

STEPPING Stones

May 2016

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NONPUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

MICHAEL CARDIN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 70 SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS FROM MANSEF

Seventy Maryland students will receive **Cardin Scholarships** on June 6, 2016, at MANSEF's annual awards luncheon. The students, who either currently attend or have graduated from a MANSEF member school have met many challenges and will be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. **Myrna Cardin**, former executive director of MANSEF will be on hand to award the scholarships along with **Alan Kanter**, Chair of the Michael Cardin Scholarship Fund. **DeAntre Watkins**, a previous Cardin Scholar, from the District of Columbia Public Schools who attended The Chelsea School, and a recent graduate from West Virginia Wesleyan College, will be the keynote speaker. **Students from the Harbour School** will perform a medley of songs from *Fiddler on the Roof* at the luncheon.

Along with the scholarships, MANSEF will present two additional awards:

James O. Mathis, of Sykesville, will be presented posthumously with the **Distinguished Citizen Award**. James Mathis was an advocate and resource for Strawbridge School and the Board of Child Care. The Strawbridge home for boys was a safe place for children who did not have the resources to be raised in their own home and Jimmy was one of those young men. Mr. Mathis joined the board of directors at the Board of Child Care for over 20 years holding various positions including board chair and served until his passing in 2015. He believed in education above all else and would often visit the campus and encourage the children to persevere and to seek that diploma despite the difficulties they experience. His own life served as an example. No gift is greater than his kind

and gentle spirit to all he encountered, especially the children who are a part of the Strawbridge School family. He never missed an event or graduation reminding all of us that commitment to our children sends a clear message of love and respect.

Kathleen Johnston, of Baltimore, is receiving the **Inspiring Dreams, Changing Lives Award** for her commitment to working in the field of Special Education for over 30 years. Ms. Johnston has been a staff member at The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) for the last 22 years providing strong leadership and professionalism with her most important role as an advocate for students with special needs. Ms. Johnston's contributions to the special education field abound, her "Back to Basics" program has guided staff and students using the most basic of routines to a bigger end – student independence. Ms. Johnston has led the

charge for student independence and the belief that "independence is a student's right". MSB students develop this skill and eventually leave MSB as strong contributing member of their local communities helping them achieve their fullest potential. The MSB campus is full of student success stories, thanks to Ms. Johnston going "Back to Basics" program. Ms. Johnston represents what being a tireless role model and strong advocate for all people truly is.

Continued on page 12 with full listing of award winners



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Colleagues:

Spring is my favorite time of year. It is a time of reflection and hope. As I am completing my first year as the MANSEF President, I wanted to take the time to reflect on where we have come from and where we are headed next.

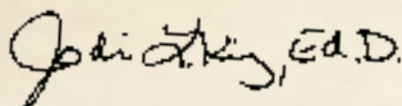
This has been a year of collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education. The Nonpublic Section has held a number of small group forums. One of the forums was on the topic of 1:1 services. The result was guidance on best practices for the provision of 1:1 services to students. Marcella Franczkowski, Asst. State Superintendent, has met with the leadership of MANSEF on a number of occasions. This open dialogue is critical to the future of nonpublic programming within the continuum of special education services.

The MANSEF conference was held in December 2015. The keynote speaker was student, Jake Edwards, who attends Kennedy Krieger Montgomery County campus. Delegate Maggie McIntosh was also a featured speaker. The finale was a chorale presentation by students from the Katherine Thomas School. The music created a magical bond between all of the conference participants.

The MANSEF Board is now meeting to prepare the agenda of focus for the next school year. We are looking forward to collecting data that will validate the accomplishments of nonpublic programs and students. We are focusing on the value both intrinsically and financially. The power of this data will assist us in sustaining our programs.

I'd like to take this time to thank Dorie Flynn and Nancy Marsiglia for their tireless work to push forward the value of our programs. I'd also be remiss if I did not also thank the members of the Board who have supported me through this last year.

Kindest Regards,



Jodi L. King
MANSEF President



Inside This Issue...

- 2 From Our President
- 3 Celebrating Student Success
- 5 School News
- 12 Cardin Scholarship Award Winners



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MANSEF CELEBRATES STUDENT SUCCESS



Baltimore Lab School

Grace G. proudly attended Baltimore Lab School (BLS) from Harford County from second through seventh grade. Empowered by her academic and social success at BLS, Grace began to self-advocate for her return to public school. She successfully transferred to Fallston Middle School and later, following her family's move, to Hereford Middle School for her eighth grade year.

Grace is now a freshman at Hereford High School in Baltimore County, and she has already achieved a long list of accomplishments. In addition to earning straight As, taking three honors classes, and singing in the school chorus, Grace traveled to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands with the student ambassador program, People to People, last summer.

When asked to reflect about her BLS experience, Grace shared, "Some of the best memories that I have in my life are moments from BLS... I realized how much I love music and singing and was fortunate enough to have [several] solos in different performances year-round. I also became very fond of reading and writing."

Regarding the faculty and staff at BLS, Grace recalled, "The teachers, staff, and my friends made me feel like I could do anything, accomplish anything I set my mind to, but best of all be my own person. My teachers recognized my full potential, which made me recognize it as well."

Grace has transitioned beautifully to her new school, and she continues to make her former classmates and teachers at Baltimore Lab School very proud.

Chelsea School

The Jazz & Cultural Society in Washington DC hosted an open mic night with the proceeds going toward books and supplies for a Chelsea senior attending college in the fall. Seniors **DJ and Elijah** participated, each of them performed a poem, and they had a very successful stand-up comedy act. The scholarship and event were planned and hosted by Chelsea graduate Sir Jamison (1997).

The Children's Guild Brooklyn Campus

Several years ago **David** came to our Brooklyn campus because not only was he not attending school and was truant on a regular basis, but also when he did attend school he had issues with anger management and was acting out in class.

However, once he came to The Children's Guild, it became apparent to his teachers that David was gifted with a love for music and technology. The staff at the Guild built a curriculum around those interests for David. Through this curriculum, David became interested in attending school and his focus shifted from acting out, to improving his musical talents and building his technological skill set.

In January of 2016, David walked across the stage to receive his diploma. But

his graduation wasn't just about that walk, David also put together the slide show and the musical background to it, and he also performed a rousing drum solo much to the delight of the audience. Most importantly, with the skills and motivation that David found at the Guild, he's now enrolled at his local community college.

David's success and turnaround is a perfect example of a child's ability to succeed.



Left to Right:
DJ and Elijah,
Grace, and
David



Top: One of Ainsley's first riding lessons last year.
Bottom: Ainsley standing up straight with her walker a year later.

The Forbush School at Prince George's County

Gary Jackson is definitely a Forbush at Prince George's County success! In addition to outstanding academic and social skills, Gary participated in community based instruction at Buffalo Wild Wings where he set up tables for customers.

Gary's mom passed away a little over a year ago. One of her last wishes was that Gary eventually return to public school. Although mom did not get to see him return, her wish came true. Because of Gary's academic and behavioral success at Forbush, he was selected as one of our students' to return to high school at his home school.

Gary



MORE!

STUDENT SUCCESS

St. Elizabeth School

SES students have loved participating in our Therapeutic Riding program for the past two years, and one student in particular is seeing real results from her sessions at Maryland Therapeutic Riding. **Ainsley Witmer**, who is nonverbal and relies on a wheelchair, has improved her posture exponentially since she first started riding last year. With her newly developed core strength, Ainsley has gained both confidence and the ability to walk for short periods of time with only a walker. Compared to the first time she rode in the program, her posture has straightened up significantly, and she exudes confidence in her newfound capabilities!

The Ivymount School

Ivymount high school students participated in Abilities Awareness Day hosted by the Volunteer Office at the Village, a retirement community in Rockville and an Ivymount job site. The goal of the event was to raise awareness about individuals with disabilities for their residents and staff. Ivymount student **Max** joined his teachers to give a brief presentation about the school, what students do at community jobsites like the Village, and how teachers and staff support the students in being successful at work sites. Other students helped greet guests.



Max

The Harbor School at Baltimore

Susannah Phillips, one of our graduating seniors, is interning at the Maryland House of Delegates for Delegate Deborah Rey. She has been assisting the Delegate's Legislative Aide, Stephanie Troxell, since the 2016 Legislative Session began in January. Susannah volunteers one day a week as an administrative aide. Some of her duties include coordinating and compiling Committee Bills, appointment and calendar scheduling, and delivery of House Bills and reports throughout the House of Delegates building. On April 6 Susannah was recognized from the Senate floor for her work.



Delegate Deborah Rey and Susannah

Aaron Johnson a high school student at The Harbour School

at Baltimore won an Emperor Science Award. This mentorship program is awarded to high school students that have a particular interest in health-related sciences. Students are paired with university-level research scientists. Aaron was selected as an inaugural winner of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Emperor Science Award. He was one of only 100 recipients nation-wide. Aaron will work alongside Dr. Lee J. Helman, Acting Director, Center for Dancer Research, NCI and Scientific Director for Clinical Research, CCR, NCI. Aaron will also receive a Google Chrome Notebook and \$1,500. Aaron's particular interest is pediatric cancer.



Aaron

The Forbush School at Oakmont Upper School

We are very proud of **Omar Janneh**, a student enrolled in Sheppard Pratt Health Systems schools since 2006. With one-to-one assistance, Omar is now able to fully participate in a wide range of school and community based educational, recreational and vocational activities. With support from the Autism Waiver, he successfully attends Community Support Services' therapeutic integration program. He recently left us at The Forbush School at Oakmont Upper to also attend their school program. This will enable Omar to continue to prepare for a transition into adult services next year. We wish Omar and his extraordinarily supportive family the best!



Omar Janneh

Villa Maria

The artwork is by **Shyann P.** She is in the 7th grade at Villa Maria School at Dulane Valley and this is her project on Expressing a Positive and Inspiring Message. Shyann wrote, "I was inspired by Chinese and Japanese paintings. Koi fish and cherry blossoms are important images in their art. The koi fish symbolizes strength and courage. The cherry blossoms symbolize how love and friendship give us joy."



Artwork by Shyann P.

SCHOOL News



The Chelsea School

After 27 years of dedicated service to Chelsea School, Head of School, **Kate Fedalen** has announced that she will retire at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. Kate began her career directly after college as an eager Science teacher in Chelsea's Middle Division. She always utilized innovative teaching strategies that engaged her students. Kate was promoted to the Head of the Middle Division, Assistant Head of School, and ultimately became the Head of School. She will be sorely missed by the entire Chelsea community. In the words of 9th grader, Diamond W., "She's not just a principal, she's like family."

The Children's Guild Prince Georges Campus

Several Children's Guild students participated in the 2016 Foundations of Technology and Engineering Challenge sponsored by Fluor Corporation. It is an online competition for K-12 students from the US and selected countries around the world. Students at the Children's Guild scored 9,136 points placing in the 4 percentile (which means that their scores fell within the top 25 schools) out of the 600 schools from all over the world.

The challenge is to use the least amount of materials to build a machine that sorts spheres in the least amount of time. Our students created a sorting machine that could sort in 7.08 seconds with NO mistakes! (we have a video of their final run). The following students were recognized with "Certificates of Excellence," Andid Maldonado, Joey Fordham and Jahrod Hamilton.

We celebrate their efforts and persistence in competing in the Foundations of Technology Competition.



Phillips School-Laurel

In March several high school students participated in a robotics class offered through the Howard County Public Libraries. The HiTech Robotics Lab is made available through the STEM Education Center at the Savage Branch Library. School and library staff provided academic support so students could learn about robotics and technology through self-directed education and hands-on activities. Students enjoyed the hands on activities and are looking forward to returning this month.



The Benedictine School

Through a partnership with Chesapeake Community College, EMT's complete one of their paramedic clinical rotations at The Benedictine School in Ridgely, MD. Julie Hickey, Educational Director at Benedictine, states, "The purpose of this training is to provide resources and enhance awareness for first responders who may have emergency situations involving individuals with autism or intellectual disabilities." Each week this semester, two interns will spend a day at the school as they complete their extensive program to become paramedics. One intern noted, "The field experience was truly amazing. These are truly beautiful people and I was glad to glimpse into their world." The Benedictine School is pleased to be part of this important community outreach and training opportunity.



Benedictine School's internship coordinators: Brett Rhodes, Adaptive P.E. teacher and Haley Miner, Physical Therapist with Second-year interns in the "Nationally Registered Paramedic Program" who represent Maryland counties (Anne Arundel, Queen Anne, Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, and Wicomico) and Delaware counties (Kent and Sussex)

The Forbush School at Glyndon

The Forbush School at Oakmont Upper School was thrilled with the completion of the renovation to our outside space last summer. This project was made possible by a generous gift to Sheppard Pratt Health System from Mildred Kern and Evelyn Feldman, as well as additional funding from Family Services, Inc. Students are participating in raking, mowing, and preparing the raised beds for our future seedlings. It is exciting to watch our perennials come back and see seeds grow to vegetable bearing plants. We look forward to many hours enjoying this pleasant, safe area for a wide variety of outdoor activities.

The Forbush School at Oakmont Upper School

On April 15, the Forbush School at Glyndon had its first combined Alumni Event, celebrating former students from both the Hannah More School and The Forbush School at Glyndon. 80 attendees, consisting of alumni and guests, participated in the event with a GAMES THEME. Musical entertainment was provided by 3 staff members, Jason Noren, Ross Feinberg and the lead singer Dr. Ayanna Cooke-Chen. The alumni contributed poems and songs to the event. It was wonderful to see alumni from both campuses come together as one family.

The Foundation School

On March 24, 2016 The Foundation Schools held its annual Benefit at the UMD Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center- a tremendous success thanks to wonderful supporters and staff! The evening featured a powerful keynote address by Carol Beatty, Maryland Secretary of Disabilities, a student performance and a silent auction featuring student art! We were also honored to raffle a copy of award-winning student artwork created by Yasmeine Ford. Yasmeine is the winner of the Children's Mental Health Matters Campaign poster design contest, and we are thrilled to have her empowering message be the face of the 2016 campaign.



The Frost School

The Frost School is celebrating some very special accomplishments by several of our students and our wonderful art teacher, Ms. Kim Painter. Five of our students were selected to exhibit artwork in honor of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week during an exhibit entitled Celebrating Through Art: The First Lady's Mental Health Awareness Youth Art Display hosted by Maryland's First Lady, Mrs. Yumi Hogan. Student artwork had to represent something that made them feel happy, healthy, or hopeful. This showcase is part of The Mental Health Matters! campaign which is in partnership with The Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Disabilities. Student artwork will be on display at the State Capital in the Lowe Office Building in Annapolis during the week of May 1st-7th and a reception will be held to honor the students on Monday May 2, 2016. Each student will receive a certificate from the First Lady.



The Montgomery County Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling invited students in grades K-12 private and public schools in Montgomery County to enter a poster contest. This is the second year Frost students have participated and have had winners both years! This year's theme was "Keep it Going, Recycle More Now!" Posters showed the importance of recycling as much material as possible everywhere (at home, school, work, parks, malls, etc.) They were created to assist the county in its goal to reduce waste and increase recycling by 70 percent by 2020. Contestants were divided into grade groups: K-3, 4-8 and 9-12. Frost students won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and two honorable mentions for the high school age group. The Frost students and their families were honored at a dinner and award reception on Thursday April 21st, the day before Earth Day, at the Montgomery County Executive Office Building.





Gateway School

Gateway Girl Scouts

Founded last February, Daisy Troop 707 consists of five girls, ages 6-11. Troops for children with special needs are uncommon. In fact, this is the only Daisy Troop in the council that is made up exclusively of girls with special needs. Members of the troop have 1:1 support so that they can actively participate in the curriculum: there is a breathing apparatus for two members, individualized instructional supports to meet goals and additional time allowed to achieve badges. The troop collected three petals in Girl Scout Law and earned three badges in the Daisy Flower Garden Journey. The first badge (Watering Can Award) was earned by planting flowers in a mini-garden. Weeding a community garden garnered them a Honey Bee Award. They learned about bugs and created a worm composting bin in pursuit of the Amazing Daisy Award.

90 Years of Celebrating Communication

Gateway School is celebrating the 90th anniversary of the 1926 founding of The Hearing and Speech Agency. Vibe '16, a Gala event with a roaring twenties speakeasy theme will kick off the festivities on May 13 at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. There will be more activities for children and adults as the organization approaches its 90th birthday in November 2016.



Arlene Lee (Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children) and Cassie Radack (Legislative Liaison of the Governor's Office for Children) visited The Harbour School. Dorie Flynn, MANSEF Executive Director helped them to understand the role of the nonpublic schools.

The science classes at The Harbour School at Baltimore have been experimenting with the use of drones for science. Students fly the drones as part of the science curriculum. Students are learning the value of controlling the flight of the drones. The photo below is of The Harbour School at Baltimore taken by a student with a camera affixed to a drone.

Siri Llamas, teacher at The Harbour School at Baltimore, was named Teacher of the Week by the Yum Foundation's Lead2Feed program. The Harbour School has won the



MORE!

SCHOOL News

The Harbour School at Annapolis

State Senator DeGrange visited The Harbour School at Annapolis accompanied by Dan Dinko an Annapolis parent. Senator DeGrange felt strongly that nonpublic schools do not get the credit they deserve for the work they do. The Senator said he would work to get a visit from Governor Hogan.

Dean Wiseman, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Maryland, College Park visited The Harbour School at Annapolis. Dean Wiseman was impressed with the competency based program, the meal served by the Harbour School food service students. She and Dr. Jacobs are exploring cooperative programs between The Harbour School and the University.



national award for the Lead2Feed twice. It is the only school to ever win two years and the only school for children with disabilities to ever win at all. The Harbour School has been recognized as a Lead 2Feed certified school.

Top to bottom: Senator DeGrange, Dr. Linda Jacobs and Dan Dinko; Dean Wiseman and Dr. Jacobs; Arlene Lee and Cassie Radack's visit to the Harbour School; Spring 2016 aerial drone photo of the Harbour School at Baltimore; Lead2Feed Teacher of the Week Award winner Siri Llamas

The Katherine Thomas School

Katherine Thomas School Students Gain Work Experience

The Treatment and Learning Centers and CVS Health have joined together to offer training and hands on experience for young adults with disabilities ready to learn about the world of work. The Workplace Success Program, offered to KTS students and the community this summer, supports the growth and learning of work skills that are essential to workplace success. Attendees will gain work experience at a CVS location to apply, practice and improve job skills learned at TLC. The goal is to offer young adults not just classroom time, but an intensive, closely supervised, real world experience to give them the confidence to cultivate skills they need to thrive in the workplace.

Auction & Gala for The Katherine Thomas School

The Katherine Thomas School 10th Annual Auction & Gala hosted by the KTS PTSA was a terrific success this year! As always, parents put together a fantastic event with a wonderful selection of items up for auction. Some of the most sought after pieces were the KTS student's artwork. The auction raised enough money to fund a new playground and shade structure at KTS. The auction began in 2005 with a small social event where teachers, staff and families could mingle and support KTS students. We are grateful for the dedication of everyone who has contributed to this event over the years.



The Maryland School for the Blind

The Maryland School for the Blind and Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Unveil Athletic Sports Complex for Blind and Visually Impaired Students

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation (CRSF) and The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) held a ribbon cutting ceremony at The Maryland School for the Blind. MSB Athletic Sports Complex is a multi-purpose Youth Development Park designed specifically to provide students who are blind or visually impaired with a safe place to play team sports.

Speakers for the ribbon cutting ceremony included Cal Ripken, Jr., Baseball Hall of Famer and Ripken Foundation vice chairman; Dr. Michael Bina, President, MSB; and Mark Butler, Chairman, Board of Directors, Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, Ripken and Butler joined youth from MSB for Beep Ball – a game similar to traditional baseball with audio locating technology to guide the participants who are blind or visually impaired.

"The Maryland School for the Blind Athletic Sports Complex is a great example of leveling the playing field," said Ripken. "It's amazing to see how these young students redefine expectations in sports and serve as a reminder to never give up."

Michael Bina, MSB President, stated "We are so grateful to the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation for providing this wonderful athletic complex that will allow our students to compete against other athletes versus just being sport spectators. Students will have smiles on their faces as they gain skills and improve their fitness and self-confidence."

President of The Maryland School for the Blind Honored with National Award

Dr. Michael J. Bina, President of The Maryland School for the Blind, was one of three recipients to receive the 2016 Migel Medal Award by the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB).

The Migel Medal, the highest honor in the blindness field, was established to honor professionals and volunteers whose dedication and achievements improve the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired. A past recipient was Helen Keller. The mission of AFB is to remove barriers, create solutions, and expand possibilities so people with vision loss can achieve their full potential.

"We are honored to recognize the recipients for their outstanding achievements in the field of blindness and low vision," said Carl R. Augusto, AFB president and CEO. "Their tireless dedication and commitment to ensuring people with vision loss have equal access and opportunities truly capture the qualities this award represents."

A leader in the field of education of the blind and visually impaired, Dr. Bina has served as the President of MSB since 2008.



Above: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; Marcella Franczkowski, Cal Ripken, Jr., and Dr. Nancy Grasmick



Dr. Bina (at right) receiving award



Ridge School Students

The Ridge School of Montgomery County

The Ridge School of Montgomery County to Flint, MI Water Drive

Four students who attend The Ridge School of Montgomery County spearheaded a drive for donations of bottled water for victims of the water crisis in Flint, MI. The drive lasted for two weeks and the students collected 360 cases of bottled water and over \$400.00 in cash donations.

In the students own words, the drive was important because:

"It was for a good cause and it was mostly for the children."

"It helped people who have less than us."

"It was important because nobody should have to fight for something that covers 75% of our earth. I helped because I care."

Pathways AP English student prepares for her presentation to the class



Ivymount post-high school students at Locust Grove Nature Center

certificate for their hard work and dedication, as well as a gift.

Pathways

Essential to a full education is the careful development of the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to succeed in life after graduation. Special education students in particular require deliberate and well-rounded programming with this focus to help them over the obstacles that stand in their way to their goal, whether that is college, a career, satisfying work, specialized training—or all of these. Pathways has always recognized this fundamental component of a good education and has in place a robust transition program to prepare our students to succeed once they leave our doors. Some snapshots of the transition program in action will give a picture of its broad and varied aspects, meeting each student's specific needs:

- Through a partnership with the city of Greenbelt, Pathways students are receiving vocational training in auto mechanics while working at the city's garage in the Department of Public Works.
- Pathways seniors visit several local colleges during the year, including the DuVal Re-Entry students who toured Howard Community College. Based on their interests in internet technology, nursing, and emergency technician training, they visited the college's computer lab and nursing department.
- Through a partnership with Microsoft, Pathways students visit the Microsoft headquarters in Bethesda where they receive training in a variety of computer and IT skills.
- A student at Pathways DuVal-Re-Entry is taking AP English at DuVal, gaining college credit for her post-secondary educational career.

Top to bottom: Pathways students observe closely during the first day of the auto maintenance program; Students touring Howard Community College with the ambulance used for EMT training; At the Microsoft workshop

MORE!

SCHOOL News

The Ivymount School

Ivymount School Post-High School students were the guests of honor recently at an appreciation lunch and awards ceremony at Locust Grove Nature Center, a longtime Ivymount jobsite. Students have been responsible for cleaning and refilling several types of bird feeders, filling squirrel feeders, caring for the two snakes, three turtles, and hissing cockroaches in the Nature Center. Each student received a



Villa Maria

Villa Maria School at Dulaney Valley Shows Their Generosity

Once again, the students at the Villa Maria School, Dulaney Valley campus spent the month of November learning about and then practicing acts of generosity. During this season of giving, the students participated in their annual canned food drive to donate non-perishable food to those in need. Each classroom was given a box to fill and every class contributed some items, making this a school wide success. The PBIS team at the school sponsors and promotes this annual event, and it has been a wonderful experience for all involved. The students are encouraged to think of others and discover ways that they can help make a difference in the lives of others while the staff enjoy the spirit of the competition.



On November 30th the donations were counted and the results were announced- Class H had the most items donated, followed by a two way tie between classes D and I. As a whole, the school was able to donate over 550 items to a local organization that helps people in need in Baltimore County.



Villa Maria School, Catholic Charities, Mission in Action Award Recipient

Catholic Charities and Villa Maria Schools recognized Ida Collins (third from left), Pre-Vocational Coordinator, as a 2016 Mission in Action Award Recipient.

Each year through the Mission in Action Awards, staff members are nominated and recognized who, inspired by the Catholic Charities values to love, to serve, to teach and to work for justice, work to improve the lives of others.

Ida was nominated for the Mission in Action Award because she consistently honors and respects the dignity of every person, encounters each person with compassion, acts with humility, reaches out to others in a spirit of collaboration, serves with excellence, and acts with integrity in all she does.

It is awe inspiring to imagine how many children Ida Collins has touched in her over 30 years of service to Villa Maria Schools. Ida is known for her warmth, creativity, and passion for "relatable" instruction. Whether it's threading a needle, making a slip knot, or baking a sweet potato pie, Ida makes sure that students enjoy the learning process. She reinforces the academic aspects of school aligning Pre-Vocational activities with their reading and math programs. Ida addresses critical life skill needs of our students by emphasizing nutritional education, money management, and career development.

Ida takes pride in teaching our students about the value of service whether it involves planting a community garden, sewing bags for the Head Start program, sewing and washing clothes that were donated to My Sister's Place, or designing and laminating place mats to donate to Our Daily Bread.

Ida serves enthusiastically, warmly, humbly, and adeptly. Villa Maria has benefited immeasurably from her warm hearted, multi-faceted, and dynamic work in "Pre-Voc."

Thanks to all who donated and helped make this a success!

Ida Collins at the 2016 Mission in Action Awards

Sheppard Pratt



*Sheppard Pratt President & CEO
Harsh Trivedi*

Sheppard Pratt Welcomes New President & CEO

Sheppard Pratt Health System and its Special Education Program are pleased to welcome Harsh Trivedi, M.D., M.B.A., as its sixth president and chief executive officer in 125 years. Trivedi is currently chief executive officer of Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital, part of Vanderbilt Behavioral Health. He will officially begin his new role on July 1, 2016. Trivedi succeeds Steven S. Sharfstein, M.D., who will step down after more than three decades with the health system, including nearly 25 years as president and CEO. Sharfstein will remain a part of the Sheppard Pratt family as president emeritus and clinical psychiatrist.



Continued from cover

The scholarship fund was established in memory of Michael Cardin, son of U.S. Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland and his wife Myrna, a former MANSEF executive director. The scholarship fund has grown annually since its inception in 1999 and has awarded more than \$250,000 to nearly 350 special education scholars. Mrs. Cardin will be on hand at the luncheon to present the awards.

Scholarships are awarded to students enrolled in or graduating from a MANSEF school. Funds are available to assist students enrolling in special training programs or for pursuit of vocational, trade or college education. Such programs include art, recreational and music programs, college or university courses, trade schools and sports programs.

“These students exemplify the achievement that is possible when students receive the proper supports,” said Myrna Cardin. “We are proud to reward and showcase the successes of these young people, each of whom stands out in his or her own way.”

CARDIN SCHOLARSHIPS

The following 70 individuals were selected for exemplifying perseverance in the face of adversity and embodying the spirit that everyone can succeed with hard work and support.

William Allen, a Montgomery County Public Schools student attending High Road Academy, will use his scholarship for tuition at Montgomery College.

Niles Barnes, a Prince George's County Public Schools student attending New Visions Academy will use his scholarship for driver's education at the Blue Bird Driving School.

Eli Abraham Bautista, a Baltimore County Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Greentop, a therapeutic summer camp.

Matthew Berry, a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger High School, will use his scholarship to attend Baltimore City Community College where he will pursue his associates degree.

Charles Booker, a Montgomery County Public Schools student attending The Foundation School will use his scholarship to attend Champion Boxing and Fitness Boxing Team this summer.

Cristian Borvon-Vasquez, a Montgomery County Public Schools student attending The Foundation School will use his scholarship to attend Rock Enroll, a summer music camp.

Micah Breeden, a Prince George's County Public Schools student attending High Road Academy, will use his scholarship to attend Howard Community College where he will pursue his associates degree in human services.

Scott Burton, Jr., a Baltimore County Public Schools student attending High Road School, will use his scholarship to attend the Summer Learning Adventure Camp at CCBC.

Kayla Buttner, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Baltimore County Public Schools who attended The Forbush School at Glyndon, will use her scholarship for tuition to attend the Community College of Baltimore County to pursue her associate's degree in psychology.

Drason Campbell, a Harford County Public Schools student attending The Arrow Center for Education, Fair Meadows Campus, will use his scholarship to participate in the Maryland Christian Saints Football program this summer.

Kavon Carter, a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger High School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Variety, a therapeutic summer camp.

Charles Dickerhoof, an Allegany County Public Schools student attending The Jefferson School at Finan will use his scholarship for driver's education at Allegany Driving School.

Morgan Dubas, a Harford County Public Schools student attending High Road School will use her scholarship to attend Harford Community College to pursue her associates degree in applied science.

Jackson Element, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Baltimore County Public Schools who attended the Hannah More School, will use his scholarship for tuition at the Community College of Baltimore County where he will pursue a degree in psychology.

Matthew Elliott, a Prince George's County Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger High School, will use his scholarship to attend summer camp at Maryland-National Capital Parks.

Shardae Farr, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Prince George's County Public Schools who attends The Lourie Center, will use her scholarship to attend the Kids Club with Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Justin Ferrell, a previous Cardin Scholar, from the District of Columbia Public Schools who attended Chelsea School, will continue to use his scholarship for tuition to attend Marshall University.

Rivka Fuld, a Baltimore City Public School student attending Baltimore Lab School, will use her scholarship to take swimming lessons.

SCHOLARSHIP[winners



John Good, a previous Cardin Scholar, is an Anne Arundel County Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger High School. He will use his scholarship for violin music instruction at the Music and Arts Center.

Demari Goodman, a Prince George's County Public Schools student attending The Frost School, will use his scholarship to attend the Maryland Leadership Workshop to develop his leadership skills.

Chaise Grady, a Prince George's County Public Schools student attending The High Road School, will use her scholarship to attend Prince George's Community College where she will pursue a degree in business management.

Justin Green, an Anne Arundel County Public School student attending The Foundation School of Montgomery will use his scholarship to attend Camp Bullseye & Camp Odyssey, a therapeutic recreation camp.

Jake Griffin, a previous Cardin Scholar, is a Montgomery County Public Schools attending the Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship to attend Brainy Camps at Camp Great Rock.

Patrick Guidry, is a Anne Arundel County Public Schools student attending The Harbour School, will use his scholarship to attend Anne Arundel Community College to attend the Sign Language Certificate Program.

Joshua Headley, a previous Cardin Scholar, is a Prince George's County Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger High School. He will use his scholarship to attend Project Access at the Howard Community College.

Briana Hedgpeth, a Washington D.C. Public Schools student attending the High Road Academy, will use her scholarship for tuition to attend UDC Community College where she will pursue her AA degree.

Madison Hunt, a Baltimore County Public Schools student who attended the Baltimore Lab School, will use her scholarship for tuition to attend Marshall University – H.E.L.P. Program.

Khari Johnson, a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending New Visions Academy of Baltimore, will use his scholarship for a driver's education course at Friendly Driving School.

Travon Johnson, a Baltimore County Public Schools student attending the Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship for driver's education at ABC Driver Education.

Armand Kates-Offord, a Howard County Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger School - Fairmount, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Silver Beach at the YMCA.

Aaron Kenon, a Prince George's County Public Schools student attending High Road Academy of Lanham, will use his scholarship to attend drawing and sketching classes at Prince George's County Community College.

Chana Kramer, a previous Cardin Scholar from Prince George's County Public Schools who attended the Chelsea School, will use her scholarship to pursue a bachelor's degree in mass communications at Frostburg State University.

Quamar Lewis, a Harford County Public School student attending the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship to attend Exploration Art School.

Joshua Marrow, a Prince George's Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger High School, will use his scholarship to attend the Fame School for music recording technology.

Nathan Matheson, a previous Cardin Scholar from Montgomery County Public Schools who attended The Frost School, will continue to use his scholarship to pursue an associate of arts degree in automotive technology from Montgomery College.

CARDIN SCHOLAR

Brenna McBride, a previous Cardin Scholar from Anne Arundel County Public Schools who attended Pathways Anne Arundel, will use her scholarship to pursue an associates of arts degree at Anne Arundel County Community College.

Khalil McClain, a Prince George's County Public Schools student attending Pathways Duval Reentry, will use his scholarship for tuition at Bulldog Academy and Bowie State University where he will pursue his degree.

Joe McFadden, a previous Cardin Scholar, is a Montgomery County Public Schools student attending the Katherine Thomas School. He will use his scholarship for piano lessons at Bach to Rock.

Curt Moore, Jr, a Prince George's County Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger High School, will use his scholarship for tuition at the Prince George's Community College to obtain a Videography Certificate.

Catherine Neves, a Montgomery County Public Schools student attending the Frost School, will use her scholarship to attend the Terps Young Scholars program at the University of Maryland.

Samuel Norris, a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending the Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship to attend Earth Treks Summer Climbing Day Camp.

Dajah Nwachukwu, a previous Cardin Scholar, is a Prince Georges County Public Schools student attending High Road School of Southern Maryland, will use her scholarship to attend a pre-college program; UMUC – Lift Program.

James Lee Patterson, Jr, an Allegany County Public Schools student attending The Jefferson School at Finan, will use his scholarship to pursue an associate of arts degree in automotive technology from Allegany College of Maryland.

John Pease, a previous Cardin Scholar, was a Baltimore County Public Schools student who attended the Baltimore Lab School. He will continue to use his scholarship for tuition at the University of Maryland - Baltimore County to pursue a visual arts degree.

Susannah Phillips, an Anne Arundel County Public Schools student attending The Harbour School, will use her scholarship for tuition to attend Anne Arundel Community College to pursue her associates degree.

Zachary Ramer, a Harford County Public Schools student attending the Kennedy Krieger School – Greenspring Campus, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Greentop, a therapeutic summer camp.

Shakira Ramsey, a previous Cardin Scholar from Prince George's Public Schools who attended The Chelsea School, will continue to obtain a bachelor's degree at High Point University.

Sean Rath, a previous Cardin Scholar, is a Baltimore County Public Schools student who attends the Baltimore Lab School will use his scholarship to attend Harbor Magic Summer Day Camp.

Joshua Ross, a Baltimore County Public Schools student who attends the Villa Maria School will use his scholarship to attend Summer Learning Adventures Camps to focus on STEM Science, Fitness and Wellness.

Thomas Rouse, a Prince George's County Public Schools student attending High Road School of PG County, will use his scholarship for tuition to attend Allegany College of Maryland to pursue his degree in hospitality.

Shawn Salmond, a Baltimore County Public Schools student who attends New Visions Academy of Baltimore, will use his scholarship for driver's education at Express Driving School.

Angelrose Serry, a Prince George's County Public Schools student attending The Harbour School, will use her scholarship to attend Prince George's Community College.

Josef Shaliehsabou, a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending The Harbour School - Baltimore, will be using his scholarship for tuition to attend the Community College of Baltimore to pursue an associate's degree.

SCHOLARSHIP winners



Colin Shantz, an Anne Arundel County Public Schools student attending Kennedy Krieger – Fairmount, will use his scholarship to attend iD Tech Camps for computer programming and game design.

Brian Shell, a Baltimore County Public Schools student attending The Jefferson School, will use his scholarship for tuition to attend the North American Trade School for the Industrial Maintenance Program.

Aaron Simon, a previous Cardin Scholar, is a Montgomery County Public Schools student attending the Frost School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Soar, a canoeing camp in North Carolina.

Carson Stanley, a Baltimore County Public Schools student attending the Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship to attend Camp Aristotle, a therapeutic summer camp.

Marlon Thomas, a Baltimore City Public School student attending the Villa Maria School, will use his scholarship to attend Zoll Studio of Fine Art for art lessons.

Daniel Turner, a Prince George's County Public Schools student attending The Children's Guild, will be using his scholarship to attend the Boy Scouts of America Camp.

Isaiah Waters, a previous Cardin Scholar, from the District of Columbia Public Schools who attended the Chelsea School, will be using his scholarship for tuition at Mitchell College to obtain his undergraduate degree.

Bruce Watson, a previous Cardin Scholar, is a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending the Baltimore Lab School will be using his scholarship for tuition to attend Howard Community College.

Miranda Webb, a Baltimore County Public Schools student attending The Strawbridge School, will be using her scholarship for tuition to attend the Community College of Baltimore to obtain a practical nursing certificate.

Clay Weintraub, a Baltimore County Public Schools student attending the Baltimore Lab School, will use his scholarship to attend Davis and Elkins College.

De'ona White, a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending the Gateway School will use her scholarship for music therapy at Augmenting Abilities.

Scott (Sandy) Wilbur, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Baltimore County Public Schools who attended the Baltimore Lab School, will be using his scholarship for college tuition at Goucher College in Towson.

Nicholas Wilkerson, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Anne Arundel County Public Schools who attended the High Road Academy, will be using his scholarship to pursue a degree in nursing at Anne Arundel Community College.

Angel Williams, a Prince George's Public Schools student attending The Foundation School, will be using her scholarship to attend Sugar Ray Boxing Center for amateur boxing training.

Emanuel Williams, a Baltimore City Public Schools student attending the Baltimore Lab School will use is scholarship to attend All About Music for guitar lessons.

Kristin Wollenweber, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Harford County Public Schools who attended the Hannah More School, will be using her scholarship to study design at Harford Community College.

Erin Young, a previous Cardin Scholar, from Anne Arundel County Public Schools who attended the High Road Academy, will use her scholarship for tuition at Anne Arundel Community College to pursue an associate's degree as a Medical Laboratory Technician.



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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.

TIME FOR TRANSITION? WE CAN HELP!

MANSEF Transition Toolkit

Making the transition from student to the adult world can be difficult for any youth – and it presents a particular set of challenges for children with disabilities. The Friends of MANSEF (Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities) have developed a comprehensive manual to help youths and their families navigate the process; the toolkit includes information on the following subjects:

- SSI/SSDI
- Employment Opportunities
- Mental Health
- Legal Issues
- Transportation
- Sexuality
- DDA-Specific Programs
- Housing/Community Opportunities



Find the toolkit at:
www.MANSEF.org

For more information, email:
mansef@aol.com
or call 410-938-4413