



# Happy New Year!

## Wendt Center *today*

January 2011

### Quick Links

[Visit our website](#)  
[Donate Now](#)  
[Volunteer](#)  
[Support Camp Forget-Me-Not](#)  
[Spring Grief Groups](#)

### Calling all Volunteers!!



**Volunteer Training** has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 26, 2011, 9:00am - 5:00pm. Please RSVP to Kecia Hill by February 21st at [khill@wendtcenter.org](mailto:khill@wendtcenter.org) or call 202-204-5025.

### REMINDERS

- Camper and Volunteer Applications available online March 1, 2011
- New Volunteer Information Session, March 16, 2011 - 7pm -8:15pm to RSVP email [khill@wendtcenter.org](mailto:khill@wendtcenter.org) or call 202-204-5025

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### Spouse Loss Group Shares Success at 35th Annual Benefit!

This year's Benefit was filled with heartwarming moments. One of the most special came from the women of our Spousal Loss Group. This eclectic but highly cohesive



*Helen Hopkins, Katrina Chang, Elizabeth Ratigan, Deborah Dokken, Tara Gorman, Patricia Sachs, Barbara Brown and Cristina Cotton.*

group, brought together by the loss of a spouse, wanted people to know how much the Wendt Center had helped them recover a sense of hope. And they wanted to share a story about how a small thing made a big difference in their lives. Spokesperson Elizabeth Ratigan said that they all confronted the same problem - mundane, but so very difficult and delicate - of how to dispose of their deceased loved ones undergarments. They were just not able, she said, to clean out that final drawer. While speaking of this in their group, one suggested that she would be happy to dispose of the other's husband's undergarments, if she would do the same for her. And thus began the great "underwear exchange"! We are grateful to Elizabeth and the entire group for their courage in sharing a beautiful healing moment with us.

### Teen Speaks Out about Grief



Jessica Turner is an amazing 18-year-old who, with the help of Wendt Center services, found the strength to make it through the painful loss of her mother,

father, brother and grandmother. At our Benefit, she related how hard it was for her to get up each day while trying to finish school. While receiving services at the Center, she realized that there were others going through similar problems she was not alone. Jessica was determined to make it. And make it she will. She is graduating from high school this year and has enrolled in college. The Wendt Center salutes you, Jessica, for facing and overcoming some of life's most difficult and painful challenges!

## More Benefit News

**Barbara Harrison, NBC News Correspondent, Recipient of the First "Wendt Hero Award"**



NBC News anchor **Barbara Harrison** (*Blue dress*) received the Wendt Center's first **Hero's Award** at our 35th Benefit on Thursday, November 4, 2010 at the Four Seasons Hotel. The award recognized her commitment and outstanding community service over many years and her special focus on children's health and welfare issues.

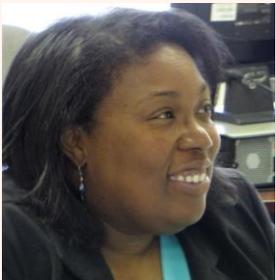


**Barry Petersen**, Emmy award-winning *CBS News* correspondent and author of *Jan's Story: Love lost to the long goodbye of Alzheimer's*, was our Benefit guest speaker. Mr. Petersen recounted a powerful story about his wife's early onset Alzheimer's and their subsequent journey through loss that culminated in a unique, inspiring discovery of life's unexpected possibilities in the face of adversity.

**David Gregory** the host of NBC's *"Meet the Press"* served as Emcee. Thank you Barry and David we appreciate all that you have done to support this Center!

Visit our [website](#) for more information. Be sure to reserve your seat early for next year's Benefit! We look forward to sharing a very special evening with you.

**The Wendt Center Has a New Intake Coordinator . .**



to working with the staff and clients.

**Denise Jones** is an LGSW Social Worker and recent MSW graduate from Catholic University. She is glad to be at the Wendt Center and is looking forward to working with the staff and clients.

## Candle Light Vigil Training

Crisis Responder Melanie Bryant conducted a two hour Candle Light Vigil training on December 7th at the Lighthouse. For nearly a decade Melanie has compassionately served grieving families in the Washington Metropolitan area. Her sensitivity, professionalism and leadership ability have provided cohesive support to our DC Crisis Response Team volunteers. Once again, she unselfishly shares with others how to lead and provide comforting support to families through this powerful ritual of remembrance.



## Wendt Center's Gingerbread House

Mario Dominguez, representing **David M. Schwartz Architects** donated a Gingerbread House built and designed by volunteers wanting to bring a bit of sweetness and joy to children and families during the holidays. We are honored to be among those receiving this gift for the past several years. Each one has truly been a work of art and has brought smiles to so many faces, young and not so young! We thank you for all of your support and look forward to seeing what new and amazing scene you will come up with next year!



## Honor That Special Someone

Want to do something special for someone and help the Center serve its clients all in one? Say Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary, Thank You, I Remember You. [Click here to honor that special someone.](#)

## Holiday Toy Donation

Toy donations were received from the SC&H Group of McLean, Virginia. The toys were delivered by Ross Litkenhous. (*on the right*)



## Toys and Art Supplies Donation



Also, the Saint Luke Parish of McLean, Virginia donated toys, gift cards, and art supplies to our counseling Center Offices and Camp Forget-Me-Not/ Camp Erin DC. The packages were delivered by Reuben & Natalie Diaz--father and daughter (*on the left*).