

# STEPPING Stones

November 2016

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NONPUBLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES



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CONFERENCE**

**December 1, 2017**  
**Baltimore Convention Center**



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a fall of transitions. We have a new State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Karen B. Salmon, newly elected Maryland state and local legislators, and President-Elect Donald Trump. In addition, there are new faces in our nonpublic and local school systems (LSSs) as individuals retire or change positions. We have a revised MSDE attendance policy as well as continuous updates to testing and course requirements from the state and LSSs. We know how difficult transitions are for our students with special needs and their families, and we strive to ease the transitions for them. We have to be cognizant that transitions are challenging for staff as well.

As we transition to the legislative and budget season, we must keep our focus on the mission of MANSEF. The tuition methodology will not change for the next fiscal year, and we do not yet know what new "guidelines" will be included in the budget instructions. Our MANSEF representatives on MSDE's budget workgroup will ensure that the concerns of all members are addressed.

The budget is not the only challenge we will encounter this legislative season. There are two bills that we need to track as they are brought to the legislature: parental consent and the use of physical restraint and seclusion. It is imperative that we communicate our position and mission to legislators to champion the continuum of services. We need to support the Friends of MANSEF (FOM) who advocate for our schools in Annapolis and throughout the state. Remember to invite your current and newly elected legislators to your schools.

MANSEF's Lobby Day will be in early February, 2017. It is important that we have strong representation from each nonpublic school and that we share our personal stories with legislators. Dorie Flynn will soon provide specifics of Lobby Day. Sitting on the sidelines is not an option this year. Our voices need to be heard.

On behalf of the MANSEF Board of Directors, thank you for the work you do for our students and families.

Kindest regards,  
Amy Alvord

MANSEF President

# MANSEF CELEBRATES STUDENT SUCCESS



## Baltimore Lab School

High School Senior **Michael K.** joined the Baltimore Lab School (BLS) community from Harford County in 2014. During his three years at BLS, Michael has shown tremendous academic and personal growth.

Michael has participated in many extracurricular activities at BLS, including the Student Government Association where he led an Anti-Bullying Awareness initiative. He is the Editor of the school newspaper, Lab Ten News, and Editor of the BLS Literary Magazine. In the words of his English teacher, Mrs. Feldman, Michael "personifies motivation, and maximizes his potential."

Outside of BLS, Michael has volunteered for years at a Washington sleep-away camp. Over the summer, Michael was promoted from a junior leadership role to Lead Counselor.

Michael's passion and determination shines through in his post-secondary planning as well. He has already been accepted to three colleges with various merit awards. Next year, Michael will attend Lynn University in Boca Raton, FL where he plans to study Biology and pursue a career as a Physician Assistant.

Baltimore Lab School is very proud of Michael's extraordinary accomplishments.



## The Benedictine School

**Benedictine continues to partner with community employers for student work experiences.**

Community work experiences can offer a positive learning experience; validation of progress made, and needed workers for the community. In addition to several Benedictine-run businesses that offer work experience for students, Benedictine partners with a variety of work sites in our community, and the list is growing thanks to a dedicated community. Work opportunities vary from volunteer to paid positions.

**Jules** and **Cat** are 2 very different students who benefit from this focus on community learning and working. Jules has 2 community-based jobs earning minimum wage at both. She is motivated by her paychecks and is a valued employee. With the support of a job coach, her jobs at K-Mart and Lamotte Chemical give her the opportunity to work on peer interactions as well as job-specific skills including assembly and retail duties.

In addition to jobs on campus, Cat is a volunteer at a local animal rescue. Cat, a 20-year old non-verbal student,

thrives on routine and task completion. She learned her routines quickly and is a valued volunteer – assisting with maintenance and pet care at Animal Resource Foundation.

As a young lady who loves to be in the community, this opportunity has meant a lot to Cat.

Both Jules and Cat have thrived at their community placements. And they are building their resumes for their futures!

## The children's Guild Prince Georges Campus

**Children's Guild students learn by volunteering**

Support from community resources and agencies is vital to our efforts to enhance the vocational skills and employability of our students. Two of our upcoming graduates, **Tarrell Peterson** and **Aundre Moten**, were given the opportunity to work with our newly formed partner organization, So Others Might Eat (SOME). Tarrell and Aundre went in to volunteer wide-eyed and anxious, and they left humbled and fulfilled. To be able to serve takes integrity! We were very proud of our students' work ethic serving SOME and their commitment to completing all tasks given. Their employable skills are well under construction. Our students demonstrated through their work at SOME that they are on their way to greatness!



Clockwise from bottom left:  
Michael K.; Jules & Cat; Tarrell & Aundre

# MORE! STUDENT SUCCESS

## The Foundation Schools

**Rajon Jackson**, alumnus and sous chef at BlackFinn restaurant, gave the 2016 commencement address at The Foundation School of Montgomery County's graduation ceremony. Rajon reflected on his time at The Foundation Schools by commending the staff for not letting him internalize the negativity which surrounded him. "I was labeled the bad kid, a trouble maker and not smart... (the staff) knew I had the tools to make it and they reminded me all of the time." We are so proud of his determination to succeed, and we look forward to his mentorship of our students.



Rajon

## Kennedy Krieger at Central High School, PCGPS

Kennedy Krieger at Central High School is a Type II program designed for students with Autism. The Program is co-located in a Prince George's County public high school.

Type II programs can have a great impact on our students. Here are student accomplishments we are excited to share:

- **Howard** playing football at his home high school.
- **Jasim** playing saxophone in a general education Music Class.
- **Anjaee** singing alto at a winter concert.
- **Wanya** participating in a Junior ROTC Class.
- **Anthony** attending a World History Class and a Health Issues Class without in-class support.
- **Tyanne** attending an Art Class in general education.
- **Ben Michael** who has muscular dystrophy and Autism and uses an electric wheelchair taking a Dance Class.
- **Lamar** taking classes in a public school

Through relationship- building with general education teachers at Central High School, Kennedy Krieger has been able to support high school students with Autism. These teachers have gladly accepted Kennedy Krieger students in their classrooms.



## The Forbush School at Oakmont Upper

We would like to highlight **Davon Darden's** accomplishments at the Forbush School at Oakmont Upper. Davon never had a family until he started coming to the Forbush School. Davon is legally blind and deaf which made it difficult to communicate his wants and needs. When he began school, Davon could not walk, use the restroom independently, eat independently, or pick things up.

After intensive therapeutic services at Forbush, Davon is more than capable of feeding himself, using the restroom independently, and using sign language to request snacks and drinks. He can pick items up and stack plates and cups.



Left to right: Danielle and Anjaee rehearsing their choir piece; Wanya salutes with fellow Junior ROTC members; Christopher and Howard in dance class



## Marcia D. Smith School

**Johas** had a history of truancy, attending a fraction of school days from 9th-11th grade. In early August 2016 he started at Marcia D. Smith, where a community-minded schedule was created based on interests, IEP goals, and age. He attends dance classes, participates in shopping, and excels in academic courses. Johas has found his own voice, recently expressing an interest in horseback riding, so he and some students started a riding group at a local farm. Now Johas' attendance is almost perfect, his family reports he is so motivated by his new schedule he wakes up and gets ready independently each morning.

Johas enjoying learning about horses at the farm



Johas with Sophie and a member of Great and Small Farms



## The Harbour School at Annapolis

### Harbour High School student Places in top 40 golfers in State Championship

**Matt Snowdon**, a high school student at The Harbour School at Annapolis, plays golf for the varsity golf team at Severna Park High School. The Severna Park high school golf team was the only team in AA County to advance to the State Championship games.

Matt shot an 81 and placed in the top 40 golfers at the state championship. The coach from Whitman, a Montgomery County powerhouse team, was the scorer in Matt's foursome. At the end of the match he told Matt it was an absolute pleasure to follow him and he loved his positive attitude. In addition to playing great golf, Matt is slowly changing the way many in the golfing community view those with disabilities. The Harbour School is extremely proud of Matt's accomplishments.

## The Harbour School at Annapolis

### Harbour High School student performs at DC Walk for Autism and Baltimore Walk

The Harbour School is proud to share that one of our students, **Caroline Davis**, performed at the Autism Speaks Walk on October 1, 2016. It was a rainy Saturday in our nation's capital, but Caroline was a ray of sunshine performing *Stand in the Light* by Jordan Smith to several thousand people. She dedicated her performance to those on the autism spectrum and their families. The Autism Speaks Walk nationwide is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds in the autism community. This grassroots movement helps generate funds that fuel innovative research and make connections to critical lifelong supports and services. Way to go Caroline! Caroline also performed at the Baltimore Autism Walks November 12. She was cheered on by The Harbour School team.

Caroline Davis singing "Stand in the Light"



Matt Snowdon



Susan Glasgow

# SCHOOL News

## The Frost School

Teachers have been hard at work creating meaningful learning opportunities for Frost students. Experiential learning has opened the doors of our classrooms, allowing students to learn through hands-on labs, field trips, workshops, and other project-based learning activities. During the 1st quarter, high school English students participated in a Microsoft workshop in which they created a PowerPoint from their personal narrative essays, visited the Olney Theatre to watch a performance of The Diary of Anne Frank, and performed a DNA extraction at



the SciTech Student Learning Lab. Students also participated in a customized sailing experience through Sail Affinity in which they had an opportunity to work on leadership skills and STEM, all while learning about the history of Baltimore. Rather than learning about endangered species through a textbook or documentary, Baltimore's Mobile Zoo visited Frost, along with some furry and scaly friends, and engaged the students in an interactive presentation. History has been taught through the use of traveling trunks, which contain primary source artifacts and documents. Not only have students been inspired, but teachers, as well. Ms. Elicia and Mr. Brian, two of our enthusiastic middle school teachers, were spotted dressed in colonial costumes, teaching students about life in Colonial Maryland. The school year has just begun, but we are in full swing!



Left: Mr. Brian and Ms. Elicia don colonial costumes; Above: a visit from Baltimore's mobile Zoo



Dinner and kickoff for Autism Speaks Walk

## The Harbour School at Baltimore

**The Harbour School at Baltimore hosts the regional kick-off dinner for Autism Speaks.**

The Harbour School at Baltimore hosted a dinner and kick-off meeting for all the regional representatives for the Autism Speaks Walk on November 12. Almost 50 guests enjoyed a dinner prepared by Chef Don Emerson and the commercial food service students. Representatives complimented the food and said they hoped they would be able to use this venue again for future meetings. The students were pleased to be able to support a cause that helps others.

**The Media Center at The Harbour School at Baltimore expands.**

The Media Center at The Harbour School at Baltimore was expanded and refurbished over the summer break. It features a reading nook wall that allows readers to literally curl up with a good book.



Media Center refurbishment and expansion includes new reading nooks



## GateWay School

On November 2, The Hearing and Speech Agency hosted a Cocktail Reception to celebrate two important events in its history: the celebration of its 90th anniversary after its founding in 1926, and the retiring of long-time Executive Director, Susan Glasgow. Susan came to the organization as a Speech-Language Pathologist in 1982, before becoming Director in 1994. It's been an honor having Susan for over one third of our organization's history, and we wish her luck in her retirement!



## The High Road School of Prince George's County

### Annual Girls Love Mail Drive

Students at High Road School Prince George's county held their annual Girls Love Mail drive this October. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and Girls Love Mail is a foundation that request letters to send to women and men who have just been diagnosed with breast cancer a letter of encouragement. This past summer Girls Love Mail ran out of letters to send to patients so our students set out with a goal of creating a 1,000 letters to mail in. Supporters can send letters year round. Visit <http://www.girlslovemail.com/> for more information as the organization approaches its 90th birthday in November 2016.



Students participate in the Girls Love Mail drive

# MORE! SCHOOL News



## The Ivymount School

### PAHO Interns and Volunteers Facebook Page Publishes Student Profiles

PAHO (the Pan American Health Organization and a business partner/jobsite of Ivymount) has an "Interns and Volunteers" Facebook page, which they recently started, in order to showcase their interns in various departments. PAHO asked Ivymount students, who currently work at PAHO, to be a part of the page, in an effort

to highlight more interns and showcase what our students do for the organization. Jared, Trinity, and Aron each participated in the project and now have intern profiles posted on the PAHO Interns and Volunteers Facebook Page, which can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/PAHO-Interns-Volunteers-Pasantes-voluntarios-OPS-204697496266199/>. A special thanks to Dani Pouliot, Jen Gutsin, Neal Gertner, and Steve Weedon who all helped to prepare the students for their interviews and worked closely with the PAHO staff to ensure the experience would be meaningful for all!

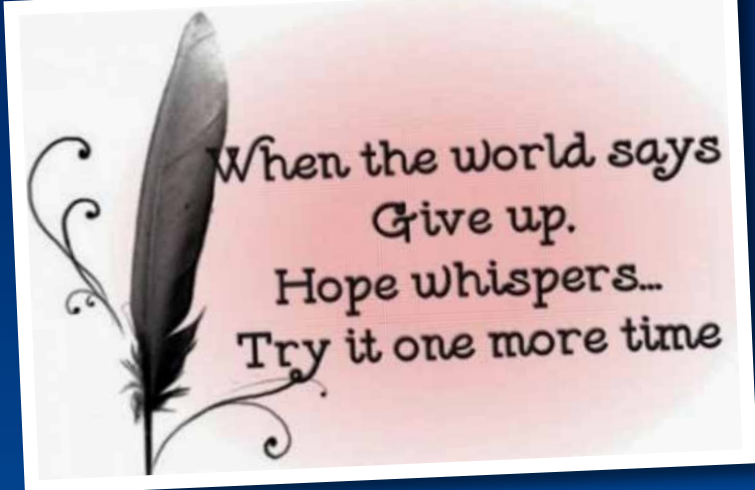


Top and bottom: Ivymount students working at PAHO work together to be a part of the Interns and Volunteers FaceBook page.

## Mann Residential School

During the month of September, the Mann Residential Treatment Center hosted a Hope, Not Dope assembly. Something magical and unprecedented happened that day; something that is hard to describe in words yet not trying to capture this moment would be remiss. The students in the drug treatment program hosted the event. They created art work, wrote and shared phenomenal poetry and two former students, who are recovering addicts, shared their struggles and successes of addiction through a question and answer session. Their responses to the questions were so incredibly honest and self-disclosing that any individual looking for hope now knows that hope is possible. And then there was the compelling testimony of two very brave young individuals who shook the audience members to their core with a very moving account of their life struggles, their war with drugs, their fight for survival and their journey back to wholeness and renewed hope. Their testimony prompted a very important question by an audience member: "What is it about treatment and education at Mann School that would enable youth, in front of an auditorium full of people, to rip their hearts open and tell profound stories of trauma, neglect, abuse and then allow us to feel their hope? And then give us the privilege of feeling their hope!!"

We believe we know the answer. Do you?



## The Katherine Thomas School

### What's Next? Life After High School

This fall TLC's Katherine Thomas School and TLC's Outcomes Service began a joint workforce development program for high school juniors and seniors to prepare for work or post-secondary education. These 12 week sessions include career assessments, job preparation, social skills training, self-advocacy, basic literacy and computer skills, employer expectations, job searching, workplace readiness, transition services, and counseling on opportunities for in transition or post-secondary education. The program is held at KTS with field trips to employer sites and is DORS-funded for Maryland students.



KTS students prepare for life after high school



### VIP Visitor at The Katherine Thomas School

Staff at The Katherine Thomas School were happy to host Maryland District 15 Delegate Aruna Miller for a tour and talk about school programs. We always appreciate our local legislators taking the time to get to know our school better. Aruna was joined by Dr. Patricia Ritter, Executive Director of The Treatment and Learning Centers and Acting Director of The KTS Lower School Program and Rhona Schwartz, Director of The KTS High School Program.

Dr. Patricia Ritter, Delegate Aruna Miller and Rhona Schwartz



Sue Murray, MANSEF Transition Consultant, joined Pathways' Executive Director, Dr. Tania DuBeau, in congratulating Nora Johnson on her award

# MORE! SCHOOL News

## Pathways

**Nora Johnson**, Pathways Schools Transition Specialist, has been awarded the **Maryland Works, Inc. Employment Award: "Transition Professional of the Year."** Maryland Works, is a statewide association that expands employment and business opportunities for people with disabilities. The award recognizes a school affiliated professional who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to helping students with disabilities transition from high school to meaningful employment. Nora was nominated for the award by a supervisor for the Career Transition Program at Cornerstone Montgomery, a workforce development agency in Montgomery County. He

highlighted how "she demonstrates an exceptional commitment to helping students with disabilities transition from high school to meaningful employment by helping them get connected to our services in preparation for life after graduation." We at Pathways couldn't be more proud and delighted that Nora has received this well-deserved recognition. For 25 years, she has dedicated herself to patiently and persistently assisting our students to become employed, contributing members of their communities.

The Pathways Schools is celebrating it's **35th Anniversary** and having a range of options makes it possible for students to learn in the environment that capitalizes on their strengths and potential while supporting them in the areas they need most. For example, Lamar is a student in our Type II program at Friendly High School. He is able to take advantage of the resources of a large public high school while receiving the academic and therapeutic support he needs from Pathways. This has allowed him to enroll in Friendly's ROTC program. His mother says, "Being in ROTC has helped Lamar become more responsible as he transitions to being a teenager. He loves his school."

At the other end of the continuum, Shernajah is able to learn best with a Community Support Staff (CSS) in a variety of small settings.

A student at Pathways-Anne Arundel, Shernajah's flexible, individualized schedule allows her to take classes at Anne Arundel Community College, where she is studying Women's Health and College English. She writes, "I've had many experiences that have helped me during my time at Pathways but one that has been a huge help is working in the community." She appreciates that her CSS has prepared her for the level of writing expected by her professors at the college. She feels she has developed confidence overall which enables her to succeed in school and in life.

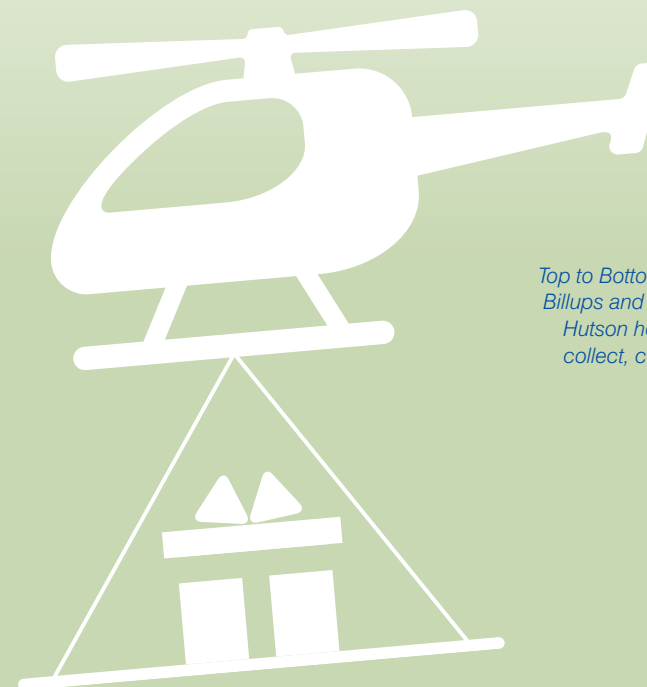


Lamar



## St. Elizabeth School

SES students in Ms. Kay Cronin's homeroom are showing their holiday spirit extra early this year. Students Michael Addison, Leon Billups, and Dreama Hutton helped collect, count, and package 22 pounds worth of baked goods for the Marines posted at the US embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. The "Happy Halloween"-themed box was sent to Pakistan where it was distributed to the Marines serving there, and students are planning to have two more collections this year in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas!



Top to Bottom: Leon Billups and Dreama Hutton helping to collect, count and package





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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.

## MARYLAND LEARNING LINKS



Providing dynamic online resources for educators, families, and providers to strengthen the services provided to children and youth with diverse development and learning needs.

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