

# Compass Regional Hospice adds 11 volunteers

**CENTREVILLE** — In February, 11 residents from Queen Anne's, Kent and Caroline counties completed the three-day patient volunteer training session offered in Centreville.

Completion of this training qualifies these volunteers to provide emotional support and practical assistance to hospice patients, families and caregivers in their homes, in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and in the residential hospice centers in Centreville, Chestertown and Denton.

Those who wish to provide direct patient care will be required to complete several additional hours with patients under the supervision of a Compass Regional Hospice clinical staff member. Volunteers who wish to be involved in providing grief support for hospice family members will work closely with staff from the Compass Regional Hospice support services team. Grief support roles include bereavement volunteer, vigil volunteer and grief support facilitator.

The next patient care volunteer training session is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1 through Thursday, May 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Chestertown, at 905 Gateway Drive in Chestertown.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities with Compass Regional Hospice, contact Courtney Williams, manager of volunteer and professional services, 443-262-4112, [cwilliams@compassregionalhospice.org](mailto:cwilliams@compassregionalhospice.org) or visit [compassregionalhospice.org/volunteers](http://compassregionalhospice.org/volunteers).



Volunteers who recently completed the patient care training are (left to right), front row, seated Coletta Miller, Denton; Anita Morris, Centreville; Connie Zaruba, Centreville; middle row, standing Debbie Dant, Denton; Sandy Hartmann, Chestertown; Darby Cissell, Centreville; Mary Maier, Centreville; back row, standing Myrle Yoash, Queen Anne; Nedra Spry, Worton; CiCi Terry, Centreville and Jessie Gibson, Centreville.

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Maryland Secretary of Disabilities Carol A. Beatty addresses a large crowd during the Thursday, Feb. 22, Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature 2018 in Annapolis.

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A contingent of adults with developmental disabilities and others from Benedictine Programs and Services met Thursday, Feb. 22, with Maryland Senator Stephen S. Hershey Jr., second from left, and Delegate Johnny Mautz, fourth from left, during Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature 2018 in Annapolis.



Maryland Senator Addie Eckardt, right, speaks Thursday, Feb. 22, with Kevin Duckworth, center, of Benedictine Programs and Services during Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature 2018 in Annapolis.

## Benedictine joins Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature

**ANNAPOLIS** — Benedictine staff and clients joined a record 800 supporters who came together to educate and advocate during Developmental Disability Day at the Legislature 2018, Thursday, Feb. 22 in Annapolis.

The annual event is sponsored by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition which is comprised of five organizations that are dedicated to the rights and quality of life of Marylanders with developmental disabilities.

State leaders and legislators addressed members of the developmental disabilities community including individuals, their families and support staff, to share in their commitment to helping individuals with developmental disabilities receive the support they need to live and work in the community.

The day's event kicked off at the Lowe's Hotel in Annapolis with remarks by Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton and Maryland Secretary of Disabilities Carol A. Beatty, among others.

With a mission of advocacy, Benedictine staff including Scott Evans executive director and Beth Mathis director of Adult Services, direct support professionals and individuals from Benedictines programs and services, joined the crowd of supporters who then met with state leaders at the Miller Senate Office Building.

Sen. Adelaide C. "Addie" Eckardt, Del. John F. "Johnny" Mautz IV and Sen. Stephen S. Hershey Jr. visited and engaged with Benedictine individuals.

## Snow conditions cancel Special Olympics games

Almost 200 athletes around Maryland affected.



**MERCERSBURG, PA.** — With the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang coming to an end on Sunday February 25 Special Olympics Maryland (SOMD) was looking to continue winter games fever for athletes around Maryland at its annual Winter Games at Whitetail Resort in Mercersburg, PA. The games were scheduled from Sunday Feb. 25 to Tuesday Feb. 27. Almost 200 Special Olympic Maryland Athletes, from across the state were ready to showcase their skills and athletic ability in various alpine and snowshoeing events.

Special Olympics Maryland has been watching the weather very closely and were in contact with our partners at Whitetail Resort on a "multiple-times-per-day basis" for the past two weeks. Whitetail has been stockpiling snow and, up through and including last night (February 21st, 2018), the word was that we were "100% good to go".

Unfortunately, during their review of the conditions today and an inspection of the trails and spaces we had intended to use (as well as those that would be used as a "Plan B" and a "Plan C"), the warmth and the rain led to much greater deterioration of the terrain than expected. In addition, significant further deterioration is now expected due to the substantial increase in the amount of rain expected in the next three days, and makes the safe conducting of Winter Games an impossibility this year.

Don MacAskill, president of Whitetail Resort and an

avid supporter of Special Olympics said, "The current condition of the mountain, coupled with the extended high temperatures over amount of rain over the next few days, simply makes the event not tenable."

Jim Schmutz, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics Maryland said "After extensive, thoughtful conversations with our friends at Whitetail, during which we exhausted all possibilities that would enable us to conduct a safe and meaningful Winter Games experience, we concluded that it simply is not possible. As a result I regret to inform you that we have decided to cancel then 2018 Winter Games.

I know this will be very disappointing for all of our athletes, Unified partners, coaches and parents who have worked so hard in preparation for the Games. I share your disappointment.

I want to thank all of our coaches, support volunteers and our Games Management Team for all their efforts this season. I also want thank the exceptional Whitetail team for their thoughtful consideration of all options and most importantly for their commitment to our athletes."

This decision effects approximately 196 athletes 76 Coaches and chaperones, 40 Unified® Partners, and 250 Volunteers.

## Horticultural lecture series starts March 2

**CHESTERTOWN** — The Kent County Extension Office and the Kent County Public Library have announced the start of the 19th annual Horticulture Lecture Series.

The series is meant for anyone who likes to garden, both amateurs and professionals alike. The talks will focus on a wide array of gardening related topics. The purpose of the talks is to show the audience how to create beauty in your landscape while keeping the health of the environment and the Chesapeake Bay in mind.

The schedule is as follows:

March 2: "Natural Lands Project: Balancing Natural Lands on Working Farms (or how grassland restoration leads to the return of the Northern Bobwhite)," Dan Small, Field Ecologist, Washington College

March 9: "Influence of Native and Exotic Plants on

Insect Communities," Paula Shrewsbury, Professor of Entomology, Univ. of Maryland.

March 16: "Destination Pollination: Designing Habitats for Pollinators," Kerry Wixted, Outreach Specialist, Department of Natural Resources.

March 23: "Garden Smart, Garden Easy — Making Gardening Accessible and Enjoyable for All," Tracy Wooten, Horticulture Extension Agent, University of Delaware. Wooten will bring tips and tools which will show how to garden without ruining our bodies.

The programs will be held at the Kent County Public Library, 408 High Street, Chestertown, MD 21620. All sessions run from 10 a.m. to about 11:30 a.m. This event is free of charge. For more information, please contact Sabine Harvey, 410-778-1661 or [sharvey1@umd.edu](mailto:sharvey1@umd.edu)