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BOARD OF CHILD CARE
of The United Methodist Church, Inc.

Baltimore Campus

3300 Gaither Road, Baltimore, MD 21244-2999
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BOARD OF CHILD CARE CELEBRATES THE GRADUATIONS OF 20 STUDENTS AND PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITH 4 CEREMONIES SPANNING 3 CAMPUSES.

The following press releases were sent to local newsgathering partners and campuses June 27, 2016. Readers will find graduation information from Baltimore, Strawbridge School, Martinsburg, WV and Denton, MD.

For any additional information, please contact Mr. Kristian Sekse, V.P of Communications, at 443-845-4395 (cell), or Mr. T.C. Cameron, Media and Communications Coordinator, at 443-257-6506. Additionally, readers can email Board of Child Care's Communications Dept. at communications@boardofchildcare.org.

[Enriching communities, one family at a time](#), BCC's \$33 million annual budget provides programs across the Mid-Atlantic. Offerings include residential care, treatment foster care, early childhood education, therapeutic counseling, adoption information and referral, and a special education school. Headquartered in Baltimore, BCC operates facilities and group homes throughout Maryland and the Eastern Shore, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

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**11 YOUNG ADULTS IN FOSTER CARE CELEBRATE
COMPLETING THEIR HIGH SCHOOL CAREERS**

Baltimore – June 27, 2016 — The Board of Child Care (BCC) celebrated the graduations of 11 residential program participants based in Baltimore on Wednesday, June 8.

Overall, BCC celebrated the graduations of 20 students across its three campuses in Baltimore, Denton, MD and Martinsburg, WV.

BCC's residential program participants attend local public schools, non-public, private schools through their home-based county school system or BCC's Strawbridge School. Graduates are celebrated for earning diplomas, GED's or certificates.

Tim H., who goes by the nickname "Haystacks" and attended Smithsburg High School, gave the class address, saying, "Wishing I had been somewhere else at one time or another, but sticking with the program and putting faith in the staff has led to nothing but success for me, and you should do the same."

Besides winning annual awards and scholarships, each graduate received a gift package from BCC's Volunteer Auxiliary, a group that seeks to improve the lives of those BCC serves.

Tim H. was also a recipient of the James and Lois Mathis Award for Community Service, sharing the honor with Robert R., also a Strawbridge student. The Alice G. Seymour Award for Academic Achievement, presented by Rear Admiral (retired) William Mathis, went to Tim H. and Dejon L., who earned his GED on his own while living on the Baltimore campus.

Justin B., a Strawbridge graduate, earned the \$1,000 Chase United Methodist Church Award, while Jason L., a graduate from Randallstown High School, and Meaghan S. from Pikesville High School, each won a \$250 award of the same name.



Blaine A., a Strawbridge student, won the Board of Child Care Award for best representing the values of BCC. Three of the June 8 graduates attended BCC's Strawbridge School, which serves preschool through high school students designated with Autism, emotional disability, intellectual disability, or a specific learning disability.

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**BOARD OF CHILD CARE CELEBRATES 9 GRADUATES
FROM ITS STRAWBRIDGE SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Baltimore – June 27, 2016 — The Board of Child Care’s (BCC) Strawbridge School, a non-public private school located on BCC’s Baltimore campus, held graduation ceremonies for nine Maryland-based students Thursday, June 9 at Loyola University Maryland.

In total, BCC celebrated the graduations of 20 program participants (inclusive of the nine from Strawbridge School) across its Maryland and West Virginia programs.

Laurie Anne Spagnola, BCC’s President and CEO, told the Strawbridge graduates that life is not to be stressed over but rather to be enjoyed and savored.

“Be kind, be silly and most of all, be honest,” Spagnola said in explaining why striking a balance between being too serious or not serious enough is important to success in life.

The Strawbridge ceremony is highlighted annually by the rose presentation. Each graduate singles out someone within the assembly who was significant to their success, walks down off the stage and hands them a single, white rose in an emotional, heartfelt thank you.

The star of 2016’s class was Miranda Webb, a Baltimore County resident student who attended Strawbridge and was one of 70 students statewide awarded the Michael Cardin scholarship from the Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF).

During her address to classmates, she said, “My success is because you gave me the support and encouragement to become the person I am today.” Webb will be using her scholarship for tuition to attend the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) to obtain a nursing certificate.



Strawbridge, with a diverse student body and 100 percent graduation rate for nearly 10 years, offers an outstanding vocational program and serves preschool through high school students. Autism, emotional disability, intellectual disability, or other specific learning disabilities are mitigated by the school's therapeutic setting and intentionally small classrooms, allowing parents and other stakeholders to partner in the educational process of each child.

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**AWARD-WINNING SENIOR'S GRADUATION CELEBRATED BY
BOARD OF CHILD CARE STUDENTS, STAFF AND RESIDENTS**

Martinsburg, WV. - June 27, 2016 — The Board of Child Care held celebrations for one graduating senior Wednesday, June 1. Sabrina L., a resident at the Campolina Way group home, graduated with honors from the local Spring Mills High School.

Overall, BCC celebrated the graduations of 20 students across three campuses in Baltimore, Denton, MD and Martinsburg.

A number of staff from the Campolina Way home attended the ceremony and others who could not attend the Berkeley County Baccalaureate Service at Spring Mills. There Sabrina was able to give a short speech about her plans after high school.

Sabrina has been involved in the Berkeley County Board of Education's Work Exploration program for the last two years, looks forward to obtaining full time employment this summer, and transitioning to a semi-independent living group home.

Jackie Columbia, BCC's Director of West Virginia Operations, described Sabrina as, "one of the most driven young ladies I've ever met," and pointed to her graduation as an example of, "the success you can have at BCC when you pour your heart and mind into being coachable and letting your inner spirit shine."

While the residential campus in Martinsburg did not have a formal graduation – the on-campus school was absent a graduating senior for the first time in many years – a cookout celebrated the last day of school nonetheless.

Campolina Way group home residents attend local, public high schools. However, program participants living on the Martinsburg campus receive their education through the on-grounds school. Operated in partnership with the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDOE), BCC constructed and maintains the building and provides some of the classroom support and vocational training staff, but the school's certified teachers and principal are employed by the WVDOE.



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BOARD OF CHILD CARE RECOGNIZES HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE AND DENTON CAMPUS PROGRAM PARTICIPANT, JACOB C., AT JUNE 15 CEREMONY

Denton, MD. – June 27, 2016 — The Board of Child Care’s (BCC) Denton, Maryland campus held a celebration June 15 for Jacob C., a residential program participant who graduated from the local North Caroline High School.

BCC celebrated the graduations of 20 students across three campuses in Baltimore, Denton and Martinsburg, WV during the month of June.

Karen McGee, BCC’s Director of Operations in Denton called Jacob, “one of the most socially conscious residents we’ve ever had – he was so concerned about the environment he started a cottage composting station for other residents and staff.”

Jacob is will be busy with driver’s education classes, seeking a summer job, and exploring classes to take at Chesapeake Community College in the fall. Jacob is known on the Denton campus as an avid gardener and an animal lover.

Denton campus youth attend local community schools in Caroline County and a multi-disciplinary professional team provides behavioral health and therapeutic supports. The staff includes childcare workers, clinicians, and supervisors.

The Denton campus consists of two cottages, each containing eight single rooms and utilization of natural light and bright vibrant colors throughout their design. Shared common areas create a sense of community within the unit and provide practical space to teach life skills, such as cooking, laundry, and computer/internet use.

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