



From left, on behalf of the Children's Advocacy Center, Ruth Sullivan, MS, RNC, CRRN, CAN, director of patient, family advocacy for Shore Health System and Nancy Wilson, president of Talbot Community Connections, accept a \$1,000 donation from Talbot County Council Vice President Hilary Spence and Dr. Richard R. Greenbaum.

Children's advocacy center is closer to fund-raising goal

EASTON — Talbot County Council Vice President Hilary B. Spence and psychologist Richard R. Greenbaum, PhD, have joined forces with Talbot Community Connections Inc. to raise money for upgraded camera equipment for the newly-expanded Children's Advocacy Center.

Spence and Greenbaum have donated money personally and challenge their friends, family and colleagues to provide matching funds for the investigative camera equipment.

The improved camera equipment will strengthen documentation and prose-

cutorial outcomes for the cases investigated through the Children's Advocacy Center.

The split-screen video capability allows observers located outside of the interview room to zoom in and out on faces, reducing the number of times a child must tell his or her story. Use of videotaped interviews as evidence may prevent the need for in-person testimony in a court of law.

For more information, call President Nancy Wilson at 410-226-5330, or write to TCC at P.O. Box 2615, Easton, Md., 21601.

Women & Girls Fund awards grants go to nine Mid-Shore non-profit organizations



Grants totaling \$27,800 were awarded to nine non-profit organizations by The Women & Girls Fund of the Mid-Shore at a luncheon on April 24. Representing the organizations are (from far left, first row): Rachel Polk, site director New Beginnings Youth and Family Services; Veronica Owens, executive director New Beginnings; Sally Vermilye, board member Talbot Community Connections; Della Andrew board president, Healthy Families Queen Anne's/Talbot; Patricia Dietz, program manager Healthy Families; Lin Layton, board president CASA of Talbot County; Robin Davenport, executive director CASA of Talbot County; Nancy Wilson, board president Talbot Community Connections; and Nancy Andrew, Talbot Mentors. Shown from the left, second row are: Betsy Cooksey, founder of New Beginnings; Susan Davis, manager Shared Opportunity Service; Judy Linn, executive director Shared Opportunity Service; Tracy Davenport, founder Summer Days Math & Science Camp for Girls; Debbye Jackson, executive director Channel Marker; Alex Handy, board member Community Alliance for Performing Arts; and Al Smith, board member Talbot Mentors.

Grants totaling \$27,800 were awarded to nine non-profit organizations by the Women & Girls Fund of the Mid-Shore at the group's Fourth Annual Awards luncheon on April 24. The Women & Girls Fund Award, which annually honors a community member whose efforts have improved the lives of the region's women and girls, was also presented to Sandra Wellford King at the event, which was attended by 160 people.

Fund president Alice Bower credited the fund's ability to make a record number of grants this year to strong community support for its mission of improving the lives and prospects of women and girls in Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties.

"Because of the individual contributions of over 300 local donors, the fund's endowment has grown to more than \$310,000.00 to date," Bower said. "By pooling these contributions we have been able in the last four years to provide grants totaling \$78,312 to underserved programs meeting the crucial needs of a population that receives only a very small percentage of traditional grant dollars. We have seen the positive impact these grants have and are grateful to every one of these donors."

This year's grant recipients include:

- Community Alliance for the Performing Arts (CAPA) for needs-based scholarships to summer programs designed to build self-esteem within a nurturing environment;
- CASA of Talbot County to support its efforts to help establish a Court Appointed Special Advocates program in Queen Anne's County.
- Channel Marker, Inc to support its Primary Mental Health Project, which screens all kindergarten through third grade students in four Talbot County schools for at-risk behaviors and then provides struc-

tured social, academic, and emotional support to students who have been identified as being at-risk;

- Queen Anne's County Health Department to fund staff for the Healthy Families Sustainability Project which provides multi-year, neurologically-based child development curriculum to families who have been identified as being at-risk for poor parenting outcomes in Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties and who volunteer to participate;
- New Beginnings Youth and Family Services to support the People of Courage initiative in Dorchester County which designs individualized, skills-based programs for women and men re-entering the workforce, starting their own businesses, or returning to school;
- Kent Family Center to fund Girls on the Run, a nationwide program that promotes healthy attitudes, including teamwork, self-acceptance, positive body image, conflict resolution, and nutritional awareness, as the girls train for a 3.1 mile run;
- Summer Days Math and Science Camp for Girls to fund two junior counselor staff positions to meet the needs of the camps expanding program;
- Talbot Community Connections for the purchase of anatomically correct dolls to be used with victims of child abuse and to help defray training costs associated with the use of the dolls;
- Talbot Mentors to provide the resources needed to screen and train additional volunteer mentors for at risk children.

"Each one of these grants will set off ripples of positive change in our communities, ultimately benefiting every one of us," Bower said.

To find out more about the Women & Girls Fund of the Mid-Shore or to make a contribution call 410-770-8347 or write the Fund at 11 S. Washington Street, Easton, MD 21601.

Foster care families celebrate Christmas at fire department

EASTON — More than 100 children representing families involved with foster care in Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot counties recently gathered at the Easton Fire Department for the region's annual Foster Care Holiday Party. Among the activities included were a traditional holiday meal, catered by Jimmy's Grille; a Santa's workshop where children bought gifts for their families; holiday crafts; face painting; bingo; dancing with DJ Mark Savage; and a visit from Santa. The Salvation Army provided a gift for every child that attended the event. Volunteers from Saints Peter and Paul High School and Ameri Corps assisted with the activities of the day.

According to Cathy Mols, director of Talbot County Department of Social Services,

the event, which has been held for over a decade, has a significant impact on the lives of children in foster care during the holidays.

"The event enables the children in foster care to spend time together while providing a 'thank you' to the foster families who provide their care," Mols said. "We're most grateful to these families who take these children into their homes. To me, that is the real spirit of the holidays."

There is currently a shortage of foster care parents in Talbot County. Persons interested in learning more about becoming foster parents or helping with the recruitment campaign may contact Talbot County Department of Social Services staff, April Sharp or Susan Coppage at 410-770-4848.



Children representing families involved with foster care in Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot counties recently gathered at the Easton Fire Department for the region's annual Foster Care Holiday Party. Helping with the gift wrapping table at Santa's Workshop are, from left to right, James Slattery, Talbot County Department of Social Services board member; Lyn Shockley, Talbot County Department of Social Services; and Nancy Wilson, Talbot Community Connections, president of the board.



Pictured during the ribbon-tying ceremony at the Children's Advocacy Center open house are, from left, Scott Patterson, Talbot County state's attorney; Dr. Betsy Mason, Children's Advocacy Center medical director; Cathy Mols, director, Talbot County Department of Social Services; Dick Goldstein, director, For All Seasons; Detective Yvonne Freeman, Easton Police Department; and Major David Spencer, deputy chief, Easton Police Department.

Children's Advocacy Center partners, supporters celebrate collaboration

EASTON — Partners and supporters of the Children's Advocacy Center celebrated their collaboration with a ribbon-tying ceremony at a recent open house.

Located at The Memorial Hospital at Easton, the Children's Advocacy Center is a partnership between the Talbot County Department of Social

Services and the Shore Health System.

Donations totaling more than \$5,000 have been collected for the purchase of upgraded audio-visual equipment used during child abuse investigation interviews. Strengthened audio-visual documentation will improve prosecution

efforts and further reduce the need for victims to testify in court.

Talbot Community Connections (TCC) oversees fundraising efforts for the Children's Advocacy Center.

For more information, call Nancy Wilson at 410-226-5330, or write to TCC at P.O. Box 2615, Easton, MD, 21601.