

December, 2014



*The staff of the Wendt Center wishes you and your loved ones a beautiful, peaceful, and joyful holiday.*

**Happy holidays! Thank you for your support!**

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### **A message from the Executive Director...**

The phrase "happy holidays" is used frequently this time of year. It is a lovely sentiment, but there are many among us who will not have a happy holiday. While magical for many, holidays can also be extremely difficult.

When friends and family come together at long-held traditional events, it underscores the absence of those who have died. Grief and loss are often more acutely felt this time of year. For others, tensions can rise during what some experience as a particularly stressful time. The risk for emotions to flare and domestic violence situations to erupt can be heightened.

As you send your holiday cards, please take a moment to reach out to someone who may be struggling and let them know that you are thinking of them. And, of course, as always, should you or someone you know need some additional support, please know that the Wendt Center is here and waiting to help.

*Michelle*

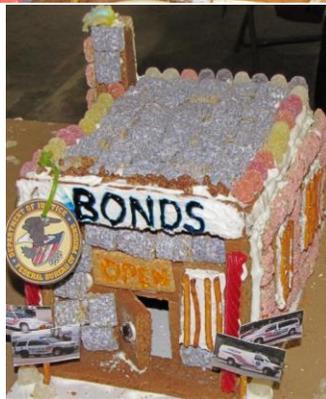
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## Board Member Carol Pensky named *Washingtonian of the Year!*

**Carol Pensky** has been selected "*Washingtonian of the Year*" for her work with the Wendt Center! It is no exaggeration to say that the Center is here today in large part thanks to her passionate commitment. She has been instrumental in guiding its course for decades, reinforcing its commitment to the District's most underserved and impoverished neighborhoods. She provided the seed money for the Center's children's programming. Thousands of children access services at the Wendt Center because of her tireless efforts. Carol has lit in so many others a passion for our mission and an understanding of the power of our work to change lives. We are thrilled to congratulate her for this honor!

The January edition of *Washingtonian* will be out shortly! (Check [www.washingtonian.com](http://www.washingtonian.com) to read the article.)



## Volunteer Appreciation

**Bobby Osberger** and **Amy Copeland** were honored as this year's Volunteers of the Year at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event.

For 8 years, Amy has been producing a beautiful visual record of camp and other Wendt Center events through her amazing photographs. Bobby has been a faithful Camp buddy for 6 years, working with our youngest and most vulnerable, and generously supporting the Center in many ways.

Our guests enjoyed food from Cuba Libre and a lovely program designed to thank our fantastic volunteers. We are incredibly grateful to Amy and Bobby and to *all* our volunteers for all they have given and continue to give in support of our work.

## Gingertown

The Wendt Center was one of six beneficiaries of **David Schwartz Architects** annual Gingertown Project. We also got to participate in the building of Gingertown. Volunteer of the Year *Bobby Osberger*, Development Director *Ricarda Dowling*, Volunteer Coordinator *Kecia Hill*, and Executive Director *Michelle Palmer* were assigned the yummy task of building the bail bonds building, and while a little outside their skill set, they definitely rose to the task. It was one of the year's "sweetest" moments!

## Staff Honor

**Chaz Kohrieser**, Clinical Coordinator of *Resilient Scholars*, the school-based component of our **C.H.I.L.D.** program, was nominated for DC Behavioral Health Association's *Founders Award*. Congratulations, Chaz!

## Butterfly Release

NBC's **Barbara Harrison** once again served as emcee of our annual Butterfly Release held on September 20. This is a beautiful, family-friendly and healing community event. If you couldn't come, don't miss it next year!

## Catalogue for Philanthropy Gala

The Wendt Center's Voices of Now ensemble was invited to perform at this year's annual **Catalogue for Philanthropy** gala for over 200 of the catalogue's donors and supporters.

## New Staff

Welcome aboard **Shelly Hundiwal**, Director of Program Operations, **April Preston** and **Ericka Gordon**, therapists.

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## We need a thing or two...!

Do you want to help? If you can supply us with any of the following items for use by children in our school-based therapy groups, we would be extremely grateful! Please contact **Volunteer Coordinator Kecia Hill** ([kahill@wendtcenter.org](mailto:kahill@wendtcenter.org))

- magazine clippings (words, places, animals, people, things, etc.)
- shoeboxes or boxes that size with lids;
- any extra stickers, hodge podge, or glitter;
- ziplock bags in various sizes;
- jars with lids, various sizes;
- toilet paper rolls and/or paper towel rolls
- snacks (e.g., rice crispy treats, applesauce, chips)

**Thank you!**

During this holiday season, please think about all those who are struggling with grief or with emotional pain resulting from traumatic experiences no one should have to endure.

**Click here and make a donation to help us help them.**



[www.wendtcenter.org](http://www.wendtcenter.org)