

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT'S SUMMER CAMP DREAM

AFTER FIVE YEARS of operating summer camps at Perry School, Camp Dream 2006 was by far our best camp yet! It enabled a very memorable summer for 113 registered campers and the 40 staff members who encouraged them to follow their dreams. The source of the immense success was in the commendable behavior of the youth, strong parental support, advanced planning, a core of skilled staff, collaboration with quality organizations, and the generosity of our sponsors and donors.



Early planning for Camp Dream began around April and enabled the Youth Development team to first establish the vision and mission and to let that dictate staffing, resource and funding needs. This flexible timetable also made it possible to secure 20 youth workers from the Department of Employment Services to double our staff and fortify the guidance provided for each camper to enhance their summer experience.

Our neighbors, Southern Baptist Church and the Greater Washington Police Boys & Girls Club, kindly shared their building space with us while a host of organizations buttressed our program with various services and opportunities for the youth. The Perry School internal collaborations included the Center City Community Corporation which provided food management and their Sursum Corda Tutoring program, which taught academic reinforcement activities for youth to minimize summer learning loss. Our own Perry Social Services Department provided case management services and staff development trainings. Make Piece/Peace led a summer long jewelry making class and Little Friends for Peace (LFFP) provided fun activities highlighting conflict resolution in the Center Peace Room. LFFP also took the campers offsite for a week long Peace Camp in Brentwood, Md.

Another offsite learning adventure was provided by For Love of Children Outdoor Wilderness Program which enabled ten campers to experience an eight-day, overnight trip to West Virginia. Kinetic City and NASA provided computer based and hands on science activities for youth and the National Maritime Heritage Foundation provided a daylong sailing excursion. In partnership with the Children Youth Investment Trust Corporation (CYITC), The Young Playwrights Theater Company taught our Counselors-in-Training basic acting and playwriting techniques.

In addition to supplemental programming, CYITC also provided the camp with funding. They are accompanied by several other benevolent sponsors and donors who enabled this exciting summer of learning for Perry's dreamers, including the Morningstar Foundation, North Capitol Collaborative, APRA Office of Youth Services, Northwest One Council, and Freedom Forum.

The highlight of our funding campaign was most certainly the dedicated effort of our tireless Friends of Perry. On short notice and immediately following two successful Home "Friend"raisers, these dynamic women rallied once again and encouraged individual donations to exceed \$25,000. ♦

Little Friends For Peace at Camp Dream

SARAH MAGNO AND MARGARET JOHNSON teamed up with MJ and Jerry Park to lead all six teams of Camp Dream in weeklong mini-Peace Camps.

- **Day 1** they dreamed of their Experiences of Peace and Unpeace
- **Day 2** they dreamed of Peacemaker Heroes and how they could be one, too
- **Day 3** they dreamed of Changing Fights into Problems to Solve Together
- **Day 4** they dreamed of Spreading Peace at Home, in School, and around the Neighborhood

Each day the campers began with saying the Peace Pledge, planting the Peace Pole and singing the song, "Two Hands Hold the Earth." Then they would check in on what is bringing them peace or taking it away. A mini presentation was given on the theme of the day, and campers would get involved in the discussion. This would be followed by a story, drama, co-operative games, a peace art project and work on a skit.



The campers composed messages and picked symbols for their Peace Hats and Peace Wheels. A highlight of the camp was making Peace Mail Boxes, into which the campers and counselors posted "put-up" messages to each other through the week. Little dramas were put on of Rosa Parks, Harriett Tubman, and Martin Luther King. The Peace Train came out on Wednesday and taught the campers a non-violent way to solve problems and still have power. On the last day of Peace Camp, the children dreamed of a peaceful world and what they wanted to do to make their dreams come true.

As Martin Luther King said, "Every good thing starts with a dream." The Peace Room has been full of hope this summer as we tried to motivate and guide the children to work on making their dreams come true. ♦

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Staff

Suzanne Ayer, *Communications and Development Assistant*
(202) 312-2449
Avery Blakeney, *Job Counselor*
(202) 216-0453
Carlton Brown, *Youth Counselor*
(202) 312-2440
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(202) 312-7142
Michelle George, *Executive Assistant*
(202) 312-7140
Ashley Halbach, *Computer Center Program Assistant*
(202) 312-7160
Marcia Hoexter, *Director of Training and Employment*
(202) 312-7154
Deborah Johnson, *Social Services Program Assistant*
(202) 312-2440
Paul McElligott, *Executive Director*
(202) 312-7150
Yvette Mitchell, *Computer Center Director*
(202) 312-7160
Sharonne Navas, *Director of Development*
(202) 216-0454
Vincent Patrick, *Art Center Director*
(202) 312-2446
Margaret Pegram, *Director of Social Services*
(202) 312-2445
Corey Poole, *Youth Development Director*
(202) 312-7159
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(202) 312-7141
Leon Samuels, Jr., *Older Youth Program Director*
(202) 312-7157
Marsha Stephens, *HIPPY Coordinator*
(202) 204-0026
Deborah Stevens, *Youth Development Administrative Assistant*
(202) 204-0174
Nicole Styles, *Science Instructor*
(202) 204-0174
Chris Tobias, *Family-to-family*
(202) 312-2442
Veronica Whycoff, *Senior Case Manager*
(202) 312-2441
Brenda Wood, *Social Services Administrative Assistant*
(202) 312-2440

Message from the Executive Director

NEW BEGINNINGS

OCTOBER 1 IS THE START NOT ONLY of a new fiscal year, but also the start of a new program year. Although many programs operate throughout the year, changes in programs and also new programs often start at this time. This year we also have the largest number of new staff in our history.

Marcia Hoexter is our new Director of Training and Employment. Marcia comes to us after serving as Director of Career Services at ITT Technical Institute. She has extensive experience in workforce development, including a period when she owned and operated her own business. In social services, Veronica Whycoff is the new Senior Case Manager. Veronica is a MSW, and has held a number of supervisory and academic positions in social services in Massachusetts and London, England. Several new faces grace our youth development department. Marsha Stephens is the new Coordinator of our HIPPY preschool program. She joins Perry Center, Inc. after 30 years as a Speech/Language Pathologist for Montgomery County Public Schools. Leon Samuels, Jr., who has lived in the Sursum Corda neighborhood and is a May graduate of UDC, now heads our teen program. Ashley Halbach, a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and May graduate of the University of Colorado, is a program assistant in our computer learning center and developing our youth database. Although Vincent Patrick has worked in our youth development programs and is not a new employee, he is the new Director of the Art Center. Helping us to raise funding for our staff and programs is Sharonne Navas, our Director of Development. Sharonne has held development and fundraising positions with national and regional organizations. Assisting Sharonne and also assisting with programs will be Suzanne Ayer, who has been with us for the past year as an Americorps*VISTA volunteer and now assumes a fulltime position. These staff members bring new knowledge, commitment and vitality, and, in some cases, extensive experience, to making Perry Center, Inc. a stronger and better organization.

Programs for the coming year reflect both the old and the new. Our Family-to-Family Mentoring program, Community-based Partnership Initiative, rental subsidy management and case management as needed for HIV/AIDS clients, and the addiction prevention program are being extended for another year. The D.C. Department of Human Services has approved a new Fatherhood Initiative, which will enable us to assist fathers, especially teen and ex-offender fathers, to be better parents and more supportive of their families. The D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development is providing funds for crime prevention initiatives, which will include a Public Safety Coordinator. Changes within existing programs are occurring. The art program will become multi-media with the addition of photography and videos. The teen program is being restructured with emphasis on personal development, college prep, leadership and careers.

We look forward with optimism to a successful and productive new program and fiscal year, and welcome your support and suggestions in achieving that goal. ♦

Ward 6 Back to School Community Day

ON AUGUST 19, 2006, the Family-to-Family Mentoring Program held its first Ward 6 Back to School Community Day. Over 600 children, senior citizens and adults enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans and drinks. The street was closed off to allow for the Discovery Rain Forest tractor-trailer and vendors to set-up. Everyone enjoyed dancing to the music in the street and 380 children visited the Discovery Rain Forest. "We Are One" t-shirts and Washington Nationals' baseball tickets were given to game winners. The day ended with 400 children receiving backpacks with school supplies and a handshake from Georgetown University's coach John Thompson. ♦



Announcements

Looking for an Opportunity to Volunteer?

The Youth Development Department is always seeking dynamic volunteers to assist with homework, tutoring, and mentoring. High school students are eligible and can earn community service credit for their time! To take the first step towards making a difference in a youth's life, please call Corey Poole, Youth Development Director at (202) 312-7159

HIPPY

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is recruiting 60 families with three and four year old children from our community to participate in its program beginning in October 2006. The HIPPY Program is a research-based parent involvement school readiness program that has been proven effective in helping preschoolers start school, ready to learn with parents as full partners in educating their child. The program provides weekly activities for preschoolers with free materials, home visits that offer one-on-one instruction for the parent from a peer and group meetings that provide socialization and support for parents. For more information, contact Marsha Stephens, HIPPY Coordinator at (202) 204-0026

Youth Development

The After School Program began on September 5th, but slots are still available for youth ages 6-12. The program includes homework assistance and weekly instruction in art, science, conflict resolution, life skills, and computer science. To register, call Debbie Stevens at (202) 312-7157

The Art of Living is a job-training program for aspiring visual and performing artists to earn while they learn! Youth ages 13-18 are eligible to apply. This established program is now under the creative guidance of our new Art Center Director, Vincent Patrick. (202) 312-2446

The Sparkling Gems and *Young Men Steppin' Up* are gender specific programs for youth to discuss life issues and learn leadership skills to become productive adults. If your youth is between the ages 13 and 18 and could benefit from a comfortable atmosphere to discuss teenage transitions, call Leon Samuels, Jr. at (202) 312-7157

Career and Training Orientation

Perry's Career and Training Center has just completed the first of a series of informational orientation programs for interested job seekers and training candidates. During the 12 hour session conducted over four afternoons, ten different training organizations that partner with the Career and Training Center presented their services and training opportunities. In addition, they include sessions on seeking employment and finding job opportunities. The twenty-four participants who attended all four afternoons were awarded a Certificate of Completion in recognition of demonstrating motivation and commitment to progress toward their career goals.

Training opportunities discussed at the orientation included: Commercial Driver's License, Culinary Arts, Automotive Technician, Certified Daycare Associate, GED, Home Health Aide, Computer Training, Trade Apprenticeships AND MORE!

Watch for announcements for the next session, which will take place in late October. For additional information, call Marcia Hoexter at (202) 312-7154

Social Services' Family-to-Family Monthly Workshop

This month's workshop for the Family-to-Family mentoring program is entitled "Bling in Your Finances" and will be held on October 2nd at 6:30 p.m. To attend, call Chris Tobias at (202) 312-2442

Adult & Senior Computer Class

Basic to intermediate computer classes for adults and seniors will be held Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will run from October 2nd to May 31st. To sign-up, call Debbie Stevens at (202) 312-7157

Thank You For Your Support

We thank all donors whose generosity sustains our youth and family programs and allows us to respond to those in need. We note the following additional foundation, church, corporation, and organization donors, which have contributed to Perry School, Inc. since our last newsletter.

- DC Department of Employment Services
- DC Office of Homeland Security
- GMAC-RFC
- ITT Technical Institute
- Morino Institute
- MyEyeDr.
- Northrup Grumman
- The Papery of Bethesda
- Paul's Wine & Liquor
- Safeway
- Snow Queen Vodka
- Trader Joe's
- Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
- WTTG Fox 5

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Rock n' Roll Dance Party

ON THE EVENING OF SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, the home of Amy and Steven Boyce was rockin'! With over 80 guests in attendance and over \$30,000 in donations, Perry's most recent home-based fundraiser was another tremendous success. Live music by the local band Beat's Workin' kept a constant crowd dancing. Delectable nourishments and spirits were enjoyed amidst the additional vibrations of convivial conversation. All the while an enticing silent auction provided another enjoyable outlet for supporting Perry.

Co-chairs Amy Boyce and Susan Nordeen captured a moment to acclaim the great generosity of the party's sponsors and guests. They also took that time to celebrate the fruition of the hard work of each of the party volunteers. Perry's Executive Director, Paul McElligott followed with an introduction to the evening's inspiration in speaking about Perry's anti-poverty mission and methods. As a majority of the guests were hearing about Perry for the first time, a highlight of the night was the viewing of the Perry Center video.

The success of the event is certainly to the credit of our sensational co-chairs and dedicated Friends of Perry. Their creative energy and gracious volunteer efforts begot the lively evening that increased the awareness of our cause and financially furthered the ability of our organization. Buttressing that hard work were the beneficent donations contributed by every guest and many others who were unable to attend. We would like to extend our gratitude to GMAC-RFC for their generous contribution that allowed this evening to be 100% tax-deductible for our many esteemed guests as well as all of the benevolent companies who equipped the party with in-kind donations. This fortuitous mix of ingenuity and generosity was instrumental in making the Rock n' Roll Fundraiser a big hit! ♦



**HELP US MAKE A
DIFFERENCE...**

Meeting the needs addressed by Perry Center, Inc. requires the help of supporters like you. Private contributions are a main source of our funds. You can make a tax-deductible donation:

Online at
www.perryschool.org

By mail:
Perry Center, Inc.
128 M St NW #100
Washington, DC 20001

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Design and Editorial:
Center for Educational Design
and Communication (CEDC),
Washington, DC