

The Beacon



Spring 2007

A Publication of the Epilepsy Association of the Eastern Shore, Inc.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



photo courtesy Todd Dudek Salisbury TIMES

On September 5, 2006, EAES held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new office in Salisbury. Our staff, allied professionals, local government officials, and state dignitaries were in attendance. The event featured remarks by local elected representatives. Salisbury Mayor *Barrie Tilghman* extended the city's welcome. The office of U.S. Representative *Wayne Gilchrest* was represented by *Monica Bell*. The acquisition by EAES of the previous Social Security building was made possible by the support of Congressman *Gilchrest*. Maryland legislators *Colburn, Eckardt, Mathias, and Stoltzfus* were present and extended best wishes to the agency for its work and mission in the region.

National Show Tour visits EAES

Several art exhibits have rotated through the EAES **Healing Arts Gallery** at our new office in Salisbury. They have included : **I. *Expressions of Courage: Through the Years*** a national exhibit of art created by individuals with epilepsy toured EAES last fall. The exhibit was made possible by a partnership with the Society for the Arts in HealthCare, Ortho-McNeil Neurologics, and the Epilepsy Foundation. **II.** The ***Visions of Hope*** exhibit, artwork created by patients at the **Eastern Shore Hospital Center**, and **III. *Two Voices*** - mixed media works by Pete Cosby and his daughter Elizabeth. "It is all an effort to focus on the

positive contributions and positive role art plays in the healing process of people lives," said *Dr. Jose Balea*, director of public affairs at EAES.



EAES consumer Paula Hazel enjoys the *Visions of Hope* art exhibit

*Pfizer supports
EAES Capital Campaign:*



During the 2006 *November is Epilepsy Awareness Month* kickoff celebration, EAES announced the support of Pfizer Inc. with a \$2,500 donation to the EAES capital campaign fund. Last year marked the 25th-year anniversary of EAES. As part of the silver jubilee celebration, EAES has embarked on a \$100,000 capital campaign development project. Funds from the project will be used for reducing costs incurred from the acquisition and remodeling of the new Salisbury building. Pictured above is EAES Board member, *Tom Hayes*, and Pfizer regional representative, *Jasmine Norton*, at the Fountains Conference Center, in Salisbury, during the annual meeting. The 2006 meeting was attended by consumers and their families, EAES staff and board members, regional state health officers, government officials, and invited guest speakers.

This year's keynote speaker was Secretary *Kristen Cox* from the governor's Department of Disabilities. Secretary *Cox* has a background in special education and was the nation's first state cabinet level appointment to this unique position. Her remarks addressed significant HealthCare costs and access issues that affect the developmentally disabled population.

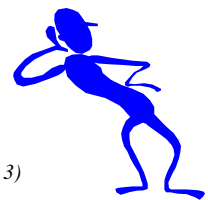
A historical EAES narrative was rendered by EAES board member, *Charles Shorley*, in tribute to the 25th year anniversary of the agency. Before the close of the meeting, numerous awards were given to recognize notable achievements by consumers and volunteers.

United Fund of Talbot County

The United Fund of Talbot County approved an allocation of \$7,500 to EAES for the 2006-07 campaign year. This funding represents a critical source of revenue for our agency. EAES provides a wide spectrum of services to our consumers in Talbot County, including educational, health, character building, mentoring, recreational, and human service efforts that impact the lives of Talbot County residents. *Melissa Anthony* is our most recent success story from Talbot County, and she serves as an example of how united appeal dollars are dispersed. *Melissa* came to the Epilepsy Association in 2002 seeking assistance that would enable her to remain in the community rather than an assisted living facility. She has cerebral palsy and must use a wheelchair when venturing out to shop, visit friends, or participate in community outings. *Melissa* and her husband, *Tommy*, reside with his mother, in Easton.

With the assistance of *Sharon Walbert* our Support Services Counselor in the Easton office, *Melissa* receives help with shopping, banking, accessing services, and purchasing items that allow her to remain in the community. Medical and dental appointments are paid for by EAES on an as needed basis. This year will be the first time that *Melissa* and her husband will take a vacation and visit an ocean resort area for one week. The Epilepsy Association will be helping them plan, finance, and budget for their vacation. *Melissa* enjoys attending her Church and going to gospel concerts at Holiday Park, in Greensboro. Having her own **Community Support Living Arrangement** budget, administered by EAES, allows *Melissa* to make choices, participate in the community, and be in charge of her own life.

Programs such as these, which are made possible through the support of the United Fund of Talbot County, Dorchester and United Way of Caroline, Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's County



(Continued on page 3)

(November is Epilepsy Month continued from page 2)



Mike Carbone



Secretary Cox



Charles Shorley



EAES 25th Year Anniversary Meeting

Mike Carbone, EAES director, welcomes guests and introduces keynote speaker Secretary Kristen Cox . Charles Shorley presents EAES historical perspectives during the anniversary meeting.

(Talbot County continued from page 2)

enable persons with disabilities to enjoy an enhanced quality of life by remaining active, and participating in all aspects of their community. Funds obtained through united way appeal campaigns directly benefit individuals in their respective jurisdictions. These united appeal dollars give EAES the flexibility to distribute them appropriately to individual clients who cannot access traditional funding sources.

Epilepsy Sandpiper Open Golf

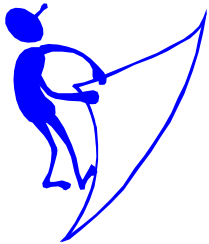
Sandpiper Open Golf Tournament The third annual Sandpiper Golf Tournament was held in June at the Ocean Resorts Golf Club in Berlin, Maryland. Our thanks to Jeff Fields and Ocean Resorts for their interest in organizing this tournament and for the generous \$500 donation. The facilities and assistance of his professional staff were better than ever. Ocean Resorts Golf Club has independently raised over \$2,000 for the Epilepsy Association of the Eastern Shore through promotion of the agency at Ocean Resorts. The staff, board, and clients of the Epilepsy Association of the Eastern Shore are very grateful for their efforts.

We were very fortunate to have great weather for the 2006 tournament. Team turnout increased this year with 59 players. The strong participation of the Fruitland Redmen Lodge teams beefed up the success of this event. Thank you! The tournament was based on 4-person teams, best ball scramble. Several special event holes were designated on the course. There were a "longest drive" and "closest to the pin" holes. The hole-in-one 2006 Ford Focus was made possible through the courtesy of Sherwood on the Shore. With fourteen teams participating, and over 30 local business sponsors-- this year's event was one of our most successful!

Preston Dryden won the "Longest Drive" shot at the tournament and *Harry Smith* won the "Closest to the Pin" competition. The generosity of area businesses provided extraordinary gift items that included prime green fees from area golf courses and lunch or dinner gift certificates from the **Cottage Cafe, Cultured Pearl, Nicks Original House of Ribs, Pacers Restaurant, Phillips, and Zias Pasteria**. Following the tournament participants enjoyed a barbecue dinner at the Ocean Resorts Golf Club's club house.



EAES



Disney World and the Magical Kingdom in Orlando, Florida was the destination for our consumers and supervisory staff in the most recent consumer vacation excursion at EAES.

“ **Disney World** provided our

consumers with a wonderful place to visit. Every consumer enjoyed the experience which stirred their imagination and curiosity ,” said *Melissa Bowen*, director of residential services at EAES. Well-known **Disney** songs were sung by staff and consumers in a festive farewell party prior to loading the vans and departing to the **Magical Kingdom** in Florida.

For many consumers this was their first time at the premier family vacation spot in the US. Activities during the visit included rides and shops to area stores and restaurants like the **House of Blues**.

The vacation visit included stops at **Sea World**, the **Epcot Center**, and the **Magical Kingdom**.

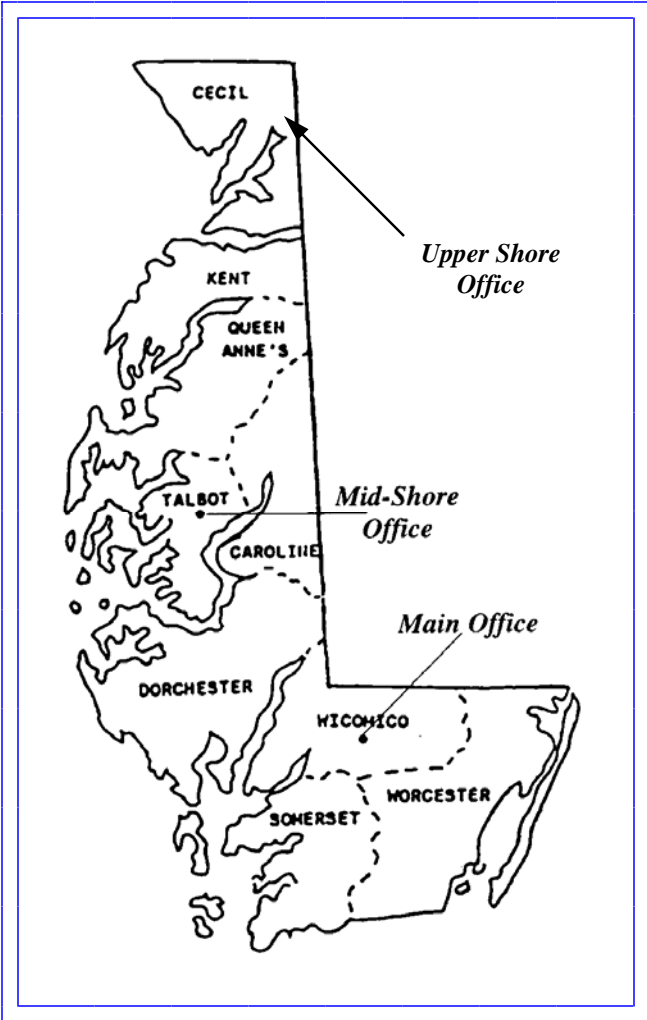


Eric, Gloria and Paula enjoy the fountain at **Sea World**.



EAES clients tour the gardens and shops at **Disney World’s Magical Kingdom**.

EAES Consumer News



Cecil County

The Cecil County *Garden Club* is a new program initiative which began in April 2006. Participants consist of three adults with developmental disabilities who are supervised by EAES staff members. These individuals are enrolled in EAES supported employment and community support programs. Services include pre-employment skills training, job placement, consumer budgeting and banking, housing issues, and community integration. The *Garden Club* was established to encourage consumers to grow tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, squash, and cucumbers in their own garden. Once a week, members meet to weed, water, and harvest the vegetables. The consumers also take an active role in meal preparation, baking ziti making homemade tomato sauce, and preparing salads. EAES is a proud member of the United Way of Cecil County.



EAES provides services to residents in all nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Upper Shore, supervised by Janet Reeder, consists of Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne's counties. The Mid-Shore, supervised by Sharon Walbert, includes Talbot, Caroline, and Dorchester counties. The Lower Shore counties of Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset are under the direction of Mike Carbone.

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 Easton, MD 21601

EAES Receives Gannett Foundation Grant



In an effort to address the unmet health needs of consumers, EAES sought and received a modest grant from the **Gannett Foundation** to develop a 12-week health, fitness, and conditioning program. EAES partnered with the **Youth Service Inc. (YES)** gym in Fruitland, Maryland for this effort. Individualized programs at the **YES** gym consisted of two 30-minute sessions, per week and incorporate stretching, cardiovascular, and strengthening techniques. EAES staff actively participated in the exercise program with the consumers during the fitness classes.

EAES consumers and staff that participated in the program strive to improve the overall cardiac, nutritional, and mobility health of the consumers. Respective weight and blood pressure readings, with follow-up, were recorded for participants. Results showed marked improvements in both weight and blood pressure. Five of the six participants reported a loss of 2-3 pounds and significant drops of systolic and diastolic blood pressures



BOND BILL SOUGHT IN ANNAPOLIS LEGISLATURE

Each year the Maryland state legislature provides revenue to qualified non profit organizations through individual bond bills. The bond authorization bills are filed by members of the General Assembly to support specific local or non-state-owned capital projects. The projects include health facilities, historic preservation projects, museums, sports, and recreational facilities. EAES is seeking a bond bill request for FY'07 in the amount of \$325,000 for a capital campaign effort. The funds will be used to attenuate our existing mortgage and redirect funds to expanded programs and services.

TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER TOURNAMENT RAISES FUNDS

The Epilepsy Association of the Eastern Shore continued its popular Texas Hold'em Poker Tournaments for 2007. This year's first tournament was held at the Elks Lodge in Salisbury, Maryland. Although the tournament was not a sell-out, 30 players participated and over \$1,700.00 was raised by supporters of the event.

Mike Carbone, director of EAES, was pit boss for the event. EAES staff volunteers *Beth Adkins*, *John Bennish*, and *Mike Dyer* were the start-up dealers during the initial rounds of play, and *David Neal* was the designated dealer at the final table of the tournament. Cash prizes were distributed to the three finalist of the tournament. The tournament helped raise funds for several EAES programs including Kids on the Block, Bears That Care, ID Bracelets, First Aid for Seizures, Scholarships, and Public Awareness activities. **Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company** provided promotional banners for the event and the **Treasure Chest** donated the first place winner's commemorative silver bracelet.

Congratulations to all the winners!



Finalist table during the Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament.

POCONO PHOTOS



This past Fall EAES consumers and staff visited the Pocono Mountains and enjoyed spectacular seasonal views, Fall Foliage, the Ironjack Timber Team Lumberjack Show, pole climbing, buck sawing and lots of other activities. A hot air balloon illumination, fireworks display, and theater play, "Moon Over Buffalo", capped the trips events.



Epilepsy Association School Services

- **In-service training for professional staff**
- **Kids On The Block puppet presentations**
- **Videos and literature for students, staff, and parents.**



The Kids on the Block Program

CALL (410) 543-0665 for more information or to schedule a training session or presentation.

E-mail: info@eaes.org

ALL SERVICES ARE AT NO COST TO YOUR SCHOOL

2007 EAES Calendar

- January through May- School Alert and Kids on the Block Presentations
- Bond Bill Hearing
Annapolis, Maryland March 10
- Epilepsy Sandpiper Open Golf
Tournament Ocean Resorts
Berlin, Maryland June 22



Thanks to you ...
it works ...
for ALL OF US.



The Beacon is published by the Epilepsy Association of the Eastern Shore, Inc., a non-profit agency serving people with epilepsy and developmental disabilities who live within the nine-county region of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

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