

# Reflections

## IN PROGRESS

CENTER FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

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### WHAT'S INSIDE

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## Celebrating CSC

November 8 has taken on special significance at Center for Social Change since Maryland's Governor established that particular day, in 2008, as "Center for Social Change Day". This unique recognition of the dedicated work performed by the staff at CSC on behalf of the individuals we support serves, even today, as a source of pride and inspiration.

This year's celebration was held at CSC's administrative office location in Elkridge, Maryland. The expansive day program area was transformed into an elegant space where all could enjoy the catered meal and entertainment that punctuated the evening. Individuals, staff, and family members enjoyed a wide range of music styles as presented by Andrea, and feasted on a delicious gourmet buffet dinner of chicken with all of the fixings, including mac and cheese, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, and vegetables. At CSC, we pride ourselves on making opportunities to be part of a larger community available to those we support; the evening-long dancing, "schmoozing" and just hanging out provided just such opportunities, all of which were complemented by visits with the Raven's mascot. Those who came truly dressed for the occasion participated in a fashion show, and Nathan S's uplifting gospel music and dance presentation represented a true expression of what is important to him.

During the entire evening, fellowship was obvious throughout, with individuals, staff, and families all having a chance to mingle and socialize. All agreed that this is what CSC is really about – creating community for those we support.



# BIRTHDAY EVERY DAY!

With more than 100 individuals residing with CSC in its Residential Program, it is not at all unusual for several birthdays to take place within one month. So, it should be no surprise that more than twenty six separate birthday celebrations were held over just the last three months of 2011. Birthdays provide an excellent opportunity for individuals to really become involved in shaping their own lives. What type of celebration do they wish to have? Where do they wish to have it? What special treats do they wish to serve? Who do they wish to invite? Each decision made helps build skills that lead to independence and self-determination. With the assistance of staff, no plans are too difficult to make – whether they involve baking a cake from scratch for guests, becoming the “Queen of the Day”, or providing an evening of entertainment at Dave and Buster’s.

## LEARNING

One of the more exciting outreach projects at CSC is aimed at attracting young people to volunteer at CSC. Towards this end, CSC has participated for several years in the Service Learning Fairs that are sponsored by local community, and other, colleges. These fairs provide a venue in which CSC can meet with students whose course curriculums require

that they perform volunteer service learning hours in support of their communities. For many of these students, volunteering their time to work with the individuals that we support provides them with a unique opportunity to meet individuals unlike any



### Community Outreach at CSC

they may have met before, and to learn from them. An especially close connection has been made between CSC and the Howard Community College, although students have also come to CSC from Anne Arundel Community College. During the past year, approximately fifteen students pursuing studies in nursing, art, physical therapy, and psychology have spent several weeks each at CSC’s day program setting. CSC values their commitment, and knows that they finish their volunteer time with a much greater sensitivity to the special needs of the individuals that they have met.

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hanksgiving is always a time of excitement at CSC, and this was the case for the most recent celebration. All of those we support had the day off from their various programs, and many used that time to participate in the planning that took place leading up to their anticipated feasts. Turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce are certainly the most important traditions of the day, and CSC ensured that everyone, staff and individuals alike, re-lived memories of mom's cooking by providing traditional Thanksgiving meals, with all the trimmings, for each house. College and professional football was a staple at most of the homes, and many tuned into the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. When all is said and done, could there be a better way to celebrate such a day?

## Thanksgiving at CSC



## FELLOWSHIP

## Holidays at CSC

*The excitement of the season was apparent from the moment that guests started to arrive for CSC's annual Holiday Celebration. Celebrations of Christmas, Chanukah, and simply of a season of love and caring were enjoyed by individuals, family members, and guests. Decorations were hung and space for singing and dancing was created.*

As the evening began, a spirit of excitement filled the room as individuals and staff enjoyed a dinner of chicken, stuffing, mac and cheese, vegetables, desserts – all served by CSC staff. Participants exchanged holiday wishes and listened to holiday carols sung by Thomas A., a CSC staff member, and his family. So many gifts were distributed by CSC to each of the individuals in our residential program that two Santas were required to complete the task. After all the gifts had been received, and meals finished, guests left for home, each one having celebrated the beginning of this holiday season with fun, food and friendship.



## CSC Inaugurates Newly Designed Website



CSC's newly enhanced website says much about what CSC believes to be important. The prominent center of the Home page is occupied by those principles that CSC believes form the foundation of a full and rich life- Community, Independence, Individual rights, Pride, Choice, and Friendship. Sharing the central position of prominence is a link to information regarding CSC's CARF Accreditation. CSC takes great pride in the distinction of being one of the relatively few provider agencies in Maryland that have achieved this hard-earned recognition. We encourage you to visit our improved website and see for yourself what makes CSC unique.



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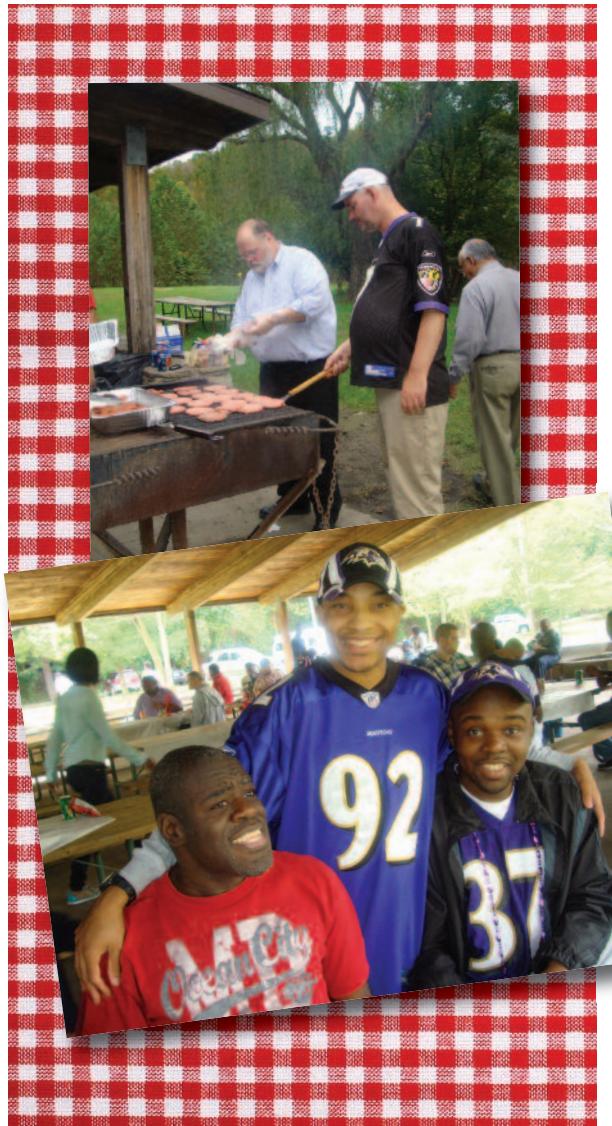
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## INDEPENDENCE



# CSC ANNUAL FALL PICNIC 2011

Long a staple in Center for Social Change's calendar, the annual CSC picnic has become an event that is eagerly anticipated by individuals and staff alike. During this past year, staff and individuals enjoyed a festive day at Patapsco Valley State Park in Baltimore County. The pavilion reserved for our special day was decorated by CSC staff with colorful tablecloths and flowers, and one corner of the space was reserved for our home-grown DJ, Nathan Stokes, to set up all of the equipment he would need to create a rockin' scene throughout the day. Two massive grills were lit, and burgers and hotdogs for over 150 were prepared by grillmasters including CSC's COO, Jeff Tarleton; Directors Marcus Davies and Arthur Gold; with additional help from Rick Zngle, Alex Vega, and others. Directors Dana Dimas and Josephine George, along with staff, ensured that a steady flow of food was distributed to hungry participants.

Throughout the day, several groups played football and kickball, while others took walks in the area admiring the changing leaves and beautiful ambiance. From start to finish, all agreed that the fall picnic was a hit, and everyone is looking forward to the next event.