

CENTERPIECE

 **SILVER SPRING**
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER EST. 1958

A COMMUNITY OF SUCCESS

Winter 2010-2011

Yes, Virginia, There ARE Angels!

Fashion Angels Enterprises, a Milwaukee-based designer and distributor of fashion forward toys for tweens, has donated \$35,000 in holiday gifts. This donation grew out of a long-term relationship between Katie Kenny, the company's Director of Quality Assurance, and the Center, dating back to a summer job she held at our day camp as a fifteen-year-old.

Katie put it this way: "When Mark Miller, the company's CEO and Partner, said, 'Let's find a charity to shower with gifts,' there was no question in my mind where I wanted them to go. I have always fondly remembered my job at Silver Spring. And I knew the children there didn't have the holiday gifts many children receive. We thought this would be a great way to give back in our own community, especially in these difficult economic times."

Fashion Angels, located in the Riverworks neighborhood, was



Left to right: Mark Miller, Myra Mouloudji, Katie Kenny, Susan Stein, Jim Bartos

"Angels" Katie Kenny and Derrick Jones deliver toys



started in 1996 by Mark and Goldi Miller, and Myra Mouloudji. The company distributes its innovative products to nearly every major retailer, with an expanding international client

base. "We feel really good about being involved with Silver Spring Neighborhood Center because it's 'down the street.' We also plan to be a partner in the Center's new Transitional Jobs Program, which provides family-sustaining jobs to program participants. Our company has been blessed with growth in this tough economy, and we feel honored to be able to give back by offering employment to those most in need," says Mark Miller.

"Our company has always been committed to giving back to the community," adds Goldi Miller, who is also the owner of Goldi's in Shorewood. "We hope that our employees take on a personal responsibility - whether it be to help the kids with their homework after school, coach a sports team, volunteer in the Early Childhood Education Center, or rally behind the Center's special events."

Our Mission

Established in 1958, Silver Spring Neighborhood Center is a private, not-for-profit organization committed to strengthening and enriching the Westlawn and neighboring community. We provide comprehensive and collaborative programs and services. These are identified by community residents and responsive to evolving community needs.

Administrative Staff

Executive Director

James M. Bartos

Assistant Executive Director

Anthony S. McHenry

Chief Development &
Marketing Director

Susan G. Stein

Director of Finance/CFO

Lynn M. Kasza

Officers

John Carlton, President

Melissa Foerster, Vice President

James McMullen, Vice President

Brendan Moran, Treasurer

Booker Coleman, Secretary

Board of Directors

Melinda Caughill

Gracie Leonard

Steve Mannebach

Sharon McDade

Linda Rueth

Doris Schoneman, PhD

Sean Scullen

Sandra Tunis

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TEAM SPORTS LEAGUES

Spartans and DTA Team Up

NBA All-Star New Jersey Nets player Devin Harris was so impressed with our nationally celebrated Spartans Basketball Program, that his foundation and his former AAU program, Development Through Athletics, is sponsoring the cost of basketball uniforms, shoes, and team bags for all team members, plus all traveling expenses for the high school teams (a gift worth about \$50,000). "This sponsorship is an amazing opportunity for us. It not



only positions our team as one of the top AAU programs in the Midwest, it will greatly improve student readiness, both academically and athletically, as our players transition to college," said Coach Ewell Clinton.

FAMILY PROGRAMMING



200 children were all smiles as they received new backpacks and school supplies at our Annual Back-to-School Event on August 24th. Teens and their parents enjoyed supper and a special presentation to help them prepare for a successful school year. The event was sponsored by **U.S. Bank** and **Havenwoods Economic Development Corporation**.

A "Days of Caring" Thank You!

Thanks to energetic volunteers from **Johnson Controls** and **Northwestern Mutual**, the Center got a much-needed sprucing up during the "Days of Caring" in September. Bathrooms were painted; the gym got scrubbed from top to bottom; and a new walkway was built to our Early Childhood Education Center. "Days of Caring" is sponsored by the **United Way**.

TEEN PROGRAMING

Historically Black College Tour

The seven-day tour of historically black colleges led teens to the discovery that with reduced tuition and a combination of scholarships and grants, attending an out-of-state school is affordable.

“The trip brings to life the college dream. When our teens hear the experiences from the students they meet on campuses, they realize they are just like them. They come from similar backgrounds. And they have the same aspirations – to succeed in a world that has been pitted against them. It’s a powerful sense of belonging – one that can’t be duplicated on any campus in our state,” said Anthony McHenry, assistant executive director and youth development services supervisor. “There are definitely



advantages to attending a black college. There is an extraordinary support system designed for minority students and, although there still is the adjustment of leaving home, there isn’t as great a culture shock,” added McHenry.

10 teens raised money all year for this annual trip to historically black colleges in Florida and Georgia, including Savannah State University, Bethune Cookman College, and Florida A & M University. Thanks to the Helen Bader Foundation for making this year’s tour possible.

“The trip was a great learning experience. It really gave me motivation to attend college. I learned a lot about the history of our ancestors.” – Keyentay Hicks, graduate of Custer High School, now a freshman at MATC

“The trip was a great experience. I was already considering going to college but now I know I can make it. One of the tour guides was from Milwaukee. I am thankful that the Center allowed me to have this experience.” – Tendria Pickett, senior at Custer High School

Teen Leadership Club

Who wants to join a Leadership Club? We’ve crafted our Teen Leadership Club to be an offer teens can’t refuse. “Not to say we bribe them, but membership includes some pretty amazing free perks, and in the process, the teens learn a lot about the ‘real world’ and about themselves,” said Lashonda Kendrick, social development coordinator.

The Club, conceptualized and governed by its members, functions as a small business. At the weekly meetings, teens practice all the skills needed in today’s workplace: public speaking and

interview techniques, resume writing, team building, brainstorming, fundraising, balancing checkbooks and managing money, negotiating and decision making, and conducting business meetings. The teens also plan community service events – the most recent was a bake sale, with half the profits going to the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign.



And those pretty amazing perks? Going on the annual tour to historically black colleges, getting a paid job at the Center, and taking part in free drivers education and ACT Prep classes.

An Evening With the Nurses

On October 12, residents were invited to come and talk with Dr. Mary Jo Baisch, PhD, RN, and UW-Milwaukee assistant professor of nursing, who posed the question, "How Does Your Community Keep You Healthy?" The focus of the evening was on adult wellness and illness prevention. Participants enjoyed a light supper. Future sessions will be held on February 8, March 8, and April 12, 2011. All Westlawn and neighborhood families are welcome to attend.

For the past 24 years, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Silver Spring Community Nursing Center has had a tradition of bringing quality health promotion programs to the northwest side of Milwaukee. Six years ago, we developed "An Evening with the Nurses" to provide an opportunity for the UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing faculty to share up-to-date health information with our residents.

"The nurses are grateful for the support of the Silver Spring

Neighborhood Center, their community donors and volunteers, and the UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing faculty, staff, and students for their contributions to these events. This partnership allows us to maintain a vital connection to the community," said Bev Zabler, UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing Institute for Urban Health Partnerships Special Projects Director.

A big thank you also goes to the Nursing Center for giving free flu shots to participants and staff!

Be Part of Our Solution on Milwaukee's Northwest Side

- For putting the community back to work
- For providing emergency food and clothing
- For Teen Leadership
- For 6 am - 9 pm Programming
- For Education – Pre-primary through elementary school
- For After-School Programs
- For Nationally Renowned Spartans Athletic Leagues
- For Adult Education
- For Nursing Services
- For Child Care

With support from the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, the State of Wisconsin, the City of Milwaukee, and from individuals, corporations, and foundations, we can and we *are* helping 8,652 participants a year.



Come see for yourself! Call 463-7950 and ask for Jim Bartos at ext 22, Anthony McHenry at ext. 55, or Susan Stein at ext 86 to arrange a personal tour or to discuss volunteer opportunities. Or visit our website: www.ssn-milw.org.

Our Work Pays Off! We continue to have the city's best record for teens – with only three pregnancies out of 800 teen participants and only one felony conviction during the past eight years.

*Thank you, United Way,
for your trust in us and
generous funding.*



TRANSITIONAL JOBS PROGRAM

Welcome to Our Transitional Jobs Program Staff!



Left to Right: Shyrída Lane, employment initiative leadership coordinator; Nathan Powers, employment initiative work crew supervisor; Debbie Buchanan, transitional jobs program coordinator

Program Update

We are pleased to announce that the first 20 participants finished the work-readiness certification program and now have transitional jobs. For the next six months, they will be monitored and supported by program staff to ensure job satisfaction – for the employees, as well as their employers.

Profile of a Program Graduate

Porchia Stinson, 21, is proud to be a member of the first graduating class of trainees. “And the best part was I was hired right away, coincidentally, by Silver Spring Neighborhood Center! When I was exploring job options, I learned about the culture and service of the agency, and knew it would be a perfect fit,” said Stinson. “I have that type of heart, wanting to help people, so I applied and was hired as the administrative assistant for the Transitional Jobs Program.”

“I challenge myself to be as helpful as I can. In addition to enjoying learning new skills which will carry over

to whatever I do in the future, I get to be a part of the success of the Jobs Program,” adds Stinson. In addition to her administrative duties, Porchia helps new trainees write their resumes and cover letters.

Porchia is also a full-time college student, who will graduate from Springfield College with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice in May. “I’ve always planned on a career in the social work side of criminal justice – preventing people from getting into trouble. So I’d like to pursue a permanent position at Silver Spring and grow with the Center.”

We’d Like to Thank Our New Partners

Additional companies have signed on to partner with us by providing transitional jobs for new graduates. They are: **Pereles Brothers, Inc., Building Services and Consultant, Grede, and Supreme Cores.** They join **Genco, Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship, Hentzen Coatings, and Silver Spring Neighborhood Center.**

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

Shining a Light on Northwest Secondary Community Learning Center

The old adage "It takes a village..." is truly what Northwest Secondary CLC is all about. The students there, 6th to 12th graders, are "raised up" by staff, teachers, and volunteers who are committed to their success – with failure not an option.

"Power Hour," in which all students must participate before they can engage in other activities, provides after school homework help and tutoring. There are also a number of additional programs available to those who need extra help:

Middle School Programs

- **ATP Math** – An extensive tutoring program for those who are

"I'm here from 7:30 in the morning to 9 at night. I love working with the kids to help them become model citizens. I have an open door policy for everyone who wants a safe place to better themselves and have a good time doing it." Stephanie McKennis, Northwest Secondary CLC coordinator

below grade level in math.

- **Creative Writing** – Classes help students become proficient in writing.
- **"City Year"** – Americorps students tutor in all academic areas, as well as teach classes in poetry

and drama, and lead service learning activities.

High School Programs

- **"Admission Possible"** – Students from UWM and Alverno College teach juniors and seniors how to fill out applications for financial aid and college admission, and help prepare them to take ACTs.
- **"Credit Recovery"** – Early morning and evening classes help students get the credits they need to graduate high school on time, instead of having to go to summer school. Currently, 60 students are attending composition writing and history classes.

First Annual Wrap Party Was a Huge Success!



The Mayor stops in for yuletide cheer! From left: Jim Bartos, Katie Kenney, Mayor Tom Barrett holding Jackson Ida, Marvin Pickett, and Susan Stein



Right: Hundreds of volunteers wrapped thousands of toys at the December 11th event