

8th Annual Cherish the Child Symposium (2012)

Presenter Bio's

Elizabeth Smart (Keynote):

The planning committee for the 8th Annual Cherish the Child Symposium is honored to announce that Elizabeth Smart will provide the keynote address at their 2012 event taking place at Mountain Christian Church in Joppa, Maryland on Friday, April 27, 2012,

The abduction of Elizabeth Smart was one of the most followed child abduction cases of our time. Elizabeth was abducted on June 5, 2002 and her captors had controlled her by threatening to kill her and her family if she tried to escape. Fortunately, the police safely returned Elizabeth back to her family on March 12, 2003 after being held prisoner for 9 months. Through this traumatic experience Elizabeth has become an advocate for change related to child abduction, recovery programs and National legislation. Elizabeth triumphantly testified before her captor and the world about the very private nightmare she suffered during her abduction, which led to conviction. Elizabeth is currently involved in the "Elizabeth Smart Foundation", and she has helped promote The National AMBER Alert, The Adam Walsh Child Protection & Safety Act and other safety legislation to help prevent abductions. Elizabeth is also a News Correspondent for ABC News.

Elizabeth's example and life now is a daily demonstration that there really is life after a tragic event. Her speech not only tells her story, but also discusses topics such as overcoming extreme adversity and not allowing your past to dictate your life's future.

Cheryl Silence (Plenary): Laugh Out Loud. It Just May Be Crazy Enough to Keep you Sane

If comedians were like baseball players, I'd be considered a short season, single A player, so I guess, I'm a semi-professional comedian. I went to college in Harford County, attending both Eastern Christian College (B.A. in Christian Education) and Harford Community College (A.A. in Commercial Arts). I've worked in a number of fields experimenting with my vocational options so I've been involved with private school education, commercial and advertising art, administrative and secretarial work, and spent 12 years in various forms of ministry with local churches. I'm married with one child and have lived in Harford County for over 26 years.

Anne Cerruto: All Kids Like Cookies

Anne Cerruto is a Family Support Coordinator with The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region. Anne has been working within Family Support Services for nine years supporting children with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families no matter where they are in their journey. In addition, Anne has served on a variety of community committees, such as Harford

County Public Schools Department of Special Education, Harford County Infants & Toddlers, Transitioning Youth Expo Planning Committee, Local Interagency Coordinating Council, to improve the quality of life of a child with a developmental disability. Also, Anne brings 15 years of personal experience in supporting a person with a developmental disability as she continues her work in advocating for her son, born with Downs Syndrome and later diagnosed with the Autism Spectrum.

Amy Wagner, LCSW-C: Exploring Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)

Amy Wagner, LCSW-C received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Liberty University and her Master of Social Work Degree from the University of Maryland. Throughout her 20+ year career in the mental health field, Ms. Wagner has worked in a variety of clinical settings including hospitals, schools, non-profit organizations and most recently in private practice. She has experience working with individuals, couples, families and groups that span all age categories. While, Ms. Wagner's career has gained her experience in a wide range of mental health areas, her expertise lies in the field of trauma. She has been trained in many areas of trauma work including the well-known technique of EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing). Ms. Wagner has worked as a therapist and clinical supervisor at Family & Children's Services of Central Maryland for the past three years.

Lindy Ford: What's Eating Your Child? The Link between Food and Behavior

Lindy Ford holds a degree in Dietetics from the University of Maryland. She practices nutrition consulting for individuals as well as government and private agencies including the Harford County Health Department, Boys and Girls Clubs of Harford County and Upper Chesapeake Health. Lindy also teaches nutrition classes throughout the community.

Paula Moraine, M.Ed: Making Sense of Executive Function – Understanding How to Approach Attention, Organization, and Initiative with Children.

Paula Moraine, M.Ed., has taught elementary grades through adults in her 30 years in education. She has presented on themes of child development, curriculum, and parenting in the US and Europe. Through The Highlands School tutoring program, Paula currently tutors children and teens in executive function using these individualized insights and approaches.

Mary Cahilly, MA: Recognizing and Working with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Mary Cahilly, MA, LPC, is a counselor and program coordinator with Diakon Family Life Services in Topton, Pennsylvania. For over 17 years, she has counseled children, adolescents, and families in crisis,

taught parenting and interpersonal communication courses, and developed family programs aimed to give parents tools to help them make positive changes in their lives. Mary witnessed first-hand the tragic effects of fetal drug and alcohol exposure when she worked as an addictions counselor and family therapist with pregnant women who were in the early stages of recovery from addictions. She is passionate about educating parents and people who work with families to better understand and respond to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

Allie Phillips, J.D.: Caught in the Crossfire: When Animal Abuse Co-Occurs with Family Violence

Allie Phillips is the Director for the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse and a Senior Attorney with the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, programs of the National District Attorneys Association. She has over 8 years of criminal and civil prosecution experience as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Michigan and since 1997 has been assisting and training prosecutors and allied professionals. Ms. Phillips is a nationally-recognized expert specializing in the crossfire of violence between animals and people, therapy animals helping maltreated children, civil child protection and animal protection issues. From 2003-07, she was employed as a Senior Attorney with NDAA's National Child Protection Training Center and National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse where she created *ChildProtect: Trial Advocacy for Civil Child Protection Attorneys*, created the *Crawford* training program and case law outline, was the attorney assigned to *Finding Words: Interviewing Children and Preparing them for Court* (now *Child First*), and specialized in co-occurrence between violence to animals and children. She returned to NDAA in early 2011 work on civil child protection issues, integrating animal protection issues into NDAA trainings, and to launch the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse. In 2007, Ms. Phillips joined the American Humane Association as the Vice President of Public Policy and then Vice President of Human-Animal Strategic Initiatives. She managed the Public Policy Office and was responsible for lobbying and advocacy on child and animal welfare legislation, including drafting legislation and providing expert testimony to legislatures. She was in charge of developing and managing national initiatives on human-animal interactions, including creating the Pets and Women's Shelters (PAWS)[®] Program (now the Sheltering Animals & Families Together (SAF-T)[™] Program) and co-creating Therapy Animals Supporting Kids (TASK)[™] Program. Her work has been featured on *The Today Show*, and in *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Denver Post*, *Cat Fancy Magazine*, *Chatelaine Magazine (Canada)*, *Colorado Public Radio*, *Washington Public Radio*, and dozens of national animal radio talk shows.

Ms. Phillips has conducted approximately 200 trainings nationally and has authored over 50 publications, including two books: *Defending the Defenseless: A Guide to Protecting and Advocating for Pets* (2011) and *How Shelter Pets are Brokered for Experimentation: Understanding Pound Seizure* (2010). She has co-authored chapters in: *Handbook on Animal-Assisted Therapy Theoretical Foundations and Guidelines for Practice* (2010) and *Handbook of Theory and Research on Animal Abuse and Cruelty* (2008). She is a Professional Member of the acclaimed Cat Writer's Association.

Ms. Phillips is an active animal advocate and volunteer. She co-founded *Friends of Ingham County Animal Shelter* in 2000 and *Michiganders for Shelter Pets* in 2011. She is the Vice President of *No Paws Left Behind*, a steering committee member of the *National Link Coalition*, past-President and long-time volunteer of *King Street Cats*, and since 2003 has been an active council board member of the State Bar of Michigan's Animal Law Section. She is a Certified Usui Reiki Master-Teacher and Integrated Energy Therapy® Master-Instructor where she provides healing to maltreated animals and is working on a protocol to help crimes victims.

Ms. Phillips received her Juris Doctorate *cum laude* from the University of Detroit School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/International Relations from Michigan State University. She is licensed to practice law in Michigan and Maryland. Learn more about Ms. Phillips' work at www.alliephillips.com.

Ann Mahling Geddes: Navigating the Transition Years: Help for Families of Older Adolescents with Mental Health Disabilities

Ann Geddes is the parent of a transitioning young adult and is the Transition-Age Youth Specialist with the Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health. Ann provides one-to-one support, conducts training workshops to help families navigate the transition years, and recently developed the handbook "Navigating the Transition Years."

Jeanne Allert: The Trafficking of Children in America

Jeanne has an eclectic career history: from high school English teacher, to instructional designer for the Intelligence Communities, to technology director, to Internet consultant and entrepreneur. She is an international public speaker, having presented at over 60 trade conferences nationally and delivered keynote sessions for international conferences in Greece, France, Egypt, the United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden and workshops for dignitaries of the United Arab Emirates. She has provided on-camera hosting and speaker talent for a wide variety of distance learning productions and has served as adjunct faculty for five universities.

Jeanne holds a Bachelor's Degree in English, a Masters Degree of Education and is pursuing a Doctor of Divinity degree, specializing in Urban Ministry and Ecumenical Relations.

With a heart broken for the issue of human exploitation and trafficking, Jeanne directs the **Maryland Coalition**, a gathering of committed organizations and individuals who are affecting change in the areas of awareness, prevention, intervention and after-care. Jeanne regularly participates in street outreach in Baltimore to minister to women enslaved in street prostitution and serves as a community organizer to impact change at the neighborhood level. The Maryland Coalition works closely with the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and local law enforcement on proactive strategies, engaging the public sector and NGOs in anti-trafficking efforts.

Jeanne also founded [The Samaritan Women](#) in 2007 and today serves as Executive Director. She was awarded the Governor's Volunteer Service Award in 2009 for her ability to cast a big vision and mobilize community volunteers to make that vision a reality. The Samaritan Women includes a therapeutic residence program, culinary arts vocational program and operates Baltimore city's largest urban farm. The Samaritan Women is the first therapeutic residence program for victims of human trafficking in Maryland. Future plans include establishing a residential program for rescued minors.