

June 2009 Events Calendar

- 3: Philly, **What's Up** on Channel 35, screens the Fabulous Ebony's
- 12: **K.A.P.P.A. House** presents Casino Royale at Mummies Museum
- 17: **NCCF's** dedication of new offices and spaces
- 18: **NCCF's** Work-N-Style fashion preview and show
- 19: **NCCF's** Leadership Breakfast, clothing drive, free hair cuts, Children's Center opening
- 19: **NCCF's** screening of "Price of Life," a documentary on NCCF
- 21: **NCCF's** Father's Day Rally Picnic
- 22: **NCCF's** 2nd Annual "Swing for Fathers" Golf Tournament
- 27: **NSF's** Project Build Up presents a job resources fair
- 27: **ESF** to host a Health Fair with free health screenings
- 27: **AAUF** presents African Marketplace Health and Wellness Town Hall



Millions in the Morning

That's what you get when you tune in to **Financial Voices** on **WURD Radio 900AM**.
Every Thursday 7:00 to 9:30 a.m.

Have a consumer tip, financial tidbit or issue you would like Sharmain to highlight? Would you like to be a guest on the show?

Call 215-851-1727 or email financialvoices@gpuac.org

Let Your *Voices* be Heard by Connecting the Coalition!

Submit stories, events and photos to Mary-Anne Smith at msmith@gpuac.org.

Happy Birthday to All Celebrating in June!

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Omar Nelson | 14 Militza Rodriguez |
| 2 Bobby Byrd | 15 Willona Young |
| 2 Darlene Mitchell | 15 Mahoghany Hughes |
| 2 Robin Bryant | 15 Irwin Lewis |
| 4 Vernon Brown | 17 Louis Strachan |
| 7 Thomas Assabill | 22 Duane Wilkins |
| 9 Josephine Wright | 23 Michael Melvin |
| 10 Theodore Crawford | 26 Alex Thompson |
| 10 Sheena Jones | 27 Carolyn Harper |
| 11 Latifa Collier | 28 Terrell Johnson |
| 12 Ira Ellis | 29 Elly Porter -Webb |
| 13 Levine Ferrell | 30 Martin Harris |
| 13 K'Vernice Madison | 33 Alice Kellam |
| 14 Ronald Rivers | |

GPUAC in the Community



On April 30, Elly Porter-Webb, volunteer coordinator for **The Campaign for Working Families**, honored outstanding tax preparer volunteers from Vanguard. Over the past seven years, the Campaign has prepared and e-filed 78,862 tax returns and brought \$124.2 million in state and federal refunds to working families throughout Philadelphia. The Campaign for Working Families is the largest free tax program in Pennsylvania and one of the top ten nationally.



Jack Kitchen of the **Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corporation**, Sharmain Matlock-Turner of GPUAC and Steve Sanders of **First Genesis Financial Group** shared a laugh on the weekly radio show **Financial Voices 900AM WURD**, which aired live from the press conference of the West Oak Lane Jazz and Arts Festival on May 14.

Guess Who???

An employee at the **Gay & Lesbian AIDS Education Initiative (GALAEI)** toured in South America as the lead singer of the rock band "La Banda de la Calle." Can you guess who?



A: Norman Medina, Prevention Specialist



B: Dennis Hill, Education Coordinator



C: Tyreef King, Heath Education Coordinator, Midnight Cowboy Project

Answer on page 2



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GPUAC PRIORITIES

GPUAC improves life chances for youth and young adults, with a special emphasis on African American boys and men, through programs, services and advocacy.

GPUAC builds wealth in urban communities through workforce and business development and improving access to fairly priced goods and services.

GPUAC strengthens the nonprofit sector through excellence in fiscal sponsorship and service delivery, with a focus on grassroots

GPUAC WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM PARTNERS

52 Weeks of Change

Hardy Williams Education Fund

Philadelphia Ballhawks

Stop the Madness—Stop the Violence, Inc.

The Big Pitch

VOICES

Connecting the Coalition

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

JUNE 2009

Arise Charter High School Now Recruiting

Arise Academy Charter High School, a program of the **Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition**, is the nation's first public charter high school dedicated exclusively to students in foster care, and is a response to the high drop-out rate among foster care youth.

Set to open this fall, Arise will provide a safe and highly structured environment combined with a rigorous curriculum, quality on-site support services and access to a vibrant student life, all of which will help students to graduate and move into successful adulthood.

The school is currently accepting applications for students in grades 9 through 12. To date, over 196 applications have been received toward 200 open spots. A lottery will be held if more applications are received than space is available. Working in conjunction with DHS, Arise has held

three open houses for recruitment. The Achieving Independence Center has also partnered with Arise in recruiting students in foster care, hosting an open house and helping with mailings targeted toward foster families.



"One of the qualities that makes Arise so different," says Jill Welsh-Davis, president of the Board of Directors, "is that typically youth get assigned through DHS to a school — it's not their choice. Attending Arise is a choice the kids make; they get to decide where they'll get their diploma.

We're working on empowering these kids from day one."

More open houses are planned for the summer. For more information, or to apply, contact Jill Welsh-Davis at 215-851-1776 or jdavis@gpuac.org.

Sharmain's Message

This year, Pennsylvania will see approximately \$18 billion from the Economic Stimulus Package with major spending provisions in human services, education, infrastructure investment, housing assistance and job training initiatives.

The State expects to receive over \$250 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program, some of which will come to Philadelphia for green collar work such as retrofitting, insulating and energy auditing.

GPUAC, with our program partners and key stakeholders, has been working to help communities take full advantage of these dollars. We are doing our best to communicate as much real-time information as possible about the stimulus funds and how citizens can access them.

To further this goal, last month we teamed up with the **Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation** for a second time to present **Coming Up Green II**.

More than 150 participants networked and listened to a panel discussion on green collar employment, contracts and training.

In addition, I will be dedicating a segment on **Financial Voices WURD 900AM** each week to stimulus opportunities.

And finally, we're constantly adding information to our newly created virtual "green hub" that lists related resources and events. View it at www.gpuac.org/green_collar.html.



Sharmain Matlock-Turner
GPUAC President/CEO

Explorers Sans Frontières and Senegal: A Long Distance Relationship

By Shonta Collins

For **Explorers Sans Frontières (ESF)**, traveling 4,000 miles to support global humanitarian outreach is part of our mission. Our programs are designed to integrate travel with learning to improve relationships among diverse cultures locally and abroad.

ESF supports students as they travel to developing countries to create independent educational initiatives related to health and obtain practical hands-on experience, while encouraging leadership and team building skills.

From May 28 through June 9, ESF will return to Thiès and Dakar in Senegal with two students from LaSalle and one graduate of



Explorers Sans Frontières students with host family member, Mrs. Diouf, in Senegal in 2008.

Philadelphia University. When we travel to places such as West Africa, we emphasize personal connections by staying with local families; humanitarian projects that support preventative health care (which is very limited); and practical training through giving health education instruction at schools that teach English. Our focus is primarily on children, as death from disease due to lack of immunizations is common. We build cultural connections and relationships, one person and one community at a time.

In 2010, ESF has plans to travel to Jamaica and Senegal.

For more information, or to explore being a professional or student volunteer, please give ESF a call at 215-850-4743 or visit us at www.explorerssf.org.

Budget Season – A Time to Voice Your Opinion

By June 30, the state is required by law to finalize a budget that provides the blueprint for spending for the following year. This is one of the toughest budget years Pennsylvania has faced in decades. The state is encountering a deficit that is projected to be over \$3 billion at the end of the current fiscal year (June 30). To address the deficit, the Governor and the State General Assembly are being forced to pass an austere budget that could lead to deep cuts in social service programming.

At GPUAC, we are diligently following the actions of leaders in Harrisburg as they work to finalize the state budget for fiscal year 2009-10. Many GPUAC program partners rely on funding from state government sources for at least a portion of their operations.

In January, the Governor proposed a budget that called for some necessary spending decreases, while at the same time preserving the safety net for families and individuals that are already struggling. Instead of acting on the Governor's proposal, the State Senate has passed a budget that includes cuts that could jeopardize federal funds for health care and education, and harm hospitals, schools, the elderly, children and the working poor. This budget cuts the governor's budget proposal by \$1.7 billion, carves \$1 billion from education funding, eliminates job creation programs and cuts \$350 million from welfare and aging programs.

In these economic times, more families are going to rely on and need government services to avoid losing their homes and continue to sustain their families.

Want to contact your state legislator? Go to the state website: www.legis.state.pa.us.

Expanded Foreclosure Guide Available

The Urb's Blurb

GPUAC's **Foreclosure Prevention Resource Guide**, a publication designed to help professionals support clients who are at risk of losing their homes, has been updated. To receive a hard copy, e-mail Rachel Moore at rmoore@gpuac.org or download an electronic version at www.gpuac.org/foreclosurehelp.htm.

Free Summer Workshops Help Strengthen Organizations

By Farrah Samuels



GPUAC U, a series of free capacity building workshops for GPUAC program partners launched this past February, is gearing up for its summer semester. Classes begin June 16 and run through July 30 and are held at GPUAC, 1207 Chestnut Street. Class size is limited to eight, and advanced registration is required.

Courses are aimed at assisting our program partners in building their organizational capacity and improving program quality and focus on the following areas: fiscal management, marketing, strategic communications, grant writing and fundraising, human resource management and performance management. This summer's GPUAC U workshops will be facilitated by GPUAC senior staff, board members, program partner leadership and community stakeholders. For a catalogue, or to register for a course, please contact Imani Badie at ibadie@gpuac.org or 215-851-1874. We look forward to seeing you at one of our workshops!

Answer to Guess Who: A

VOICES: CONNECTING THE COALITION

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Highlighting GPUAC Board Co-Chairs

We continue this series with two of our four board co-chairs.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of the AmeriHealth Mercy Family of Companies, Daniel J. Hilferty is responsible for the leadership, strategic direction, business development and operations of the Companies, including sister organization Keystone Mercy Health



Daniel J. Hilferty

Plan. Prior to his tenure at Mercy Health System, Hilferty was the Executive Director of PennPorts with the Office of Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey. In 1994, Hilferty ran for the position of Lieutenant Governor for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Hilferty is currently Chairman of the Board of the Medicaid Health Plans of America and serves on the boards of Saint Joseph's University, J.J. White & Company, Drexel Neumann Academy and the Irish Educational Development Foundation. His commitment to the communities that the AmeriHealth Mercy Family of Companies serves is evidenced by his work with the Pedro Arrupe Center for Business Ethics, his service as the Chairman of the Sultan Jihad Ahmad Community Foundation's fundraising initiatives and as chair of the Drexel Neumann Academy Development Committee.

Cecilia Moy Yep has lived in Chinatown for over 60 years. Her many civic engagements include to the City of Philadelphia's Nominating Committee for the School Board, the Transition Housing Task Force, the 21st Century Economic Development Summit and recently, the Philadelphia Advisory Gaming Task Force. Yep currently serves on the boards of the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation and On Lok House for the Elderly and is a trustee for The Philadelphia Award.



Cecilia Moy Yep

She is on the Advisory Board of the Asian American Journalist Association of Philadelphia and on the Community Advisory Board of PNC Bank. She co-founded the Asian American Women's Coalition, which established a scholarship in her name. Yep was appointed a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania, received Philadelphia Community College's first Civic Investment Award and is also a recipient of the Philadelphia Award. She serves on Mayor Nutter's Commission on Asian American Affairs.

PHILADELPHIA READS Presents the Philadelphia Reading Olympics for 2,200 Students

By Adrienne Jacoby, Ed.D.

PHILADELPHIA READS organized and implemented the fourth city-wide Philadelphia Reading Olympics program for 2,200 enthusiastic students in grades 4-8 last month. Partnerships with the Mayor's Office of Education, the School District of Philadelphia, the Archdiocese Schools and the Free Library of Philadelphia made this program a highly successful event.

When the Reading Olympics became a city-wide program four years ago, only 75 teams participated. This year, 180 teams from public, charter, parochial



and private schools participated. This popular event was filled to its 150-team capacity, with 30 teams on the waiting list squeezed in to create an exciting competition. Every team read 20 pre-assigned books — meaning 44,000 books were read by these 2,200 students in order to prepare for this year's Olympics. PHILADELPHIA READS' Bonnie Stone organized the event with great help from staff and partners.

Sponsors were Independence Blue Cross, Beneficial Bank, Bank of America, the Connelly Foundation, The Stein-Stone Foundation, the Philadelphia Eagles, Genuardi's and Comcast.

VOICES: CONNECTING THE COALITION

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NCCF Celebrates 10 Years of Service for Fathers

By Kofi Asante

The **National Comprehensive Center for Fathers (NCCF)** will kick off its 10th anniversary on the 17th of this month with two dedications: the naming of Education Corridor "Brady Way," in honor of Congressman Robert Brady, and the "Dwight Evans Resource Center."

Celebrations will continue with a fashion show on the 18th, where local celebrities will serve as models and UGO band will perform live. Friday, June 19th NCCF hosts a leadership breakfast, a friends and family day, a clothing drive, free haircuts and the opening of its Children's Center. That evening, the documentary "Price of Life," created by Villanova students, will be screened at the Constitution Center. A VIP pre-reception and an after-party flank the film.

A chapter member and staff summit will take place on Saturday, June 20, followed that evening by the NCCF Delta Alpha Delta Sigma graduation classes, including Newark and Camden replicated chapters. A Fathers' Day rally and picnic are scheduled for Sunday in Fairmount Park.

The 10th anniversary celebrations will close with the 2nd Annual Swing for Fathers Golf Tournament, one of the biggest fundraisers of the year for NCCF.

NCCF's mission is to empower fathers and unite families by providing the resources for fathers to become more socially and economically responsible. NCCF offers a comprehensive set of services that promote self-sufficiency, character reconstruction and positive fatherhood through education, training, counseling, mentoring and job development. Respect, care and compassion are the essential ingredients used to sustain a challenging and disciplined environment.

For more information, please call 215-717-4000 or log on to www.nccfamerica.com.