

# The Report Card

## Keeping Children Connected through Education



A Newsletter by **Project Connect** - The Homeless Education Program for Cincinnati Public Schools

### Spotlight on Student Success



"... my mom was, and still is, fighting lupus and dealing with having to be a dialysis patient. My part-time father was incarcerated at the time.

Time for school to start and I didn't have anything, not a uniform, a pencil, nothing. I couldn't even enroll because I was told I needed a parent's signature or my sister would have to pay \$150.00, which we didn't have just lying around, to get custody of me.

So a month went by and I still wasn't enrolled. We started looking for help with this dilemma and this is when we were introduced to Project Connect and given Mrs. Leslie Hattemer's telephone number.

We gave her a call and started with the enrollment process. Im-

mediately after meeting Mrs. Hattemer I got the vibe that she cared about her students and worked hard to get everything they needed. The same day I was enrolled, Mrs. Hattemer gave me a uniform voucher which resulted in me getting three full uniforms at no cost to me, along with a backpack full of school supplies. Knowing that everything was taken care of made me want to go to school even more.

At first I thought this was just a one time thing because I have never seen someone strive to help like Mrs. Hattemer. The free bus cards to get back and forth to school, my prom ticket, cap and gown, donations for Christmas were all very much appreciated. I honestly can say, I couldn't have made it without them. Thank you Project Connect.

Although the services were nice, I think I may have liked Women Writing for a Change the most. Every Thursday just us girls would

get together and write. This group has meant a lot to me because I have gotten to know some of my classmates on a more personal, heart to heart kind of level. We have shared laughs, tears, and bonds that will always be cherished.

**With all being said, Project Connect is more than just an organization. It's a support system.** Without Project Connect, many kids wouldn't have close to anything. Many would be without clothes, shoes, food, a place to live, or even an education.

I am proud to say that I have successfully graduated from Woodward Career Technical High School with the help of Project Connect. I am in the process of getting enlisted in the Navy to earn some extra money, benefits and get some help with school.

- Written by: Sha'Tawn Jordan

Volume 1, Issue 4

July 2010

### SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED!!!

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Project Connect Summer Program introduces *Minutes Moved for the Military* program and we need your help!

The theme for camp this year is "*Building a Healthy Community: Starting with Me, My Neighborhood and My Nation*". Children have been encouraged to commit to increasing their physical activity and making healthier nutritional choices. **To date, the total number of minutes moved is:**

## 62,546

Faces without Places will use money raised from pledges and sponsorships to purchase supplies for care packages to send to the troops overseas. At the end of the summer, we will have volunteers from the **Yellow Ribbon Support Center** come to camp and assist the children in packing the care packages.

**Please contact Trish Fries at 513.363.3303 to make a donation today!**



### Superintendent Mary Ronan Visits Project Connect Summer Program

On the morning of July 2, Superintendent Mary Ronan, principals from CPS schools, employees from the Central Office and firefighters from the Cincinnati Fire Department stopped by Project Connect's Summer Program to "Move It in the Morning". Every morning, the children get off the bus and come right into the courtyard area of Project Con-

nect to work out to a fun, interactive, hip-hop song



that changes every week. After moving it, everyone sat down in the cafeteria to

enjoy breakfast and conversation. Ms. Ronan spoke to the children and encouraged them to continue with their camp theme—"Building a Healthy Community: Starting with Me, My Neighborhood, My Nation". The theme is aligned with Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" Initiative .