



## Youth and Staff of Oak Lane Honored at MARFY Awards

DeAngelo Parker, who is nearing graduation from GUIDE's Oak Lane Group Home, received a "Youth Achievement Award" at this year's Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth's (MARFY) Annual Awards Dinner at La Fontaine Bleu in Glen Burnie. DeAngelo was recognized for academic and employment success this year. In addition to a trophy, Mr. Parker received a \$100 gift certificate.



Also at the MARFY awards dinner, Missouri George, a Youth Care Worker who has been employed at GUIDE's Oak Lane Home for four years, was recognized for her nomination by GUIDE as the "MARFY Child Care Worker of the Year." Among other things, Ms. George was recognized for her skill in developing caring and trusting relationships with program youth.

*GUIDE residents and staff celebrate their recognition. From left: Scott Birdsong, Executive Director; Endrias Afework, Program Director; DeAngelo Parker, resident; I.B., resident; Mike Marable, Residential Supervisor; Missouri George, Youth Care Worker; and Michael Jones, Director of Operations.*

### Spotlight on Services

#### "Collaboration" Defines Linkages to Learning Program

By Karla Hoffman

For 35 years, GUIDE's Youth Services programs in Montgomery County have been a hub for community partnerships designed to provide counseling and assistance to youth and families experiencing mental health and other personal family challenges. Since the early 1970s, GUIDE has provided mental health and substance abuse intervention services in collaboration with many Montgomery County public schools. During these years, Youth Services programs operated by GUIDE in Gaithersburg, Germantown, and Olney have adapted their programs and services to meet the needs of a growing and vibrant population that is increasingly culturally, racially, and economically diverse. Consequently, GUIDE was delighted to

be selected in the mid 1990s to begin to operate Montgomery County's innovative school-based mental health and social services program, Linkages to Learning (LTL), in Gaithersburg, and a few years later to being selected to help spearhead the wider partnership that has grown into the expanded collaboration that exists in Gaithersburg and

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## GUIDE Welcomes New Catonsville Shelter Director

GUIDE is very excited about the contributions that Joan Morgan-Jones has already brought to the program at the GUIDE Catonsville Structured Shelter. Joan took over as the project's Program Director in mid-April 2007. With 12 years of experience in residential childcare services, nine of which have been in leadership and supervisory roles, Joan has really been able to hit the ground running and has moved to strengthen a number of program elements and review others for even more improvement! GUIDE has operated the shelter program for the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services for 26 years. The home serves as an alternative to detention for up to ten juvenile justice-involved youth from all over Maryland who temporarily are unable to live in their communities and family homes. During stays of up to 60 days with GUIDE, young men are provided a supervised



*Joan Morgan-Jones comes to GUIDE with a wealth of experience in residential child care.*

and structured living experience, opportunities to participate in community service, participation in an on-site learning center, a character and social skill development program, and exposure to positive community activities.

## Retreat Focuses on Motivational Interviewing Techniques



*Above, DJS staff Shirley Sinclair, left, and GUIDE's Jessica Sleep practice interview techniques presented by Dr. Joe Ciarrocchi, left.*



This year's Fourth Annual GUIDE / Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) Intensive Aftercare Team Retreat focused on the topic "Working with Difficult Clients: Evidence-Based Practices for Encouraging Change and Managing Resistance." The day of training, fun, and reflection was held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, again this year at Loyola College in Columbia. GUIDE's three Family Intervention Specialists, Amina Aleem, Lisa Britt, and Jessica Sleep, who are assigned to the DJS Intensive Aftercare Unit in Prince George's County, took the lead in organizing this retreat.

Dr. Joseph Ciarrocchi, the Director of Graduate Programs in Pastoral Counseling at Loyola, led the workshop and discussion. In addition to GUIDE's three social workers, fifteen staff from the DJS participated. The workshop introduced concepts of motivational interviewing and effective ways to minimize client resistance to participation. The day included role-play exercises to engage participants in experimenting with interpersonal styles that deflect resistance and encourage change.

## Independence Program's Hard Work Pays Off With Awards

Both Karyn Black and GUIDE's Independence Program were honored by the Prince George's County Department of Family Services, Mental Health and Disabilities Administration on May 17, 2007, at the Thirteenth Annual Mental Health Provider Appreciation Luncheon.

The "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" award to GUIDE Independence was accepted in behalf of the program by Scott Birdsong, GUIDE's Executive Director. The Independence Program received this recognition for outstanding dedication and service.

The Mental Health and Disabilities Administration was particularly impressed with GUIDE's philosophy "to do whatever they can to keep [an] individual moving up in the program."

Christina Waddler, Director of the Mental Health and Disabilities Administration also praised GUIDE's staff for discussing and sharing effective interventions. She declared that staff communication and coordination are some of the reasons that the rate of clients discharged to more intensive care is very low.



*The Independence program staff couldn't contain their enthusiasm after being honored by the Mental Health and Disabilities Administration. Below, Karyn Black was recognized for nearly a decade of dedication at GUIDE.*



Karyn, a 9-year GUIDE veteran and the Independence Program's Director of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program, was recognized with an "Outstanding Leadership Award." Since she started at GUIDE as an entitlements coordinator and job coach, Karyn has worked hard to ensure that clients meet their independent living goals. Karyn has been involved with several committees that support the County's mental health system, including the Core Service Agency Quality Interagency Improvement Committee and Homeless Services Partnership. Karyn is also glad to share her expertise with others; she has served as part of a panel discussion on supported employment and has participated in developing the Center for Behavioral Health Essential Learning modules.

Both awards were presented by The Honorable Jack Johnson, County Executive; Howard Burnett, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health and Human Services; Adrienne Bennett, Director of the Department of Family Services; and Christina Waddler, Director of the Mental Health and Disabilities Administration.

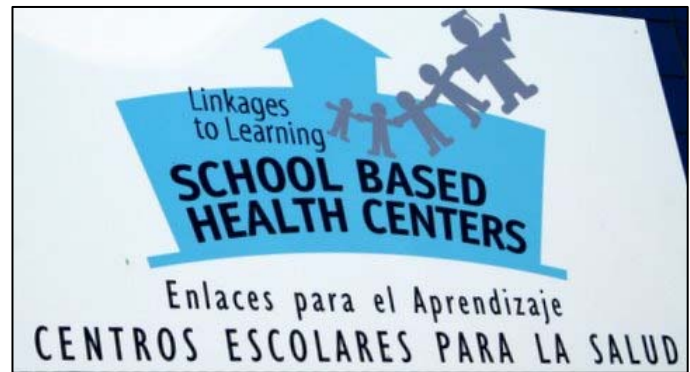
## LTL Provides School–Based Mental Health, Literacy Programs

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Germantown today.

A countywide effort, the LTL initiative in the upper Montgomery County region currently includes GUIDE and the Family Services Agency, Inc. (FSAI), another nonprofit provider of behavioral health services, working in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) and the public schools to bring mental health and social services to children and families with special needs in eight elementary and middle schools. Through Montgomery County's leadership and support, the program has been successfully expanded to serve more than 500 children each year, along with an additional 480 family members. Since 2001, 3,500 children and families have received services.

Through this successful and novel collaboration, GUIDE mental health professionals, who are experienced in working with at-risk children and their families, work in partnership with the FSAI Mental Health Clinic. GUIDE clinicians and case managers are assigned to schools where they are able



*At Gaithersburg Elementary School, GUIDE and FSAI work with DHHS school health and mental health personnel to provide a wide continuum of services.*

to provide an array of individual, group, and family-based services routinely within the school setting. School-based mental health services include diagnostic assessment, treatment, and psycho-educational groups to at-risk students and their families, while school-based social services provide case management as well as prevention and literacy and recreational programming to families.

Through the FSAI Mental Health Clinic, LTL families are also able to access psychiatric support and evaluation, medication management when needed, and long-term therapy for

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## Employees Learn Spanish Language and Latino Culture

*By Larry Epp*

Yasmin Lluveras, LCSW-C, will be teaching an exciting new course to GUIDE and Family Service Agency, Inc. (FSAI) employees this summer: "Spanish for Mental Health Professionals." Yasmin is one of 14 GUIDE staff members who speak fluent Spanish, all of whom are native Spanish speakers (representing 43% of the agency's LTL and Youth Service Center staff). However, this class is intended for non-Spanish speaking clinicians who want to learn practical phrases to communicate with Spanish-speaking clients and their families.

But Yasmin doesn't want to just stop there. She wants all GUIDE and FSAI employees to be able to have a deeper understanding of Gaithersburg's Latino culture as it relates to mental health issues. Therefore, the course will increase cultural sensitivity and help clinicians in general erase the cultural barriers that can prevent, at times, successful engagement of Latino clients.

The course will be offered in a fun format with many practical exercises that relate to mental health practice. It will be held Thursday mornings, from 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM, for six weeks beginning June 21<sup>st</sup>. The course will grant CEUs from the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners for Category I credits. FSAI has offered their comfortable main conference room as the setting for the class.

## New Department Focuses On Fund Development



*From left, Executive Director Scott Birdsong, Development Director James Gipson, and Development Consultant Karl Wolf discuss development goals and plans.*

This spring, GUIDE has undertaken two significant steps in the private fund development arena. With the assistance of a two-year, \$10,000 seed grant from the Weissberg Foundation, we have contracted with Karl Wolf to provide fund development consultation and leadership for GUIDE's Development Department. Karl brings to GUIDE years of experience helping nonprofit charities like GUIDE increase their fundraising.

James Gipson, who has now been with GUIDE for nearly two years, was promoted this Spring to the position of Director of Development and Human Resources. In his new position, James will be working with GUIDE's Executive Director, Scott Birdsong, to spearhead new fund development initiatives for the organization. In addition to pursuing foundation, corporate, and other fundraising opportunities for current projects and operations, the new department will encourage and nurture vehicles for planned giving, bequests, endowments, and other forms of financial support that can support multi-year projects and sustain the mission and work of GUIDE in perpetuity.

Information about making a donation to our work can be found on GUIDE's website ([www.GuideProgram.org](http://www.GuideProgram.org)). For information about making a bequest, adding a codicil to your will, or contributing appreciated property, such as securities, please contact James at either (301) 549-3602, ext. 214, or via email at [JamesG@GuideProgram.org](mailto:JamesG@GuideProgram.org).

## LTL Serves Those New to the U.S.

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family members after they are discharged from school-based programs served by GUIDE staff. FSAI's clinic also provides consultation and manages administrative aspects of billing the public mental health system.

Although the program serves children and families from all racial, ethnic and cultural groups, nearly 50% of GUIDE's LTL staff are native Spanish speakers, which ensures that they can work effectively with the growing Spanish-speaking population in the region. French speakers are also being recruited in order to better serve a growing French-speaking population. Special efforts are made to reach out to families that have more difficulty connecting to the school community, such as those new to this country or those for whom English is a second language, as well as to children and families who have lived in the U.S. for many years.

Monica Martin, GUIDE's Area Director for School and Community-Based Mental Health and Social Services, oversees GUIDE's role in this collaborative initiative with regular clinical supervision being provided by Dr. Larry Epp, GUIDE's Director of School-Based Mental Health Services. GUIDE's Gladys Gutierrez provides oversight for the social services aspects of the program. FSAI's Jennifer Crawford, Director of Community Behavioral Health Services, manages the oversight of clinic operations.

The LTL collaborative partnership in the upper county is a successful demonstration of how nonprofit community agencies can work with an active and creative county government and public schools to provide health and social services that are easily accessible, effective, and delivered in a culturally competent manner.

# GUIDE Secures Full Funding for Nashville Group Homes

Earlier this year GUIDE received notification from the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development that the organization was selected to receive a grant of \$916,900 through the HUD Section 811 program. The grant will fund the development of two group homes providing housing and rehabilitation services to twelve adults who are part of GUIDE's Independence Program in Prince George's County. In April, we were also notified by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that the project would be receiving an additional \$276,000 needed to support the acquisition and renovation project. In May, we learned that the additional \$40,796 necessary for a fully funded program of \$1,233,696 would be provided by a grant from the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust. This will be GUIDE's third 811 development project in the county, and GUIDE was one of



*Independence residents enjoy the garden at the new Nashville Woods group home.*

only three organizations selected for similar HUD support during this year's funding cycle in the region. The HUD Section 811 program provides funding for the development of supportive housing for persons with disabilities and ongoing rental assistance for program participants.

*Newsletter editor: Sarah Smee  
Photographer: Missy Honza*

GUIDE Program  
8643 Cherry Lane  
Laurel, MD 20707

301-549-3602, 410-888-9088  
301-549-3605 (fax)  
<http://www.guideprogram.org>

