

The Report Card

Keeping Children Connected through Education



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

Women Celebrate Writing in a Read-Around

What once started as a dream for Project Connect's director, Karen Fessler, has now turned into three programs - Young Women Writing for a Change - at four CPS high schools; **Aiken College and Career High School, Western Hills Engineering High School, Western Hills University and Woodward Career Technical High School.** Each week, the program facilitator for Young Women Writing for a Change, Dawn Diebold, presents a topic. While the themes are diverse, format doesn't change. The sessions start with a centering activity and poem, writing and end with small/large group discussions. Confidentiality is

stressed within the groups as the girls often disclose very personal matters. The focus of the program is to empower



young women experiencing homelessness to enrich their lives through writing.

In the fall, donors from Greater Cincinnati Foundation provided each girl in the program a new winter coat. Woodward girls were treated to holiday parties through area volunteer organizations.

Young women from all three programs celebrated their achievements at a read around at the headquarters for WW4aC in Silverton. Thirty girls came together and read their favorite pieces. At the end of the program, each writer was presented with a beautiful anthology that contained their original work. As one Aiken student said, "I love that we got to come together. Even though we come from different schools, many of us have similar stories and it's nice to have a safe place to share those stories." The anthology is available for purchase. Cost is \$5.00—Contact Project Connect.

Volume 1, Issue 3
June 2010

Three Women Nominated for Strive LEARN Awards

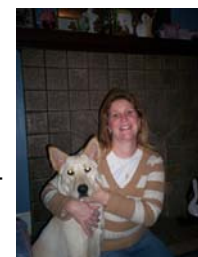
This past month, STRIVE held its annual breakfast recognizing individuals nominated and won for LEARN Awards. Two Project Connect staff members and one Faces without Places Board Member were nominated.

Karen Fessler, Director, was nominated by Rebeka Beach for her continuous efforts to uphold the mandates of the law



and youth experiencing homelessness. **Trish Fries**, Development Manager, was nominated by Shelley Werner to celebrate her work in securing all the extra resources for our children.

Sandy Downing, Board Member of Faces without Places, was nominated by Project Connect to honor her 8 years of volunteer efforts to help children



and youth experiencing homelessness.

Children Get Glimpse of Japanese Culture at Krohn's Butterfly Show

What began 3 years ago as an enrichment opportunity solely for students being served by Project Connect has expanded to include many other CPS students. This past spring, Project Connect teamed up with Krohn Conservatory to allow over 300 children to benefit from the Annual Butterfly Show in Eden Park. The 2010 theme is butterflies of Japan.



Interested schools were required to complete an application process and were chosen based on

how their answers tied into CPS standards and objectives. Participating schools were: **Roll Hill, Hoffman, Oyer, Pleasant Hill, Westwood and Quebec Heights.** Beginning in 1996, the Butterfly Show has entertained and educated over 750,000 people. The 2010 show will run until June 20.