

## **WGW Community Youth Cup Boosts Devel. Conference**

The WGW Community Youth Cup is a corporate sponsor for the Early Childhood Connections conference that is scheduled for April at Garrett College.

Early Childhood Connections is an annual professional development conference designed to provide local child care providers and early childhood educators with current, specialized training. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the McHenry campus

The primary mission of the WGW Community Youth Cup, which is an annual golf tournament, is raising money for the ongoing support of three local charitable, memorial organizations – Landon's Library, Andrew S. Woods Memorial Scholarships, and Samantha Funding the Arts. The further mission of the charities benefitting from the tournament is to promote Christian values that are important to the families of Landon, Andrew, and Samantha.

Landon's Library provides books each month to every child born in Garrett County from date of birth until their first day of kindergarten – the first county-wide effort of its kind in the state of Maryland. To date, over 90,000 books have been distributed to enrich the lives of children and their families along with Kindermusik and monthly play-dates.

The Andrew S. Woods Memorial Scholarships are awarded each year to an outstanding academic male and female student athletes graduating from Southern Garrett High School and planning to attend a four-year college/university.

The Samantha Funding the Arts program utilizes funds to support and promote the arts throughout the school system of Garrett County, such as providing art supplies and financing art-related field trips.

While aimed at local and regional educators, the Early Childhood Connections conference is open to "anyone who touches the life of a child" – including preschool and Head Start instructors, daycare providers, and board of education/public schools staff. Participants have the opportunity to choose from various workshops to attend throughout the day.

This collaborative effort is planned and executed by Garrett College, Garrett County Community Action Committee's Child & Family, Maryland EXCELS, the Maryland State Department of Education, APPLES for Children, and the Garrett County Early Childhood Professional Association.

For more information on the Early Childhood Connections conference, or for additional

information on sponsorships available, Persons are invited to contact Connie Meyers at 301-387-3084 or [connie.meyers@garrettcollege.edu](mailto:connie.meyers@garrettcollege.edu).





**WGW SUPPORTS CONFERENCE –** The Early Childhood Connections Conference that will be held at Garrett College in April has received corporate sponsorship from the WGW Community Youth Cup organization. Pictured from left are Melanie Cooper, Judy Center training coordinator for the Garrett County Community Action Committee Inc. and Early Childhood Connections Conference planning committee member; Brian Boal, co-founder of the WGW Community Youth Cup; and Darlene Schmidt, quality assurance specialist for Maryland EXCELS and also a member of the conference planning committee. See story for details.