



CENTERPIECE

Summer 2010

New \$635,000 Transitional Jobs Program Begins

On June 24th, the Center became one of seven local agencies to receive the State of Wisconsin Transitional Jobs Program funding as part of the Federal Economic Stimulus Project. The Center is the lead agency in a collaboration which will provide good jobs in our own community and comprehensive job training necessary for applicants to qualify for these jobs. Our partners in this venture are Havenwoods Economic Development Corporation, leading businesses in the Havenwoods Business District (GENCO, Inc., Hentzen Coatings, Inc., Sellars Wipers and Sorbents, Inc.), UWM-School of Continuing Education, the Family Leadership Academy, and the Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship.

"We gathered a committed group of community partners who share the same goal – to help create family-sustaining jobs within a close proximity to the population we serve. This pilot program will prepare candidates to be successful



Assistant Executive Director Anthony McHenry assists a participant in building her resume.

in those jobs," said Jim Bartos, executive director of Silver Spring Neighborhood Center since 1999. "Too often, jobs don't pay enough to support a family. Businesses often hire workers who aren't reliable or lack the necessary job skills. If the match isn't right, it won't work. All of us in the partnership know what it takes to create a win-win situation. We started working on this pilot program last year, and we hope to see our model replicated throughout Wisconsin and the United States."

The partners developed a curriculum for turning difficult-to-employ program participants into successful employees. On-the-job training and transitional jobs are key components of this comprehensive model. Program participants will have income and benefits needed to stay the course, as they develop the skills needed to start on a career path. The program will provide intensive post-employment support and tracking to ensure high retention rates for neighborhood companies and opportunities for career advancement.

The first group of 10 participants will start jobs this fall, with plans to employ 61 participants during the next two years.

Silver Spring and Havenwoods Employment Services Initiative: a Community/Business Collaboration is funded by the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. **The Greater Milwaukee Foundation** is also a supporter of the initiative, jump-starting the program with a \$50,000 grant last May.

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

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 and its residents by providing comprehensive and collaborative programs and services which are identified by community residents and are responsive to changing community needs.

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Assistant Executive Director

Anthony McHenry

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Visit our new website!

www.ssn-cmilw.org

Summer Activities

School's out. And that means our four Community Learning Centers are in full gear, providing safe, nurturing and playful locales for children June 21st to August 13th, from 7 am to 6 pm.

You'll find our kids taking part in educational activities to sharpen their reading, math, and language arts skills.



1st & 2nd Graders at the Milwaukee County Zoo

Afternoons are jam-packed with activities and field trips such as bowling, roller skating, Milwaukee County Zoo, Oakridge Farm, Bay Beach Amusement Park, swimming, Pelican Cove Water Park, Racine Beach, Milwaukee Public Museum,

movies, African drumming, hip hop dance, DJ instruction, martial arts, science projects, gardening, arts and crafts, games, and sports.

Our "Select 20" Kids Rock!

Especially exciting was the "Select 20" program held during this past school year. This pilot program offered small group tutoring for children who are behind one grade level in reading and math. 20 children at the Browning CLC were part of this program, based on pre-test scores and their families' commitment to attend the CLC three times a week throughout the school year. Funded by the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the staff used a trial curriculum program called "My Sidewalk," which tracked the children's pre- and post-test scores on every instructional unit, as they advanced through the curriculum.

According to Donna Horowitz, 3rd grade special education teacher and a "Select 20" tutor, the program was a huge success, "For instance, Jaden Samuels, a second grader, came to us at the beginning of the year not knowing how to read at all. We started with basic phonics – teaching her letter sounds. Her persistence and consistent attendance paid off. Jaden is now reading complete sentences, and by the end of the summer, she should be close to reading at grade level."

Camp Rainbow Star

At no time in our lives do we learn more than during the first two years. That's why the staff in the Early Childhood Education Program recruits infants as young as six weeks old. "It's all about high quality programming, a research-based curriculum, and regular assessments," explains Sandy Diekvoss, longtime program director. "Children six weeks to two years of age are assessed every two months; 2- to 3-year olds, every three months; 3- to 4-year olds, every four months;



Playing inside on a rainy day

and children age four and older, every six months. That way, we know exactly where the child is and where she or he's supposed to be, so we can do intervention as fast as we can to ensure full development."

A good child care center helps family dynamics and serves to stabilize the workforce. "If children are safe and nurtured in a cheerful early childhood setting, it increases productivity. Parents

don't have to worry about their children, so they can focus better at work. They take less time off. Businesses help when they invest in programs like ours, as the results serve their objectives as well."

Camp Rainbow Star serves the Center's children of all ages. The summer day camp and educational enrichment program provided a fun-filled, jam-packed schedule focused on getting the kids out of the central city – in many cases for the first time. Field trip destinations included an Amtrak trip to Chicago and a visit to the Experimental Aircraft Museum in Oshkosh. Local field trips, offered five days a week, include swimming, theater, museums, festivals, and picnics.

Tuition for Camp Rainbow Star is free, but the field trips are not. And since program staff is needed to go on the field trips, children, whose parents cannot afford the \$65 fee, must stay home. "It would be wonderful to find some angels who would sponsor those children and pay the additional \$65 per child. It breaks our hearts every time the vans are leaving, and we cannot have all the children come on the field trip," says Diekvoss.



Camp Rainbow Star at Little America



Fun on the playground



Girls at play

Buddy Backpack Program

If you're a young child, what's more exciting than getting a backpack filled with books, games, puzzles and a stuffed animal to hug? Getting a backpack like this several times a year. At Browning School and Silver Spring Early Childhood Education Center, 100 3- to 6-year olds enjoyed that thrill this school year – thanks to a grant from Literacy First. The "Buddy Backpack" program is designed to get books and learning materials into the home, and to encourage parents to read to and interact with their children over the weekend. The backpacks, lent out for the weekend, included disposable

cameras and journals, so parents could write down and take pictures of what they and their kids did together. When the program starts up again in fall, students will take home a backpack one weekend a month, and school staff will again conduct home visits to help parents show their children a variety of learning activities.

Each family received a "Fun in the Summertime" binder with 60 pages of activities for all ages – coordinated by Literacy First and funded by a grant from Assurant Health.

Other Early Literacy Program News:

Pre-schoolers learned how to use the computer for the first time, and Family Nights took place throughout the school year. The evening events featured dinner, make and take activities for families, raffles, and examples of how to extend learning to the home.

The six-week summer school program at Browning Elementary School focused on reading skills and math with a science theme.

Early Childhood Education Center Wish List

- Laminator
- Playground soft surface
- Playground sand tables & water tables
- Digital cameras
- Gym mats, carpets
- Climbers for classrooms
- Cots for nap time
- Tummy time mats
- Balance beam
- 30 booster seats
- Large pillows with zip covers; bean bag chairs
- Back support chairs
- Glider rocking chairs
- Board games
- Blocks, block toys (trucks, cars, dinosaurs, traffic signs)
- Toy workbench & tools, safety glasses
- CD players & CDs
- Musical instruments
- Safety mirrors
- Toy kitchen & accessories (play food, pots, pans, utensils)
- Culturally diverse dolls
- Culturally diverse posters
- Culturally diverse books
- Globes & maps
- Easels
- Legos, puzzles (three to eight pieces some with knobs), bristle blocks, & beads with strings
- Balls & bubbles
- Sidewalk chalk
- Steps for lavatories
- Trikes, wagons, & helmets
- Science materials (magnifying glasses, magnets, food coloring, color paddles, & binoculars)
- Math materials (calculators, clocks, visuals, counters, & games)
- Art materials (markers, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, paint, pencils, colored pencils, butcher paper, play dough, poster board)
- Infant/toddler toys (rattles, soft blocks, activity cube, nesting/stacking cups, cars, trucks, pound toys, push toys, & pop beads)

ADULT ED & COMPUTER LAB

2010 Terry Siegler Adult Education Achiever Awards

For those who don't finish high school, it's tough to go back to school and get that diploma as an adult. Most never do. But we applaud three of our Adult Education Program participants who did. Hats off to Aleta Black, Juanita Williams, and James Smith – the winners of the 2010 Terry Siegler Adult Education Achiever Award.

These academic awards, initiated in 2004, recognize and reward adult achievers who plan to continue their education. The awards are in honor of Terry Siegler, daughter of Joan Siegler, Adult Education Coordinator at the Center from 1997 to 2003. With Joan's passionate promotion of Adult Education, we honor adult students in their academic progress, as well as celebrate the Siegler's daughter's memory.

To be eligible for this award, candidates must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Recent GED acquisition and/or successful completion of at least three GED tests.
2. Sincere, committed resolve to continue their educational studies.
3. Financial need.
4. Instructor's recommendation.

Aleta Black

Aleta obtained her GED in June 2009 and was accepted in the Dental Hygiene Program at MATC. Upon graduation, she plans to work in the central city. She aspires to give her children a better view of life.



Juanita Williams

Juanita obtained her GED in September 2009 and is currently attending Milwaukee Career College in the Medical Assistant Program, and plans to become a Registered Nurse. She wishes to become great in her profession. Juanita also wants to become an even greater parent to her six children.



James Smith

Having passed three of the five GED tests, James plans to pass the last two by the end of the fall and enter college to obtain certification in Information Technology. James is very confident about achieving his goals with his drive to succeed.



Currently, 20 adults participate in the GED program and 60 adults are in the ESL (English as a Second Language) program.

Adult Education Wish List

- Student scholarships for GED testing
- Student scholarships for training, tech school or college
- Funds for field trips and enrichment activities
- Online TABE testing licenses
- Childcare provider for the drop-in day care
- 20 ergonomically correct chairs for the computer lab
- Two smartboards: wall mount, Bluetooth connection kit, laptop, projector, ceiling mount
- School supplies, calculators, & daily planners
- Alarm clocks

COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM

Flying South!

For most of the teens who went on a tour of college campuses, it was their first airplane ride. The 10 teens raised funds all year for this once-in-a-lifetime trip, which started in Atlanta, continued to Savannah State University, and then to Florida to visit Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach and Florida A&M University in Tallahassee. Many thanks to the **Helen Bader Foundation** for making this college tour possible.

We congratulate this year's winners!

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Youth Jobs

Thanks to a collaborative grant from United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee, 40 teens and young adults had summer jobs, as well



UNCOM teen teaches dance.

as year-round jobs. The youths' interests are matched with the Center's staffing needs. They are role models and mentors to the younger kids; the administrative staff benefits from having extra hands to accomplish tasks; and the youth workers learn valuable employment skills, build a work history...and earn money, of course!

Free Drivers Education Program

It's hard to find a job without a driver's license, and it's hard to

afford drivers ed training without a job. Thanks to Milwaukee Public Schools and Easy Method Driving, 50 high school students received free driver's education training and got their driver's licenses. Another free service (through the UNCOM agency COA Youth & Family Centers) is available to young people, ages 18-23, who, because of a variety of circumstances, are prevented from getting a license. Agency staff will help youth remove the obstacles in their way.

UWM NURSING CENTER

What do you get when you combine teens with our teen center staff? The lowest teen pregnancy and felony rates in the city!

"As a matter of fact, for the last several years, we've maintained a 0% teen pregnancy rate. When a child is given opportunities – academic tutoring, recreational activities, and close friendships with staff and peers – he or she simply isn't drawn to negative behaviors," said Bev Zabler, PhD, RN, UWM College of Nursing Institute for Urban Health Partnerships Special Projects Director.

The initiative, a collaboration between UWM College of Nursing and the Center, is a one-year-old

pilot program that is based on a holistic approach to teen pregnancy prevention and violence prevention. Instead of preaching all the "don'ts," an approach which historically



Kristie Brooke, MSN, RN, FNP-BC with a patient.

has failed, the nurses show teens the advantages of making healthy choices. They also train each member of the teen center staff to be "fully present" for the youth they serve.

"Here is a perfect example: A teen needed a Band-Aid. Within a few minutes, she revealed that her grandmother had recently passed away. Had we not been trained to listen and be fully present, that opportunity to give some much-needed comfort for her obvious grief would not have happened," explained Zabler.

UWM-SSNC's Nursing Center also provides nursing service, referrals to primary care physicians, trauma counseling, and parent education programs. Its hours are: Monday - Thursday 9am - 4:00pm; Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm; Wednesdays health information and referrals 1pm - 4pm.

EMERGENCY PANTRY & CLOTHING BANK

In tough times, it's a comfort to know that your family will never go hungry. We asked some of our clients what our Community Food Pantry means to them:

"It means a lot because money is tight, and the pantry provides my mother with staples that she would normally have to buy at the store. So she can save a lot of money that she would otherwise be forced to spend."

"The pantry is doing me a huge favor. I'm paying high rent and utilities, so if I didn't come to the Pantry, some days I wouldn't be able to eat. I also appreciate being able to feed my grandchildren when they come over."

TEEN TEAM SPORTS PROGRAM

Spartans Elite Traveling Track Team

Today Jalen Gillie, a sophomore at Riverside High School, is a track star, earning titles like the 2010 WIAA Wisconsin State Outdoor Champion in the 100 meter dash and 2010 AAU National Indoor Champion in the



Jalen Gillie

55 meter dash. But eight years ago, Jalen was just a little boy who loved coming to Silver Spring Neighborhood Center to play and learn. It was here that he met David Connors, the volunteer track coach for the Center's award-

winning, regional and nationally recognized Spartans track team. And the rest was history! Jalen's goal is to enter college with a four-year athletic scholarship – following in the footsteps of 10 out of 12 Silver Spring

Spartans who have participated in the Center's College Prep Program and are now attending prestigious universities on four-year scholarships, including Harvard, Marquette, and UW-Madison.



SILVER SPRING
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
1958 50th Anniversary 2008

Yes, I want to help Silver Spring Neighborhood Center strengthen children, teens and families living on Milwaukee's Northwest side!

Enclosed is my gift of: \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

Please use my gift where the need is greatest. Or, please use it as follows:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional Jobs Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Lab | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Summer Jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Banner School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Pantry & Clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> After-School Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Leadership Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College Trips | <input type="checkbox"/> Spartans AAU Sports Team – for uniforms, tournament costs | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Education Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

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Please make check payable to **Silver Spring Neighborhood Center** or for credit card donations, please visit our website: www.ssnc-milw.org to make a secure online donation to Silver Spring Neighborhood Center through JustGive.org. **All gifts are tax-deductible as permissible by law.** For more information, please call Susan G. Stein, Chief Development & Marketing Officer 414-463-7950, x 86.

A Special Thanks:

Silver Spring Neighborhood Center would like to extend a special thank you to Diane and Richard Omdahl for making the Center the beneficiary of the Omdahls' "Party for the Ages" held at the Milwaukee Club on April 30, 2010 in celebration of Diane's birthday. Not only did guests at the party make generous donations to the Center, but there was also a silent auction. Thank you, Diane and Richard, for your ongoing generosity to Silver Spring Neighborhood Center.



Giving is the New Receiving

It's become a new trend in kids' birthday parties, baby showers... even weddings. Invitees are being

asked to donate items or checks to a particular charity instead of to the guest of honor. If this sounds like something you'd like to do for your next party, please consider putting us on your list!

The Lombardi Legacy

On August 10th, Silver Spring Neighborhood Center hosted a Book Signing for The Lombardi Legacy in which author Royce Boyles and three former Green Bay Packers, Dave Robinson, Marv Fleming and Bob Long, signed books and shared stories of their glory days and Coach Lombardi. Our Assistant Executive

Director, Anthony McHenry, made an appearance on TMJ4's *The Morning Blend* to promote the event, which was a big success. Thank you to author Boyles and the former Green Bay Packers, as well as special thanks to board member Thom Brown for making this event possible.



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