



Judy Center Partnerships

Maryland State Department of Education

Newsletter

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Caroline County Judy Center Celebrates Opening of New Federalsburg Site

On September 23, Federalsburg officials celebrated the opening of the new Judy Center building with a dedication ceremony. The Judy Center, located across from Federalsburg Elementary School, allows a number of agencies to link their services for child and family development programs, adult education, healthcare and childcare. Caroline County Early Head Start, a community partner of the Judy Center, will also share space in the building. The dedication ceremony included musical selections from former Judy Center students and many well wishes from local and state officials.



Dr. Nancy Grasmick, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, spoke of the critical investment that Judy Centers make in the lives of children and their families. Dr. Grasmick, a personal friend and college roommate of Judy Hoyer, for whom the Judy Centers are named, "promised to continue Judy's legacy of improving the lives of young children." Dr. Edward Shirley, Caroline County Schools Superintendent, Wayne Cole, Caroline County Board of Education President, Senator Rich Colburn and Delegates Adelaide

Echardt, Jeanne Haddaway, and Richard Sossi made other remarks and comments of support. Caroline County Commissioner Marty Gangemi, Federalsburg Mayor, Betty Ballas and Linda Ramsey, Deputy Director of Friends of the Family, Inc. spoke on the importance of the Judy Center and the collaborative efforts undertaken to make the building a reality. Judy Center Director, Tearesa French, unveiled a plaque dedicating the new Judy Center and providing recognition to all those involved in the construction of the new building. The Judy Center includes several multi-purpose rooms, separate areas for various age groups, an adult education room, and two playgrounds.

Inside this Issue

Judy Center Partnership with Adult Education assists young mother to further education 2

Judy Centers Partner with Adult Education and Family Literacy Branch 2

Mayor Martin O'Malley visits John Eager Howard Judy Center 3

South Frederick Elementary / Judy Center host Meet the Teacher Back to School Night 4



Judy Hoyer dedicated her life to improving the lives of young children and their families. Her legacy continues because of the work of the twenty four Maryland Judy Centers that strive to promote school readiness through the development and expansion of collaborative approaches to the delivery of high quality, comprehensive, full-day, full-year early child care and education programs and family support services.

Snow Hill Elementary School Achieves National "Blue Ribbon" Recognition For Second Year

On Friday, September 17, 2004, Dr. Nancy Grasmick, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, announced that Snow Hill Elementary School, which houses one of twenty four Judy Centers in Maryland, was named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Dr. Grasmick said that the six Maryland schools receiving this outstanding honor are models for all Maryland Schools, exemplifying high levels

of achievement or dramatic improvement of economically disadvantaged students.

Snow Hill Elementary School is one of five elementary schools in the Worcester County School System. Serving 325 students pre-kindergarten through third grade, it is part of a consortium of schools that also includes Snow Hill Middle School

(Continued on page 3)

Adult Education Student/Judy Center Parent Speaks at Press Conference

Rosa Maria Murillo spoke of how much her participation with the Cradlerock Judy Center had benefited her family. Rosa was invited to speak at a press conference on July 12th with Representative Steny H. Hoyer and State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick. Rosa is enrolled in Maryland's Adult Education Program that provides services for parents via a partnership with the Judy Centers. Adult Education is separately funded by Federal and State resources in every jurisdiction of Maryland, and is open to Judy Center parents seeking to further their education. Many of the Judy Centers have classes onsite, and others provide transportation to nearby Adult Education locations. Following is the story of Rosa's dedication to become a better, and more highly educated parent. Rosa Maria Murillo was born and raised in Guanajuato, Southern Mexico. She is one of seven children, six girls and one boy. Her father encouraged his daughters along with his son to go to school and complete their program of study. With the guidance of her parents, Rosa completed twelve years of education in her home country. Rosa arrived in the United States in 1995 with her infant son Christian. She was joining her husband, who had been here for five years. She spoke no English, but was eager to learn the language. She watched television to learn and practiced

her new skill by conversing with her neighbors. When Christian went to preschool, Rosa realized that she couldn't communicate very well with his teacher. She decided to remedy the situation. She encouraged her own mother to come to live with the family for six months while Christian was in kindergarten. With a trusted, in-home baby sitter for her two younger sons, Rosa began her quest for more education. Rosa attended kindergarten with Christian every day to help in the classroom. She had to speak English in the classroom so the children could understand her. When she needed help, she called on Christian to translate for her. While attending the Judy Center at Cradlerock with her children, Rosa received a flier about the Even Start Program, which features Adult Education opportunities. With the goals of making a better life for her family and herself by continuing her education, and securing a good job to help her husband, the primary breadwinner, Rosa inquired how to enter the program. With Christian now nine, Anthony eight, and Michael five, cheering for their mom all the way, Rosa has continued to work on improving her English, and is a client in the Maryland Adult External High School Diploma Program. As she moves rapidly toward completion of this program, Rosa anticipates proudly showing her high school diploma to her father, who still encourages her to continue her education.

Adult Education Partnership With Judy Centers Provides Services For Families



At one Maryland Judy Center, computers have been placed in homes to support the literacy development of parents and children.

Adult Education is available to parents at all twenty four Judy Centers throughout the State of Maryland. Partnerships between the Judy Centers and local Adult Education providers have taken a variety of forms, and have resulted in innovative offerings for the parents.

Many centers are able to offer ABE/GED and ESOL on site. Where these services are not offered onsite, some centers have provided transportation to nearby Adult Education classes. In addition to classes, distance learning opportunities have been made available by some centers. In one county partnership, computers have been placed in homes to support the literacy development of parents and children. The Maryland Adult External High School Diploma Program is offered in some centers.

A local literacy council has plans to provide workshops at a Judy Center in the fall. Various cost-sharing arrange-

ments exist to support these programs. In most areas Adult Education representatives participate in planning for programs that suit the needs of the parent population, and work closely with Judy Center case managers or family services coordinators.

Joint professional development offerings are typical, and Adult Education staff have been involved in many Judy Center Family Nights. Adult Education personnel also participate on Judy Center Steering Committees and the Judy Hoyer Advisory Council.

For more information about MSDE's Adult Education and Literacy Services Branch, contact Patricia Tyler, Family Literacy Specialist at the Maryland State Department of Education. 410-767-1008 or by email ptyler@msde.state.md.us.

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The DRU Judy Center Hosts Mayor Martin O'Malley

The DRU Judy Center and John Eager Howard Elementary School hosted the kick-off for Countdown to Kindergarten- Baltimore on Monday, August 30, 2004. Mayor O'Malley visited John Eager Howard's Judy Center in an effort to "get the word out" about the importance of early registration for Kindergarten. Over 50 parents and children came to John Eager Howard before the first day of school to share in this celebration.

The Mayor, Martin O'Malley and Dr. Bonnie Copeland, CEO, Baltimore City Public School System thanked the parents for being proactive in registering their children for the new school year. They applauded parents for taking an active role in their child's education.

Ms. Erma Jean Jefferson, Principal of John Eager Howard Elementary School, announced her excitement about the test results of her first grade students, stating "because of the Judy Center's efforts, and the addition of Full Day Pre-kindergarten, and Kindergarten, first graders continue to make marked increases in their standardized tests." Mayor O'Malley reiterated "because of the outstanding initiatives in Baltimore City, our children are making great academic strides."

After the informational and congratulatory sessions were over, the children gathered around Mayor O'Malley and Dr. Copeland as the Mayor read *Off To School, Baby Duck*.

Judy Center's Partners, the DRU Family Support Center, DRU / Mondawmin Healthy Families, Baltimore Child Care Resource Center and the DRU community provided support for the event as well as information and incentives for parents and children.

The Casey Foundation's Baltimore Leadership in Action Program presented bright yellow Countdown To Kindergarten T-shirts to the children and photos of each child to the parents in appreciation for their attendance.



Mayor Martin O'Malley reads to prek and kindergarten children at the Countdown To Kindergarten Baltimore celebration held at John Eager Howard Judy Center while CEO Dr. Bonnie Copeland looks on.

Maryland Judy Centers Benefit From the Generosity of the Save Our Sight Foundation

Judy Centers provide for the health needs of children and families in many ways, but for the Judy Center and Head Start program in Garrett County, and the Judy Center at Snow Hill Elementary in Worcester County the job of providing vision screenings and follow up care for children will be a lot easier this year.

Due to the generosity of the *Save Our Sight Foundation*, under the direction of Mr. Robert Johnson, nearly 500 of Maryland's children will receive early

screening to look for signs of possible vision problems. The *Save Our Sight Foundation* has funded grants to these sites in the amount of \$10,048. Through the efforts of Mr. Johnson and Judy Center Coordinators, a positive collaborative partnership has begun that provides funds for children with vision needs.

Mr. Johnson anticipates that the foundation may be in a position to provide additional funding in the future. Judy Center Coordinators are encouraged to contact Mr. Johnson at 240-420-6300 or by email mignuto@netstorm.net.

National "Blue Ribbon" Recognition

(Continued from page 1)

(grades 4-8) and Snow Hill High School (grades 9-12). In 2003, Snow Hill elementary School was named a National PTA Parent Involvement School of Excellence. During the 2002-2003 school year, Snow Hill Elementary School received full accreditation through Middle States Association, as well as full accreditation for the early childhood programs from the Maryland State Department of Education. In the fall of 2002, Snow Hill elementary became a school-wide Title I school.

The staff at Snow Hill Elementary School believes in

the significance of working together. The schools mission reflects the importance of involving the students, families, school, and community in the educational process. The vision is to ensure that every student can learn and must have equal opportunity for optimal individual growth. This belief in the development of life-long learning skills to promote success in an ever changing society is the key to ensuring that the needs of all students are met at Snow Hill Elementary School.

