



February 2016

## Pictures Tell the Story: Our First Weeks at Gibbons Commons/St. Agnes Hospital

Caroline Center's newest trainees delved into their coursework and preparation to become certified nursing assistants/geriatric nursing assistants on January 7, 2016, in beautiful temporary space at St. Agnes Hospital in West Baltimore. As renovations to the permanent Gibbons Commons space are underway, we are grateful to St. Agnes Hospital and to a host of individuals who helped us prepare to welcome women to our growing Caroline Center family of healthcare professionals.

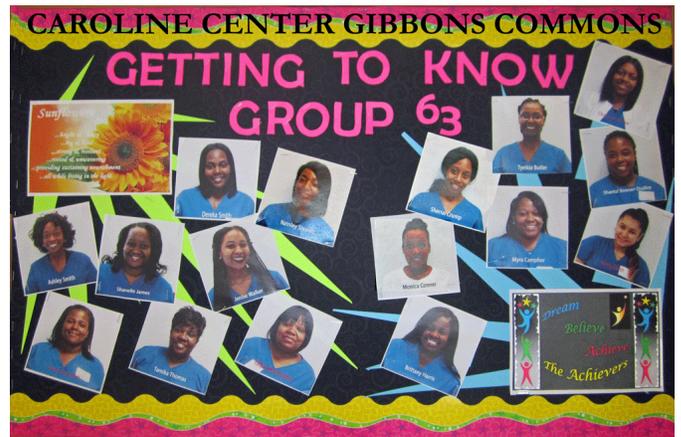
We want to especially thank:

- ♥ Caroline Center Technology Director **Ann Cunningham** for her expertise in coordinating and managing the entire move and ensuring that all of the technology was in place and up and running on the first day of class
- ♥ **Jonathan Melnick** and the staff of **Jonathan Melnick Auctioneers & E.T. Newell** who literally opened the doors to their warehouse and invited us to take anything and everything we needed to make the new program space comfortable and functional for our new trainees, teachers, and staff
- ♥ The **Institute of Notre Dame (IND)** for donating five sets of lockers and **Greg Carrick** in IND's Buildings & Grounds Department for single-handedly moving all of the lockers from IND's 5<sup>th</sup> floor to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor at St. Agnes Hospital
- ♥ **Villa Assumpta/Maria Health Care Center**, **Betty Koehn, SSND**, and **Grace Sciamanna, SSND**, who donated nursing skills lab supplies and provided a truck and two volunteers to help us move

- ♥ Caroline Center Trustee **Joy Howard** and her dedicated **UPS** team for donating a truck and helping to move furniture to our new space – all during UPS’s busiest season of the year
- ♥ Employees of **Steel & Wire Products Company, Inc.** and **Scott Buedel** who helped to move furniture to our new location
- ♥ **Caroline Center staff** (Gibbons Commons & Somerset Street) and their families for providing assistance and for continuing to support our trainees and one another throughout the process



*A smiling welcome to all*



*First Group at Caroline Center Gibbons Commons*



*CCGC Staff - from left Holly Knipp, Tonya Rosebrough, Mary Ellen Vanni, Toni Moore-Duggan, Sr Kathleen Shannon, DC, Yvonne Moten, Sr Pat McLaughlin, SSND*



*Some of the students and the CNA teachers*



*Some of the students in Essential Skills Class*



*Student and Computer Skills Teacher, Victor Merriweather*



*Student in Resume Writing Class*



*Students in Nursing Assistant Theory Class*



*Students practice proper way to weigh a patient*



*Students learn and practice the proper way to make a bed*



*Teacher demonstrates how to make a bed with a patient*



*Teacher demonstrates proper way to take a pulse*



*Students practice taking pulses*



*Teacher demonstrates how to care for a bedridden patient*



*Students practice with their stethoscopes*

## Generous Donors Help Build Caroline Center's Capacity to Serve

When Caroline Center opened its doors on January 7, 2016, to its first class of CNA/GNA trainees in donated temporary space at St. Agnes Hospital, we knew that it was a calling and a blessing to be able to serve women in need closer to their homes in West Baltimore. Together with our partner, St. Agnes Hospital, generous donors are making this additional program possible. St. Agnes Hospital is providing temporary instructional and administrative space available to Caroline Center at the hospital at no cost. When the renovation of the Gibbons Commons property is completed, Caroline Center will be able to move into the rent-free refurbished space permanently and continue to grow its education and career training program to serve nearly 100 CNA/GNA candidates each year. As Caroline Center moves forward with its bold plan to make its program available to more women in need, we welcome site visits and we remain grateful for donors' increased generous support.



Here are just a few examples of how donors are helping to make Caroline Center at Gibbons Commons/St. Agnes Hospital a success:

- ❖ A **generous foundation** that had already given Caroline Center funds for the current fiscal year, recently gave an additional \$75,000 to be used to help establish the new program site at Gibbons Commons.
- ❖ On February 10, 2016, Caroline Center was notified by the **Marion I. and Henry J. Knott Foundation**, located here in Baltimore, that their board approved Caroline Center's grant application for \$50,000. The grant request was specifically for the purpose of launching a second program site in West Baltimore in order to better serve residents and to provide an increased number of career training opportunities for Baltimore City women.
- ❖ Upon hearing about Caroline Center's new program site, a **generous family** donated an additional \$5,000, saying that they were "upping the ante" after

reading about Caroline Center’s call to serve more women at the Gibbons Commons location.

- ❖ A **first-time donor** to Caroline Center was inspired to make a donation of \$250 saying, “when I heard of you on the radio and learned that you are serving the same West Baltimore community where this past spring violent demonstrations proved a great need for this very same woman-power, I made a note and looked you up so I could demonstrate my support with this check.”

Thank you, Caroline Center donors and St. Agnes Hospital! Because of you, we are able to fulfill, as Sr. Pat McLaughlin has said, “a call to serve in a place where Mother Caroline Friess, herself, might have directed us.”

### ***What’s New in The Breakroom?***

Building a better Baltimore will take each of us – beginning with the one we see every day in the mirror. New Year, new beginnings. Here’s our *Litany for a Better Baltimore.*

“Litany for a Better Baltimore,” was published in “Maryland Voices-Your Turn” in *The Baltimore Sun*, January 30, 2016.



### ***Caroline Center Hosts Press Conference***

On Friday, February 5, 2016, Caroline Center-Somerset Street was the host site for a press conference held by the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition’s (MCRC) to release its new report “Making the Grade? – An Analysis of For-Profit Colleges and Career Schools in Maryland.”



The press conference, which drew regional media attention, featured remarks by Caroline Center graduate India Dickens, CNA/GNA, Caroline Center Executive Director Patricia McLaughlin, SSND, Job Opportunities Task Force Executive Director Elisabeth Sachs, and Maryland Consumer

Rights Coalition Executive Director Marceline White.

The press conference was covered in the media by WBAL TV 11, WBFF Fox 45, The Daily Record, and The Washington Post.

## Alumnae News

- ♥ All six Caroline Center graduates who completed their clinical internships at Maria Health Care Center were hired immediately for permanent positions at the center – a real vote of confidence in the Caroline Center program and very high praise for our career professionals. Congratulations to Caroline Center graduates **Hamida Ebadi**, **Tamara Stokes**, **Brittnee Talbert**, **Kierra Taylor**, **Janice Williams**, and **Armani Yoes**.
- ♥ Thirteen Caroline Center alumnae recently enrolled in the Patient Care Tech (PCT) course at Baltimore City Community College, a valuable opportunity for professional advancement made possible through an EARN Partnership Grant.
- ♥ Three Caroline Center graduates volunteered their time to speak with the first group of trainees at Caroline Center at Gibbons Commons/St. Agnes Hospital. New CNA/GNA trainees in Class 63 heard from graduates and Patient Care Technicians **Nicholle Chatman**, Class 47, Good Samaritan Hospital; **Brittany Harvin**, Class 53, Johns Hopkins Hospital; and, **Sharonne Marshall**, Class 59, St. Agnes Hospital. We are grateful to our graduates for sharing their Caroline Center stories and career path journeys

with our new trainees and for encouraging them to make the most of all the opportunities that Caroline Center offers.

- ♥ Congratulations to Caroline Center recent graduate **Daphney Edmonds**, PT, and **Kiara Parker**, CPhT, who is employed as a lead technician at Walgreens Pharmacy at St. Joseph Medical Center of Maryland, for being chosen to represent Caroline Center in a feature story that aired on WBAL 1090AM radio in December.

### In the News

- ❖ On December 29, Executive Director **Patricia McLaughlin**, SSND, attended a reception at PayPal for organizations that were recipients of generous grants from the company in 2015. Caroline Center is grateful to Board of Trustees member **Jennifer Brune Speargas** for sponsoring our grant application.
- ❖ Congratulations to Board of Trustees member **Lisa Benson**, who recently was promoted to president and CEO of Mary Kraft Staffing and HR Solutions, a Hunt Valley-based firm. Lisa is the third president and CEO of the company, which was founded and led by Mary Kraft from 1989 until her death in 2012. Mary Kraft's second president and CEO, Linda Balestrini, retired from the company in 2015. Congratulations, Lisa!