



THINKING OUTSIDE the SCHOOL

NEW COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN

Winter 2013

Dear Friends,

As 2013 comes to a close, I wanted to take the time to wish you all Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. In October 2013, New Community for Children marked twenty-five years of transforming the lives of kids in Washington DC through supporting academic achievement, providing social enrichment and positive connections to caring adults, and empowering families and communities. With the support of caring individuals and foundations we are able to extend learning time beyond the classroom with over 600 hours of academic and social enrichment activities, homework assistance, tutoring, and positive engagement with caring staff and volunteers after school and summer.



Kaitlyn & Melaiya at Montpelier Farms in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

While many neighborhoods in Washington DC, including Shaw where New Community for Children is located, are experiencing growth and transformation with an influx of higher income residents, there remains still a need for us to focus on what we know works: preparing low-income students for academic success and post secondary education. Measurable longer-term outcomes for our programming include improved graduation rates, improved school attendance, decreased incidences of juvenile delinquency and school dropout rates, and an increase in college or vocational school attendance. In order to move our students to that long-term goal we focus in the shorter term on the impact of academic and social enrichment programming on improving academic skills and performance as well as changing behaviors associated with doing well in school. We are proud that in the last school year 26% of students attending New Community for Children improved by at least full letter grade in Reading and 47% did so in Math.

We hope you will enjoy reading in this newsletter about the many wonderful things that are happening at NCFC. We continue to rely on generous donors like you to make our successes possible. Your fully tax-deductible donation means that we can go into 2014 with the resources we need to continue the mission of New Community for Children for another year.

With gratitude,

Nadine Duplessy Kearns
Executive Director

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2013 FALL PROGRAMMING



NCFC partners with local community based organizations to provide engaging activities for our students. Excel into Action provides yoga and Zumba® classes for our students in grades K-2. We continue to work with Kaizen Karate to provide our third and fourth grade students with karate lessons.

Our middle school students work with City Blossoms. 'Growing a Business' is their entrepreneurship program that allows students to harvest herbs from the Marion St. Garden, and create organic, herb-based products to sell at the Penn Quarter Farmer's Market. The students made soap, body butter and lip balm. Contact us if you are interested in purchasing an item as a holiday stocking stuffer!

A DAY AT THE FARM



This fall, New Community for Children students got a chance to visit Montpelier Farms in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. We started our morning with a hayride tour around the farm and through the corn field. Then we visited the goats and raced around a track on pedal carts & tractors. Next we climbed up a steep hill to enjoy the jumbo slide. We recharged for lunch and enjoyed a cup of fresh apple cider before running off to our next adventure—the corn field maze!

The seven acre maze was quite a feat. With a map in hand we made our way through it with only a few 'detours' along the way! To celebrate our victory we stopped by the pumpkin patch to pick out pumpkins to take home.

The students, parents and staff really enjoyed themselves. It was our first Saturday enrichment trip for the year and with your support we hope to do more in the future!

MEET READING BUDDIES EMILY & NOAH

Emily Rindone and third grader Noah have developed quite a bond since the first time they met. It has been five years since the first time Emily signed up to be Noah's personal reading buddy. "It's been a joy watching him evolve," Emily says. "When we first started together he was just learning how to read, and now he only needs help with the most advanced words in the books that we go over together." This year Emily and Noah have been reading the Roscoe Riley Rules series.

Such a bond comes from the connection they share with each other. Our reading buddies are paired with one student for the school year. This consistency allows our students to develop a meaningful relationship with a caring adult. "I like Emily because she comes every Tuesday during the year and she helps me with everything. Even homework" NCFC welcomes caring and committed adults to serve as reading buddies!



VOLUNTEER

For more information on how you can become a reading buddy, tutor or lead a workshop visit our website:

www.ncfc-dc.org/volunteer



MEET JAHSHUA SMITH

This fall, NCFC welcomed a new staff member to our team.

Jahshua Smith is originally from Detroit, Michigan and recently moved to Washington D.C. to be the new Program Coordinator for New Community for Children. He graduated from Michigan State University in 2008 with a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism. His post-collegiate work includes a supervisory residential counseling role at the non-profit organization Highfields Inc., located in Onondaga, Michigan. Jahshua was also a facilitator for their after-school program, Reaching Higher, at El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz Academy in Lansing, MI. Jahshua is also a talented up and coming musician who has performed at the South by Southwest music festival in Austin, Texas.



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DONATE

Consider making a contribution to support NCFC programs for the 2013-2014 school year. New Community for Children is committed to offering high quality academic enrichment and arts based after school and summer programs to kids in the Shaw neighborhood in the District.

With the support of individuals and foundations we are able to extend learning time beyond the classrooms with over 600 hours of instruction, homework assistance, tutoring, and positive engagement with caring staff and volunteers.

Donate online:
www.ncfc-dc.org

Send a check made payable to:

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NCFC is a 501(c)(3) organization.

All contributions are tax-deductible.

