

Franciscan Youth Center



WHERE STUDENTS GO TO GROW

Fall
2011

Recognizing that God creates all persons for good, the Franciscan Youth Center exists to provide opportunities for youth to develop their potential for good.

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FYC's students, staff, & volunteers.

It's a new school year and new after school program at Waverly Elementary School! The re-designed FYC after school program has great things to offer. Our talented staff provide a safe healthy environment where relationships of trust with caring adults can be developed for over 80 Waverly students. The after school program is focused on meeting the needs of our students and their families.

Children whose household income is at or below 130% of the poverty level qualify for free lunch. And, 90% of the student population at Waverly qualifies for free or reduced lunch based on household income. Poverty is the number one indicator of food insecurity. The statistics for impoverished households and food insecure households are virtually identical. The large number of our students qualifying for free or reduced lunch suggests that many of them live in food insecure households. Accordingly, we provide a warm nutritious supper for all of the participating students each program day. "Not only are we serving your children's brains, but also their tummies," said Site Coordinator Sasha Batts to a group of parents.

It's no secret that this country's childhood obesity rate has skyrocketed, however, children from lower incomes are more than twice as likely to be obese than their middle class counter parts. So, in addition to providing the nutritious supper, we have incorporated 30 minutes of daily structured physical activity into our program schedule. Students participate in exciting games and activities that get our students moving and make exercising fun.

Students also participate in 60 minutes of martial arts instruction each week.

A recent study published by the U.S. Department of Commerce said that minorities and women are underrepresented in U.S. jobs in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in large part because of a lack of equality in educational opportunity. Accordingly, we are now a National Partnerships for After School Science (NPASS2) site. NPASS2 is a project of the Education Development Center. NPASS2 adds high quality STEM activities to our program. Our staff receives training on these activities and ongoing support from a science trainer at The After School Institute. NPASS2 provides hands-on STEM problem solving challenges that aim to build basic problem solving and science skills, as well as change students' attitudes towards science and learning. NPASS2 is aligned with the Maryland Content Standards.

While there are many new and exciting changes to our after school program, there is one thing that has not changed—our commitment to our students and their families. We're still driven by our Franciscan Values: creating a caring community, showing compassion, reverencing all of creation, and making peace. It's through the generous support and contributions of our donors that we're able to provide these services for children in need. It's through the continued financial support of partners, like you, that our program maintains its continuity.

Thank you!

Submitted by Sasha Batts & Derryck Fletcher.

Message from the FYC Board Chair



It's hard to believe that another school year is underway! This new school year brings a number of changes to FYC.

First, Antwaine Smith, our former Executive Director, resigned in the spring of this year to pursue a wonderful job opportunity with Towson University. We're grateful to have had Antwaine's leadership

during these tough economic times. We wish Antwaine well at Towson.

Second, while FYC did receive an Out of School Time grant from the Family League of Baltimore City to operate the after school program for the 2011/2012 school year, as a result of a significant decrease of funding levels, FYC did not receive a grant to operate the 21st Century Community Learning Center after school program for this school year. Over the past few years, the 21st Century grant constituted a significant portion of the FYC budget. The loss of this grant required the FYC Board to make some tough decisions relating to FYC operations. In particular, the Board has reconfigured the FYC administrative staff by consolidating several staff positions and reducing the work hours for the remaining staffers.

One unfortunate result of the reconfiguration was that we had to say good-bye to our Development Director, Lynne Boeri. Lynne truly believes in the importance of the FYC mission and while budget constraints necessitated that we take different paths, Lynne continues to be a friend and supporter of FYC. We wish nothing but the best for Lynne.

Finally, the reconfiguration required that we consolidate the Director of Programs and Executive Director positions into one. We are very fortunate to have Derryck Fletcher, our former Director of Programs and Youth Development, agree to take on this new expanded role as Executive Director. Derryck is high-energy with loads of ideas as to how FYC can pursue its mission of outreach to the children of Baltimore. Derryck will continue to provide hands-on leadership with the FYC programs for this school year and will also serve an integral role in defining the FYC of the future.

The Board is committed to exploring alternatives for the future of FYC. We all know that there is no shortage of need for our "target market"—the youth of Baltimore City. Board member Michael Baird has agreed to take the lead in our strategic planning efforts, that will focus on near-term and long-term alternatives that will result in a viable and vibrant FYC.

I want to take this opportunity to ask that you participate in the transformation of FYC by offering your ideas as to what FYC should be doing and the opportunities it should pursue, volunteering to serve on the strategic planning committee or on other committees formed to provide support for our staff, or making a generous donation to FYC as we weather the storm of losing a significant grant. Your support is most appreciated.

Thank you!

Emery B. McRill
Chair, Board of Trustees



13TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

McGuire Woods, LLP hosted the 13th Annual Franciscan Youth Center Benefit Golf Tournament at The Timbers at Troy in Elkridge. Thanks to the generous support of the tournament sponsors and participants, the McGuire Woods team and The Timbers at Troy, over \$20,000 was raised to further the mission of FYC!



THE PEACE PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

"O LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT
OF THY PEACE!

WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE.

WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON.

WHERE THERE IS DISCORD, HARMONY.

WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH.

WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE.

WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT.

WHERE THERE IS SORROW, JOY.

OH DIVINE MASTER,

GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH

SEEK TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE;

TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND;

TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE;

FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE;

IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED;

AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN

TO ETERNAL LIFE".

THE CLARE COURT ROUND-UP

BYC
FYC at Clare Court has had exciting transitions and improvements this summer and fall! The summer kicked off with the official opening of the exercise room for the residents of the Clare Court Community. The annual summer camp and reading program continued this year. The Summer Reading Program encouraged all children of Clare Court to continue learning throughout the summer by exploring the exciting world of books. At the end of each session, each child chose a book to take home and keep. After the four week reading program concluded, the summer camp kicked off with weekly swimming at Gunpowder State Park, African dance classes, and exciting field trips. Additionally, all children in the community were able to receive a nutritious meal at FYC through the Summer Food Service Program.



In partnership with Baltimore GrandFamilies, our Clare Court teens received training in working with the elderly community of Baltimore City. The teens took advantage of volunteer opportunities put their training into action and earn service learning hours.

Coinciding with the arrival of all, the Clare Court After School Program is back! New exciting programming for the Clare Court Community includes participation in the S.H.A.R.E. Program where residents complete community service requirements and receive food packages at a substantial discounted rate. And, we recently kicked off the new Clare Court Book Club where members of the community gather to discuss the book of the month.

Submitted by Allison Duggan

Spotlight on Adjana Ramirez Hood College Student & FYC Intern

Through a grant from the Housing Association of Non-Profit Developers, the Franciscan Youth Center extended an internship opportunity to Adjana "Ya-Ya" Ramirez, a local college student, to support our summer programming at Clare Court. Adjana is currently a sophomore at Hood College where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Sciences. She is also a well-loved resident of the Clare Court Community!

Internship opportunities open eyes and minds to diverse career path possibilities. In her own words, Adjana reflected upon her summer experience:

In the past I have worked at many camps as a Junior Counselor but this summer working with FYC and Allison has been one of my favorites. I am happy that I was able to learn both the administrative and social aspects of running a camp. During the summer as an intern, I received an in depth look at the responsibilities of running a program for children. My main responsibilities consisted of assisting in the planning of lessons, field trips and classes for the summer and reading camps that took place in July and August. Aside from that, I was responsible for hosting two classes geared towards the adult residents of the community. These programs took place in the form of a computer class on Mondays that covered typing and basic paper layouts, and other necessary computer skills. I also ran a family movie night on Fridays that showed recently released movies and was a great opportunity to bring people together and have some fun. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity that I received at The Franciscan Youth Center.

As Ya-Ya continues her studies at Hood, we wish her the best and support her in all her successes. We also look forward to seeing her again soon. And, we're excited to welcome new interns to our organization this semester!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



FROM OUR LADY OF GRACE

The Our Lady of Grace (OLG) Parish in Parkton continued its annual tradition of providing school supplies to FYC students in need. Thanks to the OLG Outreach Committee and parishioners, our students received quality materials from crayons to notebooks to stylish backpacks. Our students were able to kick off the school year being ready to learn thanks to faithful support of OLG!



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to Children & Families

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Franciscan Youth Center is a ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, Milwaukee, WI.



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Up-Close With FYC Executive Director, Derryck D. Fletcher



Q Congratulations on being appointed Executive Director! Are you new to FYC?

A Thank you! I've had the pleasure of working in ministry at FYC for three years. Most recently, I was the Director of Programs and Youth Development where I led the team of program and site coordinators in directing our program operations.

Q What has changed at FYC since you became Executive Director?

A We are a much leaner organization. Although our staff and financial resources have decreased, our impact has not. Our team has a renewed commitment to the mission of FYC and we're executing our best programming ever. We have enthusiastic innovative leadership that's committed to serving children and families in need. We're restoring partnerships that enable us to more effectively and efficiently serve our client base. We've established data tracking as a priority so that testimonies and stories of our ministry's impact combined with statistical data can speak to the great work that our staff does every day.

Q What is your vision for FYC?

A Our vision and mission haven't changed. We still exist to provide opportunities for youth to develop their potential for good. We continue to provide a safe, healthy environment for children and youth where relationships of trust with caring adults are developed. Our programs provide experiences for underserved youth in disadvantaged neighborhoods to develop academic and social skills that enable them to become independent and productive citizens.

Q Why is FYC different than most youth development organizations?

A We're different because we are Franciscan. We empower and nurture the entire child. We don't simply focus on academics and physical fitness; but, we also care about the spiritual and emotional well-being of our children. Our Franciscan Values are woven throughout our program design and execution. FYC is different because our heritage is not a thing of the past—the tireless work of this ministry continues!

Q What's next for FYC?

A Due to an unexpected substantial decrease in funding, our priority must be raising financial resources to correct this fiscal year's budget deficit so that we can continue serving the children and families that need our programming. Our Board of Trustees is committed to furthering the mission of this ministry; accordingly, we have a new Strategic Planning Committee of the Board that will be supporting the continuance of this work. We realize that there are more children and families that need our services in Baltimore City. We will be looking for new and sustainable sources of funding so that we can have a greater impact on those children in need.