



Jubilee Youth Services

We're Growing!

1,2,3—shift and stretch. That's what's happening to Jubilee Youth Services.

This fall, the teen program moved from a small space on the ground floor of the Mozart building into a beautiful, spacious new area at the newly developed Ritz building (see article, below). Moving will allow the 7-12 grade program to greatly expand. The space they vacated at the Mozart can now be filled with more 3rd to 6th graders.

With all this shifting,

JYS still offers focused individual attention from our small staff and very devoted volunteers and mentors. All three spaces now have computer labs for students. And, as always, all three programs offer love, safety, and *fun*.



Jubilee Youth Services
A Division of Jubilee
Housing

Winter 2009/10

Did you know . . .

- © The after school hours are the peak time for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex.
- © The parents of more than 28 million school-age children work outside the home. As many as 15 million "latchkey children" go to an empty house on any given afternoon.

A New Space for Teens

We've moved! In October, the teen program officially moved into the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Teen Renaissance Center (right). At the Ritz building, ushering in a new beginning! Thanks to Jubilee's generous supporters, Teen Renaissance can enjoy their comfortable, spacious, state-of the art space.

The new center includes private study rooms, a computer lab, a kitchen, and a large living room for group activities. Please stop by soon for a visit—and see the program in action!



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"It Feels Like Community"

"For me, this is about giving back to my community," says volunteer Katie Sacripanti, who comes weekly to work with the youngest children in Jubilee Youth Services. "Plus, I can see the impact this program is having in the lives of these children."



Katie and Gabriel work on homework together.

Katie, who works at Boston Properties and serves on the Jubilee Support Alliance Board, started volunteering in 2008. "I wanted to work with the littlest kids

because I figured that I could keep up with their work," she says with a smile. Then the children hooked her in. "They're so smart, and so creative," she explains.

The program's emphasis on teaching respect and personal responsibility really speaks to her. "I like helping them learn to be accountable. I also like helping them set goals, and encouraging them to work hard at school. They're so bright and ener-

getic; I want them to be able to go to college and get a good education."

Katie is highly committed to her one hour per week—and so is her office. "My work can get pretty overwhelming at times," she admits, "but they are very supportive when I say it's time for me to be with the kids."

For her, volunteering is "a great return on investment. I give this hour, but I get so much back." Sometimes, she'll run into one of the JYS kids in the neighborhood "and everyone is *so* excited. I love that," she says. "It feels like community."

Interested in volunteering? Call Molly, 202-299-1240

Learning Peacemaking

Here are some peace-making techniques that the United Nations might want to try: Share. Say you're sorry. Wait your turn. Use words to resolve differences.

Early Start Coordinator Carol Martin teaches her K - 3rd grade students to use all of these techniques to get along, following a program called "Conscious Discipline." She explains: "We teach them what words to use, and help them practice the words." For example, "if someone is bothering them, they can say, I don't like it when you do such and such, and I don't want you to do it again."

When children have issues with



each other, she encourages them to sit together at the "Problem Solving Table." There, they name the problem and use a tool called the "Solution Spinner," which lists solutions such as Share, Get Another

One, Say I'm Sorry, or Wait Your Turn. The kids whack the spinner and see where it lands. "They just love it if it lands on an implausible solution," Carol says, "and break into giggles. Sometimes that's enough to solve the problem." If not, they work together to figure something out.

The ultimate goal of this program is safety. "Everyone needs to feel safe to be able to be themselves," says Carol. Safety comes when children can establish good boundaries for themselves, respect the boundaries of others, and connect lovingly with each other across boundaries.

What would the world be like if we all did that?

The Coach Approach

Thanks to funding from the NeighborWorks America Coaching Initiative, members of the JYS staff have an excellent and effective new way to help students set and achieve



Coaching helps young people set challenging goals, break them down into small steps, and stay focused to the end.

goals. Staffers are now trained in coaching, which they use to help students identify their goals and determine the best methods by which to achieve them.

The “coach approach” is simple. Each child works with a staff member to brainstorm ways to accomplish a desired outcome. For example, a child decides she wants better grades. Working with staff, she identifies small, concrete steps she can take to achieve that goal, such as finishing her homework each day and keeping her papers organized.

“The students set the goals,” says Teen Renaissance Program Coordinator Antione Sharpless, “and we help them break it down and follow through. They feel successful, and we see growth in maturity,” he says. The staff is grateful for this training, which has given them another tool for the JYS goal of supporting success.

How Do You Spell *Incentive*?

Alex, age 11, has his eyes on the prize—specifically, a U.B. Funkey e-Pet that is for sale at the Jubilee Youth Services Incentive Store. Here’s the problem: it costs \$20, and he’s got \$14. His solution?

“Keep saving,” he says.

Alex’s dilemma arose in response to the Incentive Store, a motivation program begun this year in the Activity Zone, Jubilee Housing’s program for third to sixth graders. Every day, students have the opportunity to earn dollars through effort. “We get points for things like earning good grades, doing our daily job, or finishing our homework,” Alex explains.



Alex is earning his way to owning this e-pet. Almost there!

“We developed this program to reward good behavior and teach planning and saving,” says Program Coordinator Aliya Rocker.

Each day, a student may earn special “store dollars”—\$1 for completed homework, \$4 for a positive report from a teacher, and \$5 for a random act of kindness witnessed by an adult. (They can also lose store dollars through inappropriate behavior.) The students keep track of their own money, which can only be spent at the store. The store opens every week on Friday. The students must also pay out of their own store money to attend monthly field trips—such as the \$10 3-D I max film they attended in October.

Since starting the store, staff has seen a significant increase in student motivation. “I’ve seen some students planning ahead to save for field trips and items in the store,” says Ms. Rocker. “They show pride when they get paid for their jobs and homework.” She’s also seen a lot of impulse buying at the store on Friday, “and then a flood of returns minutes later after they’ve seen their money dwindling away.”

Not Alex, though—he’s a saver, with a U.B. Funkey coming soon.



Jubilee Youth Services
A Division of Jubilee Housing

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Housing



Jubilee Youth Services

We offer a safe place of belonging, learning, and fellowship to the young people in Jubilee Housing's community through after-school and summer programming. Here, we provide homework support, enrichment activities, a safe and supportive environment, and meaningful relationships with our staff, tutors and mentors. Now in our third year, we have worked with more than 40 children age five to 18 years old. We rely on our small staff, devoted volunteers, and a generous donor base to make these opportunities available. We welcome your involvement, and hope you will call, write, or stop by for a visit soon.



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