

A Message from the President/CEO

Our Annual Meeting and Celebration was held in early March and was generously hosted by Manpower and Vice President of U.S. Finance Julie Krey. The meeting, with Scott Stoner, Samaritan Family Wellness, as Emcee, attracted board members, tutors and mentors, students and family members, and donors. The event allowed our agency to highlight our youth, programs and volunteers.

Meetings such as this remind us of the tremendous contribution volunteers make. Our Board Officers, David Kuehl, Chair; Jamie Reeve, III, Vice-Chair, Julie Krey, Treasurer and Carla Washington, Secretary, agreed to lead the agency through the challenges 2009 promises to bring our way. These dedicated leaders are examples of the more than 185 volunteers that are helping our youth this year.

It is clear that programs do not help our youth, *PEOPLE* do. Young people today need guidance and interaction with as many positive and caring adults as possible. From homework help to help finding a home, volunteers are much more than a nice extra for our kids. *They're often the critical difference.*

Increased mobility, lack of youth opportunities in poor neighborhoods, the mushrooming numbers of children growing up in single-parent or no-parent households all combine to reduce the number of adult role models for our children.

Our volunteer tutor/mentors help our children develop socially and academically. **Mentors help young people better express themselves emotionally, help them better understand who they are and how to positively relate to peers and adults.** Research shows that mentoring can help a young person develop increased self-esteem and self-confidence. The volunteer can help a young person set positive goals, enhance their feelings of identity and well-being, coach them to form better relationships and guide them in important decision-making.

Our young people today are the parents, workers, leaders, and mentors of tomorrow. **To all of you who are giving of your time, your talents or your resources we thank you for helping guide our next generation.**

April is a month of renewal, promising exciting days to come. It also encompasses National Volunteer Week, a fitting connection as we thank our volunteers for stimulating new growth in our youth while giving them a promise of many exciting days ahead.

Regards,
Robert R. Dunn



To learn how you can become a volunteer, call **414-344-2111** or visit us online at **www.ongkids.org**.

Please join us in celebrating our staff and their contributions to society!

ONG Hires New Educational Specialist

Please join us in welcoming **Rukiya Alexander** to our program staff as a full-time Educational Coordinator. Rukiya is a key member of the program leadership team, joining Educational Coordinator Kiarra Reid and Site Coordinator Tim Schermetzler in developing educational programs for all three sites. Rukiya's focus is The Homework Club, Outbound Tutoring and overseeing the Literacy Initiative.



Rukiya with High School Connection student, Darnisha

As a graduate of Alverno College with a BA in Community Leadership and Development, Rukiya comes to Our Next Generation with six years supervisory and elementary classroom teaching experience. She has worked with urban youth and adults in diverse settings.

Rukiya's Interests/Hobbies:

"I enjoy reading, movies & documentaries, being outdoors and spending time with my family."

One of her Favorite Quotes:

"The question is not whether we can afford to invest in every child; it is whether we can afford not to."

—Marian Wright Edelman

Congratulations Jesse. We Wish You All The Best!

Program Leader Jesse Hieb, graduated in December from Wisconsin Lutheran College with a double major in psychology and business marketing. He plans to pursue a career in child welfare and youth development, with a focus on international advancement. He grew up in Japan and feels his life experiences can influence change in many underdeveloped or struggling family systems.



In his two-year tenure at ONG, Jesse helped with the High School Connection, the Homework Club, and worked with lead staff to develop and coordinate academic and personal enrichment programs for the entire organization. His talents and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

Leading Team Japan, in the Our Next Generation 2008 Summer Olympics, Jesse and student, Christopher, take time to pose!

OUR NEXT GENERATION INC.

Shaping Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders

3421 W. Lisbon Avenue
PO Box 080017
Milwaukee, WI 53208



see details inside

Intergenerational Program Supports Learning & Personal Growth

Residents and staff members of Saint John's on the Lake are giving Our Next Generation youth a priceless gift -- their time as tutors and mentors. Each Monday evening, elementary girls and boys from Our Next Generation are taken to Saint John's, where residents and staff of the lakefront retirement community engage them in fun enrichment and literacy activities.



As important, though, are the intergenerational relationships that are forged through these interactions, shared Suzanne Osetek, a resident of Saint John's and former school teacher, who helped bring the program to the community. "We hope that the relationships and the lessons shared help prepare the ONG students with invaluable social and academic skills needed to achieve throughout school and into adulthood."

Board of Directors

David Kuehl – Chair, Lubar & Co.
James Reeve, III – Chair Elect, Northern Trust Bank
Julie Krey – Treasurer, Manpower, Inc.
Carla Washington – Secretary, Froedtert Hospital

Directors:

Christopher Beem, Ph.D., Educational Consultant
Darren Bornemeier, Briggs & Stratton Corporation
Jim Brown, Retired (UPS)
John R. Dawson – Retired Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP
Richard Dean, Dealand, LLC
William Fris, AXA Advisors
Felice Green, Milwaukee Chapter of the Black Alliance for Educational Options
Gary D. Miller, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Tom Neill, Fiserv, Inc.
Michael Petroff, Heartland Advisors, LLC
Rebecca Simenz, Community Volunteer
Robert Dunn, President / CEO

Our Next Generation, Inc.

Neighborhood Center
3421 W. Lisbon Avenue • PO Box 080017
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Mailing Address
804 E. Juneau Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414.344.2111 • Fax 414.933.9710
Email info@ongkids.org • www.ongkids.org

Newsletter

Design, Layout & Printing: Burton & Mayer, Inc.
Editor: Michelle Schuerman

www.ongkids.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT NO. 996

Next news

Spring 2009

Volume 16 Number 1

Our Mission

Our Next Generation, Inc. serves the children of our neighborhoods with programs focused on improving educational outcomes and life skills. In addition, Our Next Generation endeavors to build an effective, collaborative team of parents, families, teachers, volunteers and staff through one-on-one relationships. Our activities serve all races and creeds and are rooted in moral and spiritual beliefs.

OUR NEXT



GENERATION

INC.

www.ongkids.org

Our Next Generation Volunteers are the Best!

Let's celebrate and give thanks for their time and talents!
National Volunteer Week – April 19th – 25th

Our Next Generation volunteers give more than 19,000 hours of their time each year to guide and mentor students in our after-school and summer programs. This group - of 200 strong each year - are our advocates, our friends, and for many - youth development pioneers.



Throughout the year, our volunteers engage students in discussions about opportunity, equality and the value of education. **Our volunteers care, listen and laugh – a positive strategy for success!**

Based on findings from the National Adolescent Health Information Center (Forum Focus, May/June 2005), "adult/child connections play an important role in supporting young people and protecting them from engaging in risky behaviors."



We agree - positive relationships are critically important to maximize opportunities for positive development and successful navigation through adolescence into adulthood.



Throughout this newsletter, you will read a few of the hundreds of stories based on our success equation:
Positive People + Encouraged Students = Academic and Personal Achievement

Engineering Students Shape Pathways to Technology

It all began with the interest of one student, Matt Koehn (featured in the Spring 2007 newsletter), and now has grown into a multi-faceted, student-led machine.

In 2008, the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) joined Our Next Generation as a community partner. The goal of the partnership is to engage ONG youth in programming designed to explore technological innovation and how to use it as a tool to benefit students' daily lives and beyond.

MSOE students participate in many ways – as academic tutors, collegiate role models and special project volunteers.

This partnership, led by Dr. David Howell, MSOE's Director of the newly created Office of Servant-Leadership, is designed to enable its students to engage the Servant-Leadership model, one that places emphasis on service as a core component of leadership.

"By serving the needs of our local community, our students will pursue service opportunities in any number of ways," said Professor Howell. "We are excited to partner with Our Next Generation as we value this opportunity for reciprocal learning."



Students worked for six weeks to complete their final presentations, showcased at the MSOE campus



ONG students with MSOE, Team Leader Mustafa!

"Life Together in Peace"

A student-led project celebrating the memory of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

This January, eight MSOE students, led by freshman, Mustafa Muhammed, engaged ONG middle-school students in a multimedia project that evoked the spirit of Dr. King.

By bringing the students together, ONG children were able to share their value of Dr. King's teachings with an audience (MSOE and beyond) that may not have previously had access to this information.

Students used a variety of multimedia tools to compose their projects, including iTunes, Garage Band, Comic Life and PowerPoint. To celebrate, final projects were presented on the MSOE campus to faculty, students and staff.

The first place winners, led by MSOE Captain Stephanie Dahlke, are Sanice Conley, Alexis Pruitt and Dynesha Glover. They will be treated to an excursion at Discovery World. Second and third place teams were recognized and all students received participation awards at a reception held in the Mac Lab at MSOE.

Other Featured Projects:

- **LED Throw Project** – ONG students made magnetic throwing devices, testing the elements of electronic currents.
- **Bridge Building Competition** – Students tested engineering theories to determine with paper and tape how much weight their designed bridges could withstand.
- **MSOE Engineering Career Exposition** – Middle school students learned about a variety of career options in engineering.

SPECIAL FOCUS VOLUNTEERS – Shaping Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders

Our Next Generation Responds to Reading Readiness

In our neighborhoods, reading proficiency rates are far below state averages.

The average reading ability for 4th through 8th grade black students is the lowest of any state, and the reading proficiencies gap between black students and white students in Wisconsin continues to be the worst in the nation (U.S. Department of Education, Sept. 2007).

We are taking on this challenge with a sense of urgency.

We are responding to the frustrations of our students who are struggling and we continue to take a proactive approach to address their needs. Our literacy program aims to not only help children develop their vocabulary and comprehension skills, but with the support and involvement of our tutors, develop a positive attitude toward reading. We want kids to find reading an enjoyable pastime, not just a homework assignment.

Thanks to a special grant from St. Anskar's Episcopal Church, Hartland, we are implementing AfterSchool Kidzlit, a proven urban literacy achievement program, designed to close the proficiency gaps of low-income children.

Educational Coordinator, Rukiya Alexander, is leading the effort in our Homework Club program, as well as working with a targeted group of 1st – 3rd graders in the Learning Center at Westside Academy I.



Great resume building opportunity!

High school students welcome!

Summer Camp is Back

We are thrilled to host our all-day summer camp, featuring arts, recreation, academics and environmental awareness programming. As in the past, we are hopeful to be selected as a meal site, offering community residents, 18 years and younger, three meals per day at our Learning Center, Westside Academy II, 1940 N. 36th Street.

Paid staff positions are available now. Limited summer employment is available.

Interested in volunteering? We are looking for energetic and creative volunteers to engage children in games, sports, arts and more throughout the summer.

Please see www.ongkids.org for specific career and volunteer information.

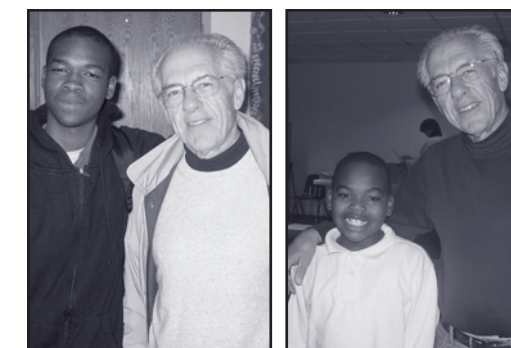
SUMMER CAMP INFO
June 22nd – August 14th
7a.m. to 6p.m.
K4 - 8th grade students
To register your child, call 414.344.2111

Summer Camp Wish List

The following items (new or gently used) are needed for Summer Camp activities:

- Jump Ropes and Double Dutch Ropes
- Balls – *basketball, soccer, tennis and kickball*
- Hula Hoops
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Construction Paper
- First Aid Supplies: *ice packs, sponges, band aids, alcohol wipes*
- Journals (for writing projects and reflection)
- Home Economics program supplies: *measuring cups, measuring spoons, needles, thread, yarn, spatulas, thimbles, fabric*
- Cooking supplies: *skillets, blender, cupcake tins*
- 5- gallon water coolers (2) - brand types: *Igloo or Rubbermaid*

Doctor Prescribes Success for ONG Students



Elliot with his two mentees, Terrence (left) & Devon (right)

When Elliot Lipchik retired as a physician 13 years ago, he was looking for a new challenge. He found it as a volunteer tutor at Our Next Generation. "If I did not go to medical school I would have been a teacher," he said.

Elliot began tutoring Terrence, who he said was self-motivated and accepting. "It is important that tutors recognize the strengths and weaknesses so they can see and help students with their talents."

Beyond tutoring, Elliot tried to expose Terrence to other experiences unavailable to him -- jazz concerts, golf driving ranges and basketball games.

"I was not surprised but pleased when he also expressed interest and enjoyment in the plays of Shakespeare."

Terrence is now attending Marquette University on a scholarship and is a shining example on how big a difference a mentor can make in a child's life. "I tried to always be available for Terrence, and still am, whenever he felt the need to talk to me or ask for advice or help."

Elliot now tutors Devon, 9, in the Homework Club, and hopes that he, too, will go on to college. "There is a need to help the kids self motivate and conquer the world. They need to know that the outside world is interesting and exciting." And volunteering has introduced Elliot to a world he had only heard about before.

"When I began tutoring, it was my first time having direct contact with central city children. It has given me an appreciation of the energy and intelligence the children have that most people do not know about."

High School Connection Students Shine – Let us Count the Ways Highlights of Our Student Leaders



Students in our High School Connection program, as well as Kiarra Reid, Education Coordinator, at a Special Olympics event and Scott Stoner, Emcee, of our Annual Meeting

1. Record attendance in the High School Connection weekly sessions.
2. High School Leadership Academy (Tutor Stipend Program) began with 23 high school students participating in the weekly personal development and mentoring sessions.
3. The agency is again offering a workforce development program to qualified high school students that combines soft skill development with on-the-job training.
4. Continued progress toward high school graduation and academic achievement. Academic coaches and mentors meet weekly to help students advance and envision high school graduation and beyond.
5. Students are applying for summer internships and pre-college programs throughout the state. Gerry Collins, Gear-Up Coordinator, spoke to the students about the importance of pre-college programs and college events.
6. Four of our HSC students will be singing and acting in "The Temples of Nadir," written and directed by Eric Theis (former ONG employee). The production runs April 16th - May 2nd at The Alchemist Theatre & Bay View Lounge. For ticket info, visit www.bayviewlounge.com.
7. Chico, a HSC junior, was chosen to design and hand paint the T-shirt given to Emcee Scott Stoner at this year's Annual Meeting.
8. For the 2nd year in a row, ONG competed in the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority's, Black History Quiz Bowl at Carson University.
9. Giving back is not just a choice – it's an expectation of the students in the High School Connection. The Social Activism Committee, comprised of seven student leaders, encourages their peers to volunteer their time and make a conscious choice to think of others as part of their lifestyle. This year the group has helped a variety of charities, including Goodwill Industries and Special Olympics.
10. Students continue to develop their health and wellness skills. This month, guest speakers discussed stress management and personal goal setting.
11. Thanks to Time Warner Cable and the Milwaukee Admirals, students attended a hockey game and for some, this was their first experience on the ice.
12. As 8th grade students are gearing up for middle school graduation, we continue to prep them for high school and their involvement in the High School Connection. The middle-school students meet daily with special gender-specific sessions/discussions offered Thursdays by program leaders, Ms. Nicole Janzen and Ms. Jasmine Taylor.

Learn more at www.ongkids.org or call to schedule a visit to meet our students at any of the three Learning Centers!

Summer Campaign 2009

Your investment will provide a lifetime of memories.

Our goal is to serve 150 children this summer. SPONSOR-A-CHILD to ONG Summer Camp! Your \$300 donation underwrites one child for the full eight-week program.

We need to raise \$7500 by May 31st. Help us NOW!

Donate ONLINE at www.ongkids.org (major credit cards accepted) or send contribution in the enclosed donation envelope TODAY!

Give what you can. Every penny counts.

Donate NOW to the ONG SUMMER CAMPAIGN - Shaping Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders