

# Family Matters

## The Trip of a Lifetime

*Over the summer, Charmaine Eason, a graduate of the FCS After School AKAdemy and a junior at Northwestern High School, participated in a travel-study program in South Africa with three other Baltimore City students and a chaperone. In this essay, she shares her experiences with Family Matters readers:*

For starters, the plane ride was eighteen hours long. You can probably imagine how excited I was when we finally landed in Johannesburg!

We toured the Apartheid, Petuson and Mandela Museums. I saw a sculpture of a black Madonna at the Regina Moondy Catholic Church.

On a safari, we saw elephants, giraffes, rhinos, gazelles, deer, hippopotamuses and warthogs. All the animals were in their natural state, wild, so we had to stay in the jeep. That didn't stop the animals from coming to the jeep to check us out. While we were looking at the elephants, a fully-grown giraffe walked right up to our jeep. I was amazed at how close he was, and his size.

We visited the Lesedi Cultural Village, where we were greeted with music and authentic African dancing. All the visitors were divided into groups and had their own chief. My

group was the Zulu Tribe. The Zulu chief told us how marriage is arranged in the tribe. It is the parents' responsibility to pick the husband for a princess. He asked who in the group considered themselves to be a princess.

Nobody responded, so I stepped forward. I was crowned princess of The Zulu Tribe and was asked to dance inside the circle with the chief. I felt like a real princess with great power. Dinner that evening included different types of food such as ostrich neck and crocodile. It tasted very

good. My visit to the Lesedi Cultural Village was the highlight of my trip.

When I got to Capetown, I thought that I was dreaming. Capetown is the prettiest place I have ever seen in my life! Two big mountains surround the entire city. At the foot of the mountains is where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. The sunsets were really quite beautiful. We also toured Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was held prisoner for many years.

Not everything was beautiful. We visited a community called Township, where people live in poverty. Their homes are very small, made of mud and built low to the ground. They

*continues on page 3*



*Charmaine as a Zulu princess*

### What's Inside

- Shop Till You Drop . . . . . 2
- What's Happening in Harford . . . . 2
- Event Wrap-Ups . . . . . 3
- Directing Your United Way Pledge . . . 3
- Upcoming Events . . . . . 4

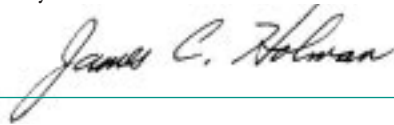
## From the President

The annual United Way appeal is now underway. The United Way of Central Maryland (UW), either directly or through the Combined Federal Campaign for federal governmental employees and the Combined Charity Campaign for state and local governmental employees, raises millions of dollars that are distributed for use in our metropolitan area throughout the year.

We hope your annual giving to Family and Children's Services (FCS) is generous, as private donations are absolutely essential to our ongoing operations and the provision of needed services in Baltimore and all of the surrounding counties. Additionally, we encourage you to make a United Way commitment, and hope that you will consider designating Family and Children's Services for all or a portion of your gift.

Family and Children's Services is a long-time recipient of United Way dollars. UW allocations are not awarded without careful screening and are based on a combination of various merit factors including past successes, quality of staff and ability to deliver needed services. The UW process of allocating substantial support to FCS validates the work of our agency and the effective results of our programs.

United Way of Central Maryland will be changing its approach to its funding allocations during the next few years, and we anticipate there will be a heightened awareness of and interest in those agencies providing vital social services to youth and families. We want to be an active player with United Way in its short- and long-term goals. I assure you that the agency will continue its institutional support of the United Way of Central Maryland.



Family Matters is published by Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland, 4623 Falls Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21209-4914. Phone 410-366-1980; fax 410-366-8530; e-mail [info@fcsmd.org](mailto:info@fcsmd.org); website [www.fcsmd.org](http://www.fcsmd.org).

Family and Children's Services is a private, nonprofit agency serving Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties. We address the needs of families as they relate to single parenting, parent-child relationships, teen pregnancy prevention and parenting, adult relationship problems, child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and issues of aging. FCS is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc., and is a member of the Child Welfare League of America, the National Association for Home Care, and United Way of Central Maryland.

For a copy of the agency's financial statements, call 410-366-1980, or mail your request to Margy Ryan at the address listed above.

Stanley A. Levi, LCSW-C,  
*Executive Director*

### Board of Directors

James C. Holman, *President*  
Hope M. Moore, *VP, President Elect*  
David G.F. Mock, *VP, Secretary*  
Larry D. Pickett, *Treasurer*  
James Downing, *Asst. Secretary*  
Theresa D. Becks, *Asst. Treasurer*  
Charles B. Keenan, Jr., *Immed. Past Pres.*

Anne D. Bailliere  
Jenny H. Baker  
Stephen L. Blum  
Geoffrey R.B. Carey  
Audrey S. Cimino  
Pamela F. Corckran\*

Maria Lin Eng  
Gregory A. Farno  
Guy E. Flynn  
Eleanor G. Hale\*  
Lisa H.R. Hayes  
Page Huddles  
Robert I. Jeffrey  
Jayne Z. Klein  
Armand H. Levin  
Emily Lincoln  
Kevin A. McCreddie  
Martha Post Miller  
Thomas M. Neale  
Robert R. Niccolini  
Carrington C.S. North  
D.W. Wells Obrecht  
Anne Russell O'Connell  
Victor H. Rieger, Jr.\*  
Paula Silverman  
Antoinette P. Williams  
Lynn Wintriss

\*honorary



## Shop Till You Drop

*Igive.com* changes online shopping into philanthropy. Using this website, you can support Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland with a percentage of your online shopping at over 500 stores and outlets. You can even make travel arrangements! There is no additional cost and you can take the donation amount as a tax deduction.

To start your shopping:

- go to [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and register.
  - Select Maryland.
  - Search for Family and Children's Services.
  - Click on Shopping.
- You have the choice of deals/specials, mall directory, and a list of merchants from A to Z. When you make your selection, it will take you directly to the store's website.

So the next time you shop online, please remember to shop through *igive.com*.

## What's Happening in Harford

Family and Children's Services has served Harford County residents for 33 years.

The **Adult Day Care Center**, on the campus of Harford Community College, provides socialization and sensory stimulation and medical supervision for the impaired elderly and adults with disabilities.

FCS offers **general counseling** to families and individuals.

Our **Sexual Abuse Treatment Center** is the only agency in the County to provide a comprehensive long-term treatment program for victims.

We also offer programs for at-risk children and for teens who have entered the criminal justice system.

For more information about Adult Day Care in Harford County, please call 410-838-3222. For all other services, please call 410-838-9000.

## Trip of a Lifetime *continued*

have no electricity. I saw mothers with little children crying because they are hungry. They have no support from their families. AIDS is everywhere. Many relatives die because they have no money to pay for medical care.


On the very last day of my trip, we visited a high school in Atlantis. We talked with students in 12th grade. The students attend school year round. They spoke English and were very interested in hearing about our form of government in the United States.

When we returned to Baltimore, I was extremely happy to see my mother at the airport. She had a dozen roses, which made me feel just like a Princess again. I feel blessed that I have a mother who has a job and can provide for my

little brother and myself. I have a roof over my head, food, clothing – maybe too much. I feel like I have been very selfish, demanding things that are not important. And all my mother wants me to do is go to school, get good grades, and be productive in my life.

What a terrific learning experience this trip to South Africa was! It was the experience of a lifetime. It will stay in my mind to pass on to family, friends and generations to come.

Many thanks to Parenting Plus Associates, Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland, The Annie Roberts Foundation and especially to Mrs. Jolivet, Mrs. Rooks and my mentor, Mrs. Anita Hunter, of the Rho Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa

Alpha Sorority for making this trip possible. I hope that other students are given the opportunity that I had over the summer. 

*Charmaine's mother says that her daughter is more mature since her return from South Africa, and more motivated than ever to do well in school and become the first person in her family to attend college. During the trip, Charmaine learned from another student about Upward Bound, a program to help Baltimore students prepare for college. She was so anxious to participate in the program that she called her mother from South Africa to ask her to sign up right away. Charmaine will have to give up her Saturday dance lessons, because they conflict with the Upward Bound program. But, says Charmaine, she knows what is most important.*

---

## Fundraising Activities Benefit Family and Children's Services

**Whole Foods Market** in Mt. Washington held a five percent day to benefit Family and Children's Services (FCS). Five percent of the day's sales – sales, not profits – were donated to FCS, resulting in a gift of \$3,314 in critical unrestricted funds for the agency. Thanks to all those who shopped that day to support the agency.

**A Mother's Day fundraiser**, the brainchild of Board member Terri Becks, was a first-time event. Participants donated money to Family and Children's Services in honor of their mothers, grandmothers, sisters and friends. Each honoree received a Mother's Day card informing her of the gift in her name. Thanks to Terri and to all those who participated, resulting in donations totalling \$3,770.

**The Golf Tournament**, held in May, was an event that participants

will not soon forget. Golfers were about halfway through the course when thunderstorms erupted. The crowd repaired to the clubhouse for cocktails as the sky erupted. Hail larger than golf balls (hon-

est!) poured onto the green as golfers watched in amazement. Dinner brought more festivities, as awards were announced and raffle prizes were awarded.

The Tournament raised \$10,630.

### Now, More Than Ever

Reductions in funding from United Way and government have forced us to cut staff and eliminate some programs. Unfortunately, while our operating budget shrinks, the need for our programs continues to grow. We are determined to maintain the high level of professional services we offer to families and individuals of all income levels, but we need your help, now more than ever.

**IF YOU GIVE THROUGH UNITED WAY, PLEASE DESIGNATE YOUR GIFT TO FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

agency number

**049**

As one of the 59 agencies in the Community Safety Net of United Way, Family and Children's Services competes for a portion of undirected gifts. If you would like to direct your donation to FCS, please skip section number 2 on the front side of the form, and instead fill out the top left section on the back of your United Way pledge form instead. Thank you.



# Family and Children's Services of Central Maryland

*Guiding Families. Strengthening Communities.*

4623 Falls Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21209-4914  
www.fcsmd.org

*A nonprofit, nonsectarian human services agency  
serving families and individuals in all stages of life*

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID

Baltimore, Maryland  
Permit No. 7544

## Upcoming Events

### Swing Dancing in Harford County

Saturday, October 23<sup>th</sup>  
Bel Air Armory

7:30 - 8:30 p.: Swing Lesson  
8:30 - 11 pm: Dance

*All proceeds benefit the Harford County  
programs of Family and Children's Services.*

Tickets: \$12 in advance  
15 at the door

Please call 410-838-9000 for details.

### "With One Voice" in Carroll County

*An evening of fine music to benefit the  
Carroll County Domestic Violence Safe House*

Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>  
St. John Catholic Church

Featuring: Old Line Statesmen Barber Shop  
Chorus, Children's Chorus of Carroll  
County, Masterworks Chorale, McDaniel  
Gospel Choir and Ted Dix on Organ

Tickets: \$20

Please call 410-840-0406 for details.

*We'll be rolling out the red carpet for*

## THE CHRYSANTHEMUM BALL

Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>  
Scottish Rite Center

This year, our annual black tie-optional gala will evoke the glamour of Hollywood's Golden Age. Festivities will start at 7pm at the fabulous Scottish Rite Center at 3800 N. Charles Street in Baltimore.

The gala will feature a dinner buffet, open bar and dancing with Bobby and the Believers. A silent auction will be held. Period attire is encouraged, daahling.

Tickets are \$125 per person.

### Save These Dates

#### Annual Meeting

Thursday, December 9, 2004  
Admiral Fell Inn

#### Hunt Valley Antiques Show

February 25 - 27, 2005  
Holiday Inn Select  
2004 Greenspring Drive in Timonium

#### Preview Party

Thursday, February 24 at 6 pm  
\$100 per person

#### Charles Faudree Lecture

Author of *French Country Signature*  
Friday, February 25 at 10 am  
\$50 per person

To order tickets to agency-wide events,  
please call 410-366-1980, ext. 232.

*Get updated details of all Family and  
Children's Services events 24/7 by visiting  
www.fcsmd.org.*