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St. Paul

For Friends, Members and the Greater St. Paul Community

Summer 2009

reading by third grade

New Program Positions Students to Succeed

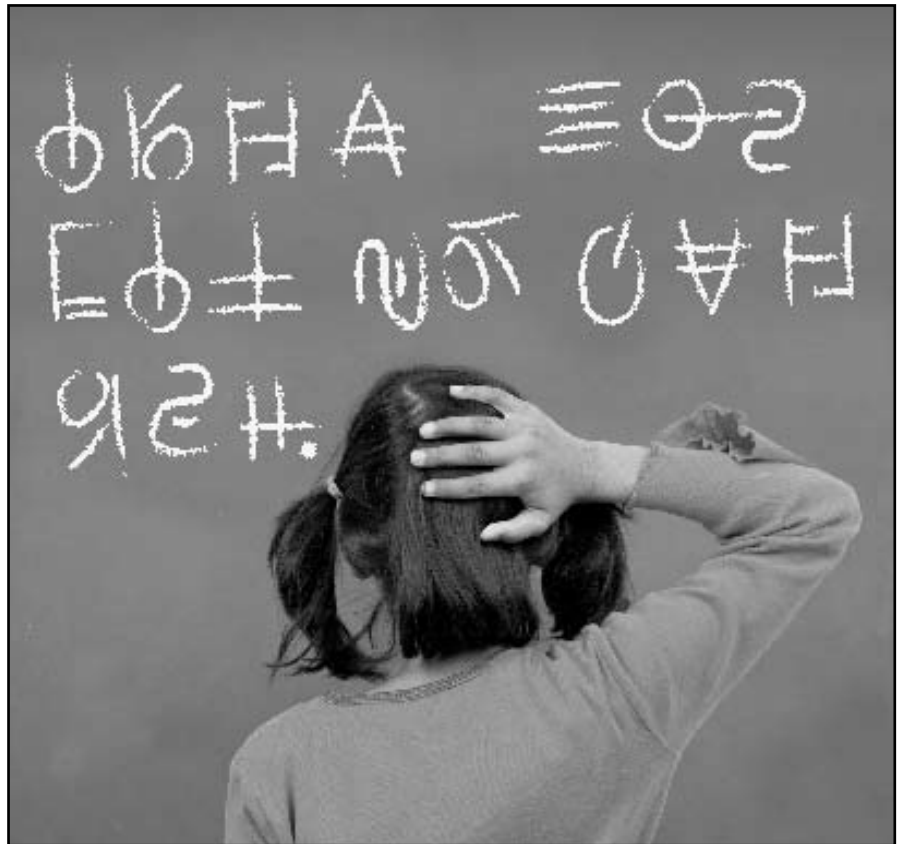
Today in some St. Paul Schools, an estimated 44% of third grade students are not reading at grade level. This is a startling statistic because beginning in fourth grade, a student's ability to read determines their ability to learn.

"You can think of it this way," says Tara Anderson, YWCA St. Paul's Academic Services Manager. "Up until third grade, kids are learning to read — after third grade kids are reading to learn — students who struggle in reading, often also struggle in history, science, geography and much more."

Many of us assume that students who aren't reading at grade level in the third grade will eventually catch up. Unfortunately, nearly three-fourths of them never do, and these students are much more likely to drop out of school and be limited to low-paying jobs throughout their lives.

This fall, a new YWCA St. Paul program, YW Reads will begin to help students to become good readers by the end of third grade. The program, funded by Greater Twin Cities United Way is part of a larger initiative to help break the cycle of poverty. It aims to have 80% of students reading at grade level by the year of 2012.

YW Reads will launch this September and serve eligible students from Jackson Elementary. Planned expansion to 1-2 area schools will follow in subsequent months. For more information please contact Tara Anderson at (651) 222-3741 or ywreads@ywcaofstpaul.org.



While reading is learned primarily in the classroom, many students need extra time and help.

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within our walls

A Glimpse at Programming and Happenings



Participants from the Youth Achievers Program (YAP) showcased their many talents during a spring talent show.



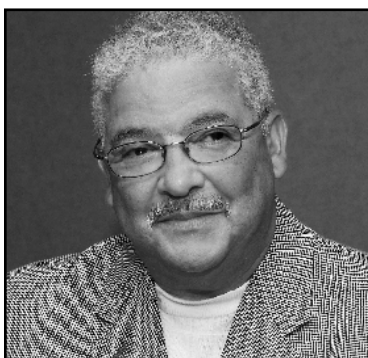
Jana Curiel, Housing and Supportive Services Manager, raised awareness for homelessness while running the Boston Marathon.



Even the Easter Bunny needs a helping hand. A generous volunteer and donor, provided 60 Easter baskets for children enrolled in YWCA Housing & Supportive Services programs.

moving forward

Despite Challenging Economy, Important Work Continues



Executive Director, William L. Collins, Jr.

Nearly every day we hear news of the challenging economy and the impact on individuals and organizations. During these trying times, both staff and volunteers have observed that many of the families we serve seem to be experiencing more crisis than in years past.

As the need for services grows, so does the need for proactive leadership. With an eye on strengthening and preserving essential services, we have implemented budget reductions and are focused on limiting operating expenses. Staff salaries were frozen in December and we have decided to forego special events and the publication of a lengthy annual report this year.

With a focus on working smarter and support from our members, volunteers, donors, partners and friends, important and exciting

work continues! Our newest building, Cleveland-Saunders is now home to families who have experienced long-term homelessness, and our agency-wide initiative for academic enrichment continues to grow.

After a successful first school-year, Supplemental Educational Services (SES) will return in the fall with a new name and more opportunities for students to experience success. Fall will also bring a new initiative to promote financial literacy with the teens and young adults and a new literacy program serving children in grades K-3.

I am optimistic about the many opportunities ahead and invite you to learn more about the vital community needs met every day at the YWCA St. Paul. Our Speaker's Bureau is available to your civic, church, scouting, school or neighborhood group and our website includes a wide variety of information for your review.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

building community

Winnipeg Apartments Provide Fresh Start and New Homes

The intersection of Rice Street and Winnipeg Avenue is looking very different today. Gone are the once vacant properties — in their place stand two new buildings and one of St. Paul’s newest housing developments.

Winnipeg Apartments, developed and managed by Legacy Management Development Corporation, welcomes families from a variety of income levels. The buildings feature a living “green” roof, energy efficient appliances and a host of other green features which aim to both lower the cost to renters and the impact on the environment.

“Winnipeg really represents a community commitment to improve neighborhoods and provide housing for all people,” says Archie Givens, CEO of Legacy Management and Development. With nearly 6,000 square feet of ground floor commercial space and 56 apartments, Winnipeg has been well received and is already more than half-leased.

Thanks to an already successful and growing partnership between YWCA St. Paul and

Legacy Management and Development — among Winnipeg’s first tenants will be six families from the YWCA Housing and Supportive Services programs. “The units at Winnipeg are beautiful and are perfect for families,” said Kristine Zimba, Family Support Services Manager. “We’re excited to have the opportunity for the families we serve.”

With supportive services and ongoing assistance from a YWCA case manager, Amy, a mother of two, was able to exit the homeless shelter and find temporary housing in the community. On June 1, she and her children will move into a new three bedroom unit at



YWCA St. Paul serves a growing number of families at community housing sites like Legacy’s Winnipeg Apartments.

Winnipeg. Her eyes light up when she talks about her new home. “I’m very grateful to have been working with the YWCA. I have come from the shelter to a one bedroom to a three bedroom. I am very excited to be a part of such a wonderful program!”

For more information, please contact Kristine Zimba at (651) 222-3741.

making connections

Student Nurses Help Families Achieve Better Health

Not all learning takes place in the classroom. In fact, for nursing students at the College of St. Catherine, many important lessons are learned at the YWCA St. Paul. Under the direction of Dr. Roberta Hunt, Associate Professor in Nursing, students partner with families enrolled in YWCA’s Transitional Housing Program to achieve better health.

As part of their coursework, students conduct home visits with a family and work with them to identify challenges and make changes. “Most of what students are working on with the moms is health teaching, referrals and problem solving,” explained Hunt. “Students also conduct safety and child assessments and act as a resource for mothers.”

Making four to seven home visits with a single family over several months, students practice charting, record keeping and care

plans. More importantly, students begin to understand how poverty can impact a family’s health or create barriers to health and development.

“Having the opportunity to be in someone’s home and experience life firsthand is totally different than seeing a client in a hospital setting,” Hunt says. “It’s really important for nurses to understand the barriers and challenges people face in order to take care of their children.”

The experience not only helps students to become more competent, compassionate caregivers, but provides families with an important ally and advocate. “It’s a win-win situation,” explains Jana Curiel, Housing and Supportive Services Manager. “Families really benefit from the resources and expertise that the students provide.”

For more information on the Transitional Housing Program, please visit us online or contact Jana Curiel at (612) 222-3741.



Students work with families to achieve better health.

IMPACT college club

Future Leaders on the Road to Success



Charting a course for high school and beyond.

Each Monday at the YWCA, the conference room fills with a group of young people who are focused on what lies ahead. Whether high school graduation is a year away or just a few months down the line, it is an exciting and stressful time for everyone at the table.

College Club, a part of the IMPACT Program, provides a place for young people to explore options and to connect with other current and prospective college students.

“The club helps me to realize what I can do,” explains Genesis McCoy, a high school senior. “It keeps me focused on the fact that college is not that far away.”

Trying to balance their own hopes and dreams, financial realities and parental/cultural expectations can be tough. “We’re here to assist kids and help them to assist and support each other,” explains IMPACT Program Specialist, Chris Callen. “College Club is a place where they know they will find someone who understands what they are going through.”

Whether visiting a campus, meeting with admissions representatives, studying for the ACTs or simply talking about what comes next, College Club is helping to prepare teens to take the next step. Many of the group have already received their college acceptance letters. This summer, Callan plans to begin a new tradition — framing and displaying acceptance letters. He is sure the collection will continue to grow exponentially in coming months and years.

For more information on College Club or the IMPACT Program, please contact Michael Steward at (651) 222-3741 or impact@ywcaofstpaul.org.

celebrating success

Understanding the Writing on the Wall

During this school year, Sam, a second grader, received free tutoring at the YWCA through our new Supplemental Educational Services. His grandmother realized he was making real progress one day while he was riding in the car with her. “We were driving along and Sam said the words, ‘University Bank,’” she explains. “I asked him where he heard those words and he pointed to a sign. It was then I realized he had read those words!”

It might seem a small victory, but Sam’s grandmother notes that he hadn’t been able to read a word like ‘university’ before beginning SES. Congratulations Sam, we are pleased to celebrate your success!



Young reader makes strides with help from Supplemental Educational Services.

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This newsletter is a publication of the YWCA St. Paul. For more information on YWCA programs and services, please call 651-222-3741 or check out our web site at ywcaofstpaul.org.

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YWCA St. Paul is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

eliminating racism
empowering women
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St. Paul

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