



# JULIE CENTER NEWS

## Optimism

December 2017



“Always look on the bright side of life,  
Always look on the right side of life.”

Like King Arthur in Broadway’s Spamalot we can all use a little pick me up song now and then. As Arthur sinks into despair and laments at ever finding the shrubbery, his sidekick, Patsy, cheers him up by singing this little ditty and the shrubbery is found shortly thereafter. Spamalot may be fictitious, but despair is real. It is said that our world is volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous. With that outlook I think I will stick my head in the sand! In Helen Keller’s short work Optimism Within she writes, “Once I knew only darkness and stillness. Now I know hope and joy.” Her optimism rested on the “belief in the preponderance of good and a willing effort always to cooperate with the

good, that it may prevail.” It may seem impossible to find goodness when our souls are absorbing negativity, fear, discontent, and hatred. OMG! I am feeling totally overwhelmed and inadequate. I think I will retreat and watch *Frozen* again! At least in the movies love conquers all and there are fun songs to sing. Helen Keller believes the need and will to do good is in all of us and working not retreating is optimism itself. So, we must find ways where we can evoke our basic needs to be generous, loving, to contribute, and be part of a community. We may not be able to impact what is happening in Sudan, but as individuals and a community we can make a profound difference locally. We build community when we build community members. Optimism will shine through and goodness will prevail. Amy Connelly taught the Julie Community Center staff an important lesson as we were preparing for the Summer Peace Camp: “Tashi Deleh: I honor the greatness in you.”

***Peace, love, generosity, and hot chocolate!***



### ***Greetings from the President’s Corner***

As President of the Board for the Julie Community Center, I am excited about a new

phase of support for the Center with a full Board of Directors. We asked, and you, friends of the Julie Center, responded. Thank you for referring 7 new board members! We are now a board of 12 dynamic members. Our new members have already been affiliated with the Center so in their new role they will offer valuable inside perspective. The level of enthusiasm, energy, and ideas we are all collectively bringing to the Center is both exciting and promising as we usher in this new era.

It’s also been very meaningful for me to see the full circle of life and the multiple ways everyone is connected to the Julie Center, each board member with their own story about how the Center has been a part of their lives or about how the programs and staff have supported them. One new board had even attended the kids programs at the Julie Center, and she is excited to give back, having been inspired by Sister Bobby as a child. Another member was one of our Americorps Program staff and now she will continue to guide the center as a board member. We also have board members who are directly linked with the Latino communities and will support our continued and growing partnership with Esperanza Center. You will soon be able to read more



about each board member and interesting connections on our website, which is forthcoming. Did you know that even our longstanding board members have extensive history? For example, Peter Savage initially worked with Sister Bobby in Brazil illustrating our roots as a Center well beyond the 40 years, when the vision perhaps began in those remote villages. We have deep history and long lasting deep impact here at the Julie Center. I am sure there are many of you, friends of the Center, who have your own stories to tell about your affiliation and history with the Julie Center.

Meanwhile we look forward to seeing you, our friends of the Julie Center, at our Annual Christmas Concert, or at our Night at the Opera event in March. Or in whatever other circles we travel, around the neighborhood, or around Small-timore. May your holidays offer to you, times for intentional reflection, meaningful moments, and the gift of presence. Wishing that the year 2018 will be a year of great blessings for you and your loved ones.



*"Don't let nobody stop you.  
Be Optimistic!"*

Sounds of Blackness

## 2016-2017 at a glance

### Community Outreach

Ms. Phyllis Savoy heads our social outreach efforts to assist families dealing with food, housing, and employment issues. 142 individuals were served this past program year. We began to focus our outreach efforts to the homeless individuals in our community with distributions of food and personal hygiene supplies. Any donations of food and clothing is shared with Assisi House and Gift of Hope. During Thanksgiving and Christmas more families were served due to the wonderful food donation from the students at Maryvale School and Carolyn Geraghty and team. **Thanks to the Maryvale students, Phyllis Savoy, volunteers, and Carolyn Geraghty.**

### Adult Education

Our Americorps-Adult Education volunteer, Mikhail Orpia, worked closely with the McElderry Park Neighborhood Association to recruit neighborhood young adults. 20 participants enrolled in the GED program and we were able to retain 16 students. All progressed at their own pace and 4 students have taken subject specific tests. **Thanks, Mikhail for superb teaching!**

### Workforce Readiness

Eleven participants successfully completed the 90 Hours Office of Child Care Pre-school Pre-service training. They completed over 100 hours of instruction and classroom internship hours. Seven are employed in child care centers!

**Thanks, Laura and Tina Coleman.**

### Youth

58 youth were involved in activities and community service projects this past program year. They pitched in to clean the community as well as the center. The Wolfe Street Academy after school kids did a superb job on the windows! 33 youth participated in the Summer Peace Camp where we focus on being respectful, kind, honest, and caring. Campers participated in activities during the camp that identified tools and strategies to use when faced with difficult situations. Science is always a big part of camp. Sr. Tracy continues to provide the tools that inspire young scientists. Our Americorps-Youth Advocate volunteer, Krystal Dorsey, assisted the classroom staff at the St. Vincent de Paul Head Start Program-Patterson Park location. She and Mikhail as well as Barbara Moore assisted in the afterschool programs at Wolfe Street Academy. **Thanks to Krystal, Phyllis, Sr. Tracy, Mikhail, and Barbara!**

## **Health Promotion**

Student nurses from Johns Hopkins and our extraordinary staff were quite busy this year. 166 individuals received health services this year. Residents of Apostolic Towers received ongoing case management and health consultation from our Health Coordinator, Carm Dorsey, RN. Phyllis Savoy provided senior dance classes. The student nurses provided health education and activities to families receiving care at the Esperanza Center. We also provided the required Office of Child Care Medication Administration training for child care providers monthly. **Many thanks to Carm Dorsey, Laura Syron, Phyllis Savoy, and the student nurses.**

## **THANKS!**

*The Mayor & City Council  
of Baltimore*

*The Baker-King Fund*

*T. Rowe Price Foundation  
-Matching Gifts*

*Johns Hopkins Health  
System*

*Belles of Good Counsel\*  
Federal Hill Smiles*

*--Catholic Community of  
South Baltimore  
--Holy Trinity Russian  
Orthodox Church*

*--Our Lady of the Angels  
Church  
--St. Joseph Church  
Hagerstown*

*St. Vincent de Paul Society  
-St. Mark's, St. Ursula's*

*Sisters of Notre Dame de N  
-Cable Street Community  
-Fort Street Community  
-Glen Avenue Community  
-Heather Hill Community  
-SNDdeN Geralate  
-SNDdeN TriProvince  
Development Program*

*Maryvale Preparatory  
School*

*Notre Dame Mission  
Volunteers*

*Gayle and Craig Adams\*  
Lily & Nelson Adlin\*  
Rev. John Auer  
Patricia Babington  
Clinton & Katherine  
Bamberger  
Madelyn S & Howell Baum\*  
Valerie & Joseph  
Baumgartner\*  
Helen & Peter Bianca  
Carolyn & John Boitnott\*  
Janice Bonner  
Joseph and Elizabeth  
Bradley  
Mike Burdinski  
Guy R. & Nancy Calamunci  
Dennis G. Carlson  
Teresa Cattaneo  
Damiana Chavez  
Linda and Henry Chen  
Norma Coffin  
Martha Connolly  
Rebecca Coppola  
Sissy Corr, SND  
Catherine D. Cress, SND  
R Croke  
Marguerite Crocker*

*Michael Curley  
Elizabeth Curtz  
Blaise D'Ambrosio  
Belinda Davis  
Mary T. Day, SND  
Ariel Demas  
Carm & John Dorsey  
Charles & Lydia Duff, Jr.  
Melanie A. Dugan  
Joan M. Earley\*  
Karen & Philip Earley\*  
Mary & John F.A. Earley\*  
Meredith Earley\*  
Lori Edwards  
Elizabeth Ann Elliott  
Barbara Ann English, SND  
Sarah Fahy, SND  
Mollie Fein  
Olivia Fite and Jorge  
Martins  
Carolyn & Jerome Geraghty  
Lorraine & Tim Geraghty  
Susan Glick  
Bridgid Globensky  
Theresa Graves  
Karyn and Don Haasen  
Mary Halcott  
Douglas and Barbara Hart  
Carol A. Hartke  
Ashley & Brandan Hoffman  
Cynthia Hypki  
Stephen and Deborah Jencks  
Alexis Johns  
Catherine Johnson  
Brian Judy  
Margaret Judy & Family  
Tiffany Judy  
Robert & Sharon Kern, Jr.  
Ellen L. Kiel  
Lisa Knickmeyer  
Rosemarie & Tom Lehner  
Edward Jack Makowski &  
Carol Cremo  
Ellen Marble  
Arna Margolis  
Denise Markoff  
Kathleen McAvinue  
Thomas F. McDougall  
James E. Melnick, Sr.*

Janet Mooney & Kurt Schiller  
 Barbara M. Moore  
 Patrice Moore & Arthur Drought  
 Rosalie Murphy, SND\*  
 Jay & Michelle Naish  
 Jeanne Noble  
 Laura & Tony Norris  
 A.J. & Kate O'Brien  
 Bernie & Mary Ellen O'Neill  
 Helen Passano  
 Constance Phelps  
 David and Pat Phoebus  
 Sonia Quezada  
 John and Patricia Raby  
 Lynette Reagan  
 Robert L. Rhodes  
 Linda & Mark Richards  
 Maria Rippey  
 PR & TH Rokoske  
 Annette Rovito  
 Peter Savage\*  
 Jeanne Sears  
 Margaret Scanlan, SND  
 Theresa Skepton\*  
 Jean Stiller and Barry Miller  
 Michael and Molly Sheehan  
 Laura Syron  
 Patricia Thomas  
 Maureen Tighe  
 Deborah Tillett  
 Matt Lesko & Anita Pilch  
 Mike and Rosemary Walbert  
 Carol S. Wandres  
 Cynthia Wang  
 Joan & Mark White  
 William Wiley  
 Ann Wilson\*  
 Eric W.K. Young  
 Lynn Wynn  
 Phyllis Savoy  
 Tim Croke  
 Keyshawn Joyner  
 Marlo Cutler  
 Susan and Tm Garraty  
 David and Tia Harper  
 Clayton and Nancy Furtaw  
 John Boyce  
 Liz Dantonio

Jordon and Maureen Gershberg  
 Ramona Piskor  
 Melody Grubbs  
 Lisa Almanza  
 Jane Lipscomb  
 Claire Martin  
 Erin and Joe Nichols  
 Carlos Ramos

\*Outstanding Support

## More THANKS!

- ✓ **Special THANKS for generous support and services:**
  - Julie Center Board members
  - Fell's Point Corner Theatre
  - Wolfe Street Academy
  - Commodore John Rogers School
  - St. Vincent de Paul Head Start
  - Carolyn Geraghty & Team
  - Corliss Jones and Dee's Place
  - Barbara Ann English, SND
  - Maryvale High School
  - Johns Hopkins SON students
  - Johns Hopkins Bayview
  - Johns Hopkins Hospital
  - Tech support: John Gos, Tracy Dill, SND

### Special THANKS!

*Our gracious sponsors of the Night at the Opera: Henningers, Water for Chocolate, Bertha's, Canèla, and Charm City Meade!*

## NOTEWORTHY!

Julie Community Center  
 Annual Awards

- **Julie Center's Best:**  
 Tina Coleman
- **Jessie Wallace Volunteer Award:**  
 Sonia Quezada
- **Carm Dorsey Public Health Ward:**  
 Esperanza Center

- **Pearl Jakowski Memorial Award:**  
 Keyshawn Joyner
- **Gayle Faulkner Memorial Award:**  
 Danyelle Rogers
- **Lillian Skepton Memorial Award:**  
 April Meise
- **Community Service Award:**  
 Carolyn Geraghty

### Staff: 2017-18:

Belinda Davis Carm Dorsey,  
 Mikhail Orpia Krystal Dorsey  
 Phyllis Savoy Laura Syron

### Julie Center Board: 2017-18

President: Lori Edwards  
 Vice-President: Barbara Moore  
 Secretary: Tiffany Judy  
 Treasurer: Blaise D'Ambrosio  
 Director: Laura Syron  
 Peter Savage  
 Therese Dill, SND  
 Deborah Tillett  
 Sonia Quezada  
 Adriana Foster  
 Ariel Demas  
 Marlo Cutler  
 Shawneice Gause

## UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS  
 CONCERT IS December 7<sup>TH</sup>  
 AT 7PM AT ST.  
 PATRICK'S CHURCH  
 Hall (1728 Bank St.  
 21231)



Love Shouldn't Hurt  
 Conference with Melissa  
 Holmes: January 13, 2018  
 Free. For information call  
 Phyllis Savoy, 667-213-  
 8971