

GUIDE Youth and Staff Member Honored—

GUIDE Writers Guild, May 1, 2006

On April 20, 2006 the Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) held its Annual Awards Banquet and Reception to honor outstanding achievements and accomplishments of children, youth, volunteers and staff from MARFY member agencies. Annually MARFY recognizes the achievements of youth who are served by its member organizations, as well as the staff who work with these youth, and special volunteers. This year's event was presided over by GUIDE's own Michael Jones, President of MARFY. Introductory remarks were delivered by Arlene Lee, Director of the Governor's Office for Children.



Justin receiving his award from Michael Jones and Jim McComb.

This year GUIDE's Barrington Road Group Home in Baltimore City nominated Justin T. for his special achievements. Justin graduated very successfully from the program earlier in the year. According to Ms. Jennifer Carberry, the Program Director, who made the nomination, "Justin made great strides in all areas of his life from his personal goals to the various steps within our program. Justin emerged as a peer leader in the house, as well as

served as a peer mentor in a skill-building group in the community." All of the youth honored by MARFY were awarded a trophy, and a \$100 gift certificate. His mother, stepfather, and grandmother along with staff, youth, and friends from GUIDE joined Justin in his honors at the banquet.



Justin and family, and "Mr. Tory" pictured with GUIDE staff, youth, and friends.

In total, twenty-four youth were honored for their academic and personal growth achievements from various MARFY agencies. According to Jim McComb, the Executive Director of MARFY, "to say these youth are outstanding is an understatement."

Ms. Carberry and the group home program also nominated Mr. Toriano Warren for the "Childcare Worker of the Year Award." "Mr. Tory" as he is known at the program has been employed with GUIDE since the opening of the Barrington Road Home in 2002, and routinely provides evening and weekend shift coverage for youth in the program. According to Ms. Carberry, "Mr. Tory always brings to work a sense of humor and fun. His good nature and humor add levity to the day, and he always has a joke or good-natured nickname for the guys and staff alike. Mr. Tory makes the program feel

like a family environment due to his love for the job, and genuine concern for the children in our care.” Mr. Scott Birdsong, GUIDE’s Executive Director remarked afterwards, “Mr. Tory provides a superb example of the kind of wonderfully dedicated staff at GUIDE and throughout the MARFY family who work tirelessly to improve the lives of the youth within their care. GUIDE is extremely fortunate to have Mr. Tory as an employee!”

GUIDE can be obtained from its website located at www.GuideProgram.org or by email to information@GuideProgram.org.



GUIDE Barrington Road Home

The Barrington Road program is one of two therapeutic group homes operated by GUIDE, a non-profit agency founded in 1968. GUIDE also provides an array of other mental health, social and juvenile services throughout the greater Washington, DC / Baltimore, MD region. The organization serves about 2,500 and 3,000 children, youth, families, and adults annually. MARFY is a non-profit association of child and family serving agencies from across Maryland. Established in 1971, MARFY’s membership is currently made up of sixty private agencies providing services through nearly two hundred programs. Services are provided in group homes, residential treatment centers, shelters, alternative schools, day treatment programs, independent living programs, treatment foster homes, and intensive in-home services for children living with their families. Additional information about