

Preschool at Fletcher Place

We began our young children's ministry back in 1930! The children that participate find stability and are given that extra preparation for Kindergarten that leads to success throughout their school years. A recent article in the Indianapolis Star points out the impact that preschool or lack of preschool can have on a child when they begin Kindergarten. The article was titled "Hard Start" and begins by describing a Kindergarten student's struggle as he finds himself in a classroom situation for the first time: "A 5-year-old doesn't know how to count or hold a crayon. Frustrated and angry, he often disrupts his class." Further on in the article Mr. King states "Across the city's schools there are hundreds -- children who



have never been to preschool, who have never been in a group setting and who bring with them a mountain of baggage from home." Article was by Robert King

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20100912/LOCAL/9120373>. Preschool is a real necessity for the children we serve.

Our preschool program is provided to children in our area and encourages parents to take advantage of our GED program and various life skills workshops while their child is in school.

Each year we work to raise the funds necessary to provide this preschool program. A tuition scholarship that would pay for one student for the

entire school year is \$775. We work to keep the classes full with 16 children in the Pre-Kindergarten class and 14 children in the Junior Preschool Class. When we start the preschool year we accept all children while we are still working on securing scholarships to cover their tuition. If you would like to help cover the cost of a child going through our Preschool please use the enclosed envelope and make the check payable to Fletcher Place Community Center noting Preschool in the memo section. Your support of our preschool program is what keeps the doors to the classroom open.

Funding for our Preschool Program comes from CERF, Avon, Center and Christ UMC, Fairview UMW and Individual sponsors. Support for our eye screening, new shoes for each child (Stout Shoes and Stansfield Circle), our Preschool Christmas celebration and gifts, along with monthly birthday parties are offered through The Stansfield Circle. Our Teachers in Training are supported through Child Care Answers as they work on their CDA.

Fletcher Flashes October/November 2010

Adult Education at Fletcher Place

Fletcher Place Community Center is located just East of Fountain Square on the corner of State Avenue and Prospect Street. The area we serve has a great number of adults that never completed high school. The lack of a diploma or GED keeps people out of work or at very low paying jobs at best. Our neighborhood is also known for being very transient, as soon as families increase income they move out to a seemingly safer neighborhood. Our task is to help families gain the skills to increase their employability yet also to help stabilize the neighborhood by creating community and finding avenues for home ownership. Last month our newsletter focused on two families that were in the midst of becoming homeowners for the first time through the Fuller Center. We are now working with Habitat for Humanity to find more homes in our area for families we serve.

Hands up Staff at Fletcher Place are clients that were in need of work skills and a place that would offer community as well. WE are currently working with 7 Hands Up Staff at the center. The Hands Up Staff will remain with the center for approximately 3-5 years as they work on their skills from basic work skills to GED or further education until they have a resume that will lead to steady work that they enjoy. Michelle has been working at Fletcher Place while working on her GED and gaining important work experience. Michelle recently took the GED test and will hopefully transition into a medical training program by the end of the year.



CDA: Child Development Associate – the working certification for a Preschool Teacher is Jessica's goal. Jessica comes from the neighborhood and was actually in our preschool as a young child. Jessica is somewhat unusual in that she has a high school diploma. As a Hands Up Staff member she is working in our preschool while nearing completion of her CDA. The CDA will open many doors for her and will count toward a college degree as well. Jessica was highlighted in the last newsletter as a new home owner through the Fuller Build program.

Funding Partners for our Hands Up Staff program include: The Richard M Fairbanks Foundation, The Clowes Fund, The Indianapolis Foundation, along with undesignated funds from individuals, businesses and local congregations. Your support through in-kind donations, volunteer support and financial support allow us to provide opportunities such as the Hands Up Staff program.