Creating healthy and nurturing environments for children by supporting their families and educating their caregivers
We have many changes to report in this newsletter. After fifteen years at the Resource Center, we say goodbye to Margaret Watkins, our director of Community Programs. Margaret is retiring to enjoy her passion for gardening, as well as more time with her family and traveling. She plans to take on small projects for us so you still may see or hear from her in the future. We wish her all the best in this new stage of her life.

Another change came last November when the child care community in Maryland was rocked by the death of Sandy Skolnik from lung cancer. Sandy created the Maryland Child Care Resource Network and always had a passion for improving and expanding the world of child care. She had the vision and political know-how to get things accomplished. Generations of Maryland’s children attended higher quality programs due to Sandy’s dedication and she is certainly missed.

The Resource Center is proud to be among Washington’s “freshman class” of the Taproot Foundation. Taproot, with offices nationwide, opened at the Watergate this spring. Taproot matches media professionals who volunteer their time and talent with local nonprofits. The Resource Center applied and was awarded a service grant to improve our annual report. We are honored to be the only nonprofit in Maryland chosen and look forward to working with our Taproot volunteers.

Have you seen the Resource Center video? Thanks to the incredible talent of our board member Kris O’Krepky, we now have a wonderful new way of getting our message out to the community. Check our website at www.childresource.org and let me know what you think. And speaking of our website, we keep adding and improving the design. If you haven’t checked it lately, please see the jobs page and updates.

The Resource Center is committed to our Healthy Families program. We know that in-home intervention is a proven method of breaking the cycle of violence, and lucky for us our funders agree. We are so pleased to announce that with funding from County Executive Johnson’s office and continuation funding from the Freddie Mac Foundation we have been able to double the program. And how do we know that the program is working? Our moms are getting their prenatal care, our babies are being immunized on schedule but most importantly there have been NO reports of child abuse and neglect. We are successfully breaking the cycle of violence so children can grow up in healthy, nurturing environments.

Marti Worshtil

From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Marti Worshtil receives grant award from Tara Potter of Verizon Maryland
During the holiday season of 2007, the Resource Center linked with businesses to help support families and child care providers in Prince George’s County. Barnes & Noble, Target, and employees from five companies made an incredible difference in our community.

Barnes & Noble of Bowie chose the Resource Center for their annual Holiday Book Drive. While doing their own holiday shopping, hundreds of people were generous enough to purchase books to be donated. As a result, we received nearly 2,000 books to give to children, parents and child care providers that we serve! Thank you, Barnes & Noble, for your commitment to the community, and thank you to all who participated in the event.

Target also helped brighten the holidays for families participating in our Family Support Center and Healthy Families program. As members of United Way of the National Capital Area, we qualified to receive six gorgeous, fully-decorated Christmas trees that were delivered to families. Thank you Target!

The most amazing surprise of all came through these five local companies and agencies whose employees got together to adopt families for the holidays:

- Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Cambridge Associates, Arlington Office Consulting Group
- Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center
- Navigant Consulting, Inc.
- RAFFA, P.C.

We serve the most at-risk families in the County who face incredible challenges daily as they work to create safe and healthy environments for their children. Some are teen parents, many do not have access to health care, and often have abuse in their backgrounds.

So when items were delivered for families during December, staff could not believe the generosity exhibited. Wrapped toys, winter clothes and books were crowding the office of Liliana Janssen-Checa, Program Manager for Healthy Families Prince George’s who grew emotional at the overwhelming response. Danitza Simpson, Director of the Family Support Center remarked, “Our families had never experienced this kind of generosity from people who didn’t even know them. They were amazed.” In addition to all the presents, over $2,000 in grocery store gift cards were given to families. When participants received these gifts, they were astonished and thankful and touched. On behalf of the families we serve, we thank you!
Science Road Show

On Saturday, January 26, over 200 parents, children, and members of the child care community gathered at Watkins Nature Center in Upper Marlboro for a fun day of learning about science. Though “fun” is not usually the first thing that comes to mind when hearing the word “science,” the Science Road Show Science Fair featured live animals, puppet shows, and activities that left no doubt that even learning about biology and chemistry can be exciting. The Resource Center, in partnership with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System, held the Science Fair to provide information and resources about different science topics, introduce parents and child care providers to local science programs, and to publicize the Resource Center’s new Science Road Show program. Diane Embrey, the Early Childhood Science Coordinator for the Resource Center, spoke with guests and made “goo” with children. The “goo” making quickly earned her the name “goo lady” as many of the children returned again and again to make a squishy prize at the Resource Center table, and Diane successfully recruited many excited child care providers to sign-up for the Science Road Show.

Science Road Show is a free, traveling program that offers science training, mentoring, and resources for early childhood educators in Prince George’s County. To become part of the Science Road Show, call Diane Embrey, Early Childhood Science Coordinator, at 301-772-8420, ext. 231.

Here’s one activity to get you excited about Science Road Show!

Color Changing Milk

You will need: Milk (whole or 2%), Dinner Plate, Food Coloring, Dish Soap, and Cotton Swabs.

1. First pour just enough milk onto the plate to cover the bottom.

2. Add one drop of each color of food coloring, keeping them close together (but not on top of each other) and in the center of the plate.

3. Find a clean cotton swab and touch the tip of the swab in the milk without stirring. What happens?

4. Next, put dish soap on the end of another cotton swab and touch the tip of the swab in the milk. See an explosion of color!

How did this happen? Milk contains water, vitamins, minerals, proteins and fats. The dish soap breaks the invisible chemical bonds that keep proteins together causing them to break up and move in all directions. What we see is molecules of food coloring getting bumped around by the proteins.

This experiment and many other fun science activities can be found at www.stevespanglerscience.com/experiments.
Every Mother’s Day, we celebrate our moms, aunts, grandmothers, sisters and friends. For 2008, Resource Center Board, staff and supporters honored these special women whose commitment and dedication have improved our lives and the lives of others:

- Ebba Jean Allen
- Trenna Allen
- Lynn Baldwin
- Harriet Ruth Howard Banks
- Janet Barbash
- Mary Martha Benner
- Carole Clements
- Julie Daberkow
- Dr. Alyssa Dayan
- Rita Dayan
- Jessica Diaz
- Lonnie Ebron
- Ann Feld
- Marian Guldin
- Barbara Gural
- Vivian Gammon
- Julie Hoffman
- Nancy Hoffman
- Carol Iverson
- Kimberly Iverson
- Liz Iverson
- Maggie Iverson
- Laneka Jackson
- Pearl Lee
- Rose Levine
- Ellen Levy
- Blondell Malone
- Nellie Marshall
- Kay McKay
- Alice B. Meltzer
- Frances Morgan
- Sara-Beth Noll
- Paula Palmisano
- Julie Parsons
- Joan Porte
- Margarita Perez
- Shannon Regner
- Iona Foster Rhodes
- Alice Mae Moore Robinson
- Elizabeth Romito
- Laurie Schnitzer
- Stephanie Short
- Samantha Shron
- Jo Tavenner
- Laura Terrell
- Alice Jacob Thayil
- Sherry Waters
- Alaina McMahon Watkins
- Dee Watkins
- Margaret Watkins
- Marti Worshtil

In Memoriam
- Emma Baldwin
- Ruth Baldwin
- Irene Banks
- Mary Furr
- Louise V. Hall
- Patricia Regner
- Sophie Weber

Have you HEARD?

- We welcome many new staff including Rosa Bowers, Alberta Contee, Momi Kargbo, Christina Lewis, Ledis Navas, Ilka Rancel, Rocio Treminio, Karen Ventura, Natasha Nielsen, Jhakye Garcia, Siriha Robledo-Curtis and Kanisha Garrett. Welcome back to Luz Perassi!

- Congratulations to Natasha Nielson on her marriage and to Yenny Lucero on the birth of her daughter Rebecca Isabella!

- Do you have a child under age 5 in your program that exhibits challenging behavior? Project WIN can help! This free program funded by MSDE provides support for pre-school children who are disruptive in a group setting. For more information visit our website, or call Paul Armstrong at 301.772.3607.

- Have you seen our new video? It’s available online at www.childresource.org. Special thanks to Al and June Pearsall, Sandra Ortega and Tahirah Jenkins for sharing their stories.

- Over 1100 people attended the 11th Annual Celebrate Children Conference held on March 29 at Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro. On behalf of the Prince George’s Interagency Early Childhood Committee, Sanders Shiver honored Dr. Charlene Dukes of Prince George’s Community College with the Judith P. Hoyer Award for Outstanding Service to Children.

- Congratulations to Greenbelt Children’s Center for achieving accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children!

- Trishawn Adams of Accokeek received her accreditation in December 2007! Congratulations.

- Congratulations to Board member Barbara Gural on the birth of her first grandchild Mia.

- Want a widget? Help support the Resource Center by copying this widget from our website and sharing it with your friends! You can email it, post in on your personal blog, My Space or Face Book page. Your friends and family can make a tax deductible donation to the Resource Center in minutes. It’s easy, fun and a great way to get involved. Call Jennifer Hoffman at 301.772.8420, ext. 226 with any questions.

www.childresource.org | 5
Did you know that the Resource Center trains over 4,000 people each year? We are pleased to offer a wide variety of training for the early education community including start-up training for new child care providers, continued education sessions, and core of knowledge workshops that meet the needs of both beginning and experienced professionals. Our evaluation surveys indicate that our interactive workshops are fun, engaging and equip child care providers to make a difference in the lives of children.

Important Announcement:
EFFECTIVE JULY 1

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Office of Child Care regulations require that all new family child care providers must complete 24 hours of training in six four-hour training sessions (called pre-service) before they can become registered. The Resource Center is ready to help you meet these new requirements!

For a full schedule of training, call the Resource Center at 301.772.8420. Or visit our website at www.childresource.org to view our calendar and register online.

WE'RE SWEET ON OUR MEMBERS!

Did you know that Prince George's Child Resource Center has a membership of over 500! On February 13, 2008 we had an open house event to show our members how much we appreciate them. Members and supporters began arriving at 5:30, and judging from the laughter and the crowd around the chocolate fountain, it was a smashing success.

In addition to giving child care providers a chance to network with each other, we were able to share member benefits and ask for feedback. Diane Embrey, Early Childhood Science Coordinator, was on hand to share news about the Science Road Show. Paul Armstrong, Early Mental Health Coordinator, shared about Project WIN, an invaluable resource for child care providers. This early intervention resource helps support children exhibiting challenging behaviors.

Also on display were curricula sets that are approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. Our members enjoyed seeing first-hand what qualifies as a developmentally-appropriate curriculum, what each product includes, and how much of a financial investment is required. These will continue to be on display at the Resource Center, so please come by during regular business hours to see!

Fabulous prizes were awarded to the lucky winners of the seven drawings held that evening, but nobody left empty-handed! Every one who attended was able to choose a children’s book, made possible by Barnes & Noble of Bowie. If you missed our event this year, we will welcome you in 2009!

Special Training Opportunities

Care to Read
The Resource Center is pleased to offer early literacy training. For only $20, each participant attending these six-hour fun-filled workshops will receive a free resource book to use in their programs.

SIDS
The Resource Center is offering SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) training for the reduced fee of only $5. The CJ Foundation for SIDS makes it possible for us to present this two-hour session that meets MSDE, Office of Child Care SIDS training requirements and also gives participants additional information about healthy sleeping habits for young children.

Infant/Toddler Training
Infant/Toddler training continues to meet the needs of child care providers serving young children. These sessions are offered monthly at the reduced rate of only $15.

Emergency Preparedness
Develop an individual emergency plan in this six-hour training offered through Chesapeake College for only $15.

90 Clock Hour Fast Track Course | Fee: $350
( Includes textbook)
Attendance at all sessions is mandatory to receive a certificate.

September ‘08
16, 18, 23, 25, 30 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.
October ‘08
2, 7, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.
4 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
November ‘08
3, 6, 10 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.
5 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Call today to register 301.772.8420
We thank all of our donors who supported the Resource Center for Mother’s Day and throughout the year. With your help, we will continue fulfilling our mission in Prince George’s County:

*To help create healthy and nurturing environments for children by supporting their parents and educating their caregivers.*

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<th>Anonymous</th>
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9475 Lottsford Road, Suite 202
Largo, MD 20774
Main Office ........................................ 301.772.8420
    Training ...................................... ext. 229
    Science Road Show .......................... ext. 231
Project WIN. .................................. 301.772.3607
LOCATE: Child Care ............................. 301.772.8400
Provider Vacancies/Updates .................. 301.772.8411
Fax ............................................... 301.772.8410
Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center
8908 Riggs Road
Adelphi, MD 20783
Phone: 301.431.6210 • Fax: 301.431.6212
Web: www.childresource.org • Email: pgrc@childresource.org
Find out more about Resource Center news and events, register for workshops, check for job openings, use our helpful “resources” page, or help support our mission by making a secure donation.

HELPFUL RESOURCES
Maryland Committee for Children..................... www.mdchildcare.org
    Other Area Resource and Referral Centers ....... 410.752.7588
Maryland State Department of Education........ www.marylandpublicschools.org
    Office of Child Care, Prince George’s .......... 301.333.6940
    Office of Child Care, Credentialing .......... 410.767.6922
Washington Child Development Council .............. 202.387.0002
Prince George’s County Group Child Care Association
    Lynn Baldwin, President ..................... 301.952.3674
Prince George’s County Family Child Care Association
    Janice Gray, President ....................... 301.498.1516
Professional Child Care Provider Network of Prince George’s County
    Phyllis Waters, President .................... 301.899.9610
DBED: Day Care Financing Programs ................ 410.767.6388
Prince George’s County Public Schools .............. www.pgcps.org
    Child and Adult Food Program ............... 301.780.5810
    Early Childhood Office ..................... 301.808.4000
    School Boundaries/Student Transfers ........ 301.952.6300
Prince George’s Community College ................. www.pgcc.edu
    Early Childhood Education ................. 301.322.0158
The Arc of Prince George’s County ................ 301.925.7050
Early Intervention Services
    Infants and Toddlers (Ages 0–2) .............. 301.265.8415
    Child Find (Ages 3–5) ....................... 301.808.2719
Family Crisis Center (24 hours) .................... 301.779.2100
Department of Social Services ..................... www.dhr.state.md.us
    Child Care Subsidy .......................... 301.909.6200
    Child Protective Services .................... 301.909.2450
National Capital Poison Center ..................... 866.222.1222