

THE PERRY NEWS

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the perry school community services center, inc.

ACTIVE AFTERNOONS

by Kevin Sibbersen

EVERY DAY JUST AFTER THREE O'CLOCK, the halls of the second floor erupt with energy. The smiles and adventures of another day come streaming up the stairs as the younger children arrive. Later at a much more leisurely pace, the older children arrive sometimes laughing in a group and sometimes alone deep in thought. But, by 3:30 the noise has calmed to a dull roar as the children complete their homework. This is how the children come to the Perry School every day, filled with energy, hope, and personality.

As a Jesuit Volunteer, I was placed at the Perry School to help with the Youth Development Program. I had rationalized this year of service as a fifth year of education, a year of real life experience to round out my sheltered years studying at Notre Dame. I had no idea how real, or how educational, this experience would be. Even though I am supposed to be the Life Skills instructor, I am the one learning about life.

I live one block north of the Perry School and have seen first hand the issues this community is faced with. I have flinched at the sound of gunshots in the street, walked across the broken bottles of peach flavored brandy littering the sidewalks and declined regular solicitations for drugs. Even as a twenty-two year old male, I feel at times uncertain and afraid. But to know that a six-year old girl, walks along the same streets and hears the same sirens makes me feel very uncertain and very afraid for her future. I think that everyone at the Perry School feels afraid for her future, and the future of every other child. And it is this fear that drives the Perry School's mission.

The children explode onto the second floor daily, despite reminders to walk in the hallways and to keep their voices down because they feel free to laugh, play, cry and hope within these red-bricked walls. At times this sense of freedom takes its toll on me and I go home feeling drained. But more often, I walk home amazed at the love these children have and want to share with the world.

The Perry School is certainly a wonderful place because it provides the local youth the opportunity to grow in a welcoming environment. I feel very lucky to have been brought into such a caring environment. I look forward to sharing my time, energy and love with the staff members and children of the Perry School who have so kindly welcomed me into their family. ☒

Alverta Munlyn Honored

THE BANK OF AMERICA SELECTED ALVERTA MUNLYN, co-founder of the Perry Center and long time Board Chair of Perry Center, Inc., in its first group of awardees as a 2004 Local Hero under the bank's Neighborhood Excellence Initiative. Ms. Munlyn was cited for her role in creating the Perry Center and for her decades of community service and activism. The award included a grant of \$5,000 to support her tutoring program. ☒

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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

Many Reasons To Be Grateful

THIS IS A GOOD TIME OF THE YEAR to reflect on the many ways in which we have been fortunate and the many people who contributed to that result.

An ongoing challenge is sustaining the programs and services of a human services agency. People in need come to rely on the regularity and continuity of services to meet those needs. Perry Center, Inc. incurred operating losses in 2002 and 2003, but had an operating profit in 2004. This was due to an increase in public funds from D.C. agencies including the D.C. HIV/AIDS Administration, Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration and Office of Early Childhood Development, plus public funds administered by the Children & Youth Investment Trust Corp., plus continued solid support from private donors. Usually Perry Center, Inc. begins a new fiscal year with limited funds, and must struggle to make ends meet. This year funds received or committed, including a legislative appropriation and a highly successful gala, will cover more than 50% of Perry Center, Inc.'s operating budget, and make the daily struggle less intense, while preserving core programs and services.

We are fortunate for our increasingly active Board and our professional and dedicated staff. Board members have played key roles in generating more financial support for Perry Center, Inc. and in raising the awareness of the organization and its services among public officials and the private sector, while continuing to govern and guide the organization. Our staff must deal with people experiencing serious problems, needs and crises, and must act competently and sensitively to remedy the conditions and alleviate the problems. They have done this so consistently that the Gala Committee properly designated them as "Perry Stars".

We continually seek to improve and expand our programs and services, and we are fortunate to be able to do so this year. Additional funding will enable us to reach a new level with our preschool HIPPPY program with over 100 youngsters. Our computer learning center has upgraded computers donated by the Architect of the Capitol and the Plato Learning System through a grant from the Philip Graham Fund. A study by the Academy for Educational Development of youth development milestones and the most promising practices to achieve those milestones, funded by the Commonwealth Foundation, will influence and inform our youth development system, making it better, more structured and more proactive. The Plato System will add new dimensions to our GED and job counseling programs.

In sum, Perry Center, Inc., is a stronger and better organization due to the talents and efforts of many people. We have many reasons to be grateful during this season of gratitude. ☒

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, and organization donors, which have contributed to Perry, Inc. since our last newsletter.

- Anonymous
- Bender Foundation
- Boston Properties
- Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
- Center Group Charities, Inc.
- Chertkof Foundation
- Clark Construction Group, LLC
- Dickstein Shapiro Morin & Oshinsky, LLP
- GBSM, Inc.
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- Horning Brothers
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- MARPAT Foundation
- Moriah Fund
- Morino Institute
- Henry & Anne Reich Family Foundation
- Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
- Union Center Plaza Management
- U. S. Congress
- XM Satellite Radio

Abe Pollin Hosts Breakfast for Perry Center, Inc.

MR. ABE POLLIN AND WASHINGTON SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT hosted a breakfast for Perry Center, Inc. at the MCI Center on November 3. D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton attended, and spoke of the services and programs of Perry Center, Inc. in educating and employing D.C. residents and addressing conditions of poverty in the city. Mr. Pollin noted his two tours of the Perry Center and the importance of the work of Perry Center, Inc., and urged those attending to support this work. In addition to a generous contribution from Mr. Pollin, the event raised new funds for Perry Center, Inc. programs. Perry Center, Inc. is very grateful to Mr. Pollin and Susan O'Malley and Judy Holland-Burton of Washington Sports and Entertainment for hosting this breakfast and for the additional funding. ☒

Spectacular Gala Funds Programs

NOVEMBER 18 WAS A VERY SPECIAL EVENING.

More than 200 people joined Perry Center, Inc. Board members and staff at Union Station to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Perry Center and "A Night with the Perry Stars". This festive occasion featured singing, poetry and rapping entertainment by local youth, a new video of Perry Center, Inc. programs and staff, live and silent auctions including an art auction, and a market place of t-shirts and cards produced by youth in the after school program. The event generated over \$100,000 to support Perry Center, Inc. programs in youth development, social services and job training and placement. This was a remarkable achievement for an initial gala. Special thanks are due the Honorary Co-chairs, Mr. Abe Pollin and Ms. Barbara Lang, the Gala Co-chairs - Susan Baron, Beth Shulman, Sue Marcum and Susan Nordeen, the members of the Gala Committee who worked many hours to organize the event, gala sponsors and donors of auction items and all who attended and contributed. It was truly a night to remember. ☒



Perry School Social Services Offers Workshop on NCLB

IN NOVEMBER PERRY SCHOOL SOCIAL SERVICES in collaboration with Perry School Youth Development Department held a workshop for parents in the Sursum Corda community on the No Child Left Behind law (NCLB). Youth Development Director Marsha Middleton and Social Worker Tamara Perez from Social Services facilitated the workshop. The NCLB workshop focused on free tutoring services and school accountability. Students who attend a school labeled needing improvement for two consecutive years are eligible. Walker Jones Elementary and RH Terrell Jr. High are labeled needing improvement schools. Parents had an opportunity to obtain supplemental educational service applications. In order for students to receive these free tutoring services parents had to complete a supplemental educational service application.

Parents were given information on stronger school accountability. Under school accountability students would be tested based on academic standards established by the No Child Left Behind law. Parents are to receive a report card each year detailing the progress of their child and the performance of their school. This is a right under the No Child Left Behind law. Parents found this workshop very educational and informative.

Before the workshop began parents and children were welcomed with a spaghetti dinner served with a salad, garlic bread and cookies for desert. Antionette Jones provided childcare while the parents attended the workshop. For further information about NCLB please contact Ms. Middleton at (202) 312-7157 or Tamara Perez at (202) 312-2440. The Perry School Community Services Center plans to hold future workshops about the No Child Left Behind law. ☒

PLEASE DESIGNATE
Perry School Community Services Center, Inc. #9146
for United Way/Combined Federal Campaign Contributions

**The Perry School Community
Services Center, Inc**
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HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

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

Online at
www.perryschool.org

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

By selecting:
United Way and Combined
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We are very grateful to you, our supporters whose generosity has sustained our programs and enabled them to expand.

CREDITS

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

"Jobs & Job Training" The Perry Career and Training Center

The word is going around that our new **JOBS4U** program is the place to come to get a good job quickly. Moreover, it is the place to come to find work that speaks to your interests, skills, and abilities. Our new employment counselor, Avery Blakeney, will sit down with you to assess your employment needs and help you locate work that you really enjoy.

We also have a **Career Program** for those who have more work experience. A career counselor will help you develop meaningful career goals. Your counselor will assist you in professionalizing your resume, developing a terrific cover letter, and a job search plan that will fulfill your personal and professional growth needs.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

There is much excitement around the Perry School about the new **Jewelry Making and Marketing** class sponsored by Catholic Charities. The jewelry is beautiful and students learn to form a business to sell their own creations. The jewelry has been displayed in museums around the country. We just completed a **Money Management** class that leads to an Individual Development Account (IDA). The IDA is a special bank account where participants contribute up to \$20 monthly, and a 3:1 match is provided. Participants can spend their savings once their goal is reached on housing, education or opening a new business. We are looking to starting a new Money Management/IDA class in February.

Continuing classes at Perry School are the **Childcare/CDA** class, the ongoing day and evening GED Preparation class and the **Home Healthcare (HHA)** class. We look forward to our **2005 Tax Assistance Clinic**. Last spring we were able to save our taxpayers over \$44,000 in EITC and other tax incentives. We look forward to providing a similar program on Saturdays in February and March of 2005. **For more information on our classes please call Harriet Saft at 202 312 7154, or Wendell Chesson at 202 312 7142. For job opportunities call Avery Blakeney at 202 216 0453.** ☐