



# Jane Addams Speaks

**Issue 4**  
**March 2009**

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## A Day of Activity for All Ages

On February 7, 2009, Jane Addams Place organized a day of activities for all age groups at the shelter.

Children age birth to 4 enjoyed 2 hours of Bright Spaces playtime with Kim Weilgus and volunteers from Books through Bars. Children played with the blocks, clothes and games in Bright Spaces, the three rooms set aside as a warm, safe space for them to learn and explore.

Children age 5 to 8 celebrated a community birthday party in the basement. Rubyes' Kids, whose mission is to bring "joyful, enriching experiences to children in order to promote strong values, education, respect for self and others and commitment to community", decorated the basement for the occasion with streamers, balloons and toys.

The kids began the afternoon by making cards for their families and then played games. Finally, everyone enjoyed birthday cake and wished the kids with January, February and March birthdays a "happy birthday."

Teenagers were given the opportunity to hear Fred Horton, a high school dropout, and formerly incarcerated drug user, tell his story of success. It was a powerful message and inspirational story.

The adult residents were treated to two hours of yoga with our volunteer teachers Marsha Aaron and Yvette Pecoraro. The class began with

gentle yoga led by Marsha and then group singing led by Yvette, who played the harmonium during



Fred Horton speaks to the teens.

the session.

It was truly a day of activity for all ages and families and staff report that everyone enjoyed themselves.

## 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
- Career Class  
Fridays 10-11am
- Computer Class  
Fridays 1-3pm
- TRUTH Group  
Fridays 6-7pm
- All about the Benjamins  
Fridays 11am-12pm



The Rubye's Kids Birthday Party began with the kids designing Valentine's cards.



Residents practice yoga.

## No Cuts to Essential Services!

The fourth and final citizen budget forum was held on Monday, January 23 at Pinn Memorial Baptist Church in West Philadelphia. Citizens were asked for their input as the city is faced with a \$200-million budget gap for the fiscal year beginning July 1st.

Before the forum began, the Coalition for Essential Services held a press conference to ask the mayor to consider alternative revenue options in the forums. The Coalition for Essential Services is a repre-

sentative group of over a dozen of Philadelphia's strongest unions, public service, and advocacy organizations. Coalition representatives, including Tiffani Sutton, a former resident of the Lutheran Settlement House, an SEIU security worker, a member of the Firefighters Union, Reverend Jessie Brown from Neighborhood Networks, and Cathy Scott, President of AFSCME District Council 47, gave testimonials about the potential impact of budget cuts and the

importance of preserving essential city services.

Tiffani Sutton gave a short, but excellent, testimonial about how the cuts to shelter services could have impacted her family and how much Jane Addams Place helped her to regain self-sufficiency during her residency. At the end of the press conference, participants joined the hundreds others inside, split into small groups and attempted to work out the budget deficit in their preferred manner.

## Dee Dee's Corner

### Dee Dee McKahand

Good news! No new cases of the shigella virus at Jane Addams Place. The sanitizer dispensers throughout the building must be keeping the bacterial virus at a low level. Continue to wash your hands with soap and water, then sanitize!

◆ Ms. Jones, Assistant Cook, at Jane Addams Place is looking for recipes to add to the

menu. Also, if there are any volunteers that could help with the dining room bulletin board, Ms. Jones would appreciate some assistance.

◆ Keep an eye on your children at all times. They may not know the dangers that exist.

◆ All about the Benjamin's begins at 11AM on Saturdays. Ms. Liquitta, Savings and Fees Administrator, is in the process of working on getting caps and gowns for graduates of the

ten-week program.

◆ Last week's Friday morning community meeting was very informative. The staff suggested ways the residents could deal with their cares and concerns with each other in a respectful, adult way. Resident Cynthia and resident Dee Dee practiced a role play with our new communication skills.



## Resident Spotlight: A Day in the Life of KHALA HARDY

### Michelle Abbruzzese

Khala is usually seen sprinting from one room to the next looking for adventure. I was able to have her sit with me for a few minutes so that I could talk with her about family, school and her favorite past time, eating. Khala is seven years old has an older sister, Keira who is eight and a brother, Warren who is thirteen. Khala

says she is close with both of them. Khala loves her mom, especially when she takes the family out for chicken. She especially loves chicken.

It snowed so much on Monday March second that school was closed. Khala had a blast having snowball fights and making snow angels.

## Upcoming Events

### Spring Fling

April 4

### Day of Beauty

April 19

### Mothers' Day Dinner

May 9

