

Wendt Center *today*

Winter News

January 2012

New Groups and Workshops

Now registering for the following new groups:

- Men's Grief Group (NW)
- Parents of Children with Life Threatening Illness (NW)
- Infant Death/Miscarriage (SE)

New workshops are forming for Adults and Teens

- Yoga and Grief
- Emotional Eating and Grief

[More about groups](#)

[More about workshops](#)

Pre-registration is required.

2011 Benefit Best Yet!



This year's Benefit was one of the best yet. Full of surprises! The guest speaker was Vickie Kennedy (right), and the Benefit was dedicated to special honoree Carol Pensky (left). Barbara Harrison

Giving a Voice to Grieving Children

Wendt Center Partners with Arena Stage



The Wendt Center and **Arena Stage** have formed an exciting partnership through **Voices of Now**, in which selected youth grieving the loss of one or more loved ones will communicate their experiences in a creative and healing way.

Seven to nine children will participate in **Voices of Now**, a drama and writing ensemble for teenagers who have experienced loss. This project acknowledges their need - and those of others impacted by grief - to speak and to be heard.

Participants will learn theater performance, vocal expression and movement. Wendt Center clinical staff will work closely with the children and Arena staff during the course of the project. In May, the resulting dramatic work will be performed on stage by these teens as part of Arena Stage's **2012 Voices of Now** festival. [Click here for more information.](#)

Major New Support for C.H.I.L.D.

New grants increase reach of our services for children

Children in the District are exposed to loss and trauma at an alarmingly high rate. Too many have not accessed treatment. They are highly vulnerable to a host of mental health issues that impede their healthy development. Our **C.H.I.L.D.** (Child Healing to Improve Learning and Development) program is expanding its reach to better respond to their needs.

Thanks to grants from the **Justice Grants Administration**, **National Alliance for Grieving Children (NAGC)**, the **Hanley Foundation**, the **Schifter Family Foundation**, the **Blum-Kovler Foundation**, and **Clark Charitable Fund**, we will now be able to provide on-site counseling services at partner locations to hundreds of additional children and teens each year whose ability to succeed has been compromised by

emcee'd, and a *cappella* group **REVERB** was on hand to perform a special tribute from Wendt staff to our honoree. [View slideshow.](#)
[View tribute video.](#)

Upcoming Events

Lights of Hope Candlelight Vigil Training Mon., Feb. 27, 2012. To RSVP contact khill@wendtcenter.org by February 15, 2012.

2012 Camp Camp Forget-Me-Not/Camp Erin DC will be held Friday, June 8 through Sunday, June 10, 2012. Applications will be available online on Thursday, March 1, 2012. For more information [click here.](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

For more information about volunteering and camp 2012 trainings contact khill@wendtcenter.org

Art from Angels



Caroline Cook and her son delivered 3 boxes of office supplies (donated by St. Luke Catholic Church, McLean, VA) to be used at all 3 of our locations for youth attending individual or group sessions and at camp.

untreated mental health issues. By bringing these services into the community where children already are, barriers to accessing services will be removed. More about C.H.I.L.D. soon!

Christmas Rally at McKinley Tech *Coping with grief during the holidays*

The holidays are often a difficult time for those who are grieving or dealing with the consequences of trauma. Southeast Office Coordinator **Perry King, LICSW**, addressed these issues with 400 parents and youth at a Christmas rally coordinated by **World Missions Extension at McKinley Technical High School**.

He talked about overcoming the stigma of mental health services, grief and the holidays, suicide prevention, and how to access services at the Wendt Center and elsewhere. After the rally, Christmas gifts were distributed to all the children in attendance.



Joyful Sounds for the Wendt Center



Bethany Mahler and Juliet Kline set up display for post-performance reception.

Over 450 people attended the Thomas Circle Christmas Concert featuring the Thomas Circle Singers and the Bel Canto Children's Choir.

Tom Cooke, Board President, was invited to speak to the audience during intermission about the work of the Wendt Center.



Thomas Circle Singers and the Bel Canto Children's Choir of Washington, DC

A portion of the proceeds from this concert will go to supporting Wendt Center programs.

The next concert in the series will be held in March 2012. For details, [click here.](#)

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Gingertown Comes to Northwest Office

The staff of David M. Schwarz Architects presented their annual Gingerbread Houses and cash donation to the NW Office. Thank you for



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