

in the zone

PEOPLE

Beverly Coleman is the new assistant director at Booker T. Washington Beacon. **Abasi Clark** is the new assistant director at The Baby College. **David Hernandez** will be moving from caseworker at Midtown Family Place to Intake Coordinator/Group Work Leader at MFP.

GRADS:

HCZ Promise Academy Superintendent **Doreen Land** received her doctorate in educational leadership and organization from the University of Pennsylvania in May. Also among the HCZ Promise Academy staff, **Alexandria Grand-Smith** received her master's degree in art education from NYU, **Patrice Conner** received her master's degree in education from Columbia, and **Chevon Rucker** received her bachelor's degree in behavioral science from Mercy College.

At the HCZ Community Center, **Phillip Dunn** and **Patricia Diaz** received master's degrees in quantitative methodology from Columbia University, **Hermoine L. Dorsey** received her master's in urban & multicultural education from the College of Mount Saint Vincent and **Sandra Thompson** received her master's in educational leadership from City College. Ms. Dorsey also received her public school teacher certification in childhood education from the State Education Department.

At Booker T. Washington Beacon Center, **Shakina Shaw** received her master's in public administration from Metropolitan College of New York, while **Sabrina Perez**, SMART Coordinator, received her baccalaureate from the College of New Rochelle.

Judy Ramirez at Midtown Family Place completed her coursework for a certification in non-invasive cardiovascular testing.

hold the date

July 21st - The HCZ Ball

August 9th and 10th - The HCZ Olympics

August 12th - The Baby College annual Family Day at FDR Park

August 16th - HCZ Peace March

Team HCZ is a newsletter of Harlem Children's Zone, Inc.

If you have any comments or wish to submit news events for the *Team HCZ*, please email them to **Marty Lipp** at mlipp@hcz.org.

Team HCZ is designed and managed by **Salahadeen Betts**.

TEAM HCZ

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TEAM HCZ

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NEWSLETTER



State-of-the-Art Medical Clinic Opens

Sarah Wessler, Manager for the Lehman Brothers Health Promotion Learning Lab at the new Harlem Children's Health Project, shows HCZ Promise Academy Middle School how to web-surf among the various health-related sites on the lab's computers.

The Harlem Children's Health Project

In order to help improve the health of the children it serves, the Harlem Children's Health Project has opened on the fifth floor of HCZ's headquarters on 125th Street.

This project is a partnership of HCZ, The Children's Health Fund, the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and New York-Presbyterian Hospital. This innovative program includes a school-based health center, outreach, education and an interactive health-promotion learning lab. The school-based health center will offer complete physical exams, screenings, dental care, health education and other programs for HCZ Promise Academy 1 mid-

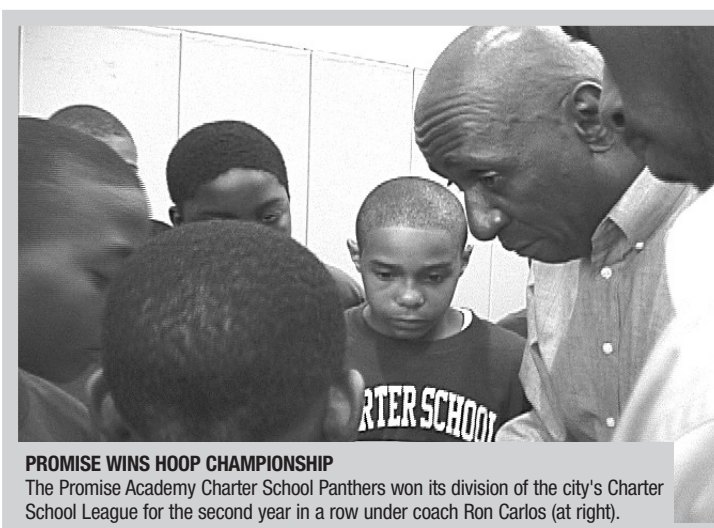
dle school students.

In addition, the "Healthy Connections" program will work with students from the Promise Academy charter elementary schools, linking them and their families to health-care services in the community. Specific health issues such as asthma, obesity, dental care and other issues will be addressed through school-wide programs at other neighborhood schools.

One of the unique features of this health program is the state-of-the-art Lehman Brothers Health Promotion Learning Lab in the waiting room. The lab allows kids, families and teachers from throughout the community to have some fun while they learn about health.

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PROMISE WINS HOOP CHAMPIONSHIP
The Promise Academy Charter School Panthers won its division of the city's Charter School League for the second year in a row under coach Ron Carlos (at right).

TRUCE Fitness Kids Win Speaking Event

For the third time in four years, the TRUCE Fitness and Nutrition Center's 4H Club has taken top place at the annual 4H Public Speaking Event sponsored by Cornell University's New York City Cooperation Extension Program.

The event was held at Cornell University Cooperative Extension facilities in mid-town Manhattan on May 20th, drawing in teams from across the city.

Kevisha Bennett, Barbara Bowman, and Yvonne Lopez – members of the Health Ambassadors Team – represented The TRUCE Fitness and Nutrition Center's 4H. All three received outstanding scores from the panel of judges. Yvonne Lopez received the highest overall score, earning her first place, while Kevisha Bennett received the second highest overall score, making her the first runner-up. The presenters – all eighth graders – scored higher than competing high school participants.

Tax Program Returns \$3.6 Million to Community

Once again, the agency's free tax-preparation program has broken its own record. This year, the agency helped prepare tax forms for over 2,600 community residents. In total, we helped them to receive more than \$3.6 million in federal and state refunds.

Residents received over \$1.5 million for the Earned Income Tax Credit and \$309,000 for Child Tax Credit.

Last year, the agency helped 2,200 residents and saw them receive a total of \$3.2 million in tax refunds.

Booker T. Wins Big at Showtime Tournament

Thirty teams competed in this year's

Showtime basketball tournament, and in the end, Booker T. Washington Beacon teams came in first or second in every division except one. Booker T. won first place in the boys 16-and-under division, the boys 13-and-under division and the girls 13-and-under division. Booker T. came in second in the 11-and-under co-ed division.

Countee Cullen Beacon placed first in the 11-and-under co-ed division and had second place finishes in 13-and-under boys, 13-and-under girls, and 16-and-under girls. Coach Mike's HCZ Community Center team for the 16-and-under girls division took first place and the HCZ Community Center placed second in the 16-and-under boys division.

TRUCE at UN Convention

TRUCE youth were panelists for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in both New York and in Washington, D.C., in May. They presented the three public service announcements (PSAs) they produced with the support of their Columbia Ace Mentoring Program mentors. The PSA's all had the slogan "It's 2006... Do you know what your rights are?" to promote youth knowing about their internationally recognized human rights as children below the age of 18. The young people -- Kadidiatou Magassa, Russell Van Duyn and Adama Bah – received standing ovations for their contributions to the discussion.

Ten Years of Harlem Overheard

Harlem Overheard celebrated its 10th anniversary at Tribal Spears on Saturday, June 3rd. Over 100 people came to be a part of a panel discussion of former youth and staff editors who shared their reflections on the impact of the HO experience in their lives. HO founder and former HCZ Beacon Director Shawn Dove was the keynote speaker. The Malcolm X poetry and illustration awards were also announced, with winners from TRUCE and the Employment and Technology Center.

"Three Year Old Journey" Program Ends

HCZ's first "Three Year Old Journey" program ended earlier this month with a symbolic

tree-planting ceremony. The program was started to bridge the gap between students chosen in the early lottery to attend Promise in September 2007 and our pre-kindergarten program Harlem Gems.

The program began with an orientation in December at 35 East 125th Street, then continued with 2 hour classes for parents and 2 hour classes for children through this month at P.S. 149. Parents and children planted a Leyland Cypress tree in the children's yard at P.S. 149 to mark the end of the program. The participants named the tree "Journey" after the program.

Block Associations Receive Grants

With assistance from Community Pride community organizers, three block associations in the Harlem Children's Zone have won \$500 grants from the New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods program.

The block associations were those from 118th Street, between Fifth and Lenox avenues; 118th Street, between Lenox Avenue and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd; and 133rd Street, between Lenox Avenue and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd.

Saturday Academy Book Fair at Booker T.

Booker T. Washington Beacon Center held a book fair on Saturday, May 13th, giving away nearly 1,200 books to neighborhood children.

Students participated in book readings and discussions with teachers. Parents attended a workshop and met individually with the reading specialist to discuss how to encourage good reading habits in their children and learn literacy games to develop reading skills.

Parents also received a letter to send to their child's teacher requesting information on child's progress in class. They also received a chart to keep track of how many books their child reads over the year.

Students and parents participated in a raffle for prizes, including book baskets and a Mother's Day basket.

Community Center Kids at City Council

As part of a seven-week program, three teens from the HCZ Community Center presented policy recommendations on education, health and housing to members of the City Council on May 22nd.

The teens – Aja Moore, Shante Grant, and Savashia Matthews – participated in a program organized by the Citizens' Committee For Children, conducting field research and interviews before they formed their policy recommendations.

HCZ on 60 Minutes

On May 14th, the highly rated newsmagazine "60 Minutes" aired a segment on HCZ and its CEO/President Geoffrey Canada. Reaction to the show, which regularly gets 20 million viewers, has been overwhelming positive. The agency's website received over 107,000 "hits" in the week after the segment aired and the agency received over \$50,000 in donations via the website and mail. We have received dozens of calls, emails and letters of praise. Below are excerpts from some of the emails that we have received.

"Watching the program brought tears to my eyes – to see something like this being done by someone who actually cares. I thought I could hold back the tears, but I'm still trying to hold the tears back as I write this email. It is beyond words to see how you have created this wonderful avenue for our children."

"It is refreshing to see so many people who are dedicated to enriching children's and their parents' lives. Thank you for the vision to make a difference."

"Wow....I thoroughly enjoyed seeing how Mr. Canada has put his dream into action and has been helping so many children. Truly inspiring!"

"It does a body good to see people step up and make education and success a reality for underprivileged children by working tirelessly and not giving up."

"Shame on me that I have not ever heard of your organization, but once I saw it on television I was mesmerized and it brought tears to my eyes at the positive impact done on families in the Harlem area."

"On Sunday evening I was blown away by the "60 Minutes" segment on HCZ. I immediately ran to my computer and donated funds and have been speaking to my friends about the HCZ program ever since."

"I was impressed with your work after viewing 60 Minutes. Anyone that will make his life's work to help children in environments kids should not have to grow up in deserves my help. I hope this spreads to other cities and townships."

"I just wanted you to know how any people were talking about how amazing this was."

"As a teacher, I am always shocked and saddened when I meet with my child's parents....I have found teaching in Harlem in a public school to be one of the most difficult and stressful jobs. The rewards are few and far in between. Often my children aren't given a chance by the school that surrounds them. However I love to see my children light up when they understand something for the first time. I love to see my class interested in a topic that no one ever cared to teach them before....Geoffrey Canada's fresh ideas are just what this neighborhood needs."

"It touched my heart to see a man put forth such an enormous effort to save the children. You are truly God's gift."

"Today I emailed everyone I knew to tell them about your organization and if they were looking for a charity to donate to, please add HCZ to the top of the list....Anytime anyone asks me who my hero is or who inspires me,



I'm going to say, without hesitation, Geoffrey Canada."

"You guys are awesome and should get a medal from the President for all of your effort and success! Way to go for getting the private funding involved....brilliant!"

"I watched in awe as you were doing the types of things that I can only wish for in my present teaching position....Best to you and your staff in giving me a glimmer of hope that education can fundamentally change this very callous world."

"Please, please, please give this man all the help you can! Emulate his school statewide and nationwide. Mr. Canada is on the absolute right track."

"I wish you all great success in the future, and I know that many kids, and our nation's future, is being served by your excellent service."

"I am not rich, but I will support your school in any way I can. We must try to help. They are our future. We must make it happen."