prom; a performing arts program which includes drama and chorus; and our woodshop works with other academic disciplines to incorporate cross curricular activities. The student council is involved in assisting the program in improving as well as planning the prom.

All students receive clinical intervention throughout the school day. We have a staff of 4 day school social workers as well as a complement of residential social workers to provide therapeutic intervention as needed. One of The Jefferson School's hallmark programs is our Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP). On our 210 acre campus, we have a barn and a riding ring that allows EAP to occur. With our therapeutic riding instructor and the eight horses here, EAP is truly a unique program. 



# STUDENT

## BALTIMORE academy



If you ask most High School students about the High School Assessment tests chances are you will receive a response filled with angst and distress. As we know every High School student in Maryland must meet the testing requirement, which means passing the Algebra, English,

Biology and Government HSA tests, in order to graduate. There is an alternative route for students who are having difficulty passing one or more HSA tests. This alternative path is the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation. The Bridge Plan is a series of challenging projects linked to the core learning goals tested by each HSA test. Due to Maryland's diverse population of students with diverse needs, the Bridge Plan has been a welcomed alternative. Though the Bridge Plan is not an easier path toward graduation, it is indeed a viable path toward graduation. Baltimore Academy student, William Reedy has jumped right in and has been dedicated to working diligently on his required projects. William is a senior at The Baltimore Academy and though he just began the Bridge projects in November, he has already completed 4 projects and he continues to work industriously on his path towards graduation. William comes to school every day motivated and ready to work on his projects. Before William's teachers can even prompt him to begin his projects, William already has his project open and is beginning to assess the work that needs to be completed that day. William has surpassed the expectations of staff at The Baltimore Academy and he is a role model to all students working to complete Bridge Plan projects.

## Hannah More

Graduate Serena Meshulam is attending Lynn College in Florida and is completing her final year for

her BA. She plans to go on for a Masters in Social Work. She was just hired by United Way to write a curriculum to prevent drug abuse for teens. She also runs an anti-drug group in several local schools.

## Hannah More at Severna Park

Joe Klingler, an 11th grader at Severna Park High School, was chosen to perform in a "side by side" performance with the BSO at the Meyerhoff in Baltimore on December 3rd. Joe plays the cello and was one of four cellists chosen from Anne Arundel County. Nine students and four staff from Hannah More at Severna Park High School attended the performance. Congratulations to Joe on this wonderful achievement!

## Harbour



Jeff Carey, a senior at The Harbour School at Annapolis, has received early college admission to Washington College and to St. Mary's College. Jeff was also awarded a scholarship to Washington College. Jeff is a St. Mary's County student who has been at The Harbour School since he was of middle school age. He has accepted admission to St. Mary's College.

Sarah Dannettel, a senior at The Harbour School at Baltimore, has received early admission to Delaware Valley College. Sarah is a student from Carroll County public schools. She is an active participant in performing arts and athletics. She has played on several varsity teams.

# C E L E B R A T E S

# STORIES

## HIGH ROAD SCHOOL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY



Michael Der is a 16 year old student attending High Road School of Baltimore County. Michael has been at HRS for 3 years and is proud to announce that this is his most successful year yet! This year Michael has been more focused during class and as a result, has earned all A's and

B's on his assignments and tests. He has also made great strides in individual and group therapy. Michael describes his positive behavior as healthy lifestyle changes. After all, Michael's successes don't stop in the classroom.

Michael has participated in a school-wide nutrition and health reform facilitated by Transitions Lifestyle Systems (TLS). During this school year, Michael lost 20 lbs. and 4 inches off of his waist. Michael stated, "I understand nutrition now and I am conscious of what I put in my body. I have also started exercising." Michael believes that he was ready to make changes this year and has been motivated by a few people, especially his younger brother.

## IVYMOUNT



At the beginning of term, Zach began his internship at the Smithsonian Institution, where he splits his time between the Center for Education and Museum Studies and the Office of Fellowships. Zach is trusted with the responsibility of updating the Office of Fellowship's

alumni database-a major undertaking for the program.

Gaining skill and confidence, Zach independently manages his own schedule, reports to his supervisors and tracks his work progress. His job coach reports that he will soon be walking alone the six city blocks to his

mother's office at the end of the day to share the commute home.

## MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND



The Maryland School for the Blind provides quality programs tailored to meet the needs of our students. One such student is Jenny E. Jenny entered MSB shy, withdrawn, and with no self-confidence. Since her arrival, she has blossomed. She learned the Braille code with its

related technology, and orientation and mobility skills. She maintains an A average, is almost back to grade level, participates in plays, music programs, and wrestling. Jenny had emotional breakdowns when things were tough but now states, "Things are good, easier than I thought they could be." MSB gave Jenny the tools to tackle life, education, and of course wrestling too.

## STRAWBRIDGE



Alexis F. began attending Strawbridge in July, 2008. Alexis has exhibited tremendous behavioral, vocational, and academic progress during her time here. Alexis chose Strawbridge's Printing vocational track, and has excelled in designing, printing, and binding various school-

wide publications. Recently, Alexis has demonstrated independence in using a "saddle-stitch" binding machine

In the area of academics, Alexis has made great strides in reading, writing, and math. Her teachers report that Alexis is focused on her work and committed to reaching her potential. The Strawbridge School is thankful to work with Alexis, and look forward to observing her continued growth and progress.



## Children's Guild

Raven's linebacker Ray Lewis and his mother, Sunseria "Buffy" Smith will be recognized on May 8, 2010 by The Children's Guild at their annual Cabaret for Kids gala for exhibiting the spirit that makes the seemingly impossible possible in their lives and improving the lives of at-risk children in Baltimore and Ethiopia. The recognition will take the form of a presentation of an original musical theater production of their life story. The production is titled *Every Sunday is Mother's Day*. The performance is written, produced, and performed by Guild children and staff.

The Children's Guild opened seven school based mental health programs in Annapolis during the month of January to assist at-risk students in four elementary and two middle schools, and a public charter school. The Children's Guild also expanded its school based mental health program in Baltimore County from Sussex and Colgate Elementary to include Martin Boulevard and Victory Villa elementary schools.

## The Forbush School at Glyndon

The new greenhouse, which will house our school's horticulture program, run by Mr John Sandkuhler, is nearing completion. It will be up and occupied by students in early March.

The school's existing Activities Building presently serves as our



indoor gym space with equipment brought in by our physical education teacher, Mr. Warren Goodling. Plans are under way to design and build a new gymnasium on our property adjacent to the Main School Building, with construction hopefully to begin 2011-2012.

The school has worked at developing positive relationships with the Glyndon community. The Glyndon Community Association held its quarterly meeting in the



school's Falcon Nest Restaurant and cafeteria this past November and The Green Spring Valley Garden Club will be hosting a flower show the second week of February.

Additionally, the Women's Club of Glyndon is planning to use the school's auditorium for a function this coming spring. A special thanks goes out to Santoni's, the local food market, for donating food for the school staff and movers during our move in week at the end of June. Even the local police and fire department personnel have been very helpful.

## Foundation



In February 2007, a student enrolled in our middle school died from a brain infection caused by bacteria from tooth decay. His name was Deamonte Driver. His Medicaid coverage had lapsed, and even with the help of social workers, his mother was unable to find a dentist who would treat him. Devastated by the news of his preventable death, Dr. Hazel Harper and a group of dentists from the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society mobilized and sprang into action. With support from Governor Martin O'Malley and the Aetna Foundation, the Deamonte Driver Dental Project purchased a specially-equipped van where volunteer dentists can provide services to children who otherwise would not receive necessary dental care. The van recently visited both of our schools, providing needed services to over 80 students. Deamonte's mother was on hand during the screening at The Foundation School in Largo to assist with the project's mission. Deamonte's story was tragically cut short. He was full of promise and was doing well in our school. The heartbreak of his death has spawned not only the wonderful dental van project, but also changes in the health care laws to ensure many more children receive the care they



desperately need. This is a tremendous relief to us as we continue to specialize in serving children and adolescents with severe emotional and behavioral disabilities who are too often also affected by poverty and have difficulty finding resources.

## Friendship

Friendship School is offering a Free Reading Screening for children from age 5 to 8 on April 23rd. For an appointment, call 410-552-6880 Ext.173.

Friendship School will host a series of Open Houses for Professionals who are interested in learning about the Friendship School program. The Open House is appropriate for evaluators, psychologists, speech/language clinicians, and others with a professional interest in a school that provides remediation for children with language-based learning differences. Sessions will be held on February 23rd (2 p.m.), and 25th (8:30 a.m.) Call the Admissions Office at 410-552-6880 Ext. 173 to reserve a place.

Friendship School will host an Open House for prospective families on March 7th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call the Admissions Office at 410-552-6880 Ext. 173 for more information.

## Good Shepherd

Girl Scout Troop 1987 is now well established at the Good Shepherd School. Ms. Kimball is an Instructional Assistant and the



Troop's leader. The Troop meets once a week. Though many of the students are residential students the Troop is planning to participate in all aspects of Girl Scout activities including camping and community service. Recently four students, De'Shawna B., Courtney C., Sierra M., and Sadie M, were part of a Girl Scout Day at Towson University. Each received a badge for sportsmanship. For those of you who love Girl Scout cookies, a sale will take place in February.

## Hannah More

The Sisterhood girls group recently collected more than 100 pairs of mittens for needy families in the area. The mittens were packaged with colorful ribbons and bows, and donated to the local women's shelter.

Artwork created by students Rachel Bonn, Joey Morrison, Nick Rodean and Elizabeth Steffen is now proudly displayed on a set of beautiful note cards. Students used what they learned in art class last year to create the colorful paintings, which are featured on the cards. Proceeds from the note card sale will benefit school programs and services.

## Harbour

The Commercial Food Service students at The Harbour School at Baltimore and chef Don Emerson provided a continental breakfast for both the MANSEF/MSDE budget meeting and for the Maryland Public Schools budget meeting with MSDE. Participants at both meetings were impressed with both the service and the quality of the food.

The Harbour School at Annapolis hosted the non-public administrative staff of Prince George's County Public Schools for an information seminar. The Commercial Food Service students at The Harbour School at Annapolis and chef Maryanne Monias provided a light lunch and desserts. Administrators were impressed with the students' knowledge of preparation and the quality of service.

## High Road Academy



Starting the first Work Experience Program at High Road Academy in Laurel, Maryland was like a dream come true! Dr. Gaske, Executive Director, determined that an addi-

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tional emphasis needed to be placed on career and transition planning for students in the local business community. This year, Mrs. Goering was appointed the new "Coordinator of Transition Services and Special Projects." Mrs. Goering worked diligently to establish relationships with businesses in the area for the purpose of job experience and training.

As a result of her efforts, within the first quarter of the school year, seven students were placed at jobs in the community. Work Experience opportunities include working at the Howard County Employee Daycare program and a variety of jobs at "Historic Savage Mill," a local historic center complete with restaurants, conference center, shops, and artist studios. Students are currently working in the main office center as well as shops such as "Bead Soup," "Jul Silver," "Clayworks," and "Studio Ag." Additional students will be placed for the second semester of the year. Special thanks to the Historic Savage Mill staff for their support especially Steve Adler, Managing Partner, and Haley Baldwin, Office Administrator.

The Work Experience Program is to provide students with appropriate job placements in the community in order to be better prepared for post-secondary options. The Work Experience Program is designed to be in alignment with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) requirements for career development including: self-awareness, career awareness, career exploration, career preparation, as well as job seeking and advancement.



## High Road Upper School

It's finally here! InDiGo Level Recording Studio at the High Road Upper School of Prince George's County (Beltsville)! Our students are talented in so many ways from creating music tracks, writing poetry and singing their favorite songs. Now they have an opportunity to earn studio time to record and showcase their talents.



The InDiGo Recording Studio has been a dream for several years which has finally become a reality. This is another great opportunity for our students to demonstrate their creativity. Mr. Keith White, (Senior Director) and Mr. Ken Newsome (Assistant Director) are both excited for this new addition to the school's program. The main purpose of the recording studio is to create a

chance for students to have a positive and creative outlet to showcase their talents.

Stay tuned as musical tracks produced by InDiGo will be posted on our website:  
[www.highroadschool.com](http://www.highroadschool.com)

## Jefferson

The Jefferson School S.T.A.G.E. Program has presented more than 20 live performances since its creation some 11 years ago. Our acronym stands for Student Theatre Arts for Growth and Empowerment. The process of creating a production develops paths to positive connection that have become unavailable or are not often traveled by adolescents with a history of trauma or emotional disturbance. Performance art replicates, in a therapeutically supported and challenging environment, the task of connecting to the deeper self, to others, to one's body, to the community and the greater environment. The positive connection to the community upon completion of a performance teaches the students that they can be noticed and valued by groups of people from whom they have often had a history of profound rejection. Success in the performing arts builds pathways to educational and personal risk and accomplishment.

This year the students presented a video version of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" on December 11, 2009. Our talented drama students did a superb job bringing the story to life, in many cases doubling roles



and taking on new roles at the last minute. Select staff members also joined in as actors, reliving their high school glory days on the stage! The scenes were filmed and then edited into a short movie version of the play. Our version contained a bit of a twist, with Ebenezer Scrooge becoming Elizabeth Scrooge, played by Meredith L. Brian H. eerily played Marley's Ghost, and then filled in as the Boy who fetches the prize turkey on Christmas Day. Matt S. was a cheerful Fred and a frightening Ghost of Christmas Future. Megan J. was a calm and other-worldly Ghost of Christmas Past, and the sweet Martha Cratchit. Tony H. was the long-suffering Bob Cratchit, with Stephanie C. playing his wife.

These students were successful in not only offering a holiday gift to the community of the Jefferson School, but also in learning about overcoming the inevitable obstacles that present themselves in life and in art, which is life's reflection. They have much to be proud of and we are grateful to be able to work with them in this venue.

## Katherine Thomas



TLC's Katherine Thomas School Chorus gave it first performance in

the community for residents of Ingleside at King Farm, a new retirement community in Rockville, on December 17. Music Therapist Amy Gardiner and KTS alumni Annabel Hunter, accompanist, led the combined chorus of middle and high school students in a performance enthusiastically received by the audience. Soloists were Laura Greif, Emily Barlow, Danny Fernicola, and Ny'Ela Campbel, with Patrick Smith-Shearer on Djembe drum. After the concert, students caroled for the residents in assisted living with a holiday sing-a-long. Ingleside has already invited the KTS Chorus back again next year.

## Kennedy Krieger

Within Kennedy Krieger School Programs (KKSP) a cadre of five licensed psychologists, two doctoral-level school psychologists, and a psychology associate provide school-based psychological services at KKSP campuses and our Public School Partnership Program with Baltimore City Public Schools. Their roles are diverse, ranging from direct care to administrative responsibilities. Areas of expertise include behavioral analysis, school psychology and clinical neuropsychology.

Services include behavioral and cognitive assessment, functional behavioral assessments (FBA), and neurological evaluations of students whose disabilities range from autism spectrum disorders to intellectual disabilities, to other learning and behavioral disorders. KKSP psychologists collaborate with teachers and staff to design and implement

behavioral and academic interventions, and provide mental health services through individual and group therapy.

KKSP is expanding in its role as a training site for psychologists. The schools host neuropsychology post-doctoral fellows during their rotations and recently provided a doctoral student the opportunity to serve rotations at three of our sites, including our public school partnerships. In its planning stage is a pre-doctoral internship for individuals interested in pursuing a career in school psychology.

In the fall of 2009, the School Psychology Seminar Series was introduced. Lectures, provided by KKSP psychologists in a web-conference format, offer professional development and continuing education to psychologists, related services providers, instructional staff, and trainees associated with Kennedy Krieger School Programs and the greater Institute. For information regarding the seminar series contact Dr. John Beetar at [beetar@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:beetar@kennedykrieger.org).

## Leary

Gail Alexanderwicz, who had been the program director at Leary School, Prince George's County, left to join Prince George's County Public Schools in late December. Ms. Alexanderwicz had been with Leary School, Prince George's County, for more than ten years - first as a classroom teacher before assuming roles as a Program Assistant and then Program Director.

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Leary School, Prince George's County, is pleased to announce that Nicole Bonham has accepted the position of program director for the Oxon Hill campus. Ms. Bonham has been with the Leary School programs since 2000, as a classroom teacher and then the Behavior Management Coordinator. Ms. Bonham's knowledge of the students and the Leary School program has made the transition a smooth one.

Another long term staff member, Shauna Debrick, who had been the Director of Finance for Lincolnia Educational Foundation since 1994, left in October 2009 to relocate to North Carolina. Sharon Masin assumed her position and brings a wealth of experience to her new role.

Welcome to both Ms. Masin and Ms. Bonham - and continued best wishes to Ms. Alexanderwicz and Ms. Debrick!

## Phillips

College Now: Twelve 2010 seniors are participating in a college course at the Laurel Learning Center. "Achieving College Success", a course offered through Prince George's Community College, covers the techniques, skills, attitudes and behaviors associated with effective learning and college success. Topics include test taking memory, study skills, time management and personal goal setting.

The seniors find the work challenging and exhibit the level of responsi-



bility, commitment and support of each other necessary to be successful in this excellent opportunity. One senior stated, "I'm really glad I



got to take this class - it's hard and I'm a little anxious, but hey that's college, right!"

## St. Elizabeth



*St. Elizabeth School's hair-razing event raised \$518 for the Kimmel Cancer Center at Hopkins Hospital.*

On January 25, SES student and cancer survivor Michelle Carder kick-started a "fun-razor" by cutting the first braid of phys ed teacher Mr. Mike Myers' hair while students

lined up to take their turns. Student Kamal Williams snipped saying, "That was awesome! I thought about all those laps Mr. Myers makes us run at basketball practice! Sweet revenge!" At his last haircut in 2006 Mr. Myers decided to grow his hair and donate to Locks of Love.... "if I can stand it." With students and staff as barbers, this hair-razing raised \$518 for the Kimmel Cancer Center at Hopkins Hospital.

## UCP Delrey

The UCP Delrey School is hosting a Cabin Fever Party and Chili Competition on Saturday, February 27, 2010 from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. The fund raiser will be held at Sister's Academy, 139 First Ave., Lansdowne, Maryland 21227. The event consists of a chili competition, cornhole competition, Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader Contest, a kid's garden, live music, and a money wheel. We will be selling "All You Can Eat Chili", samples of the competition chili, hot dogs, drinks and baked goods. For more information contact Fran Ring at 410-314-5000, ext. 101 or email [fring@ucp-cm.org](mailto:fring@ucp-cm.org).

## Villa Maria School at St. Vincent's

The Yaffe Group is a Towson based consulting group that advises hospitals, health systems, higher education, and other non-profit organizations on their governance needs.

This fall, Rian Yaffe, the firm's chairman and CEO, offered to adopt Villa Maria School at St. Vincent's.

Mr. Yaffe came to meet with the school principal, Sally Maxton, about a possible partnership. Nine Yaffe employees then visited the school to meet the staff and students. Several signed up to volunteer on a regular basis.

The Yaffe firm has allocated \$3000 this year in its budget to support special events, field trips, and other projects for its partnership with St. Vincent's.

The kick-off event for the partnership was a special "pampering day" for all of the girls on December 2nd at the Pre-Vocational Center. The girls were treated to manicures, pedicures and facials and enjoyed some exciting games. Gift bags topped off the fun for the day.

On December 21st, Yaffe returned to host a winter wonderland for our children complete with winter and holiday games, gifts, and other fun activities.

The Yaffe group has a long history of service and we are thrilled that Mr. Yaffe chose Villa Maria at St. Vincent's, and we look forward to a wonderful partnership with this very special group of people.

## Youth In Transition School

Youth In Transition School is celebrating unprecedented success on the High School Assessment (HSA).

The school has changed their strategies in dealing with the struggles our population goes through with standardized tests like these. Our Executive Director of Education, Dr. Larry Norris envisioned empowering our students by providing the necessary resources for them to achieve success in meeting the State's testing requirements. One such resource was to allocate responsibility for testing issues to a specific staff member. Mr. Linsenmeyer became the Assessment Coordinator in November 2008, with the sole responsibility to provide essential guidance to teachers and students to improve test scores. Mr. Linsenmeyer provided private tutoring to the students, and trained teachers with skills to implement in their classrooms in order to increase content knowledge to improve scores. With such increased focus and commitment, in 2009 the Youth In Transition School achieved higher scores in all areas of the assessment. Specifically, in the October 2009, YIT students overall scores increased by over 15% in all four areas of the assessment (English, Algebra, Government, and Biology). In government, in particular, scores rose by almost 30%. Congratulations to students Danny Martin, Roberlyn Strong, Brandon Johnson, Larry Massey, Tia Mosby, Lamar Davis, Shawn Sewell, Tyree Morton, Miriel Gates, for passing their tests and increasing scores. Thank you, Mr. Linsenmeyer; you are truly Making A Difference!



## MANSEF hosts Advocacy Day



On January 19, 2010, parents and staff gathered in Annapolis to meet with legislators to discuss the value and need to maintain the continuum of nonpublic special education schools. Over 60 attendees listened to Delegate Susan Aumann (District 41) and Delegate Alfred Carr (District 18) discuss the funding issues that will face our schools in 2011. Executive Director of MANSEF, Dorie Flynn, provided a legislative briefing on the many challenges we face and encouraged parents to speak up for the rights of their special needs child. She shared key talking points with parents.

MANSEF provided the attendees with their scheduled meeting times and many face-to-face visits with legislators occurred throughout the morning. Attendees reported with great enthusiasm that their meetings were productive and informative with legislators offering their full support of schools for special needs children. MANSEF wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the parents and staff who attended, wrote letters and called their representatives to promote the positive work taking place for Maryland's special needs children via the MANSEF network.





# SAVE THE DATE



12th Annual MANSEF Charity  
Golf Tournament  
Monday, June 21, 2010

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*Benefitting the Michael Cardin  
Scholarship Fund*



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Jack Pumphrey, President  
Stephanie deSibour, Vice President  
Mary Schaefer, Secretary  
Jim Truscello, Treasurer  
Dorie Flynn, Executive Director

**MANSEF is committed to creating optimum educational opportunities in the least restrictive environment for all Maryland children with disabilities through: **ADVOCACY, NETWORKING, COLLABORATION, AND INFORMATION/RESOURCES****



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