



FACES WITHOUT PLACES GAZETTE

APRIL 2009

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FACES WITHOUT PLACES TRUSTEES

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Julia Wallner
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Bill Hutchinson
Theresa Lynch
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Allegra Nicodemus
Sandra Pierce
Elaine Polson
Aaron Seyfried
Marsha Steed
Angela Grillo-Tepe
Mike Yeager

REFLECTIONS...

by Rachel Champlin

For the past three years, Project Connect has been working in collaboration with Public Allies, a program of Bridges for a Just Community. Public Allies is a program that offers individuals between the age of 18 and 30 a full-time, paid apprenticeship at a non-profit organization in the Cincinnati area. They provide personal and professional development training in the hopes of producing diverse, young leaders.

For the last two years, it has been my privilege to first be an Ally and then a Fellow placed with Project Connect through Public Allies. My first year brought tremendous personal growth, and I am happy to find that my second year has given me the opportunity to make great strides professionally.

During the 2007-2008 school year, 110 students at Woodward Career Technical High School experienced homelessness. Because of this large number, I was placed at the high school for the 2008-2009 year to provide immediate and more involved support to these students. At this time, 101 students have been identified and have received services as needed, including uniform vouchers, transportation assistance, fee waivers, access to free lunch, and school supplies. I also saw a high volume of students looking for their own housing, having been kicked out, or fearing that they would be, once they turned 18.

At the end of February, my role at PC shifted when Rebeka Beach, the Adolescent Manager, went on maternity leave. As a result, I have taken most of the high school cases in the district while still maintaining office hours at Woodward. I also spend time at the Lighthouse Youth Crisis Center, helping to enroll students who have been out of school. I have had over 60 referrals for new and already identified students needing services, and while my new role definitely keeps me busy, it has introduced me to many wonderful people in the district and has given me the opportunity to take on a lot more responsibility.

As my second year comes to an end, I look forward to a continuing relationship with Project Connect as I step into my role for the summer camp, and I look back to the ones who helped connect me to the amazing people who run this program. I want to thank Bridges and Public Allies for giving me the opportunity to have such enriching experiences here, and for creating a connection that has definitely shaped my life.



PALOMINO'S HAPPY HOUR

On Friday March 20th, Faces without Places had a successful happy hour at Palomino's downtown. Board members Allegra Nicodemus, Sandra Pierce, and Rob Ford hosted the lively event that provided light appetizers and refreshing beverages. The event raised **\$800**, all of which will be utilized by Faces without Places to continuously provide educational services to children experiencing homelessness. The event also raised awareness of this issue in our local community. Thanks to everyone for your support.

NCAA TOURNEY FUNDRAISER

Thanks to Bob Dann for an amazing NCAA Basketball Tourney fundraiser. The \$3.00 donations were placed with each bracket. Every entry felt certain they had chosen the 'correct' team to be the winner of the 2009 NCAA Basketball Championship.

As it turns out, Debbie Reinhart was **THE** person to correctly choose the brackets and the winner! There was a category for the "best upset winner" which was picked out of the hat for one lucky winner out of 15 people. Hannah O'Rourke won that honor for picking the Cleveland State-Wake Forest winner. Chris Jenkins won Best 1st Round (Palomino Gift Card); Jimmy George won Best Sweet Sixteen (UC athletics gift basket).

Bob is very happy to report a grand total of **\$650.00** was raised from the brackets for Faces without Places. This will certainly go a long way to help with the excellent summer program this year.

Congratulations to all! **Thank you to Bob Dann for his continued support.**



FEED THE CHILDREN



BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

On Monday March 16th a semi truck full of backpacks with school supplies and pallets of books rolled into Cincinnati. **Thanks to Feed the Children, Project Connect now has 1,800 backpacks to distribute to homeless children throughout Hamilton County.** The bulk will be distributed to the children and youth experiencing homelessness in the Cincinnati Public Schools, and the rest will be shared with Southwest Local, Finneytown Local, Madeira City, Covington City, Kenton County, Boone County, Princeton, Monroe Local and Three Rivers Local School districts to assist them in their service to the homeless children and youth being served in their schools.

MORE INFO...

Founded in 1979 by Larry and Frances Jones, Feed The Children is consistently ranked as one of the 10 largest international charities in the U.S., based on private, non-government support. Feed The Children is a Christian, international, nonprofit relief organization with headquarters in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma that delivers food, medicine, clothing and other necessities to individuals, children and families who lack these essentials due to famine, war, poverty or natural disasters. In FY 2007, Feed The Children distributed more than 135 million pounds of food and other essentials to children and their families in all 50 states and internationally, supplementing almost 800,000 meals each day. Since its founding, the organization has reached out to help those in need in 118 countries around the globe. For more information, please visit www.feedthechildren.org.

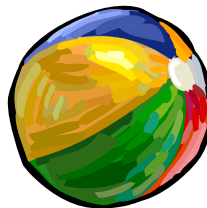
SUMMER FUN 2009

Project Connect will host its 12th annual **Summer Camp** for children experiencing homelessness. This year's camp will begin on June 8th and run through July 30th. Included are a variety of enrichment activities in which the campers are compelled to learn new and exciting things daily. In addition to daily reading activities, a summer math component has been added. This year's campers will tour "Around the World in Eight Weeks" as they study the culture and lifestyle of the Seven Continents.

We look forward to a fun filled summer with lots of swimming, field trips and overall excitement. Anyone wishing to donate, volunteer, or participate in anyway should contact Trish Fries at the Project Connect office, 513-363-3303.

Important dates/events: Happen, Inc. Movie Premier July 28th, Cultural Fest July 29th

Summer Donation Wish List includes:



Swim Suits

Flip Flops

Beach Towels

Individually wrapped Snacks

Juice Boxes

Bottled Water



Project Connect provides Metro tokens, but if children need to transfer, they often do not have the quarter to put with the token. Your quarters could make the difference! Take these creative examples. . .



Kudos and gratitude to **Audrey Coaston-Shelton** for raising nearly **\$350** in quarters to help our students with the fare drop. She sold her "I Love You" Brownies through out the holidays and rewarded buyers who paid with a roll of quarters by giving them an extra brownie.

Carolyn Place and her family donated **\$64** in quarters. Carolyn and her sister, Peggy, each donated one quarter for every mile they ran from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Their mother, Joan, donated a quarter each time she snacked!

Congratulations are in order for three new moms.

Julia Wallner, Board Secretary, and her husband, Jeff,

welcomed their new son, Benjamin Dale on March 3rd.

Angela Grillo Tepe, Board Member, and her husband, Joe, welcomed their first child, a daughter, Sofia Rose on February 9th.


Rebeka Beach, Adolescent Manager, and her husband, Jay, welcomed their son, Mikah Piers on February 25th.

Congratulations to all of the new parents!!



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Visit us on the web at
www.faceswithoutplaces.org



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT

OCTOBER 9, 2009

The 12th Annual Faces without Places benefit for homeless children, “**A Cajun Chomp and Stomp**”, will be hosted by Brian Thomas of 55KRC at The Grand in Covington, Kentucky on **Friday, October 9, 2009**. Please join us at 7:30 p.m. for an entertaining evening of fun and prizes. The committee for this year’s annual benefit is gearing up for it to be the best one ever. The cost will be \$90.00 per person which will include beverages and food catered by Jeff Thomas. There will be plenty of Cajun food and music provided by Robin Lacy and DeZydeco.

The night will include raffles of a flat screen TV and theme baskets. Theme baskets include: Do Downtown, Grill Master, Wake Up America, The Great Outdoors, among others. A live auction is also planned.

Sponsorships are still needed and available. If you are interested in sponsoring the event, please contact Sandy Downing @ 513-907-1258 or Karen Fessler @ 513-207-3498 for a sponsorship packet.

*Make a difference in your community and the life of a homeless child. Help us **STOMP** out homelessness through education, one child at a time.*

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. ~ St. Francis of Assisi