

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Camp Around the World

ONCE AGAIN PERRY has received a grant from CYITC (Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation) and will engage children and youth from the community at two sites for summer programming. The sites are Perry School and Shaw-Terrell Recreation Center, located in the rear of Terrell Junior High School.

The Youth Development Program has planned an exciting summer camp for 2004. The theme for 2004 is *Camp Around The World*. Camp will have two four week sessions: Session I June 28th – July 23 and Session II July 24- August 20th. During the eight week camp, campers will “travel” to four countries: Brazil, Italy, Japan, and Cameroon West Africa.

As part of the curriculum, youth will learn about the climate, natural resources, dance, education requirements for children and youth, special holidays and cultural customs of the country.

They will visit embassies, attend special cultural events and exhibits and enjoy outside presenters from these countries. Campers will also sample native foods and engage in games and special art projects from these countries. In addition to our regular camp programming, the Teens will be engaged in a special APRA Project for Tobacco Compliance.

The project will engage 20 youth between the ages of 13–19 in a ten week program that will create: one community mural, ten graffiti paintings, a public service announcement, a commercial and a new compliance slogan that will promote no sales of tobacco products to youth under the age of 18. The project will also provide youth an opportunity to learn problem solving techniques, explore new art mediums, enhance their communication skills, and engage community businesses in constructive dialog for the purpose of complying with the Synar law that targets underage tobacco sales. This project allows youth to become community leaders while educating their peers and adults about the dangers to businesses for non-compliance with the law.

This project is an excellent vehicle for teaching youth new ways to acquire personal power, self-discipline, and leadership skills. At the completion of the project the participants will know that they have the power to influence change in their community that will make it a better place to live and work.

The camp will culminate with a trip to Boher Water Park and a Back to School Jam for all community youth on August 27th. There is no doubt that this will be one of the best summer camps yet. ☑



Summer Camp brings new knowledge and experiences to youth.

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Check out our new website at www.perryschool.org it contains information about Perry Center, Inc. and it's services, as well as details on the other organizations in the Perry Center.

Online donation is also now available.

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Message from the Executive Director

Affordable Housing

THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT is threatening to foreclose mortgages and terminate project section 8 contracts for housing units in the community in which the Perry Center is located and in other portions of our service area. The reason is that owners or managers have failed to maintain the properties and the properties have failed HUD inspections. If a property fails two inspections, HUD has the power to foreclose mortgages and terminate subsidy contracts. At least 15 properties in DC have failed two inspections. Until recently most tenants were unaware that their housing had failed inspections or that they were in danger of losing it. Now that they are aware, they are organizing with assistance from the Washington Interfaith Network, have met with lawyers, nonprofit housing developers, DC government officials, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, and local HUD officials, and are seeking a meeting with the Secretary of HUD. The tenants want to work with public and private officials to repair deficiencies and preserve affordable housing.

A crisis in affordable housing exists in DC, housing prices are escalating rapidly. Some communities, including those served by Perry Center, Inc., are being gentrified. One reason for the affordability crisis is that housing is not being produced at prices affordable by people who need it the most. "Affordability" is often determined on the basis of area median family income. The fiscal year 2004 median family income for DC is \$55,000 and is \$85,400 for the DC – Maryland – Virginia area. In requiring developers to produce a certain number of "affordable" units, the government often defines that as being between 50% and 80% of area median income. Developers usually opt for the higher number. But 80% of area median makes that housing unaffordable by more than 50% of DC residents and even at 50% of area median income, the housing is unaffordable by a substantial number of DC residents, especially those residents who need truly "affordable" housing. The government considers housing to be "affordable" for very poor people if it is at 30% of area median income, or \$25,620. But the median income in the community in which the Perry Center is located is about \$15,000. So thousands of people in this community would be excluded from housing at that level. That is why maintaining the subsidy contracts in existing housing is so critical.

HUD promises to give housing vouchers to displaced tenants. But this does not ensure that people will obtain housing, or obtain it for any period of time. The number of housing units for vouchers is very limited and a considerable number of people already have vouchers and cannot find housing. Housing complexes such as Sursum Corda were built to accommodate larger families and have four, five and six bedroom units. It is nearly impossible to find units with that many bed-

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rooms willing to accept vouchers so families can stay together. The future of the section 8 voucher program also is in jeopardy. The present administration wants to set a cap on the amount of section 8 funding and also remove certain restrictions in the program. National housing groups estimate that the proposed cap would reduce the number of vouchers available by 250,000 to 600,000. The administration also proposes to eliminate the requirement that 75% of vouchers go to families who are extremely poor. Thus families who most need subsidized housing would not be able to obtain it.

Government officials contend that concentrations of poverty should not persist and communities should be more mixed income. We do not disagree. The Perry Center was created to help people out of poverty and to assist them in moving toward "living wage" incomes through health, day care, education, development of skills, job training and job placement. The issue is whether mixed income communities will be achieved by helping people up or forcing people out. Affordable housing is needed to stabilize families so that the programs of the Perry Center can act to transform poverty-stricken communities. ☒

Special Appeal

Thanks to the generous support from many donors, Perry, Inc. is moving closer to meeting its budget for this fiscal year to support and sustain its programs in youth development, social services and economic empowerment. However, we must raise \$100,000 in new funds before September 30, 2004 to reach this goal. This would not replenish reserve funds or provide funding for the next fiscal year. But it would allow Perry, Inc. to continue its existing programs without curtailment through September 30. Please consider making a gift to Perry, Inc., or, if you have already given this year, please consider an additional gift at this time. Thank you.

Grateful for Your Support

We are grateful to all donors whose generous support sustains our youth and family programs and enables us to respond to the needs of those who come to us for help. The following have contributed to Perry, Inc. since our spring 2004 newsletter:

American Express Foundation
Mary Frances Burton Revocable Trust
Children's Charities Foundation
Naomi & Nehemiah Cohen Foundation
Commonweal Foundation
Copley Crypt Community
Dimick Foundation
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WHATS HAPPENING...

HIPPY Program Sets Records

Perry, Inc.'s preschool Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program set new records for participants, families and graduates in 2003-04. HIPPY had 80 participants from 77 families with 25 graduates. Seventy-seven of the 80 participants tested at age-appropriate levels of literacy at the end of the regular program year. Preschool literacy is a prime focus of the program. Graduates and some four year olds will participate in a five-week summer camp beginning June 28. The youngsters receive one-on-one tutoring to ensure that each person can read, knows colors, shapes, letters, numbers and other basic information, and is ready to enter school. Perry, Inc. is seeking to expand the HIPPY program next year to enable more youngsters to receive a quality preschool education. ☒



DC Chamber Honors Alverta Munlyn

The DC Chamber of Commerce honored Alverta Munlyn, current Perry, Inc. Board member, long-time Board Chair, and visionary and co-founder of the Perry Center, for her decades of dedicated community service at a luncheon on June 8. The Chamber selected Ms. Munlyn for one of its outstanding, Women Leadership Awards. The 600 people attending the luncheon give her a standing ovation. Ms. Munlyn has lived in the North Capitol community her entire life. In addition to creating and guiding the Perry Center, she was instrumental in securing new community housing for families displaced by urban renewal in the 1960s, served for many years as chair of the Sursum Corda Tenants Association, and has been selected a "Washingtonian of the Year." Perry, Inc. rejoices in the justly deserved recognition of a leader of the organization. ☒



Family, staff, and Friends of Perry celebrate award to Alverta Munlyn.

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We are very grateful to you, our supporters whose generosity has sustained our programs and enabled them to expand.

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Perry School Career and Training Programs

By H. Wendell Chesson, Career Counselor, Perry Career and Training Center.

The Perry School Community Services Center, Inc. Career and Training Department continues to make progress in providing training and job placements for individuals who reside within our services area. For the months of April and May, the Career Department has provided several Career Training Opportunities in the area of Home Health Care Aide, Child Development Associate (CDA), a daytime GED preparation class and a night time GED preparation class held at the Perry School facility.

Other training classes are held in collaboration with our partners that include Certified Nursing Assistant, Computer repairs, Food preparation, Plumbing, Auto Mechanics, Telecommunications and Retail sales classes. A majority of these classes are without cost to the student except for, in some cases, a small book or registration fee. Those who complete these classes get certification and employment assistance.

Two of our GED students have completed the course of study and passed the National GED exams. One has gone on to college and the other into an apprenticeship program. We have sponsored more than twenty individuals to our Home Health Aide course and those who were interested in employment were hired for our Home Health Care Partners. Our next Home Health Aide class began on June 7, 2004 and will last through June 22, 2004, with ten participants. These participants will be candidates for immediate employment should they desire. Within the last three months, we have referred an increasing number of individuals, more than 242, for training to our Training Partners throughout the city.

Our new entry-level Job Placement program has gotten off the ground with the placing of more than 23 individuals in entry level jobs from late March, 2004 through May, 2004. We are constantly seeking ways to improve the standard of living for individuals residing within our North Capitol service area and we sincerely expect that our goals and objectives will be met. There will be several more training classes provided during the upcoming months that will make more training available to individuals who need the benefit of our services. ☑