



# THINKING OUTSIDE the SCHOOL

## NEW COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN

SUMMER 2010

### DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for your support of the programs at New Community for Children. Your financial contributions and your volunteer hours have meant a great deal to the stability of the program. Let me share some highlights.

We are sad to say goodbye to Ruth Chan who came to NCFC as the Elementary Program Director 3 years ago. She has provided exceptional leadership to our program, and stepped into the Executive Director position at a time we needed her leadership. She has shaped our program in so many ways. We will miss her and wish her well as she moves to New York. Thank you Ruth for all you have given to us!

At the same time, we are excited to welcome Terrance Payton to the team as Elementary Program Director! Terrance worked as a Site Director here at NCFC two years ago. After working in DC Public Schools for the past two years, he is excited to return to a community-based organization where he can work directly with children and their families. Welcome, Terrance!

We had a great summer! It was exciting to see all the things the kids learned and how much they loved being here. Read more about what our kids did and find our summer blog address on page 2. It will bring you many smiles. We want to thank Jim Melson for a week of tennis camp for 15 of our kids, and the North Carolina folks who offered a week of Vacation Bible School for our children.

Also, the Board is delighted to welcome five new dynamic members: Margarita Ortiz, Nikki Pierre, Arayna Randall, Del Early, and Ernestine Benedict. They have already gotten involved in contributing to our program. Nikki helped plan a successful fundraiser sponsored by UPS that raised \$12,000 for NCFC. Arayna had her employer, the National Academies contribute school supplies for our kids. We are grateful for the gifts they will continue to offer our program.

New Community Foundation is proud to provide scholarships for 13 students for the 2010-2011 school year to attend college and private schools. We are grateful to see how successful our students continue to be.

Please continue to give us your time and financial support. It makes a huge difference in the lives of kids and we definitely need it. We are looking forward to an amazing school year in our new location at Walker-Jones Education Campus (more on page 3). Please come and visit us!

Sincerely,  
Grace Dickerson, *Board President*



Shad (2nd Grade) shows off the carrots he harvested (all in one big pull) from our front garden. To read more about what our students learned, planted, tended, harvested, and cooked this summer, check out page 2.

### 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)

### IN THIS ISSUE

Summer	2
Fall Programs	3
Summer Soiree	3
Get Involved	4

# SUMMER PROGRAM

## OUR NUMBERS

**98:** # students K-8th grade attended

**84:** % of enrolled students who were returning NCFC students

**3,500:** # hours spent in gardens

**20:** % increase in knowledge test about plants when comparing pre- and post- tests

**95:** % of our students reported that they learned a lot about the garden and how to eat healthy

**93:** % of our students reported that they told their parents something new they learned this summer

**100:** % of parents who reported being 'very satisfied' on parent surveys

**22:** # recipes cooked by the students

**15:** # of feet our sunflowers have grown



Our summer program, *My Garden, My Community* was a huge success! Our students spent the summer getting their hands dirty in all things horticulture. At the Botanic Gardens, they took the pH level of stream water, observed plant cells through microscopes, and created photosynthesis inspired artwork. At City Blossoms, they watered and tended the inter-generational community garden, and cooked dishes like pasta salad and veggie wraps. Back in our garden, they planted sunflowers and cooked from harvested vegetables and herbs from our garden (including delicious guacamole, ravioli, and salsa). In the classroom, they grew their own lima bean plants, measured and graphed the growth of their plants, and made up songs to remember the different parts of a flower.

With the help of our Master Gardener volunteers, Rick Skinner and Carmella Mazzotta, our fall after school students will have the opportunity to continue their outdoor learning in the garden. We're excited to see what the students will grow in this new crop and what they'll cook!

Thanks to DC Children & Youth Investment Trust Corporation and Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation for their financial support this summer.



**What was the best new thing you learned?** (as reported by post-program student surveys):

"Some plants are used as medicine."

"The soil is from worm poop."

"How to cook delicious healthy food like salsa."

"How to take seeds out of a sunflower."

"I learned how to work hard."

**Check out our garden blog!**

<http://ncfcgarden2010.wordpress.com>



# ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAMS

## MIDDLE SCHOOL (ABLE)

We've had a great summer at ABLE! Besides spending a week at the botanical gardens & tennis camp, our students learned about horticulture, cooking, and earth science with the help of our wonderful staff and City Blossoms. We're gearing up for just as exciting a time this fall. We're moving into our new spaces at Walker-Jones, while continuing the dynamic programming we've been offering at NCFC headquarters. Students will be focusing on a visual and language curriculum via our photography component, *Literacy Through Photography*, and our creative writing workshop, *Lifting Voices*. As well, students will create science experiments, projects, and theories with *Science for Poets*, while building their mathematic vocabulary with *The Algebra Project*. Finally, students will work to engage with their community via social service projects and discussions on entrepreneurship. We're looking forward to another great school year at ABLE!



## ELEMENTARY (LEAP & ASAP)

We have a lot of exciting new changes this coming school year. With the closure of Scott Montgomery ES, LEAP has been given the opportunity to follow our families and provide before and after school programming at Walker-Jones Education Campus. Walker-Jones is a brand new construction that houses the school, a public library, and a public recreation center. We're thrilled by the opportunity of using these resources, especially in ways that expose our students to new and rich experiences. Students will be participating in new academic curricula centered around reading and math, and will continue taking part in enrichment activities like creative writing, graffiti art, step team, as well as some new activities like tennis. We can't wait to see our old students (79% of students enrolled in SY2010-2011 were in our summer program or last year's after school program), and are looking forward to meeting new families. We're also excited to invite 100% of last year's staff back to teach this year. Most of all, we're looking forward to becoming members of a new community at our new site (no pun intended!), as well as continue the good work at our headquarters (ASAP) site.



## SUMMER SOIREE July 19 2010

What a great night for New Community for Children! Over 50 guests attended our Summer Soiree sponsored by UPS Public Affairs office on Monday July 19<sup>th</sup>. Our co-hosts were Nicole Clifton Pierre of UPS, Scott Bolden of Reed Smith, and Camelia Mazard of Doyle Barlow & Mazard LLP. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton was our special guest for the evening. She remarked that our kids face a future where they will need to compete with kids from other countries and that we need to have programs that help to develop "the whole child". It was wonderful to have Congresswoman Norton speak so convincingly about the impact New Community for Children has on children and youth in DC. We thank our friends, both old and new, who supported this year's summer soiree. We look forward to making this an annual event and hope you consider coming!



Grace Dickerson (NCFC Board President), Nikki Pierre (NCFC Board Member), Nadine Duplessy Kearns (NCFC Executive Director) & Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton hold UPS' donation of \$5,000. We were humbled by the outpouring of generosity and support we received.

Our silent auction table sold more than 20 items, including a master gardener consultation, custom murals, an electric guitar, one-week vacation, and our students' photographs taken over this past year and summer.

## CONTACT US

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Manna Inc.*

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*UPS*

Arayna Randall  
*The National Academies*

Robert Stewart  
*The JBG Companies*

## STAFF

Nadine Duplessy Kearns  
*Executive Director*

Mark Pagán  
*Program Director, ABE*

Terrance Payton  
*Program Director, Elementary*

Bindu Balan  
*Development/Operations Director*



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# GET INVOLVED

## VOLUNTEER

With the start of the 2010-2011 school year we are in need of help. We would love to have you serve as a Reading or Math Buddy, Tutor, Teaching Assistant, or Guest Speaker.

Please visit our website to learn more about volunteering opportunities or contact Terrance Payton at [tpayton@ncfc-dc.org](mailto:tpayton@ncfc-dc.org).



## DONATE

Consider making a contribution to support NCFC programs. New Community for Children is committed to offering high quality academic enrichment and arts based after school and summer programs free of charge to kids in the Shaw neighborhoods in the District. In order to serve 300 kids annually we rely on the support of individuals and foundations.

- 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.**

NCFC is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax-deductible