

Congratulations!

to Graduating Class #38

Job training can change the life of a disenfranchised woman, but the *Caroline Difference*, changes the lives of women and their entire families and gives hope for a future of promise and stability.



▲ Pharmacy Technician graduate Tameka Haynie is like many of the women of Caroline Center who are working to make a change in the lives of themselves and their families. (Seen here with her family and instructors Ruth Davis, PharmD and Liz Bain, SSND.)



◀ Certified Nursing Assistant, Penny Dunlap delivered an inspirational speech to her fellow graduates, staff and guests at December's graduation.



▲ Culinary graduates, Mariam Barba-De-Vargas and Nadine Moody looked festive in their chef's jackets and pink bandanas.



▲ Ruth Davis, PharmD, drapes a lab coat on the shoulders of a Pharmacy Technician graduate as part of the morning's ceremonies.

Baltimore, Maryland 21202
900 Somerset Street

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Committed to Women • Committed to Work

Caroline Center



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GOOD WORK

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CAROLINE CENTER

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900 Somerset Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

410-563-1303

Fax: 410-563-1302

www.caroline-center.org

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Empowering CNA Students at Hopkins

On Tuesday, February 26, the entire class of Caroline Center's Certified Nursing Assistant students traveled to the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing for a workshop. The inception of this event was the desire of Caroline Center friends, Charlie and Sandy Zeiler, to bring together two educational institutions that they support with enthusiasm. The staffs of Hopkins and Caroline Center worked together to plan the day which was funded by the Zeilers and the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing Alumnae Association.

The theme of the workshop was, *Empowering Our Community*. The students were greeted on arrival and presented with JHU School of Nursing portfolios and escorted into the



Carpenter Room where they enjoyed opening remarks by Workshop Coordinator, Claudine Hennessey, Peace Corps Return Volunteer and nursing student, and a welcome by Dr. Martha Hill, Dean of the JHU School of Nursing.

Many topics were discussed during the presentations including: Violence in the Workplace, Working with Older Adults, Health and Wellness, and Workplace Expectations (How to get and keep a job and get promoted). The presenters included three JHU School of Nursing professors and two graduate nursing students. The sessions were probative and stimulating for students and staff alike and Caroline Center students eagerly asked questions. Following a delicious lunch, groups of Caroline Center students were led on tours of the school's facility by Hopkins Nursing students including state-of-the-art simulation labs.

This exposure to the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing provided Caroline Center students with inspiration and enhanced some of their personal, long-term goals. The sentiments they left with can be summarized by one Caroline Center student's thank-you note:

"Thank you all for having the Caroline Center students to your school and giving so much helpful information. We appreciate very much, all the time and energy you gave to prepare. I look forward to coming back as a student someday." - Linnea

Of Note

■ In December, Santa's helpers were quite busy delivering toys to Caroline Center for the children of our trainees. Dolores Lembach of Rene's Beauty Parlor sponsors a toy drive in her shop every year for our good little girls and boys, as does The Presents for Christmas Program sponsored by the sophomore class from Loyola College. Janet and John Schmick also contributed to the wonderful



Sister Catherine Gugerty, SSND, Santa, and Loyola College Elves

Caroline Center toy shop. Thanks to the Hrdlick and Szymkiewicz families for adopting one of our families.

■ Caroline Center Upholstery has welcomed three staff members. Yvonne Smith has moved to Baltimore from Kentucky and has accepted the position of Manager. Charlie Wiseman recently joined the staff as an Upholstery Instructor and Cynthia McKinnon, who was a Caroline Center student, then an upholstery trainee, has now become a full-time upholsterer.

Dear Friends of Caroline Center,

For those of you who are regular readers of this newsletter you may have noticed that I've moved – from page 1 to page 2! This move was not the result of a coup or hostile takeover, rather an effort to put the focus of the news we send to you where it belongs - on the women we train.

And what great women they are! Jackie, a recent student at Caroline Center, is the mother of a toddler, and pregnant with her second child. She worked weekends at a local restaurant to make ends meet while enrolled at Caroline Center this past winter. Jackie was stretched financially, stressed as a mother and yet a bright and hopeful student who wanted to learn the skills that would lead to a better job and enrich the life of her family. Some of Jackie's classmates realized that she could not afford to pay the modest fees at Caroline Center, much less child care while she worked. So, Jackie's Caroline Center friends pooled their own limited funds to pay Jackie's fees and took turns babysitting. Two weeks before her April 11 graduation Jackie was offered a job in a retail pharmacy and she is off and running! The women at Caroline Center only spend 15 weeks with us and with each other, but many of them become friends for life.

Frequently the women tell us that they have never before been in a "just women" environment and are often nervous when they look around the room on the first day. Watching them grow from an attitude of competition to one of cooperation is something wonderful to behold. And, while it is not as obvious a job skill as knowing how to take a blood pressure or knowing the difference between baking and roasting a chicken, it is an essential skill in the workplace. Nurturing both kinds of skills is crucial to successful employment and what makes Caroline Center the unique program that it is. Thank you for being a part of our success.

Sincerely,

Patricia McLaughlin, SSND
Executive Director

Where Are They Now . . .

Rehana Yasmeen, a member of the Caroline Center Class 37, graduated with a Geriatric Nursing Certificate and a great deal of pride. Rehana was born in Pakistan, achieved a Bachelor of Arts degree there and was employed as a teacher. Her dream was to study to become a doctor. Upon the unfortunate death of her father, Rehana's plans changed. A mother of five, she moved to the United States eight years ago and her desire is to work in a field where she can help people. She has a special interest in working with the disabled. Prior to entering the program at Caroline Center, Rehana was employed at Chimes, Inc. and was enrolled in college courses. She continued working at Chimes on weekends while in training and was a diligent student at Caroline Center. Rehana has obtained an excellent position at Maryland Veteran's Hospital as a Geriatric Nursing Assistant, earning \$19.00 per hour and is enjoying her work there very much. She is currently applying to nursing schools to continue with her medical interests and education



Rehana with Sister Marie McFadden, SSND,
Career Coach

We Be Thankin'!

Thank you to everyone that helped us raise \$63,000 at the ninth annual Green Food and Bands. Over 400 guests gathered at Notre Dame Prep on March 15 for fabulous food by Pepper's Catering and delightful Irish music from Rosnareen. Under the leadership of Tricia Bateman, Director of Special Events, the volunteer committee, chaired by Kathy Palencar, worked long and hard for months to ensure another success. Kudos and thanks to committee members and the many other volunteers and staff members who worked tirelessly the weekend of the event. Many thanks also to the wonderful Sisters at Villa Assumpta who stuffed the invitations.



We are most grateful to the generous support of the event sponsors:



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Thank you on behalf of the women who work to learn and learn to work – they couldn't do it without you!

Your Dollars Touch Lives

This year, the goal for the Annual Fund is \$195,000. Caroline Center operates on a tight, balanced budget and receives no financial support from the Archdiocese or Catholic Charities. Caroline Center depends on the income from cash gifts, grants, gifts of stock, bequests, and in-kind donations to fund operating necessities. Financial support for the Annual Fund is derived from foundations, corporations and individuals. Gifts range from modest to major donor contributions and all donations are most appreciated and critical to the success of our program. The average cost to train one woman at Caroline Center is \$2,700 and no tuition is charged. This tuition-free policy enables Caroline Center to touch the lives of many women for whom it would otherwise be impossible to take that first step toward employment and stability. Your annual fund dollars actually support critical necessities:

- Salaries for staff
- Food for culinary program
- Pharmaceutical supplies
- Medical supplies for nursing program
- Fabric and upholstery tools
- Funds to aid with the expungement of criminal records for some women
- Technology to support all programs
- Building operation and maintenance
- Program enhancements

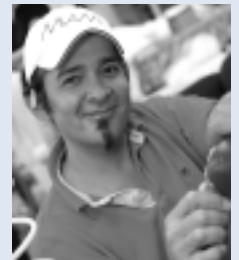
Please consider a contribution to Caroline Center before June 30th. Your gift is crucial, directly supports the women of Caroline Center, and will make a difference in their lives today and, most importantly, tomorrow. Tell a friend about Caroline Center – help us spread the good word.

Of Note continued

■ Recognitions of good work and need continue to be awarded to Caroline Center. The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation awarded \$100,000 over two years to fund operating expenses through the Maryland Small Grants Program. The Marion I. and Henry J. Knott Foundation awarded our health careers program a grant of \$50,000. The Catholic Community of St. Francis donated \$3,000 for the purchase of bus tokens for students. Thanks too, to the community at St. James Episcopal Church, Monkton for their generous support of our bus token program.

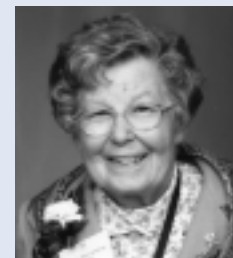
In Memoriam...

Caroline Center deeply mourns the death of Upholstery Instructor, **Raphael Cuestas**. Raphael was a vibrant young husband and father who brought many skills to the upholstery shop and enjoyed training the ladies in the fine art of upholstery.



Raphael Cuestas

In early December, Caroline Center lost a great friend and former staff member, Sr. **Doris Ann Gentry, SSND**. Sr. Doris Ann came on board in May 1995 more than a year before Caroline Center opened. She spent those first 16 months recruiting women for the program, overseeing the



Doris Ann Gentry, SSND

renovation of our building, and assisting Sr. Kathleen Feeley in shaping the vision for the program. By the time she retired in November 2001, Sr. Doris

Ann had served as Caroline Center's first Education Director and later as Bookkeeper. Even after her retirement Sr. Doris Ann continued her great interest in our program and would frequently drop by with "friends" she thought could help support us. Doris Ann was a vital member of the Caroline Center family and her community of the School Sisters of Notre Dame which she served with distinction.