

# Reflections

## IN PROGRESS

CENTER FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

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### CSC Receives the Highest Accreditation Level from CARF



ALL PROGRAMS ACCREDITED BY CARF

Having been accredited during the previous one year, Center for Social Change underwent its first renewal survey by the internationally recognized Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). CSC is proud to announce that this survey has resulted in the awarding of a three year accreditation (the maximum accreditation period possible) for all of the programs that CSC offers. These programs (all of which fall under CARF's Community and Employment Services Standards) are:

- *Community Services: Community Housing*
- *Community Services: Community Housing (Children and Adolescents)*
- *Community Services: Community Integration*
- *Community Services: Supported Living*
- *Employment Services: Community Employment Services: Job Development*
- *Employment Services: Community Employment Services: Job Supports*
- *Employment Services: Community Employment Services: Job-Site Training*

Besides being the only provider in Maryland to be accredited for this particular combination of services, CSC is also the sole provider in Maryland to be accredited under the CARF Community Services Standard for "Community Housing (Children and Adolescents)".

CARF's mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. CARF accreditation signals a service provider's commitment to continually improving services, encouraging feedback, and serving the community, and this is certainly the model of supports provided by CSC.

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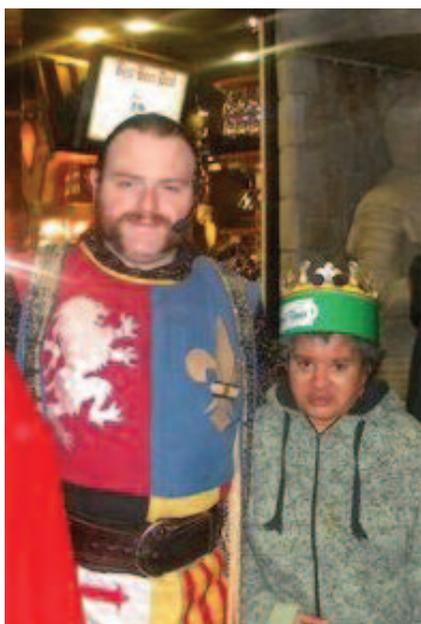
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## Nourishing the Spirit

As he describes it, Alex Vega simply “fell in love with God” long ago. Finding a spiritual community in which he could participate and feel comfortable took a while, but through a chance encounter, Alex has found his spiritual home. Having met Pastor Robert Henderson, Alex was invited to visit the Colonial Baptist Church in Randallstown. Alex jumped at the invitation, and quickly became committed to becoming an active member. Alex now attends Bible Study each Sunday, and often attends the Men’s Breakfasts on Saturdays. Alex even had a part in a recent play that church members presented. The highlight of Alex’s spiritual journey was his recent baptism at the church. Alex’s success in making connections to his community was recently recognized by his having been selected by CSC staff to receive the annual MACS Achievement Award. At the recent dinner event, Alex proudly accepted his framed award in the presence of staff, friends, and the wider community.

## CHOICE



Cassandra and her Knight of Honor

## An Evening From Times Long Past

Choice – having options and being able to select among them – is a key component of independence. When the individuals who receive supports from CSC’s Community Housing program expressed their wish to plan a special activity, their staff began researching the activities that were available. When the many choices were offered, a visit to Medieval Times was at the top of the list for many. The evening of dinner, jousting, armor, and mayhem was all that had been expected.



Audrey enjoys being Queen of the Court

## MONSTER TRUCK

# JAMMIN'

**A**t the recent Monster Jam held in Baltimore, a number of individuals in CSC’s residential program participated in a ritual as American as country music and singing the national anthem – gathering with others who, like them, relish the over-the-top size, noise, and excitement that comes with monster truck competition. Trying to shield their ears with one hand while holding a soda or hotdog in the other, these lovers of “all-things truck” joined in the cheering and shouting as their favorite drivers raced, spun, jumped, and kicked up dirt in their over-sized vehicles. The highlight of the day was their participation in the exclusive “pit party” on the floor of the coliseum, which allowed them personal and up-close access to the trucks and their drivers. Once everyone’s ears had returned to normal, all could be heard to say that they planned to return next year.



*David DeSalvo waits for an autograph after the Monster Jam*



## CSC – Participating in Our Community

At noon on February 14, seven individuals from CSC’s Community Employment Program joined County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, County Councilman Ken Oliver and about 60 Randallstown residents to celebrate the official conclusion of renovations to the Randallstown Branch Library with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The group from CSC was very pleased with all of the improvements, but especially applauded the new automatic doors and full-sized elevator, both of which make the library fully accessible to those with mobility or other limitations. A total of \$450,000 in renovations also provided for the building of a children’s area has been expanded, and three new tutoring rooms.

Also attending the ribbon cutting were delegates



*Felisia Helton and Stephen Ray attend the Randallstown Library re-dedication ceremony*

Emmett Burns and Adrienne Jones, County Councilman Ken Oliver, Dr. Russell Kelley representing Sen. Dolores Kelley; and representatives for Councilwoman Vicki Almond, U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski and Rep. Elijah Cummings.



6600 Amberton Drive  
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

410-579-6789 office  
1-800-269-0383 toll free  
410-796-1201 fax

www.centerforsocialchange.org



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## ADVOCACY

# Building a Volunteer Base

**A**dvocating on behalf of the individuals we support often takes the form of helping to increase public awareness about those with developmental disabilities. One way to accomplish this goal is by recruiting volunteers to work with individuals in various CSC programs, the main responsibility for which typically falls to CSC's Director of Community Relations, Arthur Gold. At Employment Fairs, Service Learning Fairs, local colleges, and other settings, Arthur meets with potential volunteers, acquaints them with CSC's mission, vision, and programs, and encourages them to meet, and get to know, the individuals we support. Volunteers who have donated their time to CSC have enhanced both their own life-experiences, and those of the individuals they have interacted with.



*CSC's Director of Community Relations meets with potential Howard County Community College volunteer*



*Brittany S. and Alex enjoy a light moment at the computer*

## Developing Future Advocates

CSC is proud to have contributed to the development of a new generation of advocates for those with disabilities. Through its growing relationship with local community colleges, CSC has provided opportunities to students who need to complete service learning hours, and who wish to learn more about working in service to those with developmental disabilities. Over the past several months, nearly ten students from Howard Community College have assisted the individuals in CSC's Employment Services program in locating available jobs; in developing the skills they need for those jobs; in developing healthy diet and exercise programs; and learning basic first aid.