



# THINKING OUTSIDE the SCHOOL

NEW COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN

SPRING 2010

## DEAR FRIENDS,

I am pleased to notify you of a new addition and exciting transition at New Community for Children. As many of you know, Ms. Ruth Chan assumed the position of Executive Director since NCFC's former Executive Director, Marvin Coote, left in April, 2009. After a lengthy and extensive search that attracted applicants from around the country as well as region and city, the NCFC Board has selected and hired, Ms. Nadine Duplessy Kearns as NCFC's new permanent Executive Director.

Ruth and Bindu Balan (our Development/Operations Director) in collaboration with the NCFC staff, have done an exceptional job leading, stabilizing and growing the organization. Under their leadership, the organization has expanded its funding base, secured a significant amount of funding, expanded programming, stabilized and improved a professionally qualified staff, unveiled a new website and newsletter, and increased media presence.

Now, NCFC is excited to welcome Ms. Nadine Duplessy Kearns to the NCFC team. Nadine joined NCFC in January. Over the next several months Nadine will be working closely with Ruth as they share the position of Executive Director. Nadine will assume the position of permanent Executive Director as Ruth transitions out later this year as her work visa expires. Until this time, Nadine will be overseeing the fundraising and development aspect of the position while Ruth will oversee NCFC programming. We are privileged to have two very strong staff members working together to continue NCFC's mission and 23 years of supporting the academic, social and creative growth of children in Shaw and the entire city of Washington DC.

Ms. Kearns comes with a deep commitment to increasing educational opportunities for youth in the District, and brings to NCFC experience in financial management, fundraising, community outreach, program management and staff and Board development. She has partnered with many local education non-profits while serving as Director of Community Relations at Washington Latin Public Charter School and Deputy Director of Capital Partners for Education. Nadine and her family are long time D.C. residents and she looks forward to getting to know the New Community kids, parents, and all the supporters who contribute to the organization's initiatives and ongoing success.

Please join the Board in supporting and welcoming Ms. Kearns as she provides leadership to NCFC and helps us take the next steps towards an exciting and challenging future. When you meet her, I know that you will agree that she is the right leader at the right time for NCFC. Nadine is eager to meet everyone in our NCFC support network.

Sincerely,

Grace Dickerson, *Board President*



## ABOUT US

New Community for Children provides under-served children and families in Washington, DC with before school, after school, and summer programs that help them strengthen their academic skills as well as foster the self-confidence and creativity needed to realize their fullest potential.

NCFC is a 501(c)3  
nonprofit organization

To learn more about  
events, visit our website:  
[www.ncfc-dc.org](http://www.ncfc-dc.org)

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# PROGRAM UPDATES

This summer marks yet another year of innovative and engaging programming for more than 90 students aged 4-13. Called *Our Garden, Our Community*, this summer will be six weeks packed with all things green. Students will learn about plant biology, where our vegetables, fruits and herbs come from, how to take care of our environment, cooking skills, and much more. Some highlights include:

- **Community Art Garden on Marion Street:** Just a 5-minute walk from NCFC, students will work alongside several generations of community members to tend, harvest, and even cook with the vegetables and herbs grown at the garden. In partnership with City Blossoms, they'll also create permanent art installations in the garden. Our hope is that by meeting new people and working on the garden, students will see that they have an important place in the Shaw community.
- **On site vegetable and flower gardens:** After choosing what they'd like to grow, students will plant various flowers, vegetables, and herbs in our two on-site gardens. They will be responsible for tending, monitoring, and harvesting their gardens. These activities will help children connect what they see in their fridge or dinner plate to where these foods actually come from.
- **US Botanic Garden Partnership:** From analyzing cells under microscopes to testing water purity, students will be busy learning outside at the Botanic Garden's outdoor gardens. Over the span of a week, they'll be exploring photosynthesis, conditions for plant growth, compost, and creating natural art. At the end of the week, students will become scientific investigators as they solve *The Mystery of the Stolen Plant* using all the skills they picked up throughout the week.



- **Photography and Cooking:** The ABLE students will be exercising their photography and cooking skills as they create a children's cookbook based on their exploration of our gardens' harvests.
- **Academic Enrichment:** As always, each day during the summer will have a committed time to reading, writing, and math enrichment. Academic skills will also be integrated into their garden activities. For example, students will monitor plant growth by measuring with rulers and graphing results (both DCPS math standards).

To see how you can help with *Our Garden, Our Community*, check out the 'Get Involved' section.



**Summer**  
*Our Garden, Our Community*  
**June 28-August 6**

## Happening Now at NCFC

**ABLE (Adolescents Building Literacy through Expression: 5th-12th grade)** introduced two new components. 1. *The Haiti Project* invites students to explore the history and culture of the country and how the earthquake affected Haiti's people and infrastructure. Through guest speakers, correspondence with residents of Haiti, and other interactive activities, students learn about how global catastrophes persist for years even as they fade from media coverage. Despite often being labeled as 'at-risk' themselves, our students also reflect on how they can help others in need and enable change using resources they have. 2. *SAT Prep*— With the support of a committed volunteer, our high school students can now sign up for free SAT preparation classes.



**Elementary (ASAP, LEAP: Pre-K– 4th grade):** On March 5, our 2nd- 4th graders were invited to take a tour of the Department of the Interior's Murals. While the students learned about national parks, compared different paintings, and retold stories of Native Americans, a TV crew from DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities filmed the whole experience. The young artist connoisseurs will be appearing on DC-16 TV soon!



# FAMILY DAY

In February, NCFC launched a new program component as NCFC staff saw various needs of not just the children we serve, but their families as well. *Jamii* ('family' or 'community' in Swahili) is a resource day for families that occurs monthly on a Saturday.

In addition to food, games, and family-friendly activities, we also provide tangible support to family members with help from a dedicated group of volunteers. Students receive one-on-one tutoring, help with homework and with high school and college applications. Parents are invited to use our computers, pick up some new technology skills, consult with volunteer doctors, and learn from a variety of guest speakers. We also use this time to inform parents of other ways NCFC can support them, including our New Community Foundation Scholarship, advice with choosing schools, and ways they can get involved.

Our next *Jamii* will be April 17 from 1pm-4pm. Here's to bringing the 'community' to New Community for Children!



## What happened at *Jamii*?

Tedra and other students spend their Saturday showing off their computer and spelling skills to the volunteers.

NCFC staff and volunteers represent their home states on our US map. We have a lot of East-coasters.

Justin, Caleb, and Geoff take a break from math games.

Dr. Dwayne Williams (former ABLE Program Director) speaks to parents about how to advocate for your child's education.

Noel helps Janelle with some homework.



For more information about our mission, programs, or ways to get involved, please visit our website

[www.ncfc-dc.org](http://www.ncfc-dc.org)

## CONTACT US

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Gloria Lowery  
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Shiv Newaldass  
*Manna Inc.*

Robert Stewart  
*The JBG Companies*

## STAFF

Nadine Duplessy Kearns  
*Executive Director*

Ruth Chan  
*Executive Director (Programs)*

Mark Pagán  
*Program Director, ABLE*

Bindu Balan  
*Development/Operations Director*



New Community for Children  
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# GET INVOLVED

## ATTEND

**Happy Hour at Vinoteca**  
**Wednesday, April 21 @ 5:00-9:00pm**

Join us for our bi-monthly happy hour. This month, we'll be at Vinoteca (1940 11th St. NW). A \$10 donation will give you access to Vinoteca's happy hour deals, with 100% of donations going to New Community for Children. Come meet the NCFC staff and bring your friends!

## SUPPORT

**Help our summer students build a community garden**

NCFC is gearing up for our garden-based summer program for more than 90 children. This project will allow our students to partner with community members to create an intergenerational vegetable and art garden. Students will learn about community connection, healthy living skills and eco-literacy.

- Got a green thumb? Email Ruth ([rchan@ncfc-dc.org](mailto:rchan@ncfc-dc.org)) if you're interested in helping out with our gardens.
- Or make a donation specifically to fund this program at [www.globalgiving.org/projects/to-plant-a-garden-is-to-believe-in-tomorrow/](http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/to-plant-a-garden-is-to-believe-in-tomorrow/). Spread the word!

## DONATE

**Consider Supporting Children at NCFC this Spring!**

- Donate online at [www.ncfc-dc.org](http://www.ncfc-dc.org), or
- Send a check (made payable to *New Community for Children*) to:  
**1722 6th Street NW, Washington DC 20001**. All contributions are tax-deductible.