

OUR HOUSE



Overtown Youth Center
A program of Alonzo Mourning Charities

2011 Newsletter Vol.2



Inspire-Empower-Enrich

LETTER FROM THE Interim Executive Director



As we approach the final quarter of this fiscal year, I can't help but reflect upon our everlasting commitment to the children and families residing in the Overtown

community. Since the initiation of our program, OYC has and continues to provide a safe haven to a community overwhelmed with risk factors.

Today, I'm proud to report our impact within the community is significant; for the 2010 calendar year, we have reached youth through our education and enrichment programs focused on youth development. Our program outcomes show that:

- 97% of OYC students were promoted to the next grade level
- 73% of OYC's 3rd grade students passed the FCAT
- 100% of OYC's senior class graduated from High school and enrolled in college. A true success in comparison to the 49% of students in Overtown who fail to earn a high school diploma.

It is vital that we continue advocating and working together to provide much needed services to children and the adults who need us.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank the staff and volunteers who willingly give their time to serve our community; and I thank you, our generous donors for your continued dedication and unwavering support.

Warm Regards,

Tina Brown
Interim Executive Director

Community Corner

Making a Difference

Payless and Ronnie Brown team up to provide new shoes to OYC students



Payless Shoesource along with Miami Dolphins player Ronnie Brown (The Ronnie Brown Project) hosted its third annual "Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids". The students from the Overtown Youth Center enjoyed a rewarding evening with Brown by hand-picking

the latest fashionable shoes of their choice at the Payless store at the shops of Midtown.

Ronnie Brown had a blast helping the students select a free pair of shoes all ranging from stylish sandals, to boots, and even sport sneakers. To many of the students, the shoes are a bare necessity, an apparel many parents cannot replace or afford throughout the year.



This is the third year for the Payless Program, which has given over \$3.4 million dollars in shoes to children in need. This experience truly brought smiles to every child's face and the students were extremely thankful to the Ronnie Brown Project and the Payless staff for their generosity.

The John Lennon Educational Tour Bus visits the Overtown Youth Center



The John Lennon Educational Tour Bus is a non-profit state-of-the-art mobile recording studio dedicated to providing students of all ages with free hands-on opportunities to make music and produce video projects. With the assistance of three on-board engineers, the OYC students learned how to

write, record, produce original songs, and shoot music videos – all in one day.

The tour bus travels the country visiting schools all over the nation and is highly adaptable and designed to provide students with performances, demonstrations, remote recordings, and studio sessions customized for their needs, levels of experience and interest.

The OYC students were inspired by the exploration of different instruments and are appreciative for this amazing and legendary experience.



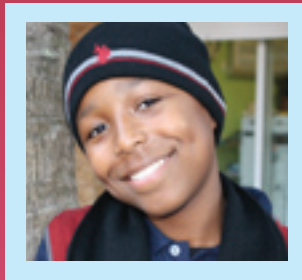
**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES!!!**

After-school Tutoring Services
Saturday Tutoring Services (Jan-Apr)
Community Service Projects
Fundraising & Special Events

Contact: TK Pratt – 305.349.1204 ext 248
tk@overtownyouth.org

Kid Zone Success Stories

Blake Denson is in the 5th grade and currently attends Frederick Douglas Elementary School. When Blake first enrolled at the Overtown Youth Center, he had many behavioral issues which landed him in trouble quite frequently. Because of these issues, Blake's academic progress was negatively impacted. With the help of OYC staff members, Blake gradually began to change. He improved in his behavior which ultimately improved his academic and conduct grades. Blake began to exemplify leadership qualities and set an example for his fellow peers. Now, we are proud to announce that Blake is a member of the 80% club at Douglass Elementary, which means he is a top student in the 5th grade, who scored 80% or better on a school test. Blake has been awarded the "Top Five Student" of the month award at OYC and has scored one of the top math scores in the entire school. Blake now enjoys helping others and is definitely on his way to becoming a role model and leader.



Kashia is in the 7th grade and she has been a student at OYC since the 2nd grade. Kashia has always been ambitious and willing to participate in new things. One day her OYC Coordinator discovered her dance ability while observing her during a dance class at the center and instantly recognized a new talent. This summer the center was offered to send two of their students to audition for the Alvin Ailey Dance Camp at the Arscht

Center for the Performing Arts. Kashia did exceedingly well and received a full scholarship to attend the 6 week camp. Through that experience, she auditioned for the Dance Program at the Miami Arts Charter School. We are eager to announce that Kashia was accepted into the Dance Program and is doing exceptionally well adapting to her new school. OYC is definitely fulfilling its mission as they continue to **Inspire, Empower, and Enrich** the youth they serve.

Deborah is currently a senior at Booker T Washington High School. This past Fall, Deborah, in collaboration with her classmates, took the initiative to develop a project that would benefit their community and was awarded \$10K to fund the project. Born and raised in Overtown, she is constantly reminded of the needs not being met in her community. "There are run-down apartments that must be rebuilt, drugs and violence that need to be removed from the area and homeless people who need attention", says Deborah. As she pondered on an idea, the memory of her grandmother feeding the homeless inspired her and the "**Help Every Last Person Project**" was subsequently born. The purpose of this project is to make a difference, by providing food, hygiene products, and a caring heart to individuals who may need a helping hand. We are proud to announce that Deborah and other OYC high school students volunteer one Saturday per month to feed the homeless. Deborah is definitely a leader and scholar student who has a bright future ahead of her and we all know her grandmother would be extremely proud of her.



PARTNER & DONOR RECOGNITION

We would like to thank all of our partners and donors who contributed during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. We thank you for your generosity, support for our organization, and believing in our mission.

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Calendar

March
MS/HS early release
Thursday, 3rd
Spring Break
14th - 18th

May
Memorial Day Observed
Monday, 30th

Parent Meeting
Every 2nd Wednesday of the month

April
Enhancement Day
(OYC Open)
Monday, 4th
Good Friday Observed
Friday, 22nd

June
Last day of school
Friday, 10th