

# Empowering Women to Step Away from Poverty

**The average cost of training one woman at Caroline Center is \$3,000.**

**Donate today on line at**

[www.caroline-center.org](http://www.caroline-center.org)

Now more than ever, contributions to Caroline Center are critical. We depend on the kindness of our friends to enable us to provide tuition-free, career and life skills training for women who are in the depths of poverty. What do your dollars buy in these unstable times anyway? At Caroline Center, your dollars buy empowerment, self-esteem, job skills and life skills training, and the confidence to risk turning a life inside out and upside down to step away from poverty. The commitment to provide tuition-free career and life skills training to disenfranchised women is priceless, yet it does have a price. The average cost of training one woman at Caroline Center is \$3,000. There are no frills, and no bells and whistles at Caroline Center, just the strong work ethic of a small staff sponsored and inspired by the School Sisters of Notre Dame who teach us all that through education, we can change lives. We work hard to inspire hard work and achievement among our trainees so that they may enjoy a resurrection. We feed the hungry spirits and engage eager minds, and we need your help. Please consider a donation to empower a woman today! Our fiscal year will close on June 30, 2009 and contributions of any amount are most gratefully appreciated and do make such a difference in enabling women to step away from poverty and go forth to a better life.



900 Somerset Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
CAROLINE CENTER

*Committed to Women • Committed to Work*

**Caroline Center**



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# GOOD WORK

Caroline Center

*Committed to Women • Committed to Work*

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## CAROLINE CENTER

*Sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame*

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## Good, Better, Best... What Are the Benchmarks of Success?

The measurement of success can be subjective at times. At Caroline Center, we measure our success in the numbers of disenfranchised women who come to our door for help and who work hard to graduate with career skills, life skills, and the confidence to embark on a journey rife with uncertainties. For our session beginning in late April, we had double the normal amount of applicants. And we are grateful to hear from our alumnae that many of them have indeed moved from lives of poverty to fulfilling careers and a better quality of life for themselves and their families.

Caroline Center has had the benefit recently of being objectively and independently evaluated and statistically tracked. Public Private Ventures' The Benchmarking Project conducted a study which compared Caroline Center's work with 150 other workforce development organizations across the nation. In the November 2008 report, which analyzed one year's worth of data,

Caroline Center's job placement rate was in the 74th percentile nationally of all programs surveyed. The national median for job placement in workforce development organizations was 53%. Caroline Center's 3-month retention rate of recently employed women is 73%.



Other organizations retention rate is 36%. Program characteristics compared included program services offered, cohort size, years in workforce development, internship placements and financial support from performance-based funding contracts.

The quantifiable data from The Benchmarking Project illustrates the objective impact of Caroline Center's work and the success of its graduates. Job Placement,

employment outcomes and a national comparison of similar organizations provide a detailed analysis of the program objectives. Caroline Center is proud and at the same time humbled by the outcomes of this objective study. Our mission is strong and continues to be inspired by the rich history of the School Sisters of Notre Dame who believe that if you educate a woman, you educate a society.

### JOB PLACEMENT

Caroline Center - 74%  
National Median - 53%

### 3 MONTH RETENTION RATE

Caroline Center - 73%  
National Median - 36%

## From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Caroline Center,

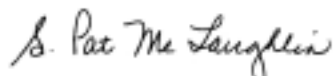
How many conversations have you had recently that ended with the words: “it’s a sign of the times”? Every closed business, every tale of a lost job, every foreclosure sign on a house reminds us of how fragile things are these days.

A sign of the times manifested itself at Caroline Center the week of March 16. That week found staff members interviewing 55 women a day for 5 days straight – two hundred seventy-five women with hope in their pockets coming to apply for admission to our training session that began on April 16. Many more than that, about 600, had called during February to sign up for the information sessions; mercifully, they did not all come to apply! We listened to story after story of why THIS program at THIS time was the answer to a prayer, a one last chance, a golden opportunity, a way out. We sat knee to knee with women whose stories we’ve all seen in one form or another on TV over the past few months. We listened... and we could feel our hearts breaking. Because the reality is that we could only accept a fraction of these women – sixty or so – because of limits of space and staff and resources. In some ways, our “life” is as fragile as theirs.

But we, too, carry hope in our pockets. An e-mail from Joann informs us that she just celebrated her one year anniversary as a GNA at Charlestown. Lydia is now supervising the interns we send to her at Rite Aid – she was an intern there last year this time. Jenny is the head cook on the Spirit of Baltimore and has just hired Vonda, another graduate, to work for her. On April 9, 53 women graduated from Caroline Center beaming with pride, their pockets brimming over with hope.

It is your support that makes the hope possible – in all of our pockets— and we are most grateful!

Sincerely,



Patricia McLaughlin, SSND  
Executive Director

## Of Note

■ Caroline Center has enjoyed the benefits of parish and school outreach programs. **The Academy of the Holy Angels** in Demarest, New Jersey was looking for an outreach project for students. Since Holy Angels is an SSND sponsored school, they had a little familiarity with Caroline Center and learned more about us from our web site. The students suggested an ‘out of uniform day’ whereby students could make a contribution to wear fun clothing to school with the proceeds being donated to Caroline Center. Our Angels in New Jersey contributed a whopping \$1,070 to Caroline Center for this wonderful effort! And locally, **St. Joseph’s Parish** in Cockeysville, contributed \$1,500 from its Good Samaritan Fund to Caroline Center to support Financial Literacy programs

■ The Christmas Spirit is very moving at Caroline Center each year. Thanks again to our Christmas Elves from Loyola College who delivered toys from the Presents for Christmas student program to be shared with families of Caroline Center trainees. Also, **Dolores Lembach of Rene’s Beauty Parlor** again managed to amass a huge number of toys from their client donations which made for many happy Christmases in the homes of Caroline Center women. Our thanks to **Janet and John Schmick** who also contributed to a merrier Christmas for Caroline Center families. And we are most grateful to **Laurie Hutt** who collects and donates toiletries for the ladies at Christmas and for each training session throughout the year!

■ Caroline Center provides a learning environment for not only our women but also for interns from areas colleges. This semester four young women have been working with staff in a variety of capacities. Angela Hood, a current Masters degree Program in Human Services Administration student in a joint Coppin State University/University of Baltimore program is working as an intern at Caroline Center. She is analyzing data and conducting funding research. Angela is presently investigating potential funding for Caroline Center from the Economic Stimulus Bill and the State of Maryland. Erin Richardson, a student in Loyola College’s Pastoral Counseling program, assists staff counselor Margaret Mary Kennedy, OP, with individual counseling as well as working with small groups. Sherrita Robinson, and Ashley Olds both of Coppin State University, work with social worker Hortense Birchett to help women with issues such as child care and other emergency services.

## On the Move...

Caroline Center welcomes **Alexandra Blond** to Caroline Center Upholstery as Manager. Ms. Blond comes to Caroline Center with experience in Business Development and Marketing and is very enthusiastic about expanding our client base and improving productivity. We bid farewell to Herb Davis, Master Upholsterer and welcome his replacement, Charles Richardson.

■ The Pharmacy Tech program bids adieu to **Dr. Ruth Davis** who for 5 years has managed this program and its trainees and served as the Instructor. Dr Ruth inspired hard work among her students and realized very successful certification rates among graduates. Under her leadership, Caroline Center was certified by the Maryland Board of Pharmacy. Caroline Center welcomes Mr. Theodore Cavacos, PD as our Pharmacy Tech Instructor. Mr. Cavacos’ experience includes work in retail pharmacy as well as teaching; Dr. Cavacos also holds a JD from the University of Baltimore.

■ **Tricia Bateman**, Director of Special Events and Communications has accepted another position closer to home and her young family. She did an outstanding job managing Green Food & Bands for the past two years enabling Caroline Center to benefit from the substantial proceeds. Tricia will however continue to lend her expertise in graphic design to Caroline Center for our publications.

# Where Are They Now?

Hello Sister Marie and Caroline Center Staff,

I apologize for not keeping in touch as I should have done, but I have been very busy with work and family. I will never forget the care, concern, and your belief in me that I could be successful in the health care field. It has truly been a joy to care for the senior population. I have enjoyed giving the seniors the love and care they deserve. I will never get tired or regret the compassion I have shown to my patients. My one year employment anniversary at Charlestown Retirement Community was on February 27, 2009 and I received a one-year pin, a letter of congratulations, and a "Job Well Done" monetary bonus along with an Erickson Gift Card. In addition, I am qualified for the annual year-end bonus! Thank you again for the skills and knowledge I received at the Caroline Center and I look forward to visiting you all soon.

Gratefully yours,

Joyce Vincent, *Class 37 Geriatric Nursing Assistant*



# Irish Eyes Are Smiling!



On March 14, 2009, Caroline Center sponsored the **10th Annual Green Food & Bands** fundraiser at Notre Dame Preparatory School. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and financially supported Green Food & Bands and helped us raise over \$59,000! In these difficult economic times, loyal long-time supporters and new friends enabled Caroline Center to score a financial success. Under the leadership of Tricia Bateman, Director of Special Events, the volunteer committee worked tirelessly for months to acquire tempting auction items and provide a memorable evening. We are especially grateful to our Event Sponsors:

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**On behalf of all the women of Caroline Center, may the Lord bless you and bless you kindly.**

# My Commitment to Caroline Center

by Colonel Kim Ward

*Chief of Operations Bureau Baltimore County Police Department*

*Caroline Center Trustee and Development Committee Chair*



I have been volunteering with the Caroline Center for two years. My initial attraction to the organization

centered around the mission: To assist unemployed and underemployed women to acquire the discipline, knowledge, and skills necessary to find work in a career with potential for growth and advancement, thus creating a future full of hope for themselves and their families. A mission focused on stewardship and empowerment can lead to so many wonderful outcomes for the individual, family and, ultimately, the community. I have witnessed the results of this spirit of action in my own world.

My younger brother, Christopher, lived a beautiful life for his first eighteen years. During his senior year at Towson Catholic High School he was diagnosed with a major mental illness. The disease affected his life and the lives of many others. His positive attitude, self-esteem, and sense of humor changed dramatically after his diagnosis. The correct medicine helped but the most important change in his life came when he gained employment. The fact that he was working enhanced his view of the world, gave him confidence and impacted his ability to reach out and assist others. As Seth Parker stated, "You may not have saved a lot of money in your life, but if you have saved a lot of heartaches for other folks, you are a rich person."

Caroline Center is committed through its mission, goals, and objectives to help shape the community through worship and ministry. They do this through the influence of Jesus' life of compassion and justice. This impacts the women and their families. It is an honor to be part of this great program.