



PLACE MATTERS **digest**

NOTHING MATTERS MORE TO A CHILD THAN A PLACE TO CALL HOME

BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Getting The Word Out About Youth in Care

For the past several years, BCDSS has successfully placed foster youth in loving homes. We feel that it is essential that youth have the opportunity to thrive in family settings. In an effort to highlight foster parents, we have partnered with WEAA 88.9 FM, the radio station of Morgan State University, to publicly recognize their contributions of you – everyday people who are opening up their families, hearts and lives to a child or children needing a family to call their own. Via WEAA's Gospel Grace programming, the segment entitled **Destiny Changers** airs weekly vignettes saluting the lives of Baltimore City Department of Social Services Foster Parents.

These stories air every Sunday, now through September 2012 are rebroadcast three times each week. If you are interested in being featured on **Destiny Changers**, please contact

Stephanie Whitehurst
Program Manager at
443-423-4265
for more information.



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Molly McGrath Tierney
Director

Events Around Baltimore

Visit Your Nearest

Enoch Pratt Library

<http://www.prattlibrary.org/>

Take the Journey!

The Largest African American museum on the East Coast,

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum brings Maryland to the world through its extensive permanent collection, and the world to Maryland through its educational programs and special exhibitions.

For more information visit <http://www.africanamericanculture.org/>

SCHOOL 33 ART CENTER PRESENTS

“LET THERE BE LIGHT”
BY SHAHRZAD TAAVONI ON

**NOVEMBER 11 –
DECEMBER 23, 2011**

The exhibition uses light sculptures made up of both traditional and non-traditional materials as romantic and vivid explorations of natural forms.

The school is located at 1427 Light St.
For more information visit www.school33.org or call 443-263-4350.

A Message from the Director



As the season of thankfulness approaches, I offer my sincere appreciation for every Baltimore City Adoptive/Foster Parent. You are our partners, but more importantly, you are the men and women our youth call family.

Although small compared to the work you do to care for our young people, BCDSS hosted several events throughout the summer to show our appreciation to you.

I am thankful for each of our foster parents who have opened their hearts and homes to accept a youth as members of their families. It is because of your generous spirit Baltimore City youth-in-care are able to have a place to call home.



Director Molly McGrath Tierney, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake and some of our Foster Parents.

I am thankful for a team of committed Baltimore City Department of Social Services staff at your disposal to ensure that resources and assistance is available to foster families. Members of the team include social work staff and a program devoted to providing continuity of comprehensive medical care services, managed by a physician to help address health-related concerns.

I urge you to continue to serve the youth of Baltimore City as our active professional partners. To you, our extended family ~ *Happy Holidays!*



*BCDSS Staff in
the Community
Supporting Families*

Virtual Supermarket

Harborview Family Investment Center welcomes the Baltimarket Virtual Supermarket. This online shopping concept allows low-income residents with limited vehicle or Internet access to place and receive grocery orders at their local library or Family Investment Center.

People, who live in the Cherry Hill, Patapsco and Brooklyn areas of Baltimore City can order food from Santoni's Supermarket on computers at the local library or the Harborview Family Investment Center.

Customers can pay for their food with cash, EBT, credit or debit cards. The food will be delivered for free to the Enoch Pratt Library branch in Cherry Hill every Friday from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.



Carlene Talley, Sam Macer, Molly McGrath Tierney, Oxiris Barbot, Jacqueline Richardson at the ribbon cutting of the virtual supermarket

Holiday Reminder

The holidays are traditionally a season of family gatherings, giving and sharing. During such times, those who have suffered losses often experience more frequent feelings of insecurity, loneliness or sadness. Loss comes in many forms for our foster youth. This time of year is a particularly harsh reminder that they are not with their own families. We ask that you be mindful of such during this holiday season. Try to include them in the activities that have become traditions for your family, allow them to contribute by adding a special something to your list of things “we do” to celebrate or simply give them the space they desire to reflect.



Keeping Your Family Safe

- Have you had your influenza (flu) virus vaccine? The Department of Health & Human Services' Center for Disease Control & Prevention recommends that all people 6 months of age and older get the flu vaccine. For more information contact the CDC at 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO) or visit www.cdc.gov/flu. Many health insurance companies are paying for the cost of the shot this year.
- Families often burn candles during the holidays to create a warm atmosphere. Please blow out all candles before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Protect your electronic equipment from power surges. To protect your electronic equipment, use electrical surge suppressors or arresters. Most are designed to be plugged into a wall outlet. For more tips, visit <http://www.bge.com/waystosave/Pages/default.aspx>.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place away from kids, regardless of their age. Never give your child medicine prescribed for someone else. Ask your physician for advice on calming ailments and storing medicines appropriately.
- Have you changed the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors?



Room for More



helping youth be Ready By 21

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT 410-685-8231

Learn More - www.dhr.state.md.us/county/baltimorecity/

Additions to our family are always welcome. We are looking for responsible adults interested in fostering Baltimore City youth. If you know a couple, a retiree, a widow, a friend, a colleague, invite these potential partners to an event, training session, informational meeting or urge them to call us at **410-685-8231**.

Have you always wanted to attend a private school, but thought that you would never have the opportunity ?

Look No Further!



CRJHS is a private school in Baltimore City that offers all of this in a small, caring environment!

We are currently offering **FULL SCHOLARSHIPS** to qualifying students in foster care families.

- College preparatory
- Provides work-study experience
- Must be 14 years by 9th grade
- Must have Baltimore City zip code
- Financial aid available

Interested families should attend an

INFORMATIONAL SESSION
on Thursday, December 8th from
5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

420 South Chester Street
Baltimore, MD 21231
Located in Fell's Point

For more information or to register, contact the Admissions Office:
(410)727-3255 (Pat Hill ext.1003 or Greg Austin ext.1004)

HURRY, THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 6, 2011
www.cristoreybalt.org



Baltimore City
Department of Social Services

1910 N. Broadway
Baltimore, MD 21213

Phone: 443-378-4600

E-mail: BCDSS_director@dhr.state.md.us

Foster Care website:
<http://www.fostercaremonth.org/Pages/default.aspx>



Meet Dominick

Dominick is a 16 year old young man currently in foster care. Dominick is active in a Mentoring Organization, New Lens Production. Due to his hard work and dedication to the group, he was selected to represent the organization at their national conference. He spent 4 days (all expenses paid by the organization) in Providence, Rhode Island. Dominick's area of interest is production editing. He aspires to have a career in media and film production.

Learn more about Dominick and other available children at
410-685-8231
or www.adoptuskids.org