



P.A.R.K. P R O G R E S S

2011 Issue 1

Donald W. Reynolds Facility

Raising in the New Year!!

A Party With a Purpose

2010 ended on a high note! The second annual P.A.R.K. a gift under the tree fundraiser was a success with friends, donors, board members, and staff enjoying a Sunday afternoon of food and dancing at the Clinton Presidential Center. While there, many took the opportunity to park a gift under P.A.R.K.'s Christmas tree - the 2011 budget.

Everyone in attendance viewed a video on P.A.R.K., which gave them more of an insight to the day-to-day operation of the program. Current and former students and parents expressed the impact P.A.R.K. has had on them or their child. After the video, Keith Jackson, Founder and President of P.A.R.K. reiterated the importance of the program for both the student and the parent.

The event has become P.A.R.K.'s signature fundraiser. The party brought in over \$100,000.00, giving the 2011 budget a boost. Each year is expected to get better as more people join the P.A.R.K. bandwagon to make a difference in a child, one child at a time.



PARK
A GIFT UNDER THE TREE

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Firm Believers

Even before opening the doors of P.A.R.K. in 1995 there were a lot of financial supporters. Some have come and gone. However, several foundations and corporations latched on to the dream of giving at-risk youth an opportunity to succeed despite their circumstances, and they have been giving year after year.

P.A.R.K. has a rich history with many of its supporters. For instance, Arkansas Electric Cooperatives has been giving since 1994 along with The Charles A. Frueauff Foundation, and The Roy and Christine Sturgis Foundation with close to two decades of faith in P.A.R.K. Giving since 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1999 are The *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, Arkansas Diagnostic Center, Baptist Medical Cen-

ter, Horace C. Cabe Foundation, Capital Properties, Clearpoint Technology, Jim Elders Good Sports Fund, Entergy Corporation, The Heflin Foundation, Metropolitan National Bank, The Ottenheimer Foundation, and Southland Metals.

At the turn of the century word spread of a little program in Little Rock, Arkansas, making a difference. With that Agape Church, The Brown Foundation, The Hussman Foundation (given prior to now under another name), The Kingdom Fund, L'Oreal, NFL Charities, and The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation joined P.A.R.K.'s list of firm believers.

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you

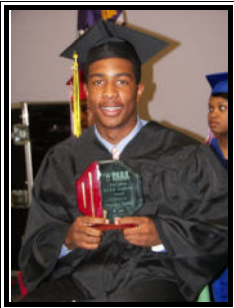


Life could have been hard, but your kindness made it soft. Life could have been cold, but your heart made it warm. Life could have been depressing, but grace made it cheerful. Lastly, life could have been a recession, but love never fails.

Thank you so much for helping P.A.R.K. get through a touchy 2010. Again, because of your generosity we were able to navigate to a successful year. The staff, students, and board members will be forever grateful for your commitment to the future of P.A.R.K. students. It seems like everyone is cutting back these days – some are even going out of business. It's with this I realize how blessed we are to have partnered with you.

~~But the reality is that there are students who still need our love, kindness, and grace to make it through 2011. I pray that you would please help us once again to make dreams realities and road blocks smooth pavement. LET'S DO IT AGAIN!!!~~

P.A.R.K.'S 16th Graduation is around the corner



Mark your calendars now for P.A.R.K.'s 16th annual graduation and recognition ceremony. It will be May 19, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at Donald W. Reynolds P.A.R.K. Ministry.

P.A.R.K.'s twenty-four high school graduates along with its college graduates will be recognized for their accomplishments.

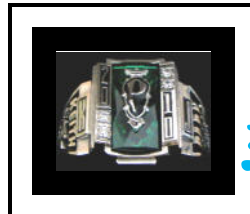
With much Pomp and Circumstance, these students will take a stroll down the aisle of success to their appointed seats where they will hear a motivational address from an accomplished businessman or woman.

College graduates will walk with their university's flag in hand, or behind another graduate from the same university.

P.A.R.K.'s high school class of 2011, its 12th class will be presented their P.A.R.K. class rings. Each ring symbolizes the commitment made to the program and is a reminder of the knowledge and wisdom learned while attending.

But, for most, the highlight of the evening is the reception that follows the ceremony. No one leaves hungry, especially those with a sweet tooth.

With the increase in the price of class rings, we are looking for sponsors to help defer the cost. To sponsor a ring or rings, please contact Monique Hickman at (501) 562-5223, ext. 228 or send a check to P.A.R.K., Attention Monique Hickman, 6915 Geyer Springs Road, Little Rock, Arkansas



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Paying it forward through community service

By William Young, Student Life Manager



In society many youth do not understand the purpose of being a voice of change for their community; however, the P.A.R.K., students are working to improve that perception. The students of P.A.R.K. have been involved in a

variety of different service projects that may assist in molding them into more well-rounded individuals. The most recent and rewarding was MLK: Day of Service because of the legacy built from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The students were placed in groups and provided some type of service as needed by selected agencies.

Other notable recent community events where students have offered assistance are as follows: Arkansas Foodbank, Susan G. Komen: Race for the Cure, Alliance for Healthier Genera-

tions, Clinton School of Public Service, Salvation Army, 53rd Anniversary Central Crisis-Voices of Next Generation, and Woodland Hills Nursing Center.

The students who have participated in these projects have improved their mind set of being a part of the solution instead of the problem. As quoted by P.A.R.K. Ambassador member Mariah Cogshell, "These projects have taught me leadership, and I would like to continue in the future so that upon adulthood will be involved on an even larger scale." In essence, community service is a consistent work in progress: therefore, if we are to succeed we must help each other.

Frederick Douglas



Students earn more than praise for high GPA's



It pays to do well in school, just ask Corry Adams and Aliyah Conley and hear what they have to say. With hard work, better study habits, and determination these two students earned a 4.0 grade point average for the first nine weeks of school.

It has been a tradition for some time for Keith Jackson, President and Founder of P.A.R.K. to hand out 25 crisp one dollar bills to the student who earns the highest GPA. He had to dig a little deeper into his pocket when told there was a tie, but was

excited to learn that the competition between the students was heating up in an effort to get the coveted prize. This is the first time Corry and Aliyah held the title and the money for the highest GPA. Both were thrilled to receive all the attention, but more excited to count every dollar given to them.



he received player of the week and track. He was selected and served as a member of Boys State.

Corry said his life has changed for the best since entering P.A.R.K. "Since arriving in the 8th grade, I have learned better study skills and how to be a better gentleman." He added, "P.A.R.K. means a lot to me. If I wasn't here, I don't know where I would be."



Aliyah is a junior at Parkview Arts & Science Magnet High School where she was acknowledged as a 4.0 scholar and selected as most likely to succeed by her peers. She enjoys volunteering, dancing, cheering, and hanging out with friends when not studying to keep her 4.0 GPA.

Aliyah noted that P.A.R.K. means a lot to her. "It's a place where I know I am safe and in a loving environment." She participates in other activities such as: Upward Bound, Arkansas Commitment, Mayors Youth Challenge, and Leadership outside of P.A.R.K. which helps keep her well-rounded.

Christopher Rudley, a Student Life Manger with P.A.R.K. said, "When I think of Aliyah, the word discipline comes to mind because a disciplined mind will achieve greatness." Aliyah said, "P.A.R.K. Is where I'm influenced to succeed because I know it's the right thing to do."

I <3 Tchnlo-g (or I Love Technology for the non-Techies)!

By Tamra Patterson
Curriculum Coordinator



The P.A.R.K. program has seen a wide gamut of technological ranges. In our younger years, we had a fine tuned system to provide all our students with any information via the internet using only three computers. With our 2003 Donald W. Reynolds renovation we bragged of having 51 student computers in place all with internet access. Eight years and many prayers later, we are stepping into the 21st century with our latest computer upgrade!

Thanks to a \$50,000 grant provided by the Sturgis Foundation along with supplemental dollars from our Donald W. Reynolds maintenance fund, P.A.R.K. can now proudly showcase a virtual student lab! All of our computers will be running on a

Windows 7 operating system with Microsoft Office 2007 software that will be pulling from one virtual server. If you're not yet excited because I am communicating in some strange form of computer speak, that means that the P.A.R.K. program staff will be able to devote even more time to teaching the students proper computer use versus troubleshooting problems happening with 51 individual computers! So all that being said I channel my inner Spock as I say, "May the P.A.R.K. computers live long and prosper," or in teenage speak "I <3 Tchnlo-g"!



Former P.A.R.K graduate showcases her talent



It was evident Jasmine Thomas was gifted with her hands while attending P.A.R.K.. However, no one knew the extent of her talent until her work went on display at Ouachita Baptist University in January at the senior art exhibit. Although she is set to graduate from OBU in May, Jasmine will still be going to school as a student at L.A.M.B. Academy's School of Ministry.

Jasmine says P.A.R.K. played a big part in her life. "P.A.R.K. is a wonderful blessing and an instrument in the progress of my purpose." She added, "The mentors that I encountered bestowed strong values and life-lessons that led me to grow into the great woman I am today."

With lofty goals, Jasmine's future will be a journey of excitement while getting there. She plans on attending Savannah college of Art and Design in the fall in order to earn a Masters of Fine Arts degree in Illustration. "My goal is to create children's books and animation that will instill the immense



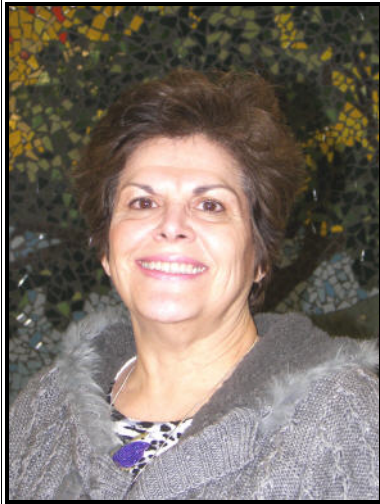
morals and values in children, teaching them to become great individuals.

"Jasmine was and still is quiet, not in the shy way, but in the way where her silence speaks for her, and now her voice is being heard on canvas," Melanie Jackson, Community Outreach Coordinator, said.

Jasmine has had a mission since childhood to go and teach all nations of children in the way they should go, so that when they are old, they will not depart from it. "What better way to do so than the system that reaches children the most, using the fit that I have been blessed with. I was inspired to use biblical perspectives in everyday life, so I aim to incorporate that in my concept." She added, "I want to make a difference in hopes of changing the world."



Senora Yadhira Maglione Spanish tutor



There is a great story behind this wonderful woman. Yadhira Maglione, Mrs. Mag to everyone at P.A.R.K. joined the P.A.R.K. family ten years ago. We needed someone to tutor Spanish, and she needed a place to use her talent.

Mrs. Mag puts it best when asked why P.A.R.K. is important to her and the impact it has had on her life. "I came here because

I needed to heal myself from some spiritual hurts. At the same time I discovered that I have talents that other people need. I also learned that working with them enhanced their lives and mine, too." She added, "I got to know and accept them as they did with me."

In 1979, she and her family moved from Managua, Nicaragua, in South America to Little Rock due to the war in that country. Her native language is Spanish, but she learned to speak, write, and read English at the Adult Education Center.

Mrs. Mag received her GED in 1980 and went on to Pulaski Vo-Technical College and received a degree in Business Administration. She later earned her degree in Spanish with a minor in Secondary Education from University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Mrs. Maglione began her teaching career at J.A. Fair High School in Little Rock, then at Cloverdale Middle School as a Spanish Liaison translator. She has been working there as a teacher for ten years.

Everyone at P.A.R.K. loves Mrs. Mag. Mrs. Hall, P.A.R.K.'s Chief Operating Officer, said, "You know when Mrs. Mag is in the building, because you hear this chipper voice saying, Hola!"

She has been married to Lore H. Maglione for almost forty-eight years and has five children: 3 boys and 2 girls plus 2 grandchildren. Mrs. Mag enjoys reading, working crossword puzzles, dancing, traveling, and being active in the Hispanic Community.

"I have been living in Little Rock for the past 32 years and now this is home!"

Current P.A.R.K. Stats

- *249 graduates
- *176 attended Colleges and University around the state on P.A.R.K. assisted scholarships
- *133 students currently in college
 - *18 college graduates
 - *15 in the U.S. Armed Forces
- *6 2011 college graduates - with 2 earning Masters degrees
- *222 students currently attending P.A.R.K.
- *70 recruits (rising 8th and 9th graders) for the 2011 summer program

Mission Statement

Within a positive atmosphere built on love, nurturing, and discipline, P.A.R.K. strives to enrich the lives of central Arkansas' at-risk youth (grades 8-12). Specifically, P.A.R.K. exists to build the confidence, self-esteem and spiritual awareness in its members, to ensure their academic achievement, to expand their horizons, and to instill in them the importance of helping others.

Where Are They Now?

Robert Irby



"When I was selected (for the P.A.R.K. program) in the eighth grade, I was terrible. I was in the peak of my gang activity. (P.A.R.K.) gave me a place to go after school to keep me from getting involved on the street," said Robert Irby years after completing the P.A.R.K. program and receiving his bachelor's degree from Arkansas State University.

Fast forward to February 2011. Robert Irby has made more strides than he ever would have imagined. This May, he will walk across the stage at University of Arkansas at Little Rock to receive his Masters degree in Social Work. "When I first graduated from undergrad, I didn't have any thought of going back to school to get my Masters," said Irby. "It was a little rough out there as far as getting a job in what I really wanted to do, so I took the opportunity to go back to school."

Determined to let nothing stop him, even having to sit out a year in the Masters Social Work program, because, in his words, "I was not working to the best of my capabilities," Robert chose to buckle down and get serious about obtaining his Masters degree. Once he made up his mind to see it through, he noted this past summer's internship and fall school semester went great. Unbeknownst to him, he was being nominated for Master's program Social Work Student of the year for the state of Arkansas. And, yes he is the MSW 2011 Student of the year for Arkansas. Robert said this came as a complete surprise to him.

From a one point something to a Masters Degree is certainly worthy of being inked!

When asked if he still credits P.A.R.K. for reaching this pinnacle, Irby said, "I can never discredit P.A.R.K., because whatever I do here and beyond is because I was able to get it early. Before P.A.R.K., it wasn't embedded in me. I will always have to give P.A.R.K. thanks."

Robert said now that he has his Masters, he will find a job working with at-risk youth and hopefully start his own programs or work with an organization and help them to grow.

CONGRATULATIONS ON EVERYTHING!

Invest In The Future

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P.A.R.K.

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