

# SMS 7th Graders Support CBSS Foundation!



Smithsburg Middle School students in Washington County sponsored a Walk-A-Thon last fall as a part of their Student Service Learning Project. The requirements for earning the hours included a walk at Antietam Battlefield, collecting donations for a charitable organization, and an assignment in each core class that relates the curriculum to the walk. In the past, students have raised funds for a charity the class chooses — typically an organization close to home. This year, SMS is proud to have a student with deaf-blindness included fully in her local middle school. The student has an intervener throughout her school day. CBSS supports the school and the family as needed. To celebrate this connection, SMS Grade 7 recently presented a check for \$1,901 to CBSS. The staff greatly appreciates this fundraising effort, and other individuals and groups who help the staff support children and families who are living with deaf-blindness or cortical visual impairment.



**Smithsburg Middle School 7th graders present \$1,901 to CBSS Project Coordinator Donna Riccobono (2nd from right). CBSS Foundation funds assist family members of children who are served by CBSS with training, respite care, and other resources that support children at home. During the acceptance ceremony Donna said, "Thank you SO much, SMS! These funds go directly to families in Maryland who have children with dual sensory impairment, like your classmate and her family."**

**Go Leopards!**



## About the CBSS Foundation

The CBSS Foundation through the University of Maryland was instituted in 1999 to hold funds donated by individuals and/or fundraising events that are designated for supporting children served by CBSS and their families. This support includes financial assistance for families whose children are aged birth to 21, have a diagnosis of dual sensory impairment or cortical visual impairment, and who are in need of support to help with respite care, family participation in conferences and training opportunities related to the child's condition, and other resources that will benefit the child at home and in the community. There is a \$599 limit on the amount of annual support that will be allowed for each family so that families are not taxed on these funds during the following year. All requests for funds are reviewed by a committee that represents parents and professionals to ensure that they are consistent with the guidelines and rules regulating how CBSS Foundation monies can be used. There is a processing time of approximately 4 to 6 weeks to receive funds from the CBSS Foundation account.

***For more information about how to DONATE to the Connections Beyond Sight and Sound Foundation account, or to learn more about submitting an application for funds, visit [www.cbss.umd.edu](http://www.cbss.umd.edu) or contact CBSS Project Coordinator Donna Riccobono at 301-405-0482 (E-mail: [donnaric@umd.edu](mailto:donnaric@umd.edu))***