

Franciscan Youth Center



WHERE STUDENTS GO TO GROW

Summer
2010

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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Summer Learning Explosion 2010

Many have a wonderful image of summer as a carefree, happy time when children can participate in enriching experiences such as summer camps, time with family, and trips to museums, parks, and libraries. Unfortunately, some youth face anything but idyllic summer months. When the school doors close, many children struggle to access educational opportunities, as well as basic needs such as healthy meals and adequate adult supervision. All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. Research spanning 100 years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer. Most students lose about two months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer months. Low-income students also lose more than two months in reading achievement. More than half of the achievement gap between lower and higher income youth can be explained by access to summer learning opportunities. Challenged by these statistics, FYC is working to close this achievement and opportunity gap with our *Summer Learning Explosion 2010*.

In partnership with Waverly Elementary/Middle School, our *Summer Learning Explosion* is designed to prepare students for the next grade level and give our children exposure to new experiences through the arts,

foreign language, field trips, projects, and sports. For four (4) weeks, students will arrive daily at 8:30 a.m. and receive free breakfast before receiving Language Arts and Mathematics academic instruction from a highly qualified teacher for two (2) hours respectively. Then, after receiving a free wholesome lunch, our children will participate in four (4) hours of cultural enrichment with FYC's talented staff concluding at 5:00 p.m. 150 rising 1st - 6th grade students will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for free thanks to the generous friends and funders of FYC.



After receiving recognition for last year's summer explosion from the National Summer Learning Association (formerly Johns Hopkins University's National Institute for Summer Learning), Baltimore City Public Schools, the Mayor's Office, the Baltimore City Council, and the Open Society Institute we are eager to serve our students once again this summer.

Submitted by Derryck D. Fletcher.

● Reviewing the Year ●

On May 26, 2009, I was hired as the new Executive Director for the Franciscan Youth Center. I was honored to take over an organization like FYC with a history of long and positive service to the community of Baltimore. Despite the excitement of leading this organization into the future, I did not have any misconceptions about the amount of commitment and work that would be needed to re-establish FYC as a strong brand in the Baltimore non-profit community.

After officially taking over as the new Executive Director, I was able to begin the process of immersing myself in the work that needed to be done to learn, assess and stabilize the organization. While I have faced many challenges and obstacles since I have taken over FYC, I would like to share some of the positives that have taken place over the first year. During these difficult economic times, we were able to double the size of the program and stabilize the finances of the organization. Last Spring, we were able to hire, train and fully staff the Summer Camp for more than 160 students. We were able to execute and operate a Summer Camp that was safe, well organized and attended, as well as, well reviewed by students, parents, community partners and stake holders. Another accomplishment was the relocation of the FYC administrative offices from 22nd Street to the Stone House at Clare Court. We were able to move the offices and set up a functional and productive work environment including updated technology and equipment. The move to the Stone House has also initiated and cultivated the partnership between Homes for America and FYC which has attempted to solidify a working partnership for the past few years. In addition, we were able to begin a new school year and operate a strong After-School Program for more than 120 students which has been safe, well attended and enriching. The operation of a strong program at FYC will be the foundation and cornerstone to FYC's march towards the future.



Antwaine R. Smith
Executive Director

SPOTLIGHT ON SASHA BATTS MSU Student/FYC Intern

"Through my internship I gained many valuable experiences, but most valuable was the ability to experience the work environment in the field I plan to work. I now know that I want to work with children as a Psychologist and with the skills I obtained I know that I will be more successful." - Sasha Batts, former student intern FYC

The Franciscan Youth Center is proud to announce it's partnership with Morgan State University. As a result, we were blessed with ten interns this year from the Psychology department to work with our kids. Internships provide unique and meaningful opportunities for career exploration. It is through internship opportunities that eyes and minds become open to the

possibilities and the diverse career paths in which our students can apply their interest, skills and talents.

Internships are a win-win situation. The benefits to the interns and to our students are powerful. But just as powerful is the positive impact that participating in or offering internships has on our community. Internships provide that crucial link between business and education. Through these connections our community thrives. Students become more engaged in learning and develop the work ethics required to meet the challenges of the 21st century and a more global and competitive landscape.

Submitted by LaSandra Purnell.

WINTERFEST 2010

After 2 weather delays the students in the FYC after school program were able to celebrate the season with a grand celebration on January 26, 2010. The delays did not dampen the excitement of the students or their very proud parents. Each grade performed winter related songs and dances while their parents and friends looked on with pride.

Because of the generosity of Saint Dominic's Church, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and Hunt's Memorial United Methodist Church the students were all presented with a holiday gift. There were also 15 bikes distributed for attendance, academic achievement and citizenship that mirrors the Franciscan values all of which were donated by the Father O'Neill Council of the Knight's of Columbus. The awards and gifts brought such joy and sense of accomplishment to the children.

Submitted by Lynne Boeri.



Corell, Hannah, Jaleel & Shamira were among the students enjoying Winterfest 2010.

Kids in the Kitchen

March 13th was an exciting day for 35 of the students from the FYC after school programs at Waverly Elementary/ Middle School and Clare Court. The students were invited by the Junior League of Baltimore to take part in the 4th annual Kids in the Kitchen event at Port Discovery Children's Museum.

The program is designed to teach the kids about healthy eating and exercise in an effort to combat childhood and adolescent obesity. There were opportunities to learn, from Chef George Stella of the Food Network, how to make fruit and yogurt parfaits, pancakes and healthy fruit drinks. Football drills with Coach Tom of the Baltimore Ravens, soccer drills with Crystal Palace, USA as well as yoga were enjoyed by all.

Everyone that attended wants to send a big THANK YOU to the Junior League and to Port Discovery for including them in this fun filled adventure!

Submitted by Lynne Boeri.



Brandy, Unique and Jamyra learned all about healthy shopping and eating at Port Discovery thanks to the Junior League of Baltimore.

FYC's TEEN NIGHT AT CLARE COURT

On April 10, 2010 eight girls from the Franciscan Youth Center's Clare Court Teen Program attended the Sharper Minds Annual Teen Dating and Violence Symposium.

The girls were selected to be volunteers specifically for the event. It was a wonderful opportunity for them and they still talk about it today. At the training, the girls had the opportunity to meet the workshop facilitators, listen to their ideas and experiences, and then choose which one they would like to work with for the event. The girls were excited to be around a large group of strong African American female independent business owners. Some of the workshops included, acting, dancing, etiquette, body image, beauty and job preparation. Each girl paired themselves with the facilitator they felt would enhance their personal interests and talents.



Dawnya, Dalian and Nashai enjoyed the Sharper Minds Teen Dating and Violence Symposium.

The day of the Symposium the girls not only helped assist their facilitators in two workshops, but also were able to enjoy two keynote speakers. One was Ms. Essence of Maryland;

the other was Mrs. Lisa Lee of Project S.O.A.R. Both ladies shared their personal accounts of being victims of domestic violence as teenagers. Through the personal accounts, workshops, and exercises the girls were able to become more aware of this timely and prevalent issue. The most important lesson the girls took away from the symposium was the importance of positive self image, focus, and determination to reach ones goals. The girls also received certificates and 12.5 hours of community service for school for their hard work. Sharper Minds was so impressed with the young ladies that they continue to hold workshops with the girls.

Submitted by Allison Duggan.



25 Years of Service to Children and Families



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



Franciscan Youth Center is a registered member of the Maryland Association of Non-profit Organizations.

Designate your contribution to the Franciscan Youth Center through the annual United Way Campaign by choosing #811483 or Maryland Charities #5792.

AN ENGAGING CONVERSATION WITH FYC BOARD CHAIR EMERY B. McRILL

Q Why did you choose the FYC board?

A My law firm, McGuireWoods, has been a long-time supporter of FYC, going back to the days when Ernie Wilson, a partner here at MW, was a major early supporter of FYC. I was asked to consider serving on the Board and since I was familiar with all of the good things that FYC does, it was an easy decision for me.

Q What are your goals for FYC during your tenure?

A Our first goal is to strive toward excellence in the operation of our after school program. This means that all of FYC's constituencies—the kids, their parents, the school administration, the neighborhood, our grant makers and benefactors and the Board, Members and friends of FYC—view FYC as a top-class organization.

Our next goal will be to look for opportunities, both great and small, to expand our reach to touch more kids who can use it.

Q What would you want to tell the community about FYC?

A FYC is a little non-profit organization that has a GIANT impact on 120+ youngsters EVERY SINGLE DAY. We fulfill a critical job of enriching the lives of these kids by imparting Franciscan values that stress education, freedom and human dignity.

Q What makes FYC special?

A FYC is unique in that it has carved out for itself a wonderful symbiosis that melds together a results-oriented program for after-school youth as engendered through our grant-making partners, with our Franciscan ministry that advocates love, faith, hope and joy.

Q Is there anything else you would like to tell our readers about FYC?

A There is room for everyone to get in on the action at FYC—we encourage folks to participate in growing our reach, by volunteering at the after-school program, by serving on the Board or a committee or by simply providing support to enhance FYC—just give us a call!



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”.