

POWER PAGES

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 3, 2008



WELCOME TO THE E³ POWER PAGES!

As the Philadelphia E³ (Education, Employment, & Empowerment) Centers celebrate the end of another successful year, we welcome you to this newsletter that highlights some of the successes that are possible when young people work in a true spirit of partnership with concerned adults. Please refer to the Center contact information at the bottom of each page if you wish to learn more about supporting the work of these Centers.

MEMBERS SHINE AT E³ CENTER-WIDE PROM



E³ West's Latrice Simmons (L) & Latoya Moody (R) take a moment to pose for a picture while enjoying the E³ Prom.

The E³ Power Centers held their first Prom this spring and it was truly, "A Night to Remember". This spectacular event took place at The York House in the Logan section of Philadelphia. Members were able to meet their peers from other E³ Centers and spend the evening creating new memories. Some of the highlights of the evening included a student performance and member participation in a Salsa Dance competition.

"It was hard to describe the excitement I had from that night, but I have to say it really made me cry. I never thought I would be able to go to my own prom. I felt beautiful, and everybody looked great. Everybody felt great. It made me proud and my family." This was just one of the comments from the stu-

dents. By all estimations, the evening was a great success.

The prom was a collaboration of the Student Councils from several of the E³ Centers. All involved look forward to their planning an even greater event next year.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

E ³ Center Updates	2-3
Spotlight	3
Tastykake Outlet Grand Opening	3
Calendar of Events	4
E ³ Basketball Tournament	4
E ³ By the Numbers	4

Philadelphia's E³ Centers are committed to redirecting out-of-school youth toward positive life aspirations. The Centers offer young adults a full range of integrated opportunities for educational achievement, occupational skill attainment, and employment.

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E³ West

4107 Lancaster Ave.
215-387-2134

E³ Logan/Olney

5201 Old York Road
267-339-0240

E³ Southwest

2210 S. 71st Street
484-483-4746

WOMEN'S HEALTH DAY AT E³ WEST

In recognition of National Women and Girls' HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Preventing AIDS through Live Movement and Sound (PALMS) Project implemented "Young Sisters Take Charge," a one-day theater-based HIV prevention education intervention followed by HIV counseling and testing services. The event was conducted in partnership with Women's Anonymous Test Site (WATS) of the Health Federation of Philadelphia and staff and members of E³ West .

Actors from the PALMS Project drama troupe performed "Female Waiting to Exhale," a one-hour skit that addresses the challenges facing women and girls as they negotiate safe sexual relationships and behaviors. Additionally, Dr. Mehret Mandefro, an infectious disease doctor from the University of

Pennsylvania, conducted empowerment workshops targeting African American women and girls. Topics discussed in these workshops included love, trust, identity, abuse, and support in order to make safer sex a consistent behavior.

Fifty African American women and girls between the ages of 14 and 21 attended this event, and 27 of the 50 women in attendance received HIV counseling and testing services.



Congratulations to E³ Southwest's Ab-del Tate for winning the independent reading minutes contest

YET PROGRAM SOARS AT E³ SOUTHWEST

The YET (Youth Education for Tomorrow) After-School Reading Program, which involves a multi-faceted series of enrichment activities, proved a rousing success in its inaugural year at E³ Southwest. The YET Program ran from October 2007 through May 2008, and is scheduled to recommence in October 2008 for returning and new students.

Utilizing a wide range of books (donated by Public-Private Ventures), Southwest's YET teachers conducted a literacy workshop that combined reading and writing remediation with activities that increased E³ members' enjoyment of books and time spent reading independently. Congratulations to 1st Place Reader, Ab-del Tate, who won the initial reading challenge by logging 848 independent reading minutes from mid-March to mid-May!

CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR AT E³ LOGAN/OLNEY

Earlier this year, E³ Logan/Olney hosted a festive event in celebration of the Cambodian New Year. The event featured a fashion show displaying authentic Cambodian attire, cultural dance routines and a lavish dinner that included Cambodian cuisine. Members of Cambodian descent as well as other ethnicities participated in the planning and were featured in the event.



The celebration drew a large crowd of community residents, as well as E³ Logan/Olney staff and members. It was a very well-attended, successful event.

E³ Logan/Olney's Marady Vonn makes her entrance at the Cambodian New Year Celebration

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BILINGUAL GED CLASSES AT E³ GIRARD

The E³ Girard Center is proud to offer classes in English and Spanish to help prepare students for the battery of General Educational Development (GED) tests. The classes emphasize the reading, writing and math skills necessary to pass the GED examination and also include an official practice test to help determine readiness for the actual GED test.

The classes are taught by full-time E³ education staff or instructors contracted through the Community College of Philadelphia. All GED classes meet for 14 week cycles and are free.

GED in Math, GED in Spanish, and GED in Reading and Writing are currently scheduled four days a week. Class schedules are subject to change.

Registration starts the month before the start of class. Please call E³ Girard at (215) 763-8870 (x 7504) for more information.



E³ Girard members Jose Chacon and Jonathan Ramos-Mendoza

E³ NORTH CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

On April 22, 2008, the staff and members of E³ North joined with the Mural Arts Program to participate in an Earth Day community service project. Members and staff traveled to Hartranft Middle School by bus service provided by Mural Arts in the morning. The day included painting designs on the school walls, landscaping a yard, making mosaics, prepping the school fences for painting, and other repairs.

This event provided a chance for the staff and members to be positive role models for the middle school students; the 23 E³ North members that participated in the day's events were particularly proud of their work.

YOUTH HELP RUN THE SHOW AT NEW TASTYKAKE OUTLET



In late May, Tastykake partnered with the Allegheny West Foundation and PNC Bank to open its second Tastykake Thrift outlet at 7155 Ogontz Avenue.

This second outlet, much like the first, employs local young people through a WorkReady program operated by Allegheny West under a contract with the Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN). The opening of this store would not have been possible without the vision and leadership of Ron Hinton, president of the Allegheny West Foundation. Congratulations to **Christine Davila** (E³ Girard graduate) and **Andre Thurston** (E³ Southwest), who assisted with the store's first day of operation.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

THE GREATVINE

The Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia Initiative hosts a monthly competition called "The GreatVine" to give young people, ages 12-18, from Philadelphia a chance to tell their positive stories through:

- Essays,
- Photos,
- Songs,
- Videos, or
- Poetry.

Each month's winner gets \$250, and their submission and a one-on-one interview are featured on the Blueprint website.

For more information go to www.phillyblueprint.com/TheGreatVine

Good luck to all our E³ contestants!!

E³ BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The E³ centers are known for providing academic and employment assistance, but they also “Got Game.” From August 31, 2007 to November 9, 2007, E³ members from all five E³ centers came out to participate in the first ever **E³ Center 5 on 5 Basketball Tournament**. The event was held on the historic campus of Girard College every Friday for twelve weeks. Every Friday, no matter what the weather, E³ members would come to the Girard College gym and compete against each other for three hours. Every time the youth stepped onto the court, they played their hearts out.

Beyond just showing their skills on the court, the members demonstrated leadership skills, team building and conflict

resolution skills. The tournament ended with an elimination game, in which E³ Logan/Olney (with help from one member from E³ Girard) was crowned the winner. Several members of the E³ North team immediately discussed their rematch in the Fall!



E³ BY NUMBERS

As June 30th marks the end of another successful program year of E³ Centers working toward educating, employing, and empowering Philadelphia youth, staff and members of the Centers have many achievements to be proud of. Some of the exciting results that have been achieved this academic year are:

- **1,400** young people received services at an E³ Center
- **540** participated in Job Readiness Training
- **450** completed education and literacy classes
- **275** participated in civic justice projects
- **210** took advantage of 8-week subsidized internships (Work Exposure Program)
- **90** members secured full-time or permanent part-time employment
- **90** members completed GED prep classes
- **50** members obtained their GED
- **27** members from E³ Logan/Olney completed a forklift operator credential sanctioned by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)

The culmination of this academic year was the E³ Graduation (held at the New Freedom Theater). As one cycle of E³ members graduates and pursues its goals, staff and members across the E³ system are continuing to do the hard work necessary to make sure that the 2008-2009 program year is an even greater success.



Philadelphia's E³ Centers are sponsored by the Philadelphia Youth Network and supported by funding through the Philadelphia Department of Human Services, the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board's Youth Council, the Workforce Reinvestment Act, and the Pew Charitable Trusts

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SUMMER 2008

E³ Events:

June 26
IAC /E³ graduate luncheon was held for E3 Logan/Olney members @ Outback Steakhouse (Jenkintown)

June 27
E³ Graduation was held at the New Freedom Theater (1346 N. Broad Street) from 1:00-3:00 PM

Community Events:

June 29– July 6
Sunoco America's "Welcome America Philadelphia" events. The weekend includes free concerts headlined by:

*John Legend (July 4)
8:30-11:00 PM
Philadelphia Museum of Art*

*Boys II Men (July 5)
6:30-9:30 PM
Waterfront Concert & Festival*

June 30th
East Parkside Residents Association Last Stop Youth Program will host a Youth Expo at the playground at 41st and Poplar Street in West Philadelphia. For more information call 215-386-9152.

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