

THINKING OUTSIDE the SCHOOL

SUMMER/FALL 2009

NEW COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN

DEAR FRIENDS,

A big thank you from the Board to *all the staff* at New Community for Children! Behind each exceptional child is exceptional staff and this summer saw more children than ever. The staff did a magnificent job providing them with academic and recreational enrichment for six weeks. Another special thanks goes to The Center for Inspired Teaching who provided teachers-in-training for part of the summer. Finally, thanks also goes to our senior staff, Ruth Chan, Bindu Balan and Dr. Dwayne Williams, who have provided excellent leadership since our former Executive Director left the area for a new opportunity in April. We are grateful to all of you.

As an update, the Board has appointed Ruth as Executive Director of NCFC. She will also continue her program management responsibilities. In addition, given the needs of the organization at this time, the Board has also decided to seek out another person to share these responsibilities as Co-Director.

I also want to give a big thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors, parents, and generous supporters who help make NCFC the exceptional organization it is today! Everyone has risen to the challenges of this year, and we look forward to a great school year ahead.

Thanks for your ongoing support and please keep us in your prayers.

Grace Dickerson
President of the Board

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.



15 YEARS AND COUNTING: NCFC honors Ms. Shirley

If you step foot in New Community for Children, and you see a delicious snack for the children being cooked, a pot of coffee brewing, and a flurry of cleaning, you will know Ms. Shirley is here. With 15 years under her belt—nine of them as an employee—staff and parents alike have always looked up to her. The best part? She has no intention of leaving her 2nd Graders at NCFC anytime soon.

“As my husband says, there are two things that are in your life, New Community for Children and your yarn.” To learn more about Ms. Shirley’s yarn obsession, drop by the Center, and when you do, don’t forget to congratulate her on her 15 years here at NCFC. We couldn’t do what we do without her.

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NCFC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that began in 1988.

To learn more about upcoming events, visit our website:
www.ncfc-dc.org

SUMMER PROGRAM

This Summer, we had the privilege of partnering with the Center for Inspired Teaching, another DC nonprofit organization that works with teachers to ensure that schools make the most of children's innate desire to learn.

Inspired Teaching teachers (all training to receive their Teaching License) and New Community for Children staff collaborated to serve 143 students, 50 more than any previous summer here at NCFC. Kindergarten through 12th grade students participated in theme-based academic learning. The 4th Graders built circuits to explore electricity while the 2nd Graders made nature sculptures to learn about how things grow. Students also participated in sports days and field trips to round out their summer learning experience.



The 6-week summer program ended with a much anticipated Carnival day. Bank of America graciously sponsored the event, allowing us to rent a 72 foot water slide for students (and adults alike!), a moon bounce, carnival games, and enough food to feed the 200 people who attended.

Mrs. Parks-Robinson is a new NCFC parent and wrote to us saying, "I had assumed guardianship of my six-year-old nephew, Quay, just this summer and he was having difficulty transitioning to his new environment.. I found the staff very compassionate, supportive and above all deeply committed to helping my nephew (and me) through a really challenging period. Thank you, New Community for our 'gift of summer.'"



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

www.ncfc-dc.org





This past school year (2008-2009), New Community for Children served the most children in its 20 years! 285 students from the ages of 4 and 20 attended NCFC before and after school programs at four different sites in and around the Shaw neighborhood.

Students spent the year improving their math and language arts skills while unlocking their creative juices. Through arts projects, photography, group discussions, reflection journals, movement activities, games, experiments, and field trips, students saw that learning is not only valuable, but also extremely fun !

NCFC participants also had the privilege of taking classes in graffiti art, darkroom photography, step dance, and praise dance.

ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAMS



Untitled
Christian
13 years old
ABLE Program Participant

ABLE students use photography as a vehicle to express content knowledge as well as to create connections with each other and the world around them.

When this photograph was taken, ABLE students were exploring the effects of different shutter speeds and aperture settings on how an image turns out, as well as how to use natural light.

James Stewart, an ABLE Program veteran rolled up his pants and decided to dance in the water, and Christian captured this image.

This academic year, New Community for Children is growing even more! We'll be expanding our ABLE (adolescent and teen) Program to four sites in the Shaw community in addition to our two elementary programs (ASAP and LEAP). We are blessed to have almost all 12 teaching staff from last year return this year. They have showed continued enthusiasm and dedication to the work of NCFC despite this difficult economic year.

Because New Community for Children's mission is to support a child's growth in all aspects of life, we are excited to continue offering programming that not only addresses academic skills, but also character development traits like problem-solving and conflict resolution skills, and habits of reflection and responsibility. We'll also be adding some new enrichment activities like song production, mural painting, and gospel choir. With NCFC growing, we need your help all the more! See the back page of this newsletter to see how you can help.



OUR PROGRAMS

ASAP (After School and Advocacy Program): K-4th Grade

LEAP (Lead, Excel, Achieve, Progress): Pre-K-4th Grade (school site)

ABLE (Adolescents Building Literacy through Expression): 5th- 12th Grade



CONTACT US

1722 6th Street NW,
Washington DC 20001
T: 202.232.0457
F: 202.332.9798
www.ncfc-dc.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ruth Chan
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Dr. Dwayne Williams
Program Director, ABLE

Bindu Balan
Development/Operations Director

Mark Pagan
Acting Program Director, ABLE



New Community for Children
1722 6th Street NW
Washington DC 20001

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GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER

Whether you're an enthusiastic gardener or a seasoned teacher, a stamp collector or an artist, we need you at New Community for Children! Check out the different ways you can get involved on our website (www.ncfc-dc.org) under the Volunteer section.

Become a Reading Buddy! This year, we're rolling out a new volunteer program where Reading Buddies pair up with one student for the year and spend half an hour a week reading with him/her. Reading Buddies take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30pm-6:00pm. Interested? Sign up on our website.

DONATE

This past year's economic downturn has hit all nonprofit organizations hard, including New Community for Children. Our parents have also been affected and we've seen the demand in after school and summer program grow as a result, while funding sources have shrunk. We've taken a leap of faith this year by expanding the number of participants we can serve. Help us fulfill our promise to these children.

To support New Community for Children:

- Donate online at 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.