

Surviving the Ride

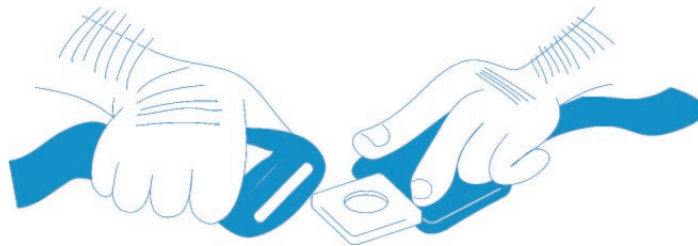
The results of the Survive the Ride workgroup's post-program teen driver surveys are in and they are terrific!

Working with teen drivers at five area high schools to bring awareness to the need to use seatbelts, the group was able to track the success of the Survive the Ride program throughout the school year. What they found was a true success story.

"Our results showed high school driver seatbelt use is higher than seatbelt usage rates for the entire county," said Kim Spangler, CCHD Injury Prevention Coordinator and workgroup member.

For their life-saving behavior, participating schools received Pacesetter Awards from the MD Committee for Safety Belt Use. Awards for at least 85% seatbelt use went to Francis Scott Key and North Carroll high schools. Awards for at least 90% usage were given to Westminster, South Carroll, and Liberty high schools.

Next year, said Spangler, the successful program will undergo minor changes, but the program's goals will remain the same. "We hope this will allow teens to develop positive and safe driving skills they will use throughout their lives," stated Spangler, adding, "we want them to remain safe, educated drivers."



The Progress Report is a quarterly publication of the Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County, Inc., a coalition of individuals and organizations committed to improving the health of individuals and the community of Carroll County. We encourage partners to use this publication to get a healthy message out. Please forward stories, news items or announcements via e-mail to tricia@ccgh.com or fax to 410-871-6325. All items will be subject to editing.

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Youth On Board!

*A*s chairperson of the Celebrate Youth Year campaign, I truly felt that I had to do something to get an even greater understanding of our communities' youth, from the perspective of the youths themselves." Those are the words of Jeanne Link, the force behind the fundraising company, *Jeanne's Gourmet*.

The "something" she did was develop a Youth Advisory Board for her company, comprised of 16 second through 12th grade students, whose parents all work at the company. "I recognized that [children] are who I should be going to for advice" in improving the business, adding, "they are our biggest consumers and the one's doing the fundraising."

The young board members were faced with the challenges of deciding what's best for this already successful business. According to Link, these board members faced the business challenges head-on. The young people, she noted, "came into the first board meeting understanding that this was serious. They were prepared to work." Link added, "We had a wonderful dialogue and immediately received very valuable information," because the young people felt free "to speak their minds."

Despite initial skepticism from her employees, it did not take long before Link knew she made the right decision. Looking at issues such as seller incentives, possible new products, naming the new mascot, and potential additional business changes, the board members gave Link the kind of "very interesting and very good ideas" she wanted to hear. "When I took the ideas back to my adult board members," Link said, "they were very surprised and wondered why they hadn't thought of them!"

What surprised Link most, though, was not that these young people had great ideas, but that "their work ethic was so terrific."

With the success of her youth board, Link hopes other businesses will offer opportunities for youth involvement. As she said, "We need to find more ways to get kids involved in all settings of life. We need to give them a value and a feeling that they are worth something, by asking their opinions, listening to them and respecting what they have to say."

And, if all goes as planned, the members of the Youth Advisory Board will continue to have a forum for their opinions, in the boardroom of *Jeanne's Gourmet*.

An Encore Performance at Fairhaven

*O*n May 11th, the residents and staff of the Fairhaven retirement village in Sykesville, were treated to a concert by the musicians of the Encore Orchestra. And, if the musicians and their audience have their ways, a tradition has been born!

The Encore Community Music Association, Inc., sponsors intergenerational Symphonic and Philharmonic Orchestras, comprised of child and adult volunteer musicians. The two groups meet weekly throughout the school year, and perform two concerts annually.

Fairhaven's Activities Assistant Jean Hurd, contacted Kay Tippett, Encore Symphonic Conductor and Sykesville Middle School Band teacher, about a possible school concert. She did so because "as a group, kids have a lot to offer the community and we thought that having them come here to perform would be one small measure of what they could offer our community."

Tippett agreed, but suggested the residents would enjoy the intergenerational Encore Orchestra. In no time, Encore's General Manager Mindy Niles had the musicians ready to put on the concert.

As to why she thought her youngest musicians would like the idea of a senior *(continues on page 2)*

Diversity Becomes Unity

Diversity was a key for unity



for the 175 attendees at the May 15th *Creating a Community Where Young People Thrive* conference.

According to Dorothy Stoltz, CCPL Outreach Services Manager and a conference coordinator, this was “an open invitation to community leaders, parents, and youth” to come together and understand the deep connections in their ideas for community change. Each community group, Stoltz explained, identified “shared concerns” and took turns being “effective listeners, conveyers and catalysts for change.”

The event, she noted, was “a first step in mobilizing interest and promoting awareness [toward] creating long-term sustainable community change.”

An initiative of Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth (HC/HY), conference co-hosts were Tricia Supik and North Carroll H.S. senior Melanie Bradfield. Guests were treated to music from the Westminster H.S. Jazz Ensemble, directed by Chris Campbell, and the school’s Chorus, directed by Beverly Wells.

Conference featured speakers were Darvin Ayre and Cynthia Sosnowski. Ayre, of Community Initiatives, Inc., in Boulder, CO, called for community members to put aside ideas of diversity between cultural groups and unite their goals for successful long-term community change. Sosnowski, of Prevention & Psychotherapy Consultants, presented her notions of the need to unite diverse developmental assets for community health.

Diversity was also addressed in the roles and opportunities young people should have in their communities. Many of the conference attendees work to help create such opportunities, including Bonnie Kirkland of the Governor’s Office for Children, Youth and Families, CC Interim Superintendent of Schools Charles Ecker, CC Commissioners Gouge, Dell, and Frazier, and MSDEs Lee Murphy.

Speaking about the need to recognize and appreciate diversity, Supik said members of each diverse group in any community have “parts to play,” and “sometimes it’s to lead, sometimes it’s to follow.” Success, she noted, comes from understanding the parts’ connections and in “our relationships as adults and young people.”

To emphasize connectivity, each attendee was given Mardi Gras bead necklaces. The necklaces symbolized the interconnection and unification of each member to their community. In this way, seemingly diverse wearers united in an understanding of diversity as an asset for community development.

Encore Performance, (continued from page 1)

citizen performance, Niles explained, “Encore enjoys performing at different venues. We feel our biggest asset is that we have adults and children working together to bridge the gap between generations and produce a unique experience for all.”

And, Niles noted, it jibed with the Encore philosophy that “Through the exchange of ideas and personal interaction, adults and children work together to create a musical experience that will last a lifetime.”

Hurd agreed that intergenerational interaction was a connector for her residents. The concert, she said, “brought back a lot of wonderful memories for them all. They shared memories of the music, of being children, and of going to hear beautiful music at concerts.”

The two groups had time to interact between performances. Noting that it was easy for the residents and younger musicians to converse, Tippett said that exemplified mutual respect. “They need time to interact to build this relationship,” she said.

Hurd said residents commented they not only respected “the young people’s skills as musicians, but their excellent behavior, as well.”

All agreed the intergenerational experience was valuable. Plans are proceeding for the next Encore performances. Niles and Tippett are considering “a holiday concert with some sort of sing-along,” and Hurd has ideas for dinner theater and musicals.

Whatever the future holds, it’s clear that music brought together two generations, and music will keep them together.

The Partnership Earns a Golden Apple

It is always nice to be recognized for our efforts, but it’s especially nice to be recognized by our peers.

That’s just what happened when The Partnership received the Golden Apple Award as a business partner that develops character throughout the community.

The award was accepted by Tricia Supik at the CC Chamber of Commerce’s, Hat’s Off Luncheon, in May. Barbara Guthrie, Supt. of Guidance for Carroll County Schools presented the award, representing the Character Education Committee.

Reflecting upon the award, Supik said, “I can’t think of a higher honor than to be considered an organization of character.”

The Generations Come Together in Taneytown

In an old building once used by a gun and rod club, youth and seniors are getting together. This same old building is now home to the new Taneytown Community Center.

With the strong support of Councilmen Daryl Hale and Brian Long, and the efforts of Mayor Henry C. Heine, Taneytown is able to give their youth a place to be themselves, have some fun, and help give something back to their community.

As Naomi Lowenthal, Director of Parks and Recreation for the town explained, the center began with kids' night programs. The teens in town, she said, "immediately volunteered and from then on, whatever was asked of them, they helped implement." Before long, she added, "the kids really ran the programs."

One of the most successful endeavors has been the Intergenerational Program. The idea behind the program was to offer the town's younger and older citizens a chance to interact in ways that would benefit both groups. Lowenthal said Angie Walz, Head of the town's Senior Center, "is always open to new ideas" and this was no exception.

The first intergenerational event was a Spring luncheon. "The kids made the food and served it to the seniors," Lowenthal explained. "This," she added, "really opened the lines of communications between the kids and the seniors."

According to Lowenthal, this kickoff event succeeded beyond anyone's hopes. "I could not believe what a huge success it was," she said, adding, "We had more than 70 people show up, including representatives from the Dept. of Aging, Mayor Heine, and our Councilmembers."



Sparked by the program's success, Lowenthal has been listening to teens' ideas for more Intergenerational Program events. One such idea has resulted in weekly classes where teens tutor seniors to use 8 newly-acquired computers. Other ideas include a center coffee shop, now open on Friday mornings, and plans for an intergenerational improvisational theater group.

To date, there have been 70 young people, ranging in ages from 4 to 19, in the center's programs. About her volunteers, Lowenthal said, "They are a wonderful group of kids. They are all so different, yet they really pull together and work well together. What one group doesn't think of, another will, and together they are terrific."

A former special education instructional assistant, Lowenthal sees value in "outside the home adult interaction" for all teens, including those with minor juvenile justice system histories. For those teens, Lowenthal said, the center "offers them a chance for a different outlook on what the world is really about, the good people they can meet, and the good people they can become themselves."

We're On Our Way!

Almost 100 dedicated volunteers, partners, and members of both The Partnership and the Citizen's Advisory Forum (CAF) attended the fun-filled *We're On Our Way!* meeting on May 31st.

The annual meeting and celebration was coordinated by CAF vice-chair, Karen Feroli.

Introduced at the event was the new initiative, the Healthy Indicators Project. Led by Richard Haddad, the project involves measuring organizational effectiveness in promoting community health. A story on the Project will be published in the September

edition of *Hospital News*.

Everyone, including Partnership board members John Sernulka and Art Riley, participated in an interactive survey designed to determine if we are on the right track as a community and leadership partnership. Feroli and Tricia Supik are now examining the results for use in future planning efforts.

Outstanding Community Partner Awards were given to 22 groups, recognizing their tireless efforts in helping to make our community a healthier place for us all.

Congratulations to everyone who is helping us continue on our way!

