



in Celebration

Ocean City 2009

One of the annual events that CSC's individuals anticipate most is the Big Ocean City Trip. This year, our individuals and staff packed their bags to head "down ocean, hon!" This was the seventh year that Joe and Karen Swift, two of CSC's lead direct support staff, took CSC individuals for week-long vacations to Ocean City and said, "We were busy all day, every day. [The individuals] were eager to go everywhere!"

The first trip left on Saturday, September 12th, and coincided with Delmarva Bike Week. The second trip began a week later, on the 19th, in time to catch Sunfest and its Kite Festival. Five beach houses were needed for each trip to accommodate the group of 18 individuals from the Baltimore area, 5 more individuals

from CSC's DC program along with 7 staff members for each trip. The trip was so popular that some individuals decided to stay for both weeks!



During their stay, everyone visited the arcades, strolled the boardwalk, danced at pajama parties, ate out at



restaurants, and did A LOT of shopping. Joe Swift says, "The individuals bought souvenirs, gifts, T-shirts, saltwater taffy, and anything that had 'O.C.' printed on it!"

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SPORTS DAY 2009



The Second Annual CSC Sports Day was held on the breezy Friday of October 23rd, 2009 at Centennial Park. All CSC individuals received new T-shirts in CSC team colors on arrival. The day was kicked-off with soccer in the field and resident Alex Vega, who also works on CSC grounds, kicked around with the staff for the majority of the day. Basketball was a very popular event; Charles Hoffman



had some court time, sans wheelchair, again this year. Board games were held in the pavilion; Robert Parker dominated in "Chutes and Ladders" while Fred Jackson and Larry Majors battled hours for the title of "Checkers Champion." The egg race was the most fun to watch; Wyndella McCray scrambled to the finish line for first place.

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Center for Social Change Day



– November 8th, 2009 –

Every year since Center for Social Change has been serving its individuals, there was anniversary party. And at the anniversary party on November 8, 2008, Secretary Catherine Raggio of the Department of Disabilities was in attendance. There, on behalf of Governor Martin O'Malley, Secretary Raggio presented CSC with a citation declaring November 8th as "Center for Social Change Day" in the state of Maryland. CSC Day has since become Center for Social Change's biggest event of the year. This year was no exception; we were blessed with a beautiful day for our autumn affair that was filled with fine food, exciting entertainment, and great company.

One of our own individuals, Nathan Stokes, kicked-off the afternoon with an interpretive dance to the gospel hit "Never Would Have Made It." His energy wowed the crowd through his performance; he even ended the song with a flying leap off the stage. Next up were dancers from Howard High's state-renowned dance company. They really got the party started with a Michael Jackson

medley and moves that would have impressed the king of pop himself. Our individuals also love to dance and DJ Delia kept them on their feet with the "Cha Cha Slide" and other fun dance tracks from start to finish. Bubbles the clown kept smiles on faces all day by doing magic tricks and telling jokes. Individuals and guests could visit Bubbles when he wasn't on stage outside on our new patio where he would make balloon animals and Mrs. Bubbles would paint faces. There was even an airbrushed tattoo artist outside! Popular tattoo choices included Raven's and Oriole's logos of course.

One of the most anticipated events of the day was the Individual's Raffle. Prizes up for grabs included a DVD player, a karaoke machine, and a pair of tickets to a Raven's football game! Even if they didn't get lucky with the raffle, everyone's a winner at CSC. Certificates and medals were given to each individual by none other than the Oriole Bird! The Bird strutted his stuff, giving out medals and dancing with every individual in attendance – and some of the staff too!

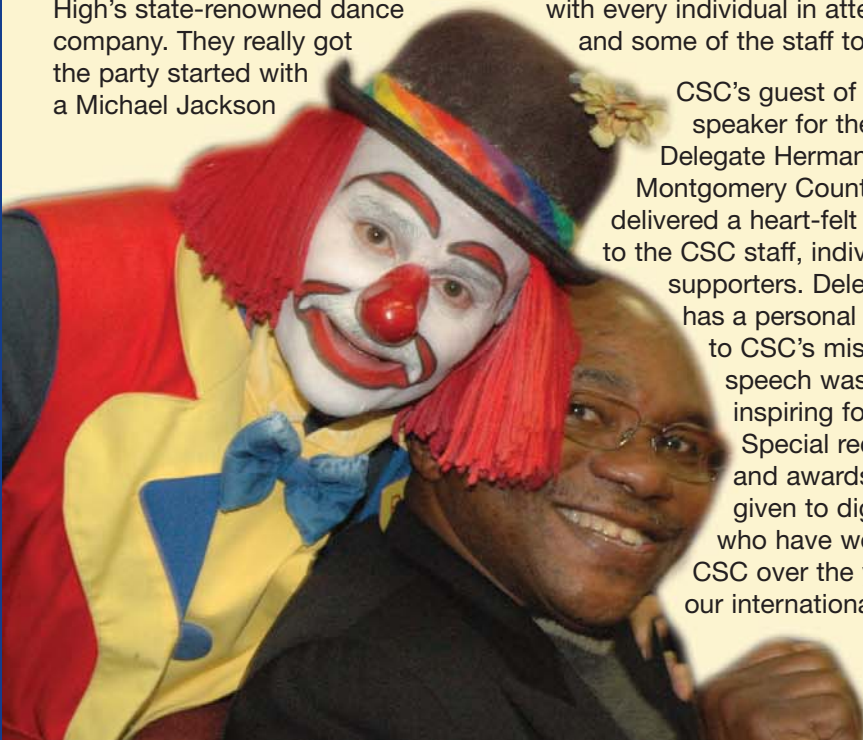
CSC's guest of honor and speaker for the day was Delegate Herman Taylor of Montgomery County. He delivered a heart-felt message to the CSC staff, individuals, and supporters. Delegate Taylor has a personal connection to CSC's mission. His speech was extremely inspiring for us all. Special recognition and awards were given to dignitaries who have worked with CSC over the years, to our international trainees



who have grown with us this past year, to our exemplary employee of the year, and to our sportsman of the year. CSC's founder, Dr. Joseph Mathew closed the public meeting with a sincere thank you to CSC staff and everyone in attendance. The entire ceremony was truly moving and all participants shared a proud moment this year at CSC.

The celebration eventually did come to an end, but with an unforgettable grand finale. Victory Martial Arts brought the house down with a fast-past demonstration that incorporated many different forms of martial arts. Fast-paced, high-energy music, board breaking, and flying kicks felt like a scene out of "The Matrix." There was never a slow moment in this spectacular sight.

CSC would like to thank all of its performers, volunteers, staff, donors, and participants for making this day so special for our individuals. ■





Walking in a

Winter Wonderland

On Friday, December 18th, Center for Social Change was transformed into a Winter Wonderland for CSC's holiday party. Snowflakes floated through the air and a beautiful Christmas tree dressed in silver stood in the center of the room, surrounded by a hundred gifts for CSC individuals. One giant Christmas tree invited on-lookers outside on to the new heated patio. The tables were set with blue cloths, candy canes, and glittering snow where miniature Christmas tree and Santa centerpieces sat. A musician played beautiful acoustic guitar music to greet incoming guests as they said hello and wished one another "Happy Holidays".

CSC resident, Nathan Stokes, as always, got the party started by inviting guests to join him in singing well-known Christmas carols, then amazed everyone with an a cappella rendition of "Oh Holy Night." A popular attraction at recent CSC events is our "tattoo artist" who airbrushed Santas, moose, and Christmas trees on the cheeks and forearms of adventurous

individuals. A generous donation by Shopper's Foundation provided plenty of food for our hungry guests to enjoy as they socialized while waiting for everyone to arrive-especially one special guest in particular...

Everyone at Center for Social Change has been very nice this year, so naturally Santa made a guest appearance at CSC's Holiday Party! While DJ Ronnie was playing international Christmas music, Santa Claus himself burst into the room to surprise everyone. Individuals, staff, and parents alike all were happy to see Father

Christmas who made his way around the entire room for hugs and photos. Santa, with the help of his head elf, personally handed a present to each individual, making this holiday party one to remember. Carolers from Wilde Lake High School serenaded the crowd as gifts were opened and enjoyed.

Our individuals were smiling throughout the entire evening. Maybe it was the festive décor of the room, maybe it was the fabulous food. It could have been the crisp in the air, or those special songs for this time of year. It might have been the surprise visit from Santa or seeing old friends again. Whatever that something was, those magical smiles will stay in our hearts throughout the coming year. The presents may have had something to do with it too.

Center for Social Change would like to thank all of our volunteers for an amazing year of service and dedication to our cause. Happy New Year to all! ■





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Some individuals took a spin around in go-karts while others enjoyed fine Ocean City delicacies, such as ice cream, funnel cake, boardwalk fries, and popcorn – or at least until the Seagulls started to bully them!

The groups also went fishing several times – Clarence, Bill, and Nathan all caught fish – but Audrey and Karen caught a crab! All in all, the trips went very well this year and the Swifts and everyone at CSC thought that it was “a beautiful time.” ■

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The main events were the wheelchair race and foot races. When the wheelchair race began it was all business. Vanessa Fleet and Devin Ballard were neck and neck, but Vanessa began laughing so hard that Devin was able to pull ahead for the win. There was a lot of hype this year

around the footrace; the other racers gave Mathew Williams a run for his money, but he smoked them all, securing not only a win, but also the “Sportsman of the Year” Award. All contestants at 2009’s CSC Sports Day received their participation medals at the Center for Social Change Day celebration.

Pizza and subs for lunch in the pavilion gave everyone some time to recharge. Nathan Stokes was the DJ and had individuals up and on their feet all day long. Competition was in the air but there was also a spirit of camaraderie that made everyone a winner at the Second Annual CSC Sports Day. ■

SPORTS DAY 2009

