

RECENT LEC HAPPENINGS

BLAIR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Girls' Life & Champions' Club at Blair Middle School (2010-2011)

The mentoring program at Blair Middle School provides support to adolescent girls and boys. The program helps girls develop the skills needed to succeed in school and improve in their social development. The girls meet with an adult mentor once a week and they attend a monthly meeting at the LEC on the weekend to explore various career and personal development topics. The Champions' Club, a mentoring program for adolescent boys, was re-launched last fall to encourage teenage boys to grow in their character and excel in academic pursuits.



We invite you to join us during the 2010-11 academic year to help foster an environment where teens can thrive academically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. We will serve up to 25 teen girls and 25 teen boys during the 2010-11 school year. *Interested?* Call the LEC at: 757-623-6001.

NEW MENTORING PROGRAM STARTS AT RENAISSANCE ACADEMY

The administration at Renaissance Academy in Virginia Beach has invited the LEC to establish a mentoring program for their middle school students. Students at Renaissance are released from other Virginia Beach schools primarily because of disciplinary challenges. The new mentoring program is designed to encourage students to grow socially and succeed academically. The program will officially start on November 1, 2010.



JACOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Computer Literacy Lab Funded by Wachovia Bank



Principal Kimberly Gray, Brandon Hogue (Wachovia Bank), Janet Toben (Wachovia Bank, Community Bank President-Norfolk), Kevin Turpin

The literacy lab at Jacox Elementary School is up and running. During the morning hours the LEC tutors use the lab to support the Center's Project Light literacy initiative. Tutors work one-to-one with students twice a week during the academic year, helping them build their reading scores and writing skills. The school has full access to the lab when it is not occupied by LEC volunteers for various educational purposes. The lab is used by more than 700 students.

Jacox Parents Enroll in First LEC Computer Training Class

The LEC teamed up with Jacox to provide a 6-week computer workshop for parents who were interested in becoming computer literate. Eleven parents successfully completed the program and are looking forward to the next training module. Over the next year, the Center will offer a series of life skills and job readiness oriented training programs. Parents will be helped to establish and build the skills needed to be excellent parents while also being equipped to excel in the marketplace.



Computer class participants

Jacox Elementary School
2009 – 2010 Academic Year Overview
The LEC computer lab, which opened in October 2008,

RECENT LEC HAPPENINGS

continues to benefit many students who need help in the area of reading, writing, math, and science. LEC literacy tutors provide tutoring to kindergarten students challenged in their basic reading skills. This school year the LEC will require parents of the students that we tutor to partner with us as we help their children improve their reading scores.

Jacox 5th Graders Raise \$1,000 for Haiti

At Jacox Elementary School's graduation ceremony, Kevin Turpin, LEC president, was presented with a check for \$1,000 and a plaque. The fifth graders sold lollipops to benefit the rebuilding of schools in Haiti. Kudos to all of the children who participated in the fundraisers. We take special note of their decision to look beyond their own needs to address the needs of others in another nation. The LEC intends to plan a special missions trip to Haiti for some of these students and their parents.



D. J. EVANS CONTRACTING: A GENEROUS DEED

Wayne Harrod and four of his colleagues from D. J. Evans Contracting donated their time during the Thanksgiving – Christmas holiday season to paint the new LEC Computer Lab at Jacox Elementary School. They started early Saturday morning and finished close to noon. The paint and labor were donated. Special thanks to Wayne and his wife, Kira, for their generosity and the fine job they did giving the new lab a much needed "face lift."



Kira & Wayne Harrod

RICHARD BOWLING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2009-10 ACADEMIC YEAR OVERVIEW

We had another successful year helping students become more proficient in their reading and writing skills. We also played a role in helping to establish a climate that encourages academic success and fosters the development of positive social skills. Over 400 students have access to the lab and are advancing in reading and in other disciplines. We are looking forward to another productive year!

FIFTH ANNUAL BROAD CREEK SUMMER CAMP OVER THE TOP!!!!

The Broad Creek Youth Summer Camp offered a world of exploration through a 6-week half-day camp. The campers were exposed to poetry, music, art, technology and sports. For the second consecutive year some of the older campers participated in the Engineering and Technology Summer Academy at Norfolk State University. They were introduced to innovative advances in the fields of engineering and technology.

Students were exposed to several intriguing places: they dined with their parents at Olive Garden, watched a movie at Cinema Café, and went on their first local cruise on the Spirit of Norfolk. They also enjoyed a field trip to Washington, D.C., where they toured museums and visited the National Zoo. Many of these children are from homes that are economically challenged. The exposure that they received during this past summer has enriched their lives and is a significant investment in their future success. Their final project included an art, dance, and drama presentation.



On the Spirit of Norfolk. Maime Johnson (right, with students) was the camp's director.

Kudos to Mrs. Maime Johnson, camp director, and Wanda Turpin, literacy specialist, for their vision and the many hours spent planning and implementing the 2010 summer camp. We also appreciate the generosity of the tutors and the art, music, and recreational specialists who did an outstanding job instructing the campers and keeping them engaged.

A special thanks!!! Thank you to the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA) for the significant grant provided to the LEC to underwrite camp expenses. We also appreciated the transportation which was provided by NRHA.

FIFTH ANNUAL LEC BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACK OUTREACH

We distributed nearly 400 backpacks with school supplies to students at Richard Bowling and Jacox Elementary Schools in Norfolk and at Treakle Elementary and Thurgood Marshall Elementary Schools in Chesapeake. We also provided school supplies to The Dwelling Place, a homeless shelter for families in crisis.



New Local Congregation Donates School Supplies to LEC

Restoration Fellowship, a new local congregation pastored by Dr. Clifton Clarke, hosted a special community fair for their neighborhood. People in the community were asked to donate school supplies for at-risk children. School supplies valued at approximately \$1,000 were collected and donated to the Life Enrichment Center of Norfolk. The supplies were given to a homeless shelter and to area schools. We appreciate the generosity of this congregation and look forward to partnering with them on future projects.



Sam Van Saun, Kevin Turpin, Dr. & Mrs. Clifton Clarke

LEC Prepares NRHA Clients for the Workforce

The LEC continues its partnership with the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing to help unemployed and underemployed individuals acquire the skills needed to secure employment. Ms. Patricia Nesbitt, president of Administrative Distinction, facilitates a 3-hour training session held several



Patricia Nesbitt teaching at the Center

times a year at the Life Enrichment Center in Norfolk. Participants learn the fundamentals of resume writing, the art of completing employment applications, and explore how to conduct themselves during an interview. They also learn important qualities that all employers look for (such as honesty, integrity, a good work ethic, and competency) in prospective employees.

2010 LEC GOLF CLASSIC AT THE SIGNATURE

Ninety-four enthusiastic golfers enjoyed a super day of golf at the Fourth Annual Charity Golf Classic at the Signature in Virginia Beach on Monday, June 7, 2010. Congratulations to *Chris Behling, Byron Williams, Bob Jennings, and Joey Barnes* for winning the first place trophy. We appreciate the hard work of Fred and Julie Kolberg as they co-chaired another successful Charity Golf Classic. The next Classic will be held on Monday, June 6, 2011.



Fred & Julie Kolberg

A Golf Classic foursome



BIRTH OF A VISION

The Life Enrichment Center was birthed out of the vision of this group—a New Life Providence small group that had a heart for inner city ministry. Left to right: Kevin Turpin, Yolanda Reynolds, Wanda Turpin, Terry Alvanzo, Mark Nowak, Sharon Alvanzo, Felicia Nowak, Jean Miller, and Jeff Miller. Not pictured: Sandra Christmas, Mina Blondet, James Hall, and Angela Hall.



THE LIFE ENRICHMENT COURIER

Seven Years – We've Only Just Begun



It has been seven years since the launch of the Life Enrichment Center, but it feels like we've just begun. Our initial programs included **WINGS**, an outreach to single parents and their children; **Girls' Life**, a mentoring program for teen girls at Blair Middle School; **Phoenix**, a nationally based life skills program to equip the unemployed and homeless populations throughout the area; **Women at the Well**, a support group for women in transition from prison; and a **support program** for individuals with drug and alcohol addictions.

In 2006, we started a literacy initiative at Richard Bowling Elementary School. The program provides one-to-one tutoring for children who are challenged in the area of reading. In 2008, after refining the program at Richard Bowling, we established the second literacy initiative at Jacox Elementary School with a focus on kindergarten students. Hundreds of volunteers have given their time to help children improve in reading, phonics, comprehension, and letter recognition. Project Light is the computerized software used to help facilitate our efforts in this area.

To augment our programs in literacy, over \$25,000 has been secured from Wachovia Bank and The Norfolk Foundation to fund computer literacy laboratories at Richard Bowling and Jacox. Each lab has 20 computers and state-of-the-art furniture. Between the two schools, over 1100 students have access to these computer labs during the year. We will establish the third computer literacy laboratory at another title one school in Norfolk in 2011.

Over the past four years, the LEC has partnered with the Broad Creek community, Richard Bowling Elementary School, and Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority to sponsor a summer program for elementary age children. Over \$50,000 has been given to underwrite the expenses of the camp and to ensure a quality camp experience for selected children from the Broad Creek community.

In August 2005, we launched our first Back-to-School initiative, providing students from low income neighborhoods with backpacks and school supplies. Since that time, the LEC and New Life Providence Church have partnered to provide close to 2,000 children with the needed supplies to ensure they are prepared for the new school year. During that same period, holiday outreaches included meals and gifts for seniors, disabled residents, and poor families in Norfolk.

The LEC's Girls' Life and Champions' Club are mentoring programs at Blair Middle School in Norfolk, designed to challenge youth to mature and to strive for excellence in their academic pursuits. The programs were started in the fall of 2003 and continue to impact the lives of many at-risk teens attending Blair.

Finally, in an effort to foster an environment of empowerment versus entitlement, the LEC will create strategic venues of service where individuals from the communities we serve are equipped to serve and give back to their city, nation, or even travel to serve in another country. We intend to see the children, youth, and adults from underserved communities shine as we offer them opportunities to be enriched for a brighter tomorrow.

Kevin Turpin
Executive Director

THE LIFE ENRICHMENT
CENTER OF NORFOLK

...ENRICHING
LIVES FOR
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW...

KEVIN TURPIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SANDRA CHRISTMAS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

WANDA TURPIN
LITERACY COORDINATOR

HOLLY ALLEN
GIRLS' LIFE COORDINATOR

DAVID MCBRIDE
CHAMPIONS' CLUB
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