

THE NATIONAL
CENTER
FOR
CHILDREN
AND
FAMILIES

Stronger Spirit.
Stronger Community.

FALL 2010
Volume 1
Issue 1

Special points of interest

- Heart of South Africa
- Art & Soul is Coming
- New Board Member
- Golf Tournament
- Costa Rica
- Youth Activities Center Debut

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In Touch

A Newsletter from The National Center for Children and Families

Journey of a Lifetime... Touching the Heart of South Africa!

On July 5, 17-year-old Ronetta Miller embarked on a 10-day cultural excursion, which resulted in phenomenal personal growth and a delightful, expanded world view!



XOL Ambassadors in Johannesburg, South Africa

The partnership between DC Child and Family Services (CFSA) and Extra-Ordinary Life (XOL) selected eight DC area teen girls currently living in foster care, to become XOL Ambassadors to travel on an inaugural journey to South Africa!

Ronetta entered the foster care system nine years ago, after living in residential care for three years. Her story is similar to many young people

placed in out of home care, who have been taken from their families of origin due to abuse, abandonment, and neglect.

Nevertheless, due to her resiliency and leadership potential, Ronetta traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa to experience an abundance of “first times.” This was her first time obtaining a passport, flying on an

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Help Us Open These Doors to the Freddie Mac Foundation Youth Activities Center..... the Children and Families are waiting!

We need your help to open the doors of NCCF's new building, the Freddie Mac Foundation Youth Activities Center!

This new facility is poised to serve between 2,000 and 3,000 children, youth and families each year in a comprehensive community setting with athletic, educational, artistic and spiritual programs. A majority of the programs will be volunteer-led, utilizing our current pool of over 800 volunteers. It will include six “in residence” programs that we have designed with our community partners: Dance, Music, Cooking, Art, Non-denominational Spiritual Education, and Theatre. The building will also facilitate future partnerships, utilizing the full-court gymnasium and photography/multi-media studio.



Entrance of the Freddie Mac Foundation Youth Activities Center

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Pura Vida!

This summer, 18 children from NCCF's JC Nalle Community School traveled to the Gunacaste region of Costa Rica, for the 5th Annual Cultural Learning Experience trip. The fifth graders were selected based on their expressed interest in traveling abroad; written essays explaining why they should be chosen; and behavioral, teacher, and classroom reports.

While in Costa Rica, the students, and six chaperones visited Playa Ocotal, a local black volcanic sand beach. The children, many of whom have never left Washington, D.C., snorkeled and swam in the Pacific Ocean!

"It was a great feeling to witness the children experiencing these series of 'firsts;' we helped prepare our students by researching the history of Costa Rica prior to leaving, but to experience the culture first hand resulted in wonderful growth!" shared Carlos Cofield, Director of JC Nalle Community School & Outreach Services and chaperone on the Costa Rica trip.

After a visit to Volcano Miravalles, students learned how the heat pressure from the volcanoes creates



JC Nalle Community school students enjoying a visit with the students from Santa Rita Elementary School.

energy for the country. They also learned that Costa Rica is the first country with an environmental policy to "go green."

Several local families opened up their homes to the children, sharing dinner and enjoying family time. As a gift, the children collected school supplies to donate to the local elementary school, Santa Rita Elementary School.

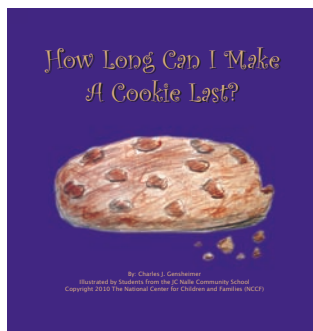
After five days, our children said, "Pura Vida," which means "pure life" or "everything is wonderful," the Costa Rican way of saying goodbye. Thank you for continuing to support the children at JC Nalle Community School so these annual trips may continue.

Pura Vida!

Poetry Book

How Long Can I Make A Cookie Last?

Local Bethesda poet, Charles Genshiemer, partnered with twelve JC Nalle Community School 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, and graphic designer Kristen Inglesse, a local James Madison High School student, to produce the second volume poetry book, *How Long Can I Make A Cookie Last?*



Our deep appreciation goes to the Zonta Club of Montgomery County for underwriting the printing of these wonderful, celebrated children's poetry books!

To pick up your autographed copy, contact Nicole Lucas at (301) 365-4480 ext. 119 or nlucas@nccf-cares.org. Proceeds benefit the children of the JC Nalle Community School and the families of the CARA House Program.

Upcoming NCCF Events

23rd Annual
Fannie Mae
Help the Homeless
Walkathon
November 20th
9:00 AM
National Mall,
Washington D.C.

Youth Art Fair
*Gifted, Artistic,
and Under 21*
Featuring
the region's
newest artists!
Friday, June 3, 2011
3:00 PM – 6:30 PM
On the Veterans'
Plaza at the Silver
Spring Civic Center



9th Annual Art
& Soul Charity
Auction
Silver Spring
Civic Center
Friday, June 3, 2011
6:00 PM

Art & Soul is Coming to Downtown Silver Spring June 3!

The National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) is bringing its signature event, the 9th Annual Art & Soul Charity Auction, to downtown Silver Spring on **Friday, June 3, 2011**. This year's event will include our Washington metropolitan area's first-ever "Gifted, Artistic, and Under 21: Youth Arts Fair," where the region's artists will sell their original works on the Pavilion from 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Young artists interested in participating should call Alisha Matlock at 301-365-4480, ext. 113.

The Art & Soul Charity Auction has enjoyed several thousand participants over the past 8 years. The event has included live jazz performances, auctions of original works from our region's talented artists, Humanitarian Awards, and opportunities to learn first-hand about NCCF's mission, which serves our area's vulnerable children, youth, and families.

Last year, the event was chaired by Fox 5 Morning News anchor, Allison Seymour, and world-renowned musician and entrepreneur, Marcus Johnson. Performances by Sony award-winning jazz vocalist Julia Nixon, and Marcus Johnson set the stage for a memorable event at the Music Center at Strathmore. Individuals recognized in 2010 for the Humanitarian Awards were: The Honorable William A. Bronrott, The Honorable Isiah Leggett, former Executive Director for the DC Alliance of Youth Advocates (DCAYA), Eshauna Smith, and NCCF Foster Parent Lennice Hudson. The John F. White Alumni Award was given to Amanda Broadnax, a former foster youth who currently is a full-time student at the University of Maryland University College (UMUC), majoring in legal studies and business.

Many thanks to all of our 2010 sponsors, with a special thanks to Herson's Honda, George & Carolyn Quinn, Allison Alexander & Gregory Coleman, The Brenneman Family,

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Art & Soul 2010 (from l to r) NCCF Board President Philip D. Schiff, Executive Dir. Dr. Sheryl Brissett Chapman, Awardees: NCCF Foster Parent Lennice Hudson, Montgomery County Executive the Honorable Isiah Leggett, Eshauna Smith, Maryland State Delegate the Honorable William A. Bronrott and NCCF Alumni Amanda Broadnax (not pictured)



Art & Soul 2008 (from l to r) former Congresswoman Connie Morella, First Lady of Montgomery County Catherine Leggett, and Philanthropist Carol Trawick



Art & Soul 2010 GAP Youth Live Auction



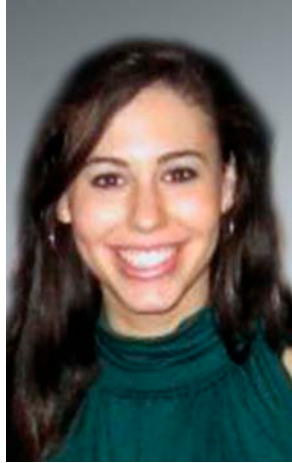
Art & Soul 2010 Illustrators (from l to r) Cornelius, Mahogany, Cierra, Taniya and Marcellus of "How Long Can I make a Cookie Last" signing with author Chuck J. Gensheimer



Art & Soul 2009
Original pieces of artwork on display for the Art & Soul Silent Auction

Welcome New Board Member Stacy Brownstein

Stacy Brownstein is a marketing and business development professional, specializing in client service and relationship building, and an active member of the Northern Virginia Technology Council. She spent 8 years working in public and community relations, event management and suite services for various NFL teams before transitioning into the Federal IT Contracting industry.



Ms. Brownstein grew up in Northern Virginia, attended Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology and graduated with a BBA in Marketing from James Madison University. Join us in welcoming NCCF's youngest Trustee!

Youth Activities Center Continued from Page 1

For a complete listing of our equipment needs, please visit us at www.nccf-cares.org to make a donation today! To arrange for pick-up of equipment; please call Alisha Matlock at 301-365-4480, ext. 113.

To arrange for a private group tour to learn more about the facility and how you can help, please call Heidi Coons at 301-365-4480, ext. 114.

Art & Soul Continued from Page 3

Debbie Rice, The McBeath Family, PEPCO and Jacklyn Mitchell Wynn. We look forward to working with all of our major sponsors and supporters again in 2011. To sign up now as a sponsor of the 9th Art & Soul Charity Auction, please contact Heidi Coons at 301-365-4480, ext. 114

Thank You!

For a second year, NCCF partnered with PROM Catering at the Constellation Energy Senior Players Championship golf tournament. More than 150 volunteers gave their time to sell food and beverages to hundreds of PGA golf fans from October 4th - October 10th in Potomac, Maryland. NCCF will receive a portion of the concession sales which are designated towards equipping the Freddie Mac Foundation Youth Activities Center (YAC). A special thanks to our dedicated volunteers, and the following groups: Fannie Mae, Avendra, and MITRE, for organizing and supplying groups of energetic and motivated volunteers. We could not do it without you!



Volunteers from Lexis Nexis and Avendra donate their time at the golf tournament.

Please visit our website at www.nccf-cares.org for more information about more than 800 volunteer opportunities at the upcoming US Open scheduled for June 2011.

This summer, the National Center for Children and Families sent over 100 children and youth between the ages of 7 and 15 to Camp Wabanna.

Our NCCF children and youth traveled to Edgewater, Maryland, and stayed for a weeklong summer camp on a 23-acre point where the Rhode and West Rivers converge into the Chesapeake Bay, to swim and canoe.



Camp Wabanna campers enjoying a group activity

A very special thanks to former Trustee and alumni, John White, for underwriting the cost for our children to attend Camp Wabanna!

Your Gift = Our Shared Vision

You and I share a deep commitment to a society in which children, youth, and families live in sustained, supportive communities, which reinforce the integrity and unity of the family.

I'd like to tell you about more ways to support NCCF this year:

- **Volunteer Opportunities** - Volunteer and make a difference in the lives of the clients we serve! Apply online to be a childcare assistant, tutor, mentor, or sponsor an activity. Visit www.nccf-cares.org for a complete listing and submit an application!
- **Holiday Wish List** - Support children and families this holiday season with your participation in the NCCF holiday wish list drive. Popular wish list items include: **gift cards, movie passes, art supplies, and sports equipment.** Please visit our website at www.nccf-cares.org for a complete list of Holiday Wish items.



One of NCCF's youngest supporters

- **Celebrate a "special someone's" life by making a monthly contribution in their honor or memory.** Sign up by December 30 to give a monthly contribution to NCCF in 2011, and we will list your name or the name of a loved one on a dedicated memory page to be launched in January 2011 on our website. Call NCCF's Director of Development and Institutional Advancement, Heidi Coons, to make this dedication.

We have the staff, experience and fortitude to do the critical work that we do...but, we need your support to care for thousands of our community's most vulnerable children, youth and their families.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of The National Center for Children and Families, I extend our heartfelt appreciation for your support!

Philip D. Schiff
President, NCCF Board of Trustees

Journey of a Lifetime Continued from Page 1

airplane, leaving the country, and experiencing a different culture.

Some of her stops along the way included the Origins Centre at Wits University for a tour through the origins of humankind in Africa, the Apartheid Museum, and even the World Cup Final!

On this trip, Ronetta developed poise and cross-cultural competencies, as well as practiced her public speaking skills.

"I witnessed a transformation in Ronetta during a service activity we provided at a local school. She started to open up and share her story with girls with similar backgrounds who shared the same disappointments that she had. You could really see how she began to realize that she is in control of her life and can accomplish more than what she ever dreamed," said Kellie Lawson, an XOL volunteer and chaperone.

Ronetta will always remember this experience. She represents the best of what we hope to encourage in our youth. I am proud to share that as part of her post-trip commitment, Ronetta will be an XOL Ambassador for a year, during which time she will share her experience with other foster care youth and encourage them to apply for this life-changing opportunity.

XOL is a new charitable initiative founded by entrepreneur Stacie Turner, star of *Real Housewives of DC*. "My goal is to show teenage girls that the world is their oyster by providing extraordinary experiences," said Stacie.

A special thanks goes out to XOL, a Washington, DC based charitable organization which caters to teen girls in foster care, and CFSA, the city's public child welfare agency, for making this trip of a lifetime come true for Ronetta.



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The National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) is a private, nonprofit agency that is committed to serving vulnerable families in the national capital area since 1915. *In Touch* is published by NCCF, a 501(c)(3) child and family welfare organization. For additional information, visit NCCF's web site at www.nccf-cares.org.

Mission: To create total, healthy living environments for vulnerable children, youth, and families, and the quality of life that empowers their ability to thrive and demonstrate responsibility.

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