

H A S H

HELLO EVERYONE!!!

We are excited to send you the first newsletter of the year - one of several announcing and promoting our conference this year in Baltimore!! "Living the Vision Together, Today, Tomorrow and Beyond!" is scheduled for November 8 - 11, 2006. Please distribute the message far and wide. The local and national planning committees are working hard to bring everyone together for an exceptional conference this year in Baltimore, MD. If you have got an interest, a resource or an idea, let us know--we'd love to include YOU or YOUR ASSOCIATION in planning and taking the conference to fruition.

This newsletter is being sent to you in a timely manner so that you may apply to the Call for Presentations--see the back of this newsletter for more information. The best of Maryland and the District of Columbia will be featured at the conference, and there are many innovative projects, systems change efforts and personal successes, so let's capture them all!

Other opportunities for people and associations are connections, renewal, poster sessions, donations to our silent auction, vendor exhibit hall, sponsorships, volunteering (Seven hours of volunteer time will get you free registration to the conference!), a dance on Thursday evening of the conference hosted by your local Mid-Atlantic Chapter and much, much more.

Welcome to this year's TASH Conference!

 Gail Godwin
MASH President

INCREASING AND IMPROVING FRIENDSHIPS

The Parents Support Resource Network (PSRN) will host a dinner with Carol Tashie, a national advocate and speaker on friendships for people with disabilities, on Wednesday, April 5, at 6:30 pm to brainstorm a local effort on how we can work towards an intentional effort to foster friendships for people with disabilities.

Carol Tashie was trained as both a general educator and a special educator. For thirteen years, Carol worked with schools, families, and students to create inclusive classrooms, schools and districts, with specific emphasis on high school inclusion, inclusion of students with autism labels, inclusive education at the college level, and friendship. She currently works with local and national social justice organizations to envision and support inclusive, just and equitable communities for all people of the world.

Dinner will cost \$40 per person for a five-course meal (appetizers, salads, pastas, entrees, dessert, coffee, tea, and soda). Please contact Jessica Pearsall at 410-788-9222 if you would like to attend.

The MASH HASH is an occasional publication of **MASH**--the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of TASH which supports Maryland and Washington, DC. Contact us at 410-945-4356, gailghsi@prodigy.net and www.midatlantic.tash.org.

TASH is an international association of people with disabilities, their family members, other advocates, and professionals working for a society in which inclusion of all people in all aspects of society is the norm.

MASH Officers
Gail Godwin--President
Tina Ziperski--Vice President
Christy Stewart--Secretary
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LEADERS IN DISABILITY POLICY

A VISION FOR NEW LEADERSHIP
IN DISABILITY ADVOCACY

There is an exciting new opportunity for Marylanders interested in leadership and advocacy. Teams of individuals interested in learning and working together on disability issues are encouraged to apply. Team members may include (but are not limited to) individuals with disabilities, family members, support persons, neighbors, co-workers, colleagues and

friends. Through this project is the hope to assist people with developmental disabilities and their families to learn new skills in changing policy by attending classes; working on a learning team; and receiving guidance from experienced mentors.

Applications are being accepted through April 15, 2006. Contact Denise Marshall at 410-987-1048 x113 or visit the website at www.BEaLEADER.info to download an application or to apply online.

2006 Annual TASH Conference



**Make your plans now to attend the
2006 TASH Conference
in Baltimore, Maryland
November 8-11, 2006**

www.tash.org/2006tash

A new generation of TASH members are stepping up to continue the unrestrained progress that has resulted due to the leadership of TASH members for more than 30 years. Whether you are a veteran or a newcomer, this year's conference is dedicated to all of you! We invite you to gather together November 8-11, in the home city of the TASH headquarters – Baltimore, Maryland.

The TASH Conference mobilizes vast numbers of folks from around the world together in a common experience of belief in the presumed competence of every person, and in the powerful role that every person can play in empowering people with disabilities and their families to build the life of their choosing. Each presenter and attendee comes to the scene with a personal perspective to share – and each leaves with a renewed sense of energy and commitment towards the great space of possibility for people labeled with the most significant disabilities. The TASH conference is the largest and most progressive conference in the United States that focuses on strategies for achieving full inclusion for people with disabilities. This year's TASH conference will feature over 2000 attendees, 450 breakout sessions, exhibits, roundtable discussions, poster sessions and much more.

What Will You Find At The TASH Conference?

Sessions at the TASH Conference focus on the following themes:

Inclusive Education Across the Lifespan TASH members are the key developers of successful support strategies that today define inclusive education. Sessions focus on systemic change issues, curriculum modification, and other strategies that result in access to curriculum that is taught in the regular education classroom; a vision of high expectations for students with and without disabilities; and learning goals or standards that are put into practice for all students, with specific focus on those labeled with "severe" disabilities. This conference will feature over 150 breakout sessions specifically on successful strategies for inclusive education.

Innovations in Research and Practice The TASH community consists of multiple constituencies, and as such is unique in its openness to consider a diversity of perspectives, theoretical orientations, and practices. TASH maintains a commitment to both scholarship and a value base. TASH conference sessions focus on excellence in research, innovation, and advocacy that translates to excellence in self-determined, community-based and person-centered inclusive practice.

Transition, Community Living & Employment TASH is at the forefront of ensuring that people with disabilities have the supports needed to live in their own homes, be competitively employed, and participate fully in their communities. Sessions at the conference focus on the presumption of competence, and emphasis on the unique contributions of every person, regardless of their perceived level of ability. Valuing everyone strengthens communities and increases the potential for each individual to connect with others in the community and reduces the likelihood of segregation.

Values, Advocacy & Ethics TASH was built on risk and determination, and continues to push the standard for progress. Each member brings to TASH a different point of view, but all TASH members stand firm in our conviction that people with disabilities have a right to the same richness of opportunity that is enjoyed by all. The TASH conference is known for compelling and enriching sessions which push each and every one of us to think about supporting people with disabilities in new ways, resulting in the elimination of obstacles that prevent equity, diversity, and quality of life.

www.tash.org