

August 30, 2010

Dear Friends, Supporters, Family, and Communities:

Summer has officially come to an end and the *hustle and bustle* of families getting ready for "Back to School" has begun! We are so excited about the close of our 8th Summer Enrichment Program and embarking on a new school year!

Here are some summer program highlights!

- All our staff, interns and even 1 mother from Delmont volunteered their time during the Darrell Green Celebrity Golf Classic on June 24, 2010. Dante and Toron, students from the Delmont Learning Center, spoke at the event.
- Students visited a few new places this summer including a blueberry patch and the Aviation Museum/Richmond airport.
- A player from the Richmond Kickers came and did soccer drills with our kids at recess. He also brought them free passes to their games.
- Delmont program director, Katharine Hunt, completed a class for her teacher recertification!
- Five Delmont youth participated in the Children's Miracle Network/ Anthem LemonAid stand. The Panera Bread in Mechanicsville, VA allowed YLFR to use their store as the fundraising sight and they provided the ice for the lemonade for free. This project raised over \$112 for the Children's Hospital.
- On August 10th, two youth, staff, and an intern organized a fundraising night at Cold Stone Creamery on Libbie Ave., near the University of Richmond and raised \$110.00.
- **2010 Mystery Trip Fundraiser totaled \$3,844.17!**
- Delmont tested 32 of our students to begin in the fall
- Highland Park tested 17 students to begin in the fall

Whew! The summer programs were busy exploring new places, learning new things, giving back to the community, and embarking on philanthropic ventures to invest in the program they have grown to count on for so many years!

Youth Life Foundation of Richmond is still like "the little engine that could" in an economy that is shutting down many organizations like ours. We are finding a way through these tremendous times. THANK YOU just doesn't seem to say enough for the many of you who continue to support our cause and who are directly responsible for our survival! With survival comes strength and with strength

comes an even greater cause. YLFR is experiencing a growth spurt that we are committed to overcome. Our long term investment in our students is essential to the sustainability of our organizations in our communities. Here is our new initiative:

Youth Life @ Night (Middle and High School Program) will begin September 15, 2010. The Delmont Learning Center piloted a middle school program in the 2009-2010 School Year. After the ED met with the staff this summer she charged the staff to proactively start planning for a full-fledged middle school program in both Delmont and Highland Park. This decision was prompted by Youth Life Foundation of Richmond's mission to operate Learning Centers that develop leaders by making long-term investments in children from at-risk communities. The program was starting to evolve right in front of our eyes. The ED learned that at Highland Park alone there were 4 of our youth siblings that were middle school age and 2 rising middle schoolers, but we didn't have any programming to take care of these youth. Middle school is a critical time and in the fall of 2010 YLFR we will have 10-12 youth participating in this program.

To forge ahead we are also thinking outside the box when it comes to reaching our supporters and giving more options for how to help. Please mark your calendars for the following events:

Gallery of Hope! (More information to follow)

When: October 2, 2010

Where: Corrugated Box Building (201 W. 7th Street)

Time: 7-11 pm

Local Cuisine: Savor

Silent Auction/Live Auction: Children's Artwork from and benefiting 2 schools in Guyana and Casabel

Tickets: \$75 (Corporate Sponsors Needed)

For more information go to www.kidsincrisis.us!

Youth Life - A-Thon: Beginning October 2010 YLFR will begin its 1st Annual Phone-A-Thon. A team of volunteers will come together in efforts to keep in touch with supporters, mentors/volunteers, community members, and friends of YLFR to inform you of new changes occurring at Youth Life and to ask for support of YLFR End Year Campaign Fund.

Please see our September 2010 Newsletter for more detailed information!

Again, we cannot thank you enough for all your support! 2010-2011 is going to be a great year for Youth Life - I hope you will continue to join us on this journey!

For The Children,
Stephanie Gossett, Executive Director