



# THINKING OUTSIDE the SCHOOL

NEW COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN

Winter 2010/11

## DEAR FRIENDS,

We think of wide-eyed excited kids, when they are receiving holiday gifts or experiencing a magical holiday performance. But the wide-eyed excitement that makes me really happy is the experience that NCFC children have each day mastering skills and learning new things. These are the things your generous contributions to NCFC make possible on a daily basis.

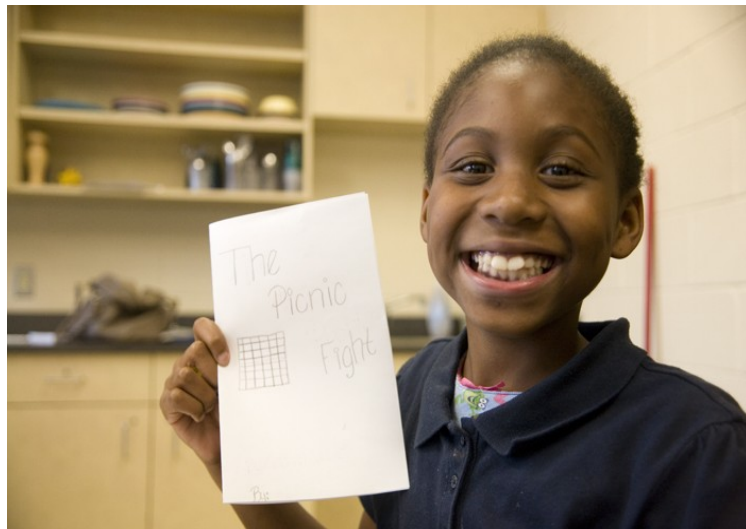
NCFC is one of the oldest after school programs in the city, and has continued to offer top quality programming. DC Public Schools has modeled many of their after school programs after NCFC. We also have experienced and skilled staff who are dedicated to doing all they can to make sure all our NCFC kids reach their highest potential.

Academic programming, the arts, college prep, scholarships through New Community Foundation, and parents groups are just a few of things we offer the children in the Shaw neighborhood at 1722 6<sup>th</sup> Street, NW and the newly remodeled Walker-Jones Education Campus. So much to celebrate! As always, funding it all is a great challenge. That is why we need you to continue your generous financial support to NCFC. I feel strongly that NCFC provides its supporters with a very big bang for your donated dollars.

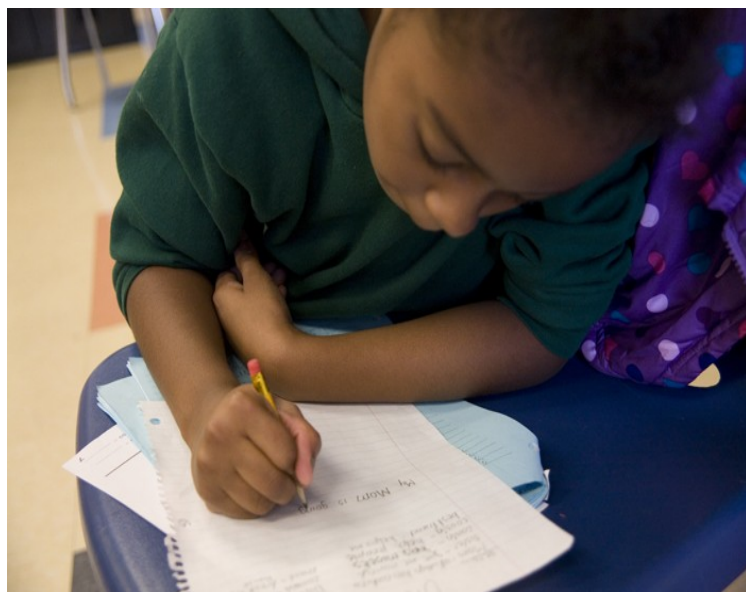
Thanks in advance for your gift to NCFC. You are the people that keep us going each day. I hope you will enjoy reading in this newsletter about the many wonderful things that are happening at NCFC. Please give generously this year; the kids depend on your gifts to be able to keep that spark alive in their daily learning.

We also wish for you a very special holiday time.

Grace Dickerson  
NCFC Board Chair



Elementary students at Walker-Jones Education Campus create graphic novels through the creative writing program offered by NCFC and led by Lifting Voices. Creative writing is just one of the exciting programs being offered by NCFC this school year.



## 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  
us, visit our website:  
[www.ncfc-dc.org](http://www.ncfc-dc.org)

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# PROGRAM UPDATES

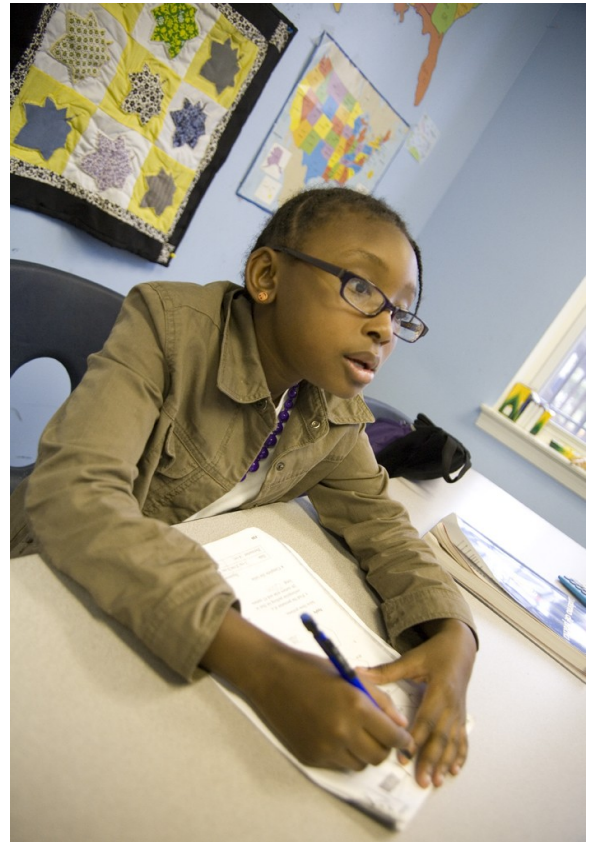
## ELEMENTARY (ASAP & LEAP)

As we say good-bye to Scott Montgomery, we say hello to Walker-Jones Education Campus and its community. The LEAP program has been very fortunate to travel with our Scott Montgomery families to this brand new facility located in Shaw Northwest One, Washington, D.C. Walker-Jones is a new construction that houses a school, public library, and recreational center. We are thrilled about the new partnerships that are budding in teaming up with these resources as we work to provide supplemental math and language art activities, homework support, tutorials, step, graffiti art, and creative writing.

With the help of our educational consultants we have developed a reading readiness assessment for students in grades kindergarten through second. The assessments will be used to help guide the support of our students with their literacy development. We continue to do great work at both LEAP and ASAP.

We are currently looking to enroll more volunteers in the Reading Buddy and tutoring programs. For more information contact Terrance Payton at [tpayton@ncfc-dc.org](mailto:tpayton@ncfc-dc.org).

**ASAP student Camille listens and writes while fourth grade teacher, Mr. Connally, tests vocabulary words and grammar.**



## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL (ABLE)



**ABLE students at Walker-Jones Education Campus prepare a response to Mr. Roger's question during his weekly "Family Feud" game. Each game focuses on cultural history, geography, and social studies curriculum.**

It's been an exciting few months of the school year and we're just getting started! This school year, ABLE is focusing on literacy and the sciences, using components to challenge students' awareness of self, cultural history, and civic engagement while preparing students for middle school, high school, and college success. We're proud to bring back two of our most popular components— *Literacy Through Photography* (photography and visual arts) and *Lifting Voices* (creative writing). With the work of our wonderful instructor, Sharonda Newsome, we have reformatted our *Algebra Project* class to bring math curriculum to our middle school students a few times a week. On top of that, we have three new components this school year:

- *SAT Prep*— Weekly tutoring in all areas of SAT test material.
- *City Blossoms*— Students work weekly in a public garden, learning to cultivate plants, herbs, vegetables, and fruits while focusing on environmental science and developing a business plan for selling good cultivated from the garden.
- *Music History*— Students take a look at local music history and place it in the context of historical and social movements in the United States while focusing on history, theory, composition, and playing.

With such a large number of talented students and dynamic programming, we're inspired by what our students are doing every week!



# FOCUS ON LITERACY

Literacy is the key focus of our programs for kids Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade this 2010-2011 school year. Researchers now insist that literacy problems can be detected among preschoolers, and must be addressed by the third grade in order to prepare a child for academic success. Children with strong reading skills are more likely to succeed in middle school and high school, and go on to graduate and be successful in postsecondary education. In contrast, children who struggle to read or possess “weak basic skills” in school are more likely to be truant, and may be at higher risk of delinquent behavior. These students are more likely to continue to fall behind, widening the academic achievement gap that exists between them and their peers.



New Community for Children's response is to extend the time kids spend building their reading skills in school to continue working on literacy when they are with us daily. We are using individualized assessments of students to create lesson plans and improvement goals. The students are excited about our new partnership with the newly renovated Shaw Public Library just two blocks away. Once a week they go on a Read Across America journey, a literacy-based study of the 50 States plus the District. We welcome volunteers to serve as Reading Buddies and read one-one-one with a child once a week. Our goal is for each student to have their own Reading Buddy.

Your engagement with New Community for Children makes it possible for us to support students as they move from learning to read to reading to learn!

# CATALOGUE FOR PHILANTHROPY

New Community for Children is proud to be part of the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington. Each year some 250 organizations apply to be featured and undergo a rigorous vetting process. This year a panel of 100 expert reviewers from area foundations, corporate giving programs, giving circles, and peer nonprofits participated in the process, and this year's 70 nonprofits were selected. All 350 organizations (including ours!) can be viewed online at the Catalogue's website [www.cfp-dc.org](http://www.cfp-dc.org) where donations can also be made.

New Community for Children is proud to be called “one of the best,” and we hope you'll view our profile online (just search us by name via the website– [www.cfp-dc.org](http://www.cfp-dc.org)) and help spread the word about the Catalogue so that together we can deepen the culture of giving in our nation's capitol.

# NCFC PARENT COMMITTEE

New Community for Children is proud to introduce the new parent committee. The committee was formed to:

- Provide input on how to improve NCFC programs
- Help parents understand NCFC programs and how to better utilize them
- Create opportunities for getting involved in fundraising, daily programming, etc.
- Help connect families

For more information regarding the committee contact Arayna Randall at [arayna3@gmail.com](mailto:arayna3@gmail.com) or Gloria Lowery at [glowery@mannadc.org](mailto:glowery@mannadc.org)



## CONTACT US

1722 6th Street NW,  
Washington DC 20001  
T: 202.232.0457  
F: 202.332.9798  
[www.ncfc-dc.org](http://www.ncfc-dc.org)

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



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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).



Board member Pete Jervey with reading buddy, Bowen.

## 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 250+ 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