



Talbot Community Connections board grows

Talbot Community Connections (TCC) recently increased its board to nine members. Pictured in the front row from left are new board members Hope Harrington and Kathleen Francis, president Ellen Kelley Smith, and corresponding secretary Sally Vermilye. In the back row from left are William Banks, past president Nancy Wilson, treasurer Joe Carrico, and vice president Ruth Sullivan. An all-volunteer organization, TCC is raising funds for the Talbot County Department of Social Services to help fill gaps in state and federal funding to children, families and vulnerable adults. TCC also raises funds to support the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center at the Memorial Hospital at Easton. For more information, visit www.talbotcommunityconnections.org.



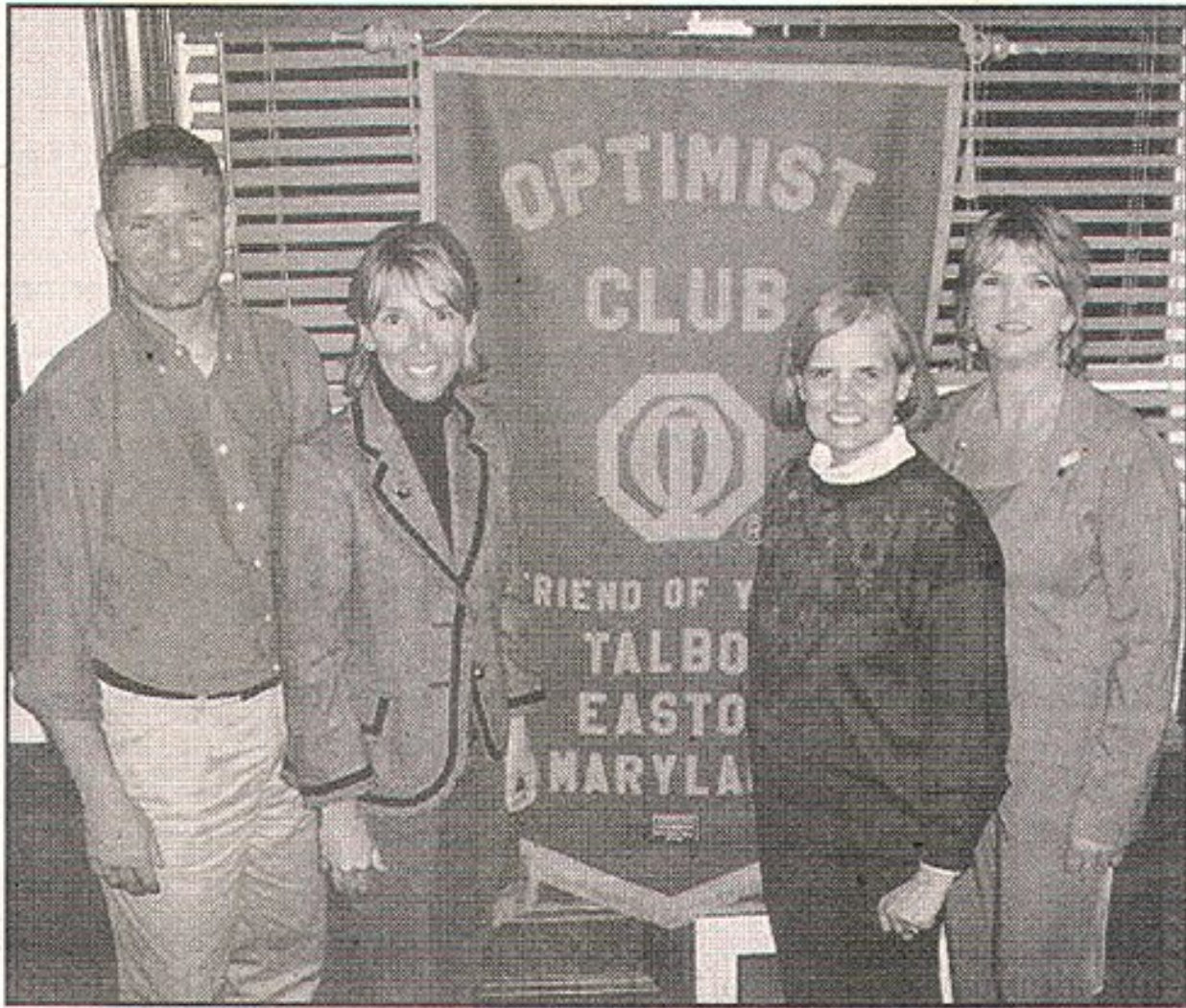
Cub Scouts are top sellers; donate bicycle

Easton Cub Scout Pack 532 partnered with Talbot Community Connections with their donation of a new bike. The pack earned the bike for being the top popcorn seller in the Choptank District. One of the goals of TCC is to provide services to children in need. Pictured with the scouts are Cubmaster Rick Shaw, and TCC board members Sally Vermilye, Nancy Wilson, and Ellen Kelley Smith.



Duck Duck Dash planned for Oxford Day April 26

Talbot County Department of Social Services Advisory Board Member Walda Dupriest, Talbot Community Connections President Nancy Wilson, TCDSS Volunteer Coordinator Pat Murphy, and Talbot Community Connections Vice President Ellen Smith plan the First Annual Duck Duck Dash for Oxford Day on April 26. The Duck Duck Dash will be held at Causeway Park with ongoing races between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The event will give children the opportunity to race plastic ducks and win prizes. Funds raised will benefit the Talbot Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in the Pediatrics Department at Memorial Hospital at Easton. For more information, go to talbotcommunityconnections.org.



Friend to youth

The Talbot Optimists Club, held their monthly meeting with featured speaker, Ellen Kelley Smith. As president of Talbot Community Connections, she explained to the group how her organization is the fundraising arm of the Talbot County Dept. of Social Services, raising money to fill gaps in state and federal funding and thereby allowing the agency to provide more services to Talbot County residents. She also discussed TCC's support of the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center at the Memorial Hospital at Easton which provides a multi-disciplinary response to allegations of child abuse. Pictured at the end of the meeting are, from left, past president Rick VanEmburch, Vice President Gretchen Brandon, Smith, and Optimist President Suzanne Jones.



The Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center, located at The Memorial Hospital at Easton, was the beneficiary of the 2005 spring fundraising campaign led by Talbot Community Connections. Pictured from left are Jennifer Wright of the Talbot County Department of Social Services; Ruth Sullivan, director of Patient/Family Advocacy for Shore Health System; Betsy Mason, medical director for the Children's Advocacy Center; Tina Baxter, member of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Baltimore board of directors; Nancy Wilson, president of Talbot Community Connections; Scott Patterson, Talbot County State's Attorney; and Rick Hoff, principle in the Hoff Companies.

Talbot Community Connections reaches \$15,000 fundraising goal

EASTON — Talbot Community Connections, the fundraising arm of the Talbot County Department of Social Services, has achieved its \$15,000 spring appeal goal.

Donations were used to purchase an upgraded audio-visual system that records interviews with child abuse victims treated at the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center.

The Hoff Companies and

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Baltimore gave a combined donation of \$10,000. When Kenneth and Mary Hoff, principles in the Hoff Companies, toured the Children's Advocacy Center in April and saw how the Center serves the community, they pledged \$5,000. The Hoffs, whose business includes seven McDonald's in Maryland and Delaware, sponsored Talbot Community Con-

nections for a \$5,000 grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Baltimore.

Talbot Community Connections has launched its fall appeal to support the Talbot County Department of Social Services and winter emergency needs.

Donations may be sent to Talbot Community Connections, PO Box 2615, Easton, MD 21601.



created using
BCL easyPDF
Printer Driver

[Click here to purchase a license to remove this image](#)

Group helps those who may not get state aid

By KRISTYN ECOCHARD
Staff Writer

EASTON — Talbot Community Connections has helped countless struggling men, women and children to get through tough times over the last eight years and now more than ever their services are needed.

The fundraising arm of the Talbot County Department Social Services, TCC has three main functions: to fundraise for the Talbot County Department Social Services, to educate the public and service workers about how to enhance the safety of the county's children and to promote the Talbot County Children's Advocacy Center.

Recently the number of individuals applying for aid through social services has increased and so has the number of people who for one reason or another don't qualify. It could be their age, or the amount of money they make, but often there are people who seem to have a genuine need for temporary help that would provide long-term stability.

"They just need a little bit of money to get over a bump," Nancy Wilson, TCC board member and past president said. "We're expect-

"They just need a little bit of money to get over a bump. We're expecting a lot of bumps in this economy."

Nancy Wilson, Talbot Community Connections,
board member and past president

ing a lot of bumps in this economy."

The money raised by TCC goes toward items that typically are not covered by the state budget and to help those who apply for assistance but do not qualify under state or federal guidelines.

Since Nov. 1, TCC has raised about \$12,608 and the board is completely volunteer so all of the money goes to help Talbot County residents.

Board members include Ruth Sullivan, liaison to Shore Health Systems, Sally Vermilye, Joseph Carrico, CPA, William Banks, Kathleen Francis, former Talbot County Council member Hope Harrington and James O'Brien.

In 2008, TCC raised \$ 27,476.00 through three fundraisers and a two-year pledge. The funds raised helped roughly 137 children, families and adults to experience a

more safe and secure environment.

Grants were made available to several social services programs including \$4,000 for foster care, \$5,000 for adult emergency services, \$2,000 for local respite, \$3,000 for family emergency grants and \$1,000 for the fatherhood program; a total of \$15,000.

Each year, the nonprofit holds a community program to address child safety issues and there is a different topic at each program. In the past, programs have been held featuring the Children's Advocacy Center, children and internet safety, how poverty impacts the brain and bullying.

This year's program, presented by Dr. Frank Kros, is entitled "The saddest song: teens, suicide and the developing brain." It will focus on the latest research about connections to struggling children and how their brains operate.

Recent advances in neuroscience are important for human services employees, guidance counselors and others who work with children to learn, said Social Services Director April Sharp.

"TCC tries to have an affordable option to train locally and the Talbot Family Network offset the cost with a training grant and Shore Health Systems has continuously offered support," Board President Ellen Kelley Smith said.

Kros is a career child advocate, and is president of The Upside Down Organization and executive vice president of The Children's Guild, the largest private provider of special education services in Maryland.

The program will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 27 at Krystal Q. It is open to the public but geared toward those who work with children.

The registration fee is \$75 and the deadline to register is March 20. Contact Jeanne Bromwell at 410-221-2600 ext. 108.

To donate, visit the TCC Web site at www.talbotcommunityconnections.org or e-mail esmith@goeaston.net. Donations may be mailed to Talbot Community Connections, PO Box 2615, Easton, MD 21601.