

# Wendt Center *today*

Spring News

April 2012

## Wendt Center in the News

Executive Director **Susan Ley** was interviewed along with [Carol Geithner](#), author of "If Only," and Elizabeth Kelly, Wendt Center intern, about "Children Grieving the Death of a Parent," on the **Diane Rehm Show**. [Click here to hear the show](#)



**Rashida Twiggs-Clegg**, LPC, LICSW has joined our staff as a Child and Family Therapist at our SE Office. Rashida has strong experience working with children and youth and is pursuing a doctorate in Counseling Psychology.

**May 9, 2012 is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.**

## Upcoming Events and News Briefs

### Thomas Circle Singers

Support the Wendt Center by attending "The Joy of

## Register NOW!

### 2012 Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin DC



[Click here to watch our new camp video!!](#)

The 2012 Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin DC season is here. Camp weekend is Friday, June 8 - Sunday, June 10, 2012. Applications from male volunteers are still being accepted! You must be able to attend the new volunteer training on Saturday, May 19th. For campers, there are only 56 total slots available, so please make sure you register your potential camper as soon as possible. For more information [click here](#).

## Lights of Hope

Many families in the Washington Metropolitan rely on the professional and compassionate support provided through the Wendt Center's **Lights of Hope** candlelight vigil program. On March 15, 2012, Virginia Henderson, her family and community gathered to honor the life,



Singing"

**Sat., May 5, 2012** --7:30pm  
at St. Columba's Episcopal  
Church (4201 Albermarle  
Street, NW). For more  
information about tickets [Click  
here](#)

### Voices of Now

May 8, 2012 at Arena  
Stage. [Click here to  
register](#)

### New Groups

- Remembering Mom:  
Daughters Grieving  
Mothers  
[Click for information about  
Groups](#)

Crime Victims Right Week-  
April 23-27, 2012. We have  
been asked to participate in  
the 2012 District Exhibit again  
this year. To learn more  
about 2012 Crime Victims  
Rights Week [click here.](#)

### We need YOU on Admin Night!



These are monthly  
opportunities for volunteers  
and/or students to provide  
administrative support for all  
three centers at our main  
office. They will assimilate  
brochures, pamphlets,  
training materials, marketing  
packages and clinical files.  
This is a good opportunity for  
high school students to earn  
some of their required  
volunteer hours needed for  
school. For more information,  
contact Kecia Hill, Volunteer  
Coordinator on 202-204-5025  
or email

[khill@wendtcenter.org](mailto:khill@wendtcenter.org)

### Dates for Admin Nights are:

- Wednesday, April 25th
- Wednesday, May 30th
- Wednesday, June 27th

memory and 35<sup>th</sup> birthday of her son Antwain Henderson who was murdered last year. Ms. Henderson felt that the vigil was a necessary part of her healing journey "*The purpose of the vigil was accomplished by celebrating Antwain's birthday and having a bit of contentment in him being set free. It was a bittersweet event.*"

When sudden, perhaps violent loss is thrust upon a family or community, a ritual of remembrance that brings people together in their grief may offer a critical opportunity to begin the healing process.

Through the Wendt Center's **Lights of Hope** program, staff and volunteers organize and support candlelight vigils and other healing rituals requested by community members throughout the District. Through these vigils, family members and neighbors share their grief and memories and gain a sense of connectedness that is so critical to easing the pain of loss. They also receive vital information about resources that may be available to them to help them recover from their trauma or access essential and basic needs. To learn more about Lights of Hope, e-mail Kecia Hill at [khill@wendtcenter.org](mailto:khill@wendtcenter.org).

## Wendt Center Helps *Other* Chevy Chase Circle Crash Victims

Following the horrific, fiery car crash at Chevy Chase Circle where two DC teenagers were killed, Wendt Center clinicians provided crisis intervention services to DC students who knew the victims of the crash.

Perhaps the largest category of trauma victims are those "silent" victims who have witnessed or are directly affected by traumatic events. They are often children, and they are often overlooked, with sometimes devastating consequences.

The therapist taught basic coping skills, including positive imaging techniques, control breathing, and positive self talk to the group, and finished with a memorial art project for the deceased.

## Update on C.H.I.L.D.

Last year, the Center united all of its children's services under one program (C.H.I.L.D. - Child Healing to Improve Learning and Development) and launched a major expansion piece to bring



mental health services to underserved children at partner locations. Eight child-serving organizations have formalized a partnership with the Center to receive on-site clinical services for their young clients. These include: World Mission, Friendship and Cesar Chavez Public Charter High Schools, Bell Multicultural High School, Lincoln Middle School, High Road School, Communities in Schools and Arena Stage.

Our goal is to expand the reach of C.H.I.L.D. (Child Healing to Improve Learning and Development) to better respond to the needs of children

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Center's work.

and youth in the District. By bringing these services into community organizations where children already are, barriers to accessing services are being removed. Stay tuned for more about this important initiative.



Click Here

## Recruiting on Capitol Hill

On Thursday, March 29, 2012 new volunteer and Capitol Hill staffer, Angela Melvin organized and hosted a lunch time recruitment event for Capitol Hill staff at the United States Capitol-House of Representatives, Cannon Building. Twenty House of Representative Staffers including Press Secretaries, Executive Assistants, and Legislative Assistants, as well as some interns were in attendance to learn more about Volunteering at Camp Forget Me Not/Camp Erin DC. Camp Director, Stephanie Handel was on hand to answer questions about camp. Thank You to Angela for a job well done!

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