



Jane Addams Speaks

Issue 3
December 2008

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Volunteer Appreciation

Diane Terrell

On December 3, Jane Addams Place held a Volunteer Appreciation Party to thank and honor the volunteers who assist us with childcare, Homework Help and other activities. The evening was filled with games, including "Guess How Many Jelly Beans are in the Jar" and a Clothespin game. One of the youth residents, Terrence Jones, read a poem about having difficult experiences. Following the poem, adult residents, youth, staff and volunteers played Identity Bingo and got to know each other a little better. Everyone was running around like crazy trying to meet as

many people as possible.

Following the game, families and staff were able to stand on the stage and thank the volunteers for taking time out of their busy schedules to come to Jane Addams Place and help us out.

Following the speeches, it was on to another game. Then staff introduced themselves to the volunteers and let them know that they were always available if there were any questions.

Then Bianca Barnes asked the volunteers to introduce themselves to everyone and Aileen Haggerty presented the

volunteers with certificates. Applause came from everywhere.

To end the evening, refreshments were served and the winner of the final game was announced. It was a fun-filled evening with genuine appreciation for the volunteers who donate their time and energy to the families at Jane Addams Place.



Weekly Meetings

- Cares & Concerns
Monday-Tuesdays 10-11am
- Community Meeting
Mondays 6-7pm
- Sister Circle
Wednesdays 10-11am
- Parenting
Wednesdays 6-7pm
- S.E.L.F
Thursdays 10-11am

- NEW ! Stop Smoking Program
Thursdays 6-7pm, Jan 15 to Feb 26
- Career Class
Fridays 10-11am
- TRUTH Group
Fridays 6-7pm
- Computer Class
Fridays 1-3pm
- All about the Benjamins
Fridays 10-11am

Upcoming Events

- Santa and Caroling**
December 23
- Family Ornament Making Party**
December 24, 6PM
- Pajama Christmas Brunch**
December 25
- New Year's Holiday Talent Party**
January 1
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**
January 19

Party On!

Jane Addams Place began the autumn season with a Halloween dance party and costume contest in the "haunted basement". We were joined by the Temple Women's Basketball team who passed out candy with the kids.

The next celebration was our Thanksgiving Family Gathering on November 27. After giving thanks, lead by resident Denise Burrage, families enjoyed a delicious lunch and dinner prepared by our kitchen crew, including turkey, ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans and home-made gravy.

For the remainder of the holiday

season, Jane Addams staff and residents will celebrate Eid al-Adha (Dec. 9), Haunnakah (Dec. 22) and Kwanzaa (Dec 26 To Jan. 1, at dinner) .

BuildaBridge will be hosting two events at Jane Addams Place. On Saturday Dec. 6, it is Spoken Word and on Saturday, Dec. 13, it'll be Rhythm and Roots, a Latin percussion workshop. Also on Dec 13, Rubye's Kids will host their fabulous annual holiday party at Girard College. BuildaBridge will host their end-of-semester celebration, highlighting the work of our creative artists on December 16.

Thank you Rubye's Kids, BuildaBridge and CHOP HHI for all you do at Jane Addams Place!



CHOP Holiday Dinner

Roberta Fisher & Terrence Jones

On November 25, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Nursing Department and Homeless Health Initiative sponsored a lovely holiday dinner at Jane Addams Place for the mothers, children and staff. Many of the residents had been anticipating the dinner for three or four nights because it would be a welcome break from the usual routine.

Nurses decorated the tables in the dining room for the occasion. Families began the night with dinner served by the nursing staff and the residents appreciated



their kindness. Dinner was baked chicken, string beans and mashed potatoes.

Moms thanked the nurses with a standing ovation. Dinner ended with a variety of desserts that were amazing.

Following dinner, moms and kids went to the basement and created stuffed pillows and photo frames. The kids had a great time decorating the photo frames with paint and stickers and stuffing the pillows.

In casual conversations, families and nurses discussed life at the shelter, their experiences and learning from their mistakes. There was laughter and tears. Residents reported that it was nice to have an evening to relax with their community.

Art Museum's Teen Day

Aileen Haggerty

On Sunday, December 6, twelve members of the Jane Addams Place family took a trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Moms, children and staff all got on a yellow school bus to spend a few hours at the museum. Several of the families went on a guided tour



of the Gee's Bend quilt exhibit. This was very exciting since some of the moms and children were making pillows and quilt squares themselves after learning about the history of the Gee's Bend quilts. Also families were shown the Education wing, which featured portrait work by the moms from Jane

Addams Place. It was also Teen Day at the Art Museum. The teens from Jane Addams Place caught a film produced by Philadelphia teens. Then the families attended a reception with tasty food and drinks. To end the day, local teens and community members performed spoken word, rapping and singing.

Career Day

Rita Tate, Michelle Abbruzzese, Karen Todd and Rachel John

Jane Addams Place held its First Annual Career Day on Saturday, November 15, 2008 for residents and staff ages 16 and up. It was a huge success!! The social work interns, Rita, Michelle, Karen and Rachel started organizing the event in September in response to requests from the residents.

The basement was transformed into a conference center with each table covered in a white tablecloth and decorated with colorful flowers. The tables also held sign holders identifying each visiting organization. There was a registration table that greeted each attendee. Everyone who attended received a colorful program outlining the agenda for the day and a raffle ticket. The tickets would be used for prize drawings at the end of the day.

The day started with two motivational speakers. Kimberly Powell, a former resident of Jane Addams, and Fred Horton, a private consultant, motivated attendees by sharing their per-

sonal stories of downfalls and successes. Then, representatives from Community College of Philadelphia and Lincoln Technical Institute provided information on the programs available to anyone interested in starting or continuing their education. Also in attendance were Representatives from Empire Beauty School, The Urban League, and Career Wardrobe.

After the education portion, there was a working lunch held in the "conference center." Having lunch delivered gave attendees the opportunity to network with guests and to get additional information or share

personal situations. After lunch, the Representative from Career Wardrobe discussed appropriate attire for interviewing and while on the job. The informative day ended with a "Dress for Success" fashion show where residents and staff strutted the catwalk in, "what not to wear," business, and business casual ensembles.

It was a great day at Jane Addams Place. Many attendees walked away from the day motivated about the possibility of going to school, upgrading their resumes, or starting their employment search.



Alumni Dinner

On December 5, Jane Addams Place held the first Alumni Dinner to invite former residents to return for a home cooked meal. Over a dinner of jerk chicken with rice and cabbage, the alumni chatted with each other and reminisced about their time at Jane Addams Place.

The women discussed being lonely after leaving shelter. A

few missed being able to walk down the hall, knock on someone's door and talk to someone.

Some of the most important things that they learned at Jane Addams were stress management, fees and savings, parenting class and the SELF groups. They felt that the programs offered at Jane Addams were

very helpful and they were glad that they took advantage of it. The former residents also discussed how important staff were helping them move out and for offering support.

Staff let the residents know that they are always welcome to return to the shelter to participate in classes, celebrations and to talk to someone.

Low Cost Holiday Gifts

Michelle Abbruzzese

It's the holidays which means it's time to think about how we will share the spirit. Not sure what to give? Here are some holiday gift ideas that may be of some help...



Picture frame: You can buy a picture frame from the dollar store and personalize it through painting it, gluing buttons or sequences. Or you can decorate the frame with pieces of glass. Have an old cd? Break it up and decorate with the mirrored pieces. Put one of your favorite pictures insides, write a holiday wish!

Coupon Book: Make your own gift cards. The gift cards can be favors that you will fulfill for that person. An example would be, I, Michelle, owe Miss. Resident one hour of child care. Or, I owe Miss Smith a day of laundry. Decorate the certificates. Make a book to put the certificates in and put them in the

book. Personalize the certificates and sign them to make them official.

Be creative...make a collage from magazines and catalogs. Pick a color theme, or use holiday themed pictures. Cut out letters and write a holiday message.

There are plenty of arts and craft supplies at Jane Addams Place. If you can't find what you need, just ask. Chances are we have what you are looking for.

Day of HOPE

Tyra Scott

On Saturday, November 22, the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, joined the families of Jane Addams Place for a Day of HOPE (Helping Other People Excel).

The women served the moms an early Thanksgiving lunch of string beans, sweet potatoes, turkey, ham, stuffing and a variety of

"It gets greater later"

desserts. After lunch, the women gathered for a workshops for the kids and adults. The children made a present for the kids on the oncology ward at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The speaker for the moms, Rayna King, spoke about domestic violence and let them know not to give up hope because "It gets greater later." Moms then asked

questions in a general discussion about their experiences. Thanks to Nakia Henderson for making this day so special.



HAP Legal Clinic

Rita Tate

On Friday, November 21, the volunteers from the Philadelphia Bar Association's Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP) visited JAP to meet with residents to discuss any legal issues or questions that they may have. Approximately 12 residents signed up to meet with HAP volunteers.

HAP is a non-profit, public interest

organization whose mission is to provide free legal aid and counseling to homeless individuals and families. HAP's goals are to: provide direct civil legal services to homeless families and individuals; connect homeless clients with needed social services; and advocate for the needs of Philadelphia's homeless population and promote positive policy changes to

address those needs.

After being asked what she thought of the services provided by HAP, Ms. Debra Sample, a JAP resident responded "It was great! They are going to work with me on obtaining birth certificates for me and my children, even the one from Germany!!" HAP's next legal clinic is scheduled for January 16.