



# P.E.A.C.E. INC.

## Community Quarterly

Fall 2011

Dear Friends,

At P.E.A.C.E., Inc., we focus on empowering low-income individuals and families to help themselves improve their quality of life. In this newsletter, you will read that we are broadening the horizons of our youth by taking them on a trip to our nation's capital; we are improving the health of preschoolers and their families by teaching healthy dental care; we are mentoring youth and we are honoring people in our community who respect diversity and help others.

We are gearing up for our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Champions of Diversity Dinner to be held on Thursday, October 20, 2011. We would like for you to join us for this special night. You can find more details in the newsletter.

We are so grateful for all the support P.E.A.C.E., Inc. receives from the community. The board members, employees, volunteers, community partners and funders continue to contribute generously to P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Together, we are helping people in the community realize their potential for becoming self-sufficient.

Every kind wish,

Joseph E. O'Hara  
Executive Director



## In the Spotlight: Westside FRC Trip to D.C.



Fourteen enthusiastic teens and preteens had the opportunity to tour our nation's capitol this summer with the Westside Family Resource Center. On August 25, the youth, ages ten to sixteen, along with six chaperones, flew down to Washington, D.C. for four days of sightseeing and exploring all that the Capitol has to offer.

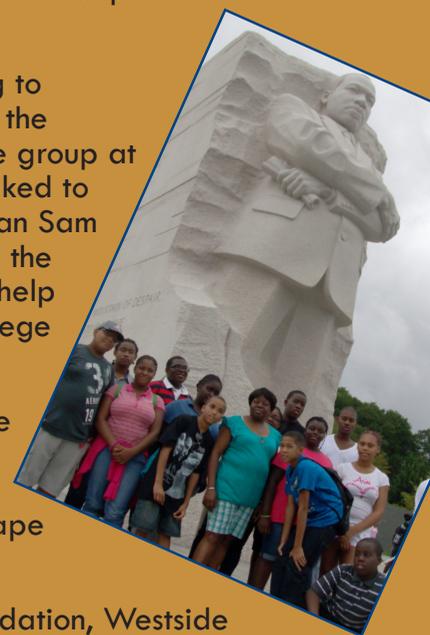
Mary Alice Smothers, the Westside Family Resource Center Coordinator, explained the value of the trip to these children: "The trip gives them a sense of something beyond their own struggles. They learn how government works and how decisions which affect their daily lives are made."

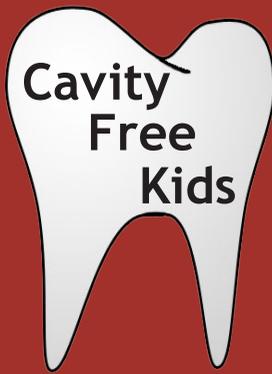
Over the course of the trip, the group enjoyed a guided tour of the Capitol arranged by Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle. They also explored the Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Smithsonian Museums and the monuments. In particular, the kids had fun at Madame Tussauds Wax Museum and were among the first visitors to experience the powerful Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

One of the highlights of the trip was heading to Northwest Washington where David Harvey, the President and CEO of ProLiteracy, hosted the group at his home. After a delicious meal, the kids walked to Howard University. At Howard, Associate Dean Sam Paschall led the students on a private tour of the historically black university and promised to help each of them when it came time for their college admission process.

On August 29, the teens returned to Syracuse tired from the hectic pace but invigorated with a new appreciation of government, our nation's history and their own potential to shape the future.

Thanks to Johnson Controls, The Gifford Foundation, Westside Neighborhood Advisory Council, program parents, Jackie Holder from the Holiday Inn, Cynthia Smothers of Donohoe Construction, Phyllis Tolson of US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Brandon Jackson from Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle's office, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's office for their help in making this trip possible.





Children participating in Cavity Free Kids at Sumner Head Start. Above, Left to Right: Nirel, Tamyia and Aniya, all age 4. Below: Johsly, age 4.



The children of P.E.A.C.E., Inc. are smiling even brighter these days thanks to Cavity Free Kids. This new dental health program brings dental education, prevention and treatment to young children and their families living in poverty. The children learn healthy dental habits through a curriculum based on fun hands on activities in their classroom. Staff from P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Head Start and Early Head Start were trained this spring and are currently rolling out the instruction. Be on the lookout for even more sparkling and healthy smiles from our Head Start children.

## Community Comes Together for the 10<sup>th</sup>

On October 20, 2011, P.E.A.C.E., Inc. will be hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Champions of Diversity Dinner at the Oncenter Complex. Since it is a special 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are pulling out all the stops. We are so proud to have Gary and Nicole Gait serving as our Honorary Co-chairs. Haylor Freyer & Coon, Inc., a loyal supporter, is our Corporate Sponsor and Doug Logan will be our Master of Ceremonies for the evening.



Above: The Honorary Co-chairs Gary and Nicole Gait.

The dinner recognizes individuals and organizations that foster equal opportunity and strive to improve the quality of life in our

community. This year we are excited to be honoring the following Champions of Diversity:

**Grandma Lula Donald** has been mentoring at risk teens and youth for twenty-five years through the P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Foster Grandparent Program.

Right: Grandma Lula Donald, one of this year's Champions of Diversity.



Grandma Lula is committed to empowering the youth in our community to reach their potential emotionally, intellectually and morally.

**P.E.A.C.E., Inc., Department of Energy and Housing led by Ray Yehle** is improving our community by weatherizing homes which leads to energy and costs savings as well as increased property value for low-income families and individuals. Under

## Out and About

with P.E.A.C.E. Inc.



Left: County East FRC Summer Book Club celebrated the end of the program with a guest speaker, Debbie Kogut, Health Educator from the Onondaga County Health Department's "Get Moving Program." The children learned about nutrition, exercise and the importance of making healthier food choices.

# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Champions of Diversity Dinner

## Community Partner Corner

Ray's leadership, the P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Department of Energy and Housing has become a national leader in efficiency, quality and performance.



Above: Dept. of Energy and Housing led by Ray Yehle will be honored at this year's dinner.

others first. Through his work with the **Media Unit**, Walt empowers teens to overcome obstacles and focus on future goals in television, stage performance, and production.



Right: One of this year's honorees, Walt Shepperd.

**Rural/Metro Medical Services** is committed to engaging with the Central New York community it serves. By teaching CPR, supporting area non-profits and providing standby medical coverage at local events, Rural/Metro is improving the quality of life in our community.



Journalist, activist and professor, **Walt Shepperd** has always put the betterment of his community and

### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Champions of Diversity Dinner

Tickets are \$125.00 each; a table of ten is \$1250.00. For more information, call 470-3300 or go to [www.peace-caa.org](http://www.peace-caa.org).

#### A Huge Thank You to our Generous Sponsors!

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The **John Ben Snow Foundation** has been a key supporter of **P.E.A.C.E., Inc.'s Big Brothers Big Sisters** school-based mentoring program for many years. When the John Ben Snow Foundation first contributed to Big Brothers Big Sisters, 34 students from two schools benefitted. Since then, the program has experienced tremendous growth, and last year over 506 students from 19 schools participated. The John Ben Snow Foundation has continued to support the program over the last decade through more than \$75,000 in grants. These funds enable the program to purchase supplies, pay staff and fund field trips and other activities that help children develop their social skills, bond with their mentors and improve their performance in school.

Since 1948, the **John Ben Snow Foundation** has enhanced the quality of life in Northern and Central New York by making grants to qualifying organizations for educational and humanitarian purposes. John Ben Snow, a native of Pulaski, NY, established the Foundation after building a small fortune in the retail and newspaper businesses. An extension of his lifelong habit of sharing his wealth and investing in people, the Foundation seeks to respond to *changing community needs*, especially those of children and people who are economically or physically disadvantaged. P.E.A.C.E., Inc. salutes the contributions that the John Ben Snow Foundation makes to our community in the areas of Arts and Culture, Community Development, Education, Environment, Historic Preservation and Journalism and thanks the Foundation for its generous and unwavering support of Big Brothers Big Sisters.



Above: P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Board Members Judge James Cecile and Tonia Thornton get into the spirit at the United Way Kickoff Cookoff.

Below: Big Brothers Big Sisters Bigs, Littles and their families, and children from the waiting list gathered together at July's BBBS Annual Picnic. Everyone enjoyed great food, fun, crafts and games on a beautiful summer Sunday.



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Pictured from left to right: Bob Gary (received second place for best bike), Alicia Manor (County West FRC Site Coordinator) and Mike McAfoose (received first place for best bike).

## County West Family Resource Center Ride

The First Annual Make A Difference...County West Ride was held on Saturday, August 13. The scenic 33-mile motorcycle ride through Onondaga County began with a bike blessing and concluded with a chicken BBQ and entertainment at the Baldwinsville VFW.

Proceeds from the event will support the community programs and services of P.E.A.C.E., Inc.'s County West Family Resource Center, located at 93 Syracuse Street in Baldwinsville, New York. The center provides advocacy, activities for youth, community development, crisis intervention, electronic tax filing, employment support, family development, Food for the Parents' Soul, food pantry, information & referrals, Kidz Rule, literacy programs, Neighborhood Advisory Council, opportunities for seniors, outreach and volunteer opportunities.

It turned out to be a beautiful day for the ride and many people came out to support the event. We want to thank the VFW for their sponsorship and use of the venue. Plans are under way to host the event again next year.

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