

NLSMC provides assistance to many

When the North Laurel-Savage Multiservice Center (NLSMC) opened in July 2007 under new leadership, it quickly became a resounding success. With the Community Action Council of Howard County (CAC) at the helm, the former social services center in North Laurel was transformed into an organization that offered one-stop shopping for human services in the southeast portion of Howard County, an area where residents often lacked public transportation.

Initially, seven human service organizations provided services there. They are CAC, Family and Children Services, Foreign Born Information and Referral Network (FIRN), the Howard County Department of Social Services, Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Domestic Violence Center, and Legal Aid Bureau.

Since opening, three more organizations have joined the center: the Howard County Workforce Development, Women, Infant and Children's Program (WIC), and Parents as Teachers Program. In addition, the center has 24 partners that provide services from time to time.

Expecting to serve 150 clients at the NLSMC in its first year. CAC provided services for almost twice that many - 285. As of December 9, 2009, 1,816 clients have used services at one or more of the organizations at the NLSMC.

The center is located at 9105 All Saints Road, Whiskey Bottom Shopping Center in North Laurel. It is open Mondays through Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The NLSMC will have the following after-hours offerings during January:

- Financial Counseling on Thursdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. Call 410-880-5917 for an appointment.
- National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group, Tuesdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. Drop-in. Offered in Spanish and English.
- Howard Community College Advising and Counseling, Saturday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. RSVP to HCC at 410-772-4140 or drop in.
- WIC clients, Saturdays, Jan. 16 and 30, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 410-880-5917 to contact WIC or a WIC provider.