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weaving a safety net for our community's youth

THE future is NOW



Frederick Alliance For Youth

**VOLUME 3
SUMMER
2010**

Tackling Summer Learning Loss

“Summer Brain Drain” refers to the fact that most kids not only don’t move forward academically during those lazy, hazy months away from the classroom, many actually lose ground. And low-income students, say the experts, lose the most ground of all--especially in reading.

“Life experiences lead to advantages in reading comprehension,” says K-12 education expert, Daniel T. Willingham. If a student doesn’t have a problem de-coding words on a page, his or her ability to read well is dependent on having some relevant background knowledge.”

So where does all this “background knowledge” come from? Experts like Willingham say it comes from things like summer camp, vacations and other activities that are often “built in” for many middle-class and affluent kids, but not nearly so common for less advantaged youth. That’s why FAY’s Club Explore is committed to a year-round program that actually accelerates during the months of June, July and August.

“During the summer,” says Program Director, Mimi Zee-Six, “our Club Explore kids enjoy a constant menu of enriching experiences and activities to keep the brain stimulated and the body moving. We keep it varied and exciting—every day, it’s something new. Summer is the perfect time to broaden horizons!”



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LEADING THE WAY

“The Frederick Alliance for Youth (FAY) is using all relevant resources...to create a measurable program that will decrease juvenile crime, reduce juvenile victimization and build healthy families. This is not a surface intervention; this is a long-term, measurable program. Similar approaches across the country have shown positive, tangible results, and FAY is well on its way to joining those ranks.”

“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.”

—Henry Ford

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The staff and volunteers of the Frederick Alliance for Youth are dynamic community leaders who have been hand-picked to make the organization’s vision for our community a reality.

Q Do you have a philosophy or strategy that guides you as Police Chief?

A Having dealt for many years with big city police departments, I’m completely convinced that the best outcomes—socially and financially—are the result of aggressive law enforcement combined with outreach, education and prevention. In short, effective community policing is not just about locking people up. It’s about working with the citizens of every neighborhood to identify their concerns, prioritize them and come up with plans to address them that rely on a broad cross-section of resources.

Q Can you give me an example?

A I spent some time in DC running the Youth and Family Services Division, investigating juvenile missing persons and child abuse cases across the city. In collaboration with other stakeholders in the community, we created some programs that did two vital things: 1) they kept kids from being victimized by others, and 2) they kept kids productively engaged and “off the streets,” which minimized juvenile crime. I saw tangible, positive results, and I learned without a doubt that this approach works.

Locally, the Frederick Alliance for Youth is a perfect example of how to bring together resources to address concerns.

Q What is your involvement with FAY?

A As Chief of Police, I support their approach 100%. When I was asked to serve on FAY’s Board of Directors, I was happy to join with a great group of business and community

leaders to help shape this great organization’s future.

What I really enjoy about working with FAY is that there are no egos. The people who are involved are extremely dynamic, and they just care about getting things done... about making improvements and changing the lives of the children and families who participate. It’s also extremely efficient—if there’s another organization already providing a service, we partner with them. It’s all about collaboration and teamwork.

Q Is there anything you’d like the citizens of Frederick to know?

A I think we all need to remember that the problems we have here in Frederick are not insurmountable. I’m confident that, through an integrated approach to community policing that involves outreach, prevention and education, combined with tough law enforcement when appropriate, we can ensure that Frederick remains the safe and beautiful community it is.

A Note from Scott:



“Two-thirds of the achievement gap occurs during the summers, not during the school year,” says Frederick Alliance for Youth President & CEO, Scott Alexander. “If we can eliminate the summer gap, we can close the long-standing achievement gap between richer and poorer kids. And that will go a long way to leveling the playing field for all the young people in our community.”

Dear Friends,

While stemming summer learning loss is a high priority at Club Explore, we are constantly working on other goals simultaneously. One of our most important tasks year-round is fostering resilience in our kids. Defined as “the ability to thrive in spite of challenges,” resilience is a quality that can be fostered through persistence, structure and accountability.

At the family level, fostering resilience in children requires structure and high expectations. Any family that emphasizes the value of assigned chores, caring for brothers or sisters, and the contribution of part-time work in supporting the family helps to foster resilience. At the Frederick Alliance for Youth, we support the efforts of our children’s families by weaving resilience-building activities throughout the curriculum, hosting family nights to encourage relationships and community values, and staying in close touch with their teachers and other important adults.

In just the two short years we’ve been operating, we are already measuring significant results in building resilience in our kids. As a team, we share the belief that the greatest outcome we can achieve is to be a partner in raising youth who grow up to participate fully in our community.

If you’re already onboard with our mission, thanks for your support. If you’d like to be a part of our vision, we welcome your participation. Please visit www.frederickallianceforyouth.org to learn more about our unique approach and our plans for the future—it’s an exciting time!

Sincerely,

Scott Alexander
President & CEO



“Resilience involves the ability to solve problems by developing strengths and overcoming difficulties...at-risk children in particular need problem-solving skills in order to level the playing field and allow them to fully develop all of their intelligence.”

– Brendtro & Larson, *The Resilience Revolution*



10 ways to build resilience

1
Maintain good relationships with close family members, friends and others

2
Avoid seeing crises or stressful events as unbearable problems

3
Accept circumstances that cannot be changed

4
Develop realistic goals and move towards them

5
Take decisive actions in adverse situations

6
Look for opportunities of self-discovery after a struggle with loss

7
Develop self-confidence

8
Keep a long-term perspective and consider the stressful event in a broader context

9
Maintain a hopeful outlook, expect good things and visualize success

10
Take care of the mind and body-- exercise regularly, pay attention to your own needs and feelings and engage in relaxing activities that you enjoy

--The American Psychological Association

summertime and the livin' is busy



Join us for a Family Night at the Baker Park Bandshell on Sunday, June 13th at 7:00 pm for the first event in the 2010 Summer Concert Series. Featured performer and local musician **TED GARBER** grew up in the Hillcrest area, and is now collaborating with FAY to promote our mission and vision throughout the County. Help us kick-off our summer in style! It's FREE, and all are welcome!

Welcome to 4708... The Year of the Tiger!



A trip to China may not be in the budget, but certain Club Explorers will enjoy the next best thing. Through the Startalk® Chinese program, they'll become immersed in Asian culture. They'll learn to speak some Mandarin, make themselves an authentic noodle lunch, practice Chinese painting and calligraphy and try their hand at the country's favorite sport: ping pong! Calculators will be replaced with abacuses, as they learn to do simple arithmetic on the ancient counting devices. At the end of the day, they'll unwind with a Wushu master, who will teach them some authentic Tai Chi moves.

Who says summer's boring?! Every day is a new adventure at Club Explore.

On the Road Again



Reading specialists tell us that fluency is based on a lot more than decoding words on a page. In order to comprehend what they read, young people need to be able to put the concepts in a context. A big part of that is enjoying the enrichment experiences that many more affluent children take for granted.

In addition to a strong program of academic skill reinforcement, our Club Explore program plans field trips to museums, national parks, and historic monuments. One of the most popular outings for older Club Explorers is an overnight camping trip.

"My favorite trip so far was to the Air & Space Museum," said Club Explorer Eric Gyamfi. "It was fantastic!"

Hazy & Crazy & Anything But Lazy!



Our jam-packed summer education and enrichment program kicks off with a Family Night picnic at the first Summer Concert Series in Baker Park for our Club Explore kids, their families, our staff and other invited guests from the community. The next day, we start our exciting line-up of theme weeks. From Chemistry in the Kitchen to Phun with Physics to Design & Sew Workshops, our kids will be busy all summer long:

- Week 1: Treasure Week
- Week 2: Club Explore Goes to College
FCC Kids on Campus Classes
- Week 3: Creepy-Crawly Week
- Week 4: The Future is Now Week
- Week 5: Earth & Science Time
- Week 6: Time Travellers
- Week 7: Around the World
- Week 8: Art, Art & More Art!

Every week is filled with learning games, field trips, art projects and activities based on the theme to provide skill practice and broaden horizons.

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

IN THEIR WORDS

“I love, love, LOVE my teachers at Club Explore,” says 9-year-old Angeles Castillo. “They are the nicest people in the world. I can’t wait to come here because I know that they will all be good to me and help me with my homework.”

“I like that the teachers at Club Explore are always so glad to see me,” says 7-year-old Gabriela Castillo. “Now that school is over for this year, I am happy that we can come here every day. I love that! I love to have a surprise every day about what we are going to do!”



Through a Parent's Eyes



“I think it is very important to keep children busy,” says Angeles’ and Gabriella’s mother, Maria Tapia. “When they have nothing to do, that’s when the trouble starts. And if they are going to become the best students they can be, they need a place where they can practice their school work and ask questions. Club Explore is that place for our children.”

“We are working hard on our English,” adds the children’s father, Odolio Castillo. “But there is still a lot we do not understand. The older they get,

the harder it is to understand their homework sometimes. We are so glad that they can be part of the homework club, and keep learning, even in the summer. It is so much better than cartoons and video games all the time. If they are going to go to the university some day, they need to be the best students they can. That starts right now.”

“We are so grateful for all the people here,” says Maria. “We just want to say thank you for all the attention and kindness they receive here. It is a very special thing.”

We Sold Out!

2010 Comedy & Magic Spectacular Raises Over \$44,000!

The entire community came together to make FAY's first major fundraiser an overwhelming success! Our most sincere thanks to everyone involved:

Save the Date: Next Year's Magic Show is March 19th!



BEHIND-THE-SCENES

As with any magic show, nothing goes on stage without some fancy footwork behind the scenes that no one ever sees. Sincere appreciation goes to:

- ✦ Our committee: Betsy Pakenas, Lisa Ausherman, Barry Weller, Mary Lou Tevis, Lauren Ausherman and Joanne McCoy
- ✦ Plamondon Hospitality Partners for providing complimentary lodging to our visiting entertainers
- ✦ McCoy Media Group for the program design.
- ✦ Webb Mason for the program printing.

TICKET SELLERS:

Thanks to this remarkable team of ticket sellers who joined forces to sell out the Weinberg Center!

Alix Cooney	Lauren Stanczyk
Amaris Little	Leah Simon
Angela Mayer	Leslie Ruby
Cathy Alexander	Linda
Donna Salt	Berkheimer
Holly Ramsburg	Lisa Ausherman
Jackie Lavolvo	Lisa Coblenz
Jan Coffey	Marsha Garcia
Janet Fraley	Mary Barry
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Karen Libonate	Renee Weaver
Karen Morton	Stephanie Tuggle
Katie Barkdoll	Sue Kleinhanzl
Katie Wagoner	Sue Stanczyk
Kelly Bongard	Susan Glover
Kelly Sherman	Teresa Reeve
Lauren Ausherman	

TICKET SPONSORS:

Approximately 122 children and their families were able to attend the show thanks to tickets purchased and donated back to FAY, and shared with the Boys & Girls Clubs, Mental Health Association, YMCA and Hillcrest Elementary School.

A special thank you to:

Jon and Christine Alexander
Scott and Cathy Alexander
Justin and Lauren Ausherman
Charles and Carol Eaton
Ted and Norine Haas
Jack and Audrey Hamm
Brenda Main
Jim and Joanne McCoy
Chris and Carole Murray
Pete and Betsy Pakenas
Lauren Stanczyk
Kenneth and Karen Tucker
Rob and Stephanie Tuggle
Mimi Zee-Six
H.M. Alexander, Jr.



Cheers to PNC, without whose generous support the Comedy & Magic Spectacular would not have been possible. PNC and the PNC Foundation have long histories of strengthening and enriching the lives of their neighbors in the communities in which they live and work. For decades, they have provided resources to seed ideas, foster development initiatives and encourage leadership in non-profit organizations "where imagination and determination are at work enhancing people's lives every day." Thanks, PNC—what a great neighbor!

BB&T and The Cosmetic & Skin Surgery Center stepped forward as Gold Top Hat sponsors, contributing \$2,000 each.

The Berkheimer Group at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Frederick Memorial Healthcare System and The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek support the event as Silver Top Hat Sponsors, donating \$1,000 each.

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...with a little help from our friends!

FHS Students Support FAY



Earlier this Spring, Alyce Luck, Frederick High School's Service Learning Coordinator challenged her students to identify a social issue they felt passionately about. For students Edith Argueta and Jasmine Simawang, that issue was youth advocacy in Frederick.

The students were asked to raise money and donate to a local organization whose mission reflected their passion. "I love helping people" says Edith who plans to pursue a career in nursing after graduation. "I grew up in Hillerest," says Jasmine, "so when I saw that the Frederick Alliance for Youth was a suggestion for a local organization to support, I knew immediately that I wanted to give back." In addition to the fundraising effort, Jasmine has extended her commitment to include volunteering her time with the Alliance over the summer.

To raise money, Edith and Jasmine made flyers and sold Joe Corbi items such as pizza kits to friends, family and co-workers. For every item they sold, \$5 was donated to the Frederick Alliance for Youth. The girls sold 55 items for a combined total donation of \$275.

"Connecting with the community in this fashion is what the Frederick Alliance for Youth is all about," said the organization's Executive Director, Scott Alexander. "This kind of support is exactly what we need to keep expanding our services to the Frederick community."

FAY Receives Bank of America Grant

Bank of America



Bank of America's signature philanthropic program puts a premium on identifying and responding to local needs, including helping nonprofits/charitable organizations build capacity, plan for the future, and simply operate every day.

In keeping with this vision, Bank of America recently awarded a Neighborhood Excellence grant of \$10,000 to the Frederick Alliance for Youth. With a focus on identifying and responding to local needs, Bank of America believes that "strong neighborhoods develop leaders who, together with their friends, colleagues and local nonprofits and businesses, build vibrant, healthy communities where we all live and work."

"We are delighted to have Bank of America join the growing ranks of companies who recognize that a healthy community means a healthy place to do business," said FAY President & CEO, Scott Alexander.

Your support is an important piece of the puzzle, too.

Want to get involved? Give us a call at 301.696.0911! And please remember: we're funded completely through community donations, so please consider a 100% tax-deductible gift. Make your check payable to the Frederick Alliance for Youth, or visit www.frederickallianceforyouth.org to make an online gift through our secure Web site.

Thank you!



Check us out on Facebook!

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

– Frederick Douglass

GIVE A LITTLE BIT



Front Row, left to right: Ariana Vega, Gabby Castillo
Back row, left to right: Valentina Rojas, Janaya Dorsey, Daniel Estrada, Angeles Castillo, Juan Castillo

For many months earlier this year, news of the devastating earthquake in Haiti was everywhere. Naturally, our Club Explore kids had a lot of questions.

“I feel bad for them,” said ShaCora. “They don’t have any homes, and it is not fair. We have stuff, and they don’t.” Added Janaya, “They are desperate for food, and they don’t have any. We really need to help them.”

To raise money for the relief effort, the kids decided to auction off the artwork they had created through the Young Rembrandts® program, a special creative opportunity provided to them through a grant from the Sharon I. Hooper Fund at

the Community Foundation. They framed their favorite pictures, created a silent auction gallery format and display, and invited their parents, teachers, friends and neighbors to attend. The sell-out event yielded a contribution of \$500, which the Club Explore group presented to the American Red Cross to assist with relief efforts in Haiti.

“Our kids were very proud to be able to do something to help,” said Club Explore program coordinator, Kathy Harding. “Just as importantly, though, they learned one of the best life lessons of all: no matter how much or how little you have, there is always someone who has less than you do.”



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