



FACES WITHOUT PLACES GAZETTE

FEBRUARY 2010

PROJECT CONNECT STAFF

Karen Fessler, M.Ed.
Director
Rhonda Lewis, M.Ed.
Operations Manager
Trish Fries
Development Manager
Shelley Werner
Educational Service Coordinator
Rebeka Beach
Adolescent Manager
Audrey Shelton, MS
School Psychologist

Program Consultants

Rachel Champlin
Marthe Church
Leslie Hattermer
Sr. Sue Ruedy
Julie Tucker-Sullivan

FACES WITHOUT PLACES TRUSTEES

Tracy Power
President
Aaron Seyfried
Vice President
Theresa Lynch
Secretary
Bill Hutchinson
Treasurer
Kim Blank
Paris Cox
Sandy Downing
Rob Ford
Angela Grillo
Cedric Lampkin
Marsha Marcus
Allegra Nicodemus
Sandra Pierce
Elaine Polson
Marsha Steed
Mike Tolle
Julia Wallner

TWO GRANTS LEAD TO IMPROVED SERVICES FOR PRESCHOOLERS

The importance of early childhood education and development is undeniable. It lays the foundation for all learning in school and life. You can imagine that children, ages 0-5, face extra challenges when their families are in the stressful environment of homelessness. Homeless children are 4 times as likely to have a developmental delay and 75% of homeless preschoolers have at least 1 major delay.

Children ages 0-5 experiencing homelessness are severely underserved in Greater Cincinnati, and for that reason, we are proud and excited to announce the receipt of two grants to help Faces without Places/Project Connect bridge that gap!

In October Faces without Places received a grant from the **Weathering the Economic Storm (WTES) Fund**, a partnership of 19 funders, managed by the **Greater Cincinnati Foundation**. With this grant, our Preschool Screening Consultant, Sr. Sue Ruedy will be able to identify homeless children who may have a disability or delay. While Cincinnati does not have enough preschool slots to accommodate all preschool eligible children, they are required to provide a slot for a child with a disability.



In addition to the Preschool Screening program, the WTES grant allowed us to purchase coats and warm clothing for our children.

This is the first year we were able to provide a new coat each time we were asked for one—it was a great feeling! So far, we have been able to provide **149 winter coats** with this grant.



A second grant, from **Christ Church Cathedral**, has allowed Preschool Screening Consultant Julie Tucker-Sullivan to offer the same program to homeless children and families in the neighborhoods of Over the Rhine, the West End, and Price Hill. With Sr. Sue's groundwork, Julie has been able to hit the ground running and both are finding possible delays in 56% of the children screened. This important first step has led to improved education among parents and we hope translates to increased preschool slots for children. We'll keep you updated on our progress and success stories for these children!

SUMMER MOVIE WINS AWARD

The movie made by our 10-12 year olds in the 2009 Summer Program, *"Dinosaurs Unleashed—The Musical,"* received Special Recognition For Creative Excellence from the 2009 ScreenPeace Student Film Festival in Dayton, Ohio! Each summer our students work with Happen Inc to create a short film from scratch including writing, set and costume design, directing, and acting in a short film. This is the first time one of the kid's movies has received an award!

We're hard at work planning the 2010 Summer Program: Building a Healthy Community: Starting with You, Your Neighborhood, Your World. Let us know if you'd like to help!



Tommy Rueff (Happen, Inc) with Summer Coordinators Rhonda Lewis and Shelley Werner

15 CHILI RECIPES + 150 ENTHUSIASTIC TASTERS + BENGALS GAME = A HUGE SUCCESS!!



The second annual **Chili Taste Off** took place Sunday, December 13 when fifteen volunteers dug into their recipe books to concoct their secret family tradition. Over **150 people** attended the event, held again at **Northside Tavern**, to sample the dishes du jour, participate in raffles and partake in watching the Bengals at Minnesota Vikings football game. For those that were frustrated with our beloved Bengals or had children with them in attendance, Brad Lark (a musician based in Cincinnati) played guitar in the front room, while Carrie Maras, Cincinnati Museum Center, and Kathy MacIntire brought activities for the children to do.

Congratulations to Cheryl Marconi, Bill Hutchinson, Julie Tucker-Sullivan and Shayne Byer for being our winners at the event by having outstanding chili as voted on by the attendees. Thanks to everyone's hard work, Faces without Places raised **\$3,200!!!**



2009 HOLIDAY CHEER

Many families had a tough holiday in 2009, but 147 children and 43 parents experiencing homelessness found hope and generosity instead. Thanks to the following for helping us provide a great holiday for our families!

UD Alumni, UC's Urban Health Program, First Unitarian Church, Turning Point Ministries, Free Inquiry Group, Employees from Axxess Financial, CPS Central Office, Duke Energy AAN, Fidelity Investments, Frederick Steel, GE, and The Standard, as well as many individuals and families who gave their time and money to purchase items for our families.

Due to your generosity, you provided many smiles and tears of joy this past holiday season!



Fidelity Investment's "Holiday Heroes" provided a Christmas party and gifts for children in our Zoomates Program.

PROJECT CONNECT DIRECTOR JOINS NATIONAL BOARD

Congratulations to **Project Connect's Director, Karen Fessler**, who was recently elected to the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth's (NAEHCY) Board of Directors, as an At-Large member.

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth is the voice and social conscience for the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. NAEHCY accomplishes this through advocacy, partnerships, and education. NAEHCY is responsible for the legislative advocacy that results in the funding for the McKinney-Vento programs throughout the country, including Project Connect. She will be serving on the Membership and Development committees.



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

FACES without PLACES

2825 Alms Place
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206
Phone: (513) 363-3300
Fax: (513) 363-3305
Email: emailpc@cps-k12.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
CINCINNATI OH
PERMIT #4237

Visit us on the web at

www.faceswithoutplaces.org

and visit our blog at

<http://faceswithoutplaces.blogspot.com>



HELP US RAISE FUNDS WHILE YOU SHOP

Faces without Places has been chosen by Bigg's Skytop (located in Mt. Washington, on Beechmont Avenue) to participate in the Sixth Sense donation program beginning March 1. Shoppers who bring their own bags to take home groceries will receive a wooden coin worth 6 cents. FwP is one of three Non-profit organizations for the Spring quarter. It will run from March to May.



If you shop at Kroger's, consider getting a FwP neighborhoods reward card. When you load your \$\$ on the card for shopping, FwP will receive a donation from Kroger equaling 4% of what you've loaded. Your card can be reloaded time and again—it's easy and it does not cost you anything! Contact Trish in the office to get your card: 513-363-3303.

FLYING PIG MARATHON

Find out how you can help raise money and awareness for homeless children during Cincinnati's Flying Pig Marathon events, May 1-2, 2010. Check the FWP website: www.faceswithoutplaces.org or call Trish at 363-3303.



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