

Wendt Center *today*

August 2013

Ten Volunteers Earn "Golden Ticket" to Benefit

Our annual Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin DC volunteer fundraiser exceeded all expectations, surpassing a \$30,000 goal to raise over \$36,000 in support of Camp. The following volunteers each raised \$1,000 or more, earning the right to a Golden Ticket to the Benefit.

Sandra Barnes
Jackie Bottash
Rachel Burton
Tom Cooke
Candice Evans
Teri Gennarelli
Kristen Serumgard
Donna Tish
Ellen Vargyas
Andrew Wone

Congratulations to ALL those who helped us achieve this feat to ensure that our magnificent Camp stays free for all the children who need it.

Many people contributed to the success of Camp. [Click here to see who they are and to appreciate them along with us!](#)



Benefit Committee Announces General George W. Casey, Jr. Will Be Keynote Speaker

This year's Benefit Co-chairs **Georgine Anton, Nancy Balboa, Margaret Griffin and Darcy Langdon** announce with great pleasure that **General George W. Casey, Jr.** will serve as keynote speaker at our 38th Anniversary

Benefit on Tuesday, November 12 (the day after Veteran's Day). Charismatic, timely speakers have been a mainstay of the Wendt Center's annual benefit. Having launched a formal mental health program for veterans and active duty military for the first time this year, the Center is especially honored that General Casey, an advocate and powerful force for increasing mental health services in the military, will share his thoughts and experiences with our supporters. General Casey served as 36th Army Chief of Staff from 2007 to 2011 and was Commanding General of the Multinational Force in Iraq from 2004 to 2007. He has witnessed and experienced profound loss and trauma on a professional and personal level and will bring a rich, highly compelling perspective to our program.

For information about this year's benefit, visit www.wendtcenter.org or contact Ricarda Dowling (202-204-5010/rdowling@wendtcenter.org) for sponsorship opportunities.



"Beautiful to see..."

Letter from a Camper's Mom

"I want to send a thank you to all the staff and volunteers that made this weekend a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for my daughter to see and express that she is not alone in the loss of her father. I thought she would be quiet and reserved and not want to tell me much because that is usually the demeanor she takes on when we start speaking about her father and her loss. But she was FAR from that.

As soon as she walked off the bus, she grabbed her sign and her suitcase and proceeded to show me all that she had received, made and done while at Camp. I heard all about her buddy and the boats while calling out her father's name and the pet that she was able to be around and on and on and on. I had no need to ask a question because she was



Board President Kathryn Hanley (second from left) and Board member Cheryl Keamy visit Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin DC and spend time with the 59 children who attended.

[Click here to view our Camp video.](#)

[Click here to view the 2013 slideshow.](#)



Former Board President Tom Cooke explores new role as table bus captain at Camp 2013.

New Partnerships Expand Center's Reach into Populations Impacted by Trauma

The Wendt Center has forged innovative new partnerships with: the **National Veterans Center** at The George Washington University Student Veteran Services Center to provide individual and group mental health services to veterans; **SAFE** (Survivors and Advocates for

so happy to share. She shared with me how some of her new friends had lost a parent and what they lost that parent to.

It was just beautiful to see and watch her talk about this week-end and I felt that the very least I could do was send this so you know how much your work means not only to the campers, but to the stressed-out parents they come home to that are put at ease that their children were nurtured from the inside out on some topics we find difficult to discuss."

Increasing Capacity to Serve DC Latino Population

The Wendt Center welcomes new full-time therapist Ivonne Miranda, LPC. Yvonne's native fluency in Spanish and many years of experience serving Latino populations will allow the Center to better respond to the needs of the District's Spanish-speaking community.

Upcoming Events

A new LGBT spouse loss group was launched on August 12. The group is still accepting new members.

ssmith@wendtcenter.org

Volunteer Appreciation

Empowerment) to provide on-site counseling to children and adults at one of its two domestic violence intake centers; **SANE** (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners) and **NVRDC** (Network for Victims of Recovery DC) to receive referrals of survivors of sexual assault. Thank you to the **Rotary Club** and **DC's Victims Assistance Fund** for their support of this work.

Our **C.H.I.L.D.** (Child Healing to Improve Learning and Development) program has established *twenty* partnerships under recent grants and is making good on its promise to expand and seek out children in need wherever they are so that the debilitating consequences of trauma and grief can be addressed. As a result, hundreds of children will be receiving healing services who would otherwise have fallen through the cracks. New partners include **Excel Academy Public Charter School, E.L. Haynes Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, Cooke Elementary School, Miner Elementary School, Takoma Education Campus, Walker Jones, Ballou Stay, and Capital City Public Charter School.**

"Working on-site and in close partnership with key organizations who serve a population exposed to trauma that we are trying to reach is a truly effective way for us to bring added value and to extend the impact of our healing services across the District," says Executive Director **Michelle Palmer**. "We are so grateful to our funders and donors whose generosity is allowing us to grow and leverage our expertise in this way."

Grace Metz, LICSW - Honoring 20 Years of Healing Service to Wendt Center Clients



Grace Metz, bottom, second from left, surrounded by Wendt staff

Thursday, Oct. 24th
khill@wendtcenter.org

2013 Annual Benefit
Tuesday, November 12
rdowling@wendtcenter.org



Intern Farewell

Thank you to departing graduate interns **Danielle Walsh** and **Emily Houck** (above) and summer youth interns from the Washington DC Police Foundation **Paige Lipscome** and **Cortaisha Moore** (below).



We wish all of them well as they pursue their careers.

The Wendt Center staff congratulates and honors **Grace Metz** as she celebrates 20 years of dedicated service to the Wendt Center. Grace epitomizes the caring spirit of the Center. She has restored hope to many wounded spirits and hearts over these past 20 years. The Center's highly regarded, extremely competitive clinical internship program owes its quality and prestige in large part to Grace's nurturing oversight. This year, over 70 applications were received for 5 slots. Thank you, Grace, for your kindness, your compassion, and the genuine love you have for the work you do and the people you serve.

Wendt Presents at U.S. Attorney's Conference on Children Exposed to Violence

Research shows that untreated exposure to trauma in children increases their vulnerability to negative behavioral outcomes and the risk of eventual involvement with the justice system. Recently, Wendt Center staff participated in the planning and implementation of a national conference on children exposed to violence funded by the **US Department of Justice** and coordinated by the **DC US Attorney's Office**. The overarching goal of this conference was to bring together service providers (court officials, social workers, teachers, etc.) to examine the devastating impact of trauma (including domestic violence, trafficking, homicide, abuse, and other violence) on children and how they can help these children cope, heal, and avoid involvement in the justice system. Some 350 professionals working with children ages 0-18 from around the nation participated in the conference. **Stephanie Handel** presented on why and how to integrate play therapy into work with children exposed to violence and trauma.

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Support the Wendt Center's work.