

TOUCH



Colonel Moh'd Alzu'b; Felicia Kolodner, Clinical Director, BAK; Mohammed Doka, Director of Finance; Major Fakhri Alqatanmah; Heidi Coons, Director of Development & Institutional Advancement; Captain Jireis Samawi; Krystal McKinney, Division Manager Adolescent Services; and Tonya Fulwood, Division Manager Family Services.

Social Service Leaders from Jordan Visit NCCF

On June 9, three officials from the Public Security Directorate, Family Protection Department, in Jordan visited NCCF as part of their 10-day trip to learn from various social service agencies in the United States.

While at NCCF, Dr. Sheryl Brissett Chapman, the Executive Team, and our guests toured our residential facilities and discussed the similarities and differences between how the two countries care for vulnerable children, youth, and families. Although there are differences in our approach to service, one thing is apparent -- each country truly values family and its importance to a child. Both sides learned a great deal from the visit and hope to keep an ongoing friendship in the future. NCCF was happy to be a part of such an honorable day and we hope to one day visit Jordan to learn even more about their culture.



Thank You for
 Sending Us to London!
 See page 6 for complete story.



Thank You for our
 Memorable Trip!





Take a moment to think about how the status of our economy has affected your life. Maybe you began carpooling to work or maybe you did not take a vacation this summer. Whatever the case may be, many individuals and families are adjusting to make ends meet. High gas prices, the increasing cost of groceries, along with other economic stresses are taking a toll on us all. But what about our community members who fall below the poverty line? Many of these families find themselves homeless, despite being employed, due to our struggling economy. These low-income families are not able to make ends meet and they need supportive services now more than ever.

For the last 21 years, the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program has taken a stand on homelessness with the annual Help the Homeless Walkathon. This metropolitan area signature fundraising event raises money for nearly 170 homeless services providers in our area, including the Greentree Shelter (GTS), Betty Ann Krahnke Center for New Beginnings (BAK), and Family Stabilization Program (FSP) at NCCF. As loyal friends of NCCF, we are asking you to continue to help us fight the growing family homelessness in our community by participating in the walkathon. When a family becomes homeless, the children are the real victims.

Help the Homeless Walkathon Saturday, November 22, 2008

What You Can Do:

Visit www.helpthehomelessdc.org.

Sign up to walk.

Start a team of your own.

Join the *Friends of NCCF* team.

NCCF Advocacy

Serving Our Youth

Who Lives in Residential Care?

The face of a youth living in residential care is one most chose not to see. Perhaps it is too uncomfortable to accept that these are adolescents who have lived with parents addicted to drugs or who are incarcerated; that they have been abandoned and neglected instead of loved and nurtured; that some have been subjected to criminal behavior and sexual/emotional abuse; and that they have missed years of schooling. As ugly as these situations are, that is the reality facing youth in residential care programs.

These young people are repeatedly characterized as *bad kids* who are a *menace to society*. But often these harsh generalizations leave out the truth – that these adolescents are “have nots.”

They have not received sufficient nurturing between infancy and the age of three.

They have not had extended family or family friends to lean on.

They have not had someone to encourage them to pursue their dreams.

They have no one to set boundaries or to celebrate birthdays.

They have no stability.

They have no one adult they can trust.

The Goal.

Our staff identifies each youth’s specific needs – helping them figure out where they want to go with their lives and how to get them there. Our goal is transitioning them to a healthy and safe living environment where they will continue to flourish and mature into adulthood. Sometimes that transition is back home to parent (s) or guardian (s). Other times it is to a

See **ADVOCACY**, page 5



Mentors Wanted!

Become a Mentor, and make a life-changing, long lasting difference in the life of a child!

The National Center for Children and Families, in partnership with the US Department of Education, is connecting adult volunteers with students from our model JC Nalle Community School in Washington, DC. To find out more about our new mentoring initiative, please contact Linda Davis at (202) 645-5951 or Linda.jcnalle@yahoo.com. *The life you change might be your own!*

AT&T National Golf Championship

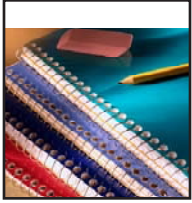
A huge round of applause goes to the 600 wonderful people who sold food and beverages at the AT&T National Golf Championship to raise money for NCCF this summer. Volunteers worked six to eight hour shifts in the refreshment tents operated by Prom Catering at the beautiful Congressional Country Club. Their hard work helped NCCF, through a percentage of the sales and all the tips, underwrite critical prevention programs.



Volunteers came from local schools, churches, and neighborhood associations. Several businesses encouraged their employees to participate -- a few even gave their employees time off from work! A special thanks to PEPCO; Choice Hotels; The Calvert Group; Gelman, Rosenberg and Freedman; Skanska; the Gap; M&T Bank; UCG; Fannie Mae, and the Association of American Medical Colleges.

This was the first time that NCCF participated in this endeavor and we definitely intend to do so again next year.

Back to School Drive 2008



Although most children express sadness about summer ending and the commencement of the school year, in the back of their minds they are excited for the first day of school. The anticipation of a new school year, new

classroom, new teachers, and new friends creates a sense of joy. But for the children and youth at NCCF, feelings of a different nature are experienced. Not having your school supplies and clothing that fits may generate feelings of anxiety and inadequacy.

In order to free the over 1,700 children and youth in our care from the negative feelings associated with the start of school, NCCF holds an Annual



Back to School Supply Drive, asking our supporters to help us by purchasing NEW school supplies from the list below. By doing so, you can help a child kick off the new school year feeling with excitement about their academic potential. If you have questions about the Back to School Supply Drive, please contact Alisha Matlock, our Director of Volunteers and In-kind Resources, at (301) 365-4480, extension. 113.

2008 Back to School Wish List

No. 2 Pencils, Pens, Colored Pencils, Crayons, Markers, Glue Sticks, Highlighters, Pencil & Boxes, Calculators, Rulers, Protractors, Compasses, Scissors

(left & right handed), Notebook Paper, Spiral Notebooks, Boxes of Tissues, Hand Sanitizer, Pencil Sharpeners, Erasers, Black & White Composition Books, Loose-Leaf Notebooks, Folders, Binders, Dictionaries, Thesauruses, Backpacks (Grades K-12).

Thank you for caring about the children and youth in our community.



Thank You Volunteers!

(right) Volunteers from Neal Simon's birthday celebration.



(left) Marriott Spirit to Serve Volunteers.

Spring has come and gone! Hundreds of volunteers gave their time this spring to help NCCF continue to fulfill its mission and remain a beautiful healing place for our clients. The support we receive from volunteers is what keeps NCCF thriving. We could never do it without dedicated self-less volunteers!



(left) Lexis Nexis Volunteers.

(right) Marriott Day of Service Volunteers.



Thank You, Golfers!



Golf for Children Tournament's winning foursome from the Grubb & Ellis team: Steve Gichner, Scott Brody, Josh Hartman & Jeff Graf

Over 140 golfers joined NCCF in the third annual Golf for Children Tournament on Friday, June 6, 2008, at the Whiskey Creek Golf Club in Ijamsville, Maryland. Under the leadership of NCCF Board Vice President, Jim Lee, the tournament was underwritten by long-time supporter of NCCF and commercial real estate developer Opus East, LLC. All proceeds will benefit the construction of the Freddie Mac Foundation Youth Activities Center (YAC), slated to break ground in winter, 2008.

A warm thank you is extended to additional Golf for Children Tournament supporters, Erik Berkman, Howard Bomstein, Steve Gichner, Phil Schiff, and to our volunteers: Diane Defibaugh, Andrea Jolly and Yasmin Lewis-White.

A final thanks to Heather Buckman-Ricks and Jenifer Gerber, for organizing the event and for ensuring another successful year! Please see page 6 for a complete list of our sponsors.

ADVOCACY, from page 3



Greentree Adolescent Program's Girls' Dormitory

foster home, a relative, or independent living. Wherever the transition leads, it is safe and our youth remember to use the skills they acquired while in our residential program.

Why Residential Programs Work.

For the first time in their lives youth learn how to receive the appropriate love, care, and attention that they rightfully deserve, while living in a safe therapeutic environment where their needs are met 24/7. Our staff works with them to help them learn that their behavior is a reflection of the hurt they endured. By addressing past traumas and working towards forgiving the people who harmed them, the lives of our youth begin to change for the better. Simultaneously, our staff and volunteers aid our youth's development by exposing them to positive role models. From encouraging them to study hard, to pursuing their dreams and being responsible for their choices (both good and bad), the youth finally experience adults who set boundaries and promote positive behavior. This component of their care is one that resonates with them for a lifetime.

Perhaps the most enjoyable part of being in a residential care program at NCCF is that the youth get a chance to actually be who they are developmentally - adolescents. Fear of being abused and anxiety of protecting oneself are no longer their chief concerns. Instead, our adolescents now have the opportunity to focus on attending local sporting events, visiting colleges, and enjoying summer vacation. They also have a chance now to dream about a future, in which they can be productive, healthy, and even happy.



FutureBound Independent Living Program

What if Residential Programs Did Not Exist?

Unfortunately, there are children in our community who simply do not have the family resources (adequate parents or extended family) needed to help them grow up. They rely on residential programs like the Greentree Adolescent Program (GAP) and the FutureBound Independent Living Program (FILP) to step in and serve as their support system. If residential care programs did not exist, our community would send the message that we do not care about the next generation. This would be a disservice that our youth can not afford to bear.



In the Rose Garden.



Student exchange.



Dressed for our last dinner in London.



Snoozing on British Airways.

Memories from London

“I experienced more things.” -- JC Nalle Community School 5th grader who traveled to London.

That is the essence of the Annual Summer Enrichment International Trip. This year our extraordinary students enjoyed an itinerary jam-packed with the sites and sounds of London, England that included trips to the Science Museum, Buckingham Palace, and 5th grader favorite, the London Eye! In addition, our students had the unique opportunity to chat with children from the Islington Green School (a middle/high school in London that has over 100 languages spoken by its diverse students) to find out the similarities and differences between our countries. We invite you to read on and envision London through the eyes of our JC Nalle Community School students. We extend a warm thank you to everyone who made this trip possible for these “Triple A” children who earned the privilege through attendance, academics and attitude.

What is the most interesting thing that you learned on this trip that you did not know before?

“In London, the driver’s seat is on the right.”

“I learned that they call their French fries chips.”

What did you not like about the London trip?

“Nothing!”

“I liked everything.”

How are you different now than you were before you went to London?

“I have been on a plane and my mom hasn’t.”

“I am different because I flew across the ocean.”

What advice would you give the fifth graders next year as they prepare for their trip?

“Do not do stuff that make you get in trouble and to make your friends think your cool. Do not be a follower!”

“Do not be scared when you get on the plane, just stay calm and steady.”

The following businesses joined Opus East, LLC, by sponsoring NCCF’s 3rd Annual Golf for Children Tournament:

Atlantic Parking	Cochran & Mann, Inc.	Holland & Knight LLP	Miller and Long Co., Inc.
Bank of America	Compass Electrical Technologies, Inc.	HSBC Bank	Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shriver
Bignell, Watkins, Hasser Architects, P.A.	Grubb & Ellis	ING Clarion Partners	Overhead Door Company of Baltimore, Inc.
Bopat Electric Comapny	GT Contracting Corporation	Johnson Bernat Associates, Inc.	Philadelphia Management Co.
Chesapeake Sprinkler Company	Hallmark Iron Works, Inc.	Linowes and Blocher, LLP	Richter & Associates
Chicago Title Insurance Company	Hamel Commercial, Inc.	M&T Bank	Summit Contruction, Inc.
Citizens Financial Group, Inc.	Hearthstone Communities, I.C.	Mechanical Design Systems, Inc.	USBank

NCCF Invites You to Give Back This Holiday Season



As you may know, the holidays can prove to be a stressful time for many of us. They can be especially disheartening for a homeless mother who is unable to give her children gifts. Having community support provides us with the opportunity to fulfill the wishes of these children, ensuring they have positive memories of the holidays and an optimistic

outlook on the New Year.

NCCF asks you to remember the underprivileged children, youth, and families in our community while you shop for holiday season essentials. During the months of November and December, you may help create a memorable holiday in one of two ways:

November

You can provide a family of five with a Thanksgiving dinner basket, which would include:

- Laundry basket (a great way to deliver the dinner to the families)
- \$25.00 gift card to Safeway or Giant (the family would use this to buy their turkey)
- Festive paper napkins and paper plates
- Aluminum roasting pan
- Canned vegetables (i.e., cranberries, sweet potatoes, greens, green beans)
- Sweet potato or pumpkin pie filling
- Condensed milk
- Pie crust
- Rolls or corn beard mix
- Stuffing or macaroni and cheese
- Gravy mix
- Bag of potatoes

Please deliver baskets to the John and Penny White Volunteer and Training Center (Building #3), on our Bethesda campus, 6301 Greentree Road by **5:00 p.m., November 21, 2008**, or call Alisha Matlock to donate gift cards.

December

Brighten a child or youth's holiday by purchasing new toys, board games, or gift cards by **December 16, 2008**.

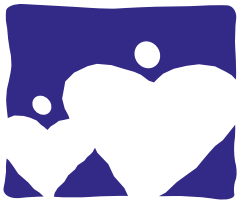
For more information about donating this holiday season, please contact Alisha Matlock, Director of Volunteers and In-Kind Resources at (301) 365-4480 extension 113, or by email at amatlock@nccf-cares.org.

Board of Trustees Corner

The National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) Board of Trustees, along with the agency's Executive Team met on May 13, 2008 to engage in the 3-year strategic planning process. Held at the Selby Yacht Club in Edgewater, Maryland, the full day retreat included a full board meeting, ample discussion around the mission, and afforded the staff and Board volunteers the opportunity for an active conversation on the realities facing clients served by NCCF, and NCCF's strategic priorities.

Thank you Board of Trustees for your on-going dedication and commitment to our mission! Together, we are making a difference in the lives of the thousands of children, youth and families we serve each year.

To see a complete list of our Board of Trustees, visit us online at www.nccf-cares.org.



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The National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) is a private, nonprofit agency that is committed to serving vulnerable families in the national capital area since 1915. *In Touch* is published by NCCF, a 501(c)(3) child and family welfare organization. For additional information, visit NCCF's web site at www.nccf-cares.org.

Mission: To create total, healthy living environments for vulnerable children, youth, and families, and the quality of life that empowers their ability to thrive and demonstrate responsibility.

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**Register for the Help the
 Homeless Walkathon at
helpthehomelessdc.org.**

We need your support!

Remember NCCF this fall
 during your workplace giving
 campaign.

United Way Code: #8409
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