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2009-2010 Annual Report to the Community

THE future is NOW



Frederick
Alliance
For Youth

Moving Forward Together

Welcome to the Annual Report to the Community Edition of our Newsletter.

This edition is all about accountability. As an organization, we are accountable to you: our community, our donors, our supporters and our funding partners. You deserve to know how we're doing. How effective have the programming decisions been that we have made? Are our young people making progress—academically, emotionally and socially?

While our instincts were telling us all along that outstanding things were happening in the lives of our youth and their families, we were delighted to discover that the Outcomes Summary produced for June 2009-2010 confirmed our suspicions. In fact, we feel these results are nothing short of remarkable, and we are proud to share them with you.

A community is only as healthy as the sum of its parts. If there's a neighborhood among us whose children and families are struggling, we all feel it. That's why continuing to provide immediate intervention and support to the children and families in Frederick's West End will affect far more than the Hillcrest-Waverley area. All of Frederick County will benefit.



Frederick Alliance for Youth Program Director Mimi Zee-Six waits with a small group of Club Explorers as they prepare to board the bus for a trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore with employees from BB&T Bank.

If you are currently a member of the Frederick Alliance for Youth through your financial support, thank you. If not, I invite you to join with us today. You'll find more information about becoming a member of The Alliance on an envelope in the center of this newsletter—I hope you'll consider getting on board.

With your support, even more exciting things are possible.

A Note from Scott Working Our Way Home



Frederick Alliance for Youth CEO Scott Alexander with wife Cathy and children, Sydney and Paxton.

Building a permanent home in the West End for the Frederick Alliance for Youth's rapidly growing programs—especially in this economy—is not without its challenges. But our Building Committee has come up with an exciting concept: what if we could find a partner whose mission worked well with ours to rent all or part of the building from us during the times we didn't need it? That revenue stream, combined with the continued generosity of the Frederick community, would help assure the long term sustainability of our organization, while allowing us even more resources to dedicate to our youth and their families.

We've been working hard to find the right match, and we are delighted to announce an emerging partnership between the Frederick Alliance for Youth and the Carroll Creek Montessori School.

With our demand for the space primarily after school and during the summer, with only occasional needs in the evening and over the weekends, a school to occupy the space during the day would be ideal. The building would rarely stand empty and unused, making the best use of resources for all. Our goal is to have a fully functioning building up and running by August of 2012, and we are working on plans to make that a reality.

Stay tuned for frequent updates!

Sincerely,

Scott Alexander,
President & CEO



One of our students, Valentina, with her family at a Frederick Alliance for Youth Family Night last summer. The event was held in conjunction with the first performance of Celebrate Frederick's Summer Concert Series featuring Ted Garber, a local musician and FAY supporter.



"The staff is so caring and knowledgeable. They have helped us to help ourselves and our children. We consider them our mentors, too."

— Mr. & Mrs. G.

"What I think makes the Frederick Alliance for Youth truly powerful is the family coaching component. Knowing how important family stability is for a young person's success, the Alliance has matched their families with a mentor, or "coach," to help them identify needs and set goals. Our coaches help connect the entire family unit with educational opportunities, community resources, counseling, financial aid and other services to make them as stable and productive as possible."

—Tony Checchia, FAY Board Member

LEADING THE WAY

Dear Friends,

It's a privilege to take the reins of the Frederick Alliance for Youth's Board of Directors at this important time in the organization's history.

The Alliance has been offering youth in the Hillcrest-Waverley neighborhoods academic assistance, leadership development, field trips, family programs and enrichment activities in reading, music and technology with extremely impressive results since 2008. Recently, however, the Alliance has begun to take steps to reach the family unit as a whole. Because we believe success for

children begins at home, we've begun to mentor, or "coach" our participants' families to become more stable and independent. Helping youth achieve academically and socially, and teaching their families how to better support that growth. Our parents are becoming more involved at their children's schools and other organizations that shape their lives, and the community.

Supporting youth...empowering families...strengthening community. With enough attention to all three, we believe the West End of Frederick is on the verge of a transformation that will resonate through all of Frederick County.

We need your support. The time is right, because *the future is now*.

—Jeff Holtzinger, Chairman
Board of Directors



Attorney Jeff Holtzinger is the Frederick Alliance for Youth's incoming Chairman of the Board. A former mayor of Frederick, Jeff is an active community volunteer and busy parent who is currently in private practice with the firm of Holtzinger-Weaver, P.A. in Downtown Frederick.

"Education is a high priority in our family, and the values we have found here at Club Explore support that. The leaders of Club Explore are helping to give my daughter the confidence and the motivation to dream big and work hard. The leaders (at the Alliance) don't look at their work with the children as just a job. They bring such passion and excitement to the program, and they treat the young people here like family. They go above and beyond every day. I don't have family in the area, so you can't imagine how much it means to have the staff at Club Explore in my daughter's life."

— Ana Mejia



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*If your actions
inspire others
to dream more,
learn more,
do more and
become more,
you are a leader*

—John Quincy Adams

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Focused Solutions, Big Results



For the past two years, we've been working with youth who were identified by their schools as high-risk—the results have been outstanding. More recently, our family coaching outreach has begun to take these positive outcomes to a new level. We've also been a catalyst for helping the Hillcrest-Waverley neighborhood become a more cohesive community. Here's a quick look at what's been happening in all 3 areas:

Building Academic Achievement



- 100% participated in Club Explore's daily Homework Club.
- 92% returned their homework at a satisfactory level.
- 100% received satisfactory grades for classwork completion.
- 97% received satisfactory grades in Math and Reading.
- 81% received a B average.
- Almost half (42%) made the Honor Roll.

"We are so grateful for all the people at Club Explore. We just want to say thank you for all the attention and kindness our children receive here. It is a very special thing."

— Maria and Odolio, Parents of Angeles & Gabby

Empowering Families



The largest area of growth during the reporting period focused on the family as a unit. We continue to expand the role of our family mentors, or "coaches," who help families become more stable and independent by helping them identify their needs, and connecting them with resources and solutions. Family coaches provided 2,092 hours of service—a 900% increase over last year. Services included:

- Providing guidance for parents who wish to enroll, take placement tests and apply for financial aid at Frederick Community College.
- Helping families access community resources such as food banks, the Religious Coalition, Child Protective Services, HUD and Citizenship & Immigration.
- Assisting with translation services for the Frederick City Police, Centro Hispano Legal Clinic and Manpower Employment Services.

Strengthening Community



As families become more stable, members are better able to become more engaged citizens. To help encourage the families of our young people get to know one another, and to reach out and become more involved in schools, homeowners' associations and PTAs, we have:

- Sponsored quarterly Family Nights, each of which has been attended by approximately 65 people.
- Invited families to accompany their children on field trips and activities as chaperones and helpers.
- Helped our youth and families plan and oversee community service projects that benefitted the Frederick Rescue Mission, Frederick Community Action Agency's Food Bank, U.S. Armed Forces and the American Red Cross (Haiti Disaster Relief).
- Assisted with snow removal at the Hillcrest Elementary School and in the Hillcrest Commons area.

Goals of the Frederick Alliance for Youth

1
Help children
achieve maximum
academic success

2
Build stronger
neighborhoods

3
Give families the tools
to support themselves
& each other

4
Reduce juvenile
crime

Reducing Juvenile Crime



We interrupt the cycle of violence by teaching our young people coping strategies for avoiding crime, keeping them off the streets and out of harm's way:

- 100% of our elementary school students' report cards show them "able to cooperate with others toward common goals, were able to follow directions and exercise self-control."
- None of our participants received disciplinary referrals.
- In addition to conflict resolution and problem-solving classes, we conduct an average of 9 activities each month related to character building and leadership.
- We offer interesting and fun activities like piano lessons, art classes and karate as alternatives to poor social choices.

Under the auspices of the bank's Lighthouse Project, BB&T underwrote a trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore for a group of our children and their families. BB&T employees accompanied the group on the day-long adventure in August.



IN THEIR WORDS

"When your children are struggling in school and you don't know what to do to help them, it's a very bad feeling. I could never get them to focus on their homework, and I wasn't very good at helping them. So they just kept falling further and further behind...then I started getting calls from the school about bad behavior. That didn't surprise me, because my children were always fighting at home.

I tried other things to help them, but nothing really changed until my son started coming to the Frederick Alliance for Youth after school. He felt comfortable here, and the staff took the time to find out what he was really good

at. He loves computers, so our family coach, Steve, got him into working on building a kids' Web site for the Frederick Alliance for Youth. Everyone in the after-school program comes to him when they need something fixed, and he's really proud of that...I can tell. My daughter had the chance to take Chinese language classes over the summer through the Alliance. She loved it, and we think she has a gift for it. She even made the Honor Roll for the first time!

I wish I could explain to you just how different things are since Steve started working with our family.

Mayleen, mother of Kivian (age 14) and Kevin (age 12).

I see so many children in the street, hanging out...and I'm so glad mine are not there. The Alliance is helping me raise my children the way I want to—with structure and success."



Thanks to Our 2009-2010 Supporters

The following generous individuals, families, businesses, organizations and foundations have shown their belief in our mission by supporting us with financial and in-kind gifts. If your name is included below, thank you for your confidence in us. If you'd like to be a part of our vision, welcome aboard!

Please visit www.frederickallianceforyouth.org to learn more and get involved:

H. Mark Alexander
Jon and Christine Alexander
Scott and Cathy Alexander
American Red Cross Frederick County Chapter
Justin and Lauren Ausherman
Marvin and Lisa Ausherman
Ausherman Family Foundation
Sheri Bailey
Gregory Banasz
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Banner School
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Frederick Fence Company
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Wes Hensley
Hillcrest Elementary School
Jeremy Holder

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Mimi Zee-Six
Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority, Frederick Alumni Chapter



explore discover grow

Childhood should be a time of exploration and self-discovery. To learn about their strengths and capabilities, young people need exposure to a wide array of activities. During the 2009-2010 reporting period, the staff at Club Explore led our young people and their families in the following activities:

- 272 Educational Activities
- 244 Fitness & Recreation Activities
- 152 Creative Arts Projects
- 144 Science & Health Activities
- 127 Explorations into Leadership
- 122 Cultural Integration Activities
- 66 Technology & Media Projects

"At Club Explore, getting our homework done is really important. The Club leaders help us, and sometimes we help each other with activities like Stopwatch Reading. We work on crafts and projects—we even have computers here, too! Sometimes, we go on adventures to orchards, farms, the zoo, Cunningham Falls and Greenbrier Park. I love to go exploring with my leaders and friends. Can you believe we even went to Washington DC and saw the White House?"

—Club Explore Student



COMING UP!



Don't miss a thing—"Like" us on Facebook to keep up with all our news.

2nd Annual Comedy & Magic Show Spectacular at The Weinberg Center:

Saturday, March 19, 2011.

With generous support of the PNC Foundation and many others, last year's event netted over \$40,000 for our programs and services. We sold out last year, so get your tickets early!

Free Fun Fridays!

We are joining with the City of Frederick's Parks and Recreation Department to co-sponsor "Free Fun Fridays" from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Students between 1st and 8th grade are welcomed to join us on the fields of Hill Street Park (adjacent to the skate park) for recreation activities like Capture the Flag, soccer and kickball tailored to different age groups. Parents are encouraged to come cheer

on their kids! Please contact Frederick Alliance for Youth for registration information at 301-696-0911 or email z6@FrederickAllianceForYouth.org.

There is no charge! We look forward to having your child join us!

First Annual Frosty 5K to Benefit Frederick Alliance for Youth

Saturday, December 18th: Join us for a fun-filled morning of family, friends & 3.1 miles of frosty exercise-- all to raise money for our youth programs & services. A 1-mile Fun Run starts at 9:00 a.m. followed by the 5K race at 9:30 a.m. Start/Finish Location: Hillcrest Elementary School.

Call 301.696-0911 or visit www.frederickallianceforyouth.org for more information!



Frederick Alliance For Youth

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