



NEW AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM DIRECTOR LEADS THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Armed with new Program Director Jennifer Toussaint, ESS' After-School Program will continue to motivate, educate, and empower each student in its After-School Program through its four components – *Academics, Arts & Cultural Enrichment, Health & Wellness, and Sports Enrichment* – which strengthen youths' decision-making and conflict resolution skills. The student-centered program will apply the Columbia University-affiliated CASASTART wraparound service model, wherein resources are organized around students, families and teachers to create a substance free and enthusiastic learning culture through a focus on safety, wellness and academic successes and project-based learning.

Fresh to the After-School Program, project-based learning activities such as *Bicycle Like No Other* will use the actual construction of a physical bike and the creative process to engage students in discussions about identity, health and wellness, and global warming while simultaneously diverting potentially negative behavior and focusing their energies on increased self-esteem, team building, and community service. Other activities include *How Well Do You Wear Your T-Shirt* which incorporates fashion sense/cents and gender sensitivity; *Plant a Seed*, which explores nutrition and wellness; and *What's the 411 with Your Bling* which teaches financial literacy and entrepreneurship. These more experiential learning additions come with a price.

Episcopal Social Services' After-School Program continues to battle expansive state and city budget cuts. After several years of encouraging growth, the program will reduce the number of schools it serves due to significant cutbacks in New York State's Afterschool Advantage and Extended School



Day Violence Prevention programs.

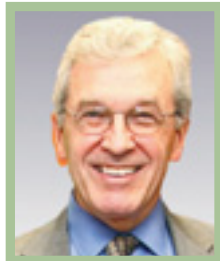
Among the Bronx-based casualties are: Three sites providing academic and personal enrichment during critical after school hours will completely close, while a fourth will have reduced capacity. Our Youth Workforce Development Program, which provides in-school academic support and career services for juniors and seniors, will also close. Fifty slots will be lost at our Young Adult Borough Center (YABC), which successfully helps over-age and under-credited students earn

diplomas by coordinating for-credit internships, career and personal development workshops, and mentoring.

With Ms. Toussaint's leadership, ESS continues to explore the possibility of using a fee-based funding model, including a sliding scale, knowing that the neediest children cannot be left without services. Having joined ESS on May 17, Ms. Toussaint was the founder and executive director of "Teach One Academy," an after school organization in Atlanta, GA. She has masters' degrees in Business Administration and Public Administration and brings a wealth of knowledge and skills in program development as well as nonprofit business management.

A native New Yorker, Ms. Toussaint shares, "I personally feel education, parenting, and the positive resources our youth require to impact their lives and the lives of their families can be challenging to some. I especially believe several social variables such as the media and the internet have taken the role of parents for some of our youth. Rather than complain, I feel it is my responsibility and calling to provide the social, educational, physical, emotional, and spiritual support that our youth and their families require."

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT H. GUTHEIL



Dear Friends,

The new season begins. Other parts of the country have their own markers, but for New Yorkers that means a new theater season, a new opera and concert season, a new sports season (and, we fervently hope, a World Series we take the subway to), and much more. In so many ways, September brings a sense of new beginnings and new possibilities even greater than January does. For most of us,

even if we've taken our vacation time earlier in the summer, coming back to work after the Labor Day weekend is a time for new energy and new ideas to get at new challenges and new opportunities.

And of course it's also back to school. The great majority of our work here at ESS is with children and families, which means September is a really big month for us. You're reading about a good deal of it in this issue of our newsletter, primarily our after school and early childhood education programs. Both are full of challenges and full of opportunities.

Our after school work is focused on public schools that face significant obstacles in meeting solid achievement goals for their students. We're in elementary, middle and high schools where we work in close partnership with principals and teachers who share an equal commitment to the well-being of the kids we serve together. Our work supplements and extends theirs. We certainly provide tutoring and homework help, but we also provide enrichment activities that aren't possible during the regular school day—art and science projects, music and drama programs and sports participation. We also address the fundamental issue of safety—the children are not on the streets in threatening neighborhoods when the regular school day ends. State budget cutbacks have caused us to curtail somewhat the number of schools where we work, but you'll read elsewhere in this issue about the fresh ideas our new program director, Jennifer Toussaint, is bringing to our outreach.

Our early childhood programs, both Early Head Start and regular early childhood education, continue and start again in September at the many centers and homes we operate around the city. We especially highlight in this issue our Therapeutic Nursery work—both dedicated classrooms and integrated classrooms where children with special needs have not only classroom teachers but also clinical specialists to work one-on-one with them in every area of functioning where they need assistance.

So, again, the new season begins. I could say much more about our five hundred foster children returning to school, and about our other work as well. But you get the idea. Great things for kids happen here—all year, every season. We love the work. We're glad you're in it with us.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert H. Gutheil". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert H. Gutheil
Executive Director

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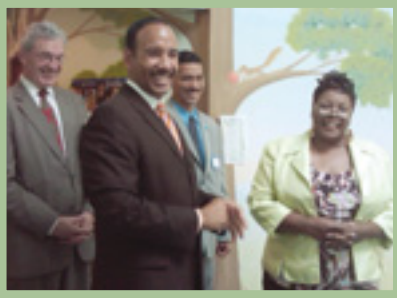
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Thanks to the advances in technology, we're able to offer this newsletter in color at no additional cost!

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT VISITS PAUL'S HOUSE



Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. toured Paul's House and the Early Head Start (EHS) program recently and was very impressed by all the agency was doing in the Bronx. A family man committed to the Bronx community, Diaz spoke with EHS Director, Helen Davis, and learned about EHS' comprehensive services for children and families, including EHS' thorough assessments for developmentally disabled children as well as opportunities for parent involvement. Jesse Mojica, Director of Education Policy and Youth Services in the Bronx Borough President's Office, accompanied Diaz. The Bronx Borough President's Office offers educational resources to families with developmentally disabled children and plans to include ESS among those partnerships.

GOOD NEWS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



107 children in the ESS/Sheltering Arms child-care and therapeutic nursery programs graduated last June. They all started kindergarten this month at a number of public schools throughout the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan. The ESS Early Head Start program – the only such program serving the South Bronx – also conducted a “moving up” ceremony recently for graduates of their program who have aged out and are now starting in a Head Start or other pre-school programs. The sentiments of all the parents were the same: that these programs have sent their children off in the right direction. One mother was overheard



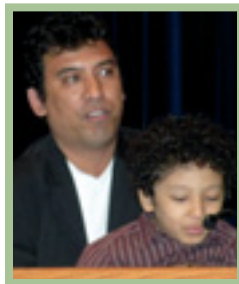
saying, “because of this program, this will be the first of many graduations.”

The Therapeutic Nursery located in Harlem underwent a major facelift and renovation this summer. A long overdue, new air-conditioning unit was



installed as well other numerous updates that will create a better environment for learning this school year.

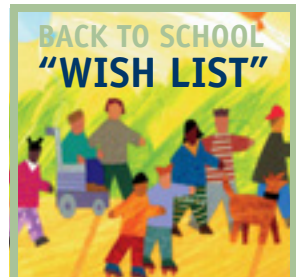
One of the highlights of the Early Head Start moving up ceremony was the announcement the program would be receiving a \$250,000 grant from Robin Hood to continue the program's expansion that began two years ago as well as add enhanced mental health services for families in need.



Not at all overshadowed by the Robin Hood grant announcement was the presentation of the first Denise Gray Rivera Award for Academic Excellence given to Raj Bajracharya, a 2008 graduate of ESS Early Head Start who was accepted to a Gifted and Talented School. “Because of this program

we are making one of our goals, getting Raj into the Gifted and Talented School,” said his mother, Sharmila Shakya. “If it wasn't for this program we wouldn't be sharing this moment with you.”

Another school year has kicked off at ESS and 535 children ranging from newborn to 4 years in three Boroughs will be served at both center-based and home-based settings.



City, State and Federal contracts that cover the basic costs of operating ESS' free after school and early childhood education programs for children from low-income families do not cover the costs of enhancements and enrichments that are so needed to provide a complete educative experience. Our program directors are looking for the following donations:

- Art supplies
- Books
- Educational toys, games and puzzles
- Sporting goods
- Gardening supplies
- Volunteers! Dancers, Musicians, Artists and Athletes willing to donate time and talent to do instructional workshops with children at various age levels
- Monetary donations to underwrite the cost of field trips



Do We Have Your E-Mail Address?

We're going green! The December issue of this newsletter will only be sent electronically. Please log on to our web site at www.essnyc.org today and look for "Join Our Mailing List" on the lower right hand corner to register. Thank you for helping save costs and the environment!

HOW CAN I HELP EPISCOPAL SOCIAL SERVICES?

So glad you asked! There are several ways!

PERSONAL DONATION:

Every dollar given will help sustain our programs that transform the lives and communities of 5,000 of New York's neediest each year. By making a multi-year pledge, you help plan not only for this year, but the future as well.

MEMORIAL OR HONORARIUM GIFT:

Give in memory of a loved one or, if you have a friend "who has everything," recognize their special occasion by making a gift to ESS in their honor.

CORPORATE GIFT, MATCH, OR SPONSORSHIP:

Corporate support plays a big role in the success of our fundraising efforts. Corporations may give year-round, and sponsorship of one of our program or fundraising events may help you market your business! If you make a personal gift, don't forget to ask for your company's matching gift form to double the impact of your donation.

PLANNED GIVING: Consider including ESS in your estate plan. There are many types of planned gifts we can accept. Please call us to discuss them.



THIRD-PARTY EVENT:

ORGANIZE YOUR OWN FUNDRAISER! Be creative: throw a party, run a marathon, sell your old stuff- with the proceeds going to ESS. Please call to discuss your ideas and the guidelines.

VOLUNTEER: See our web site for a listing of current volunteer needs or call us to discuss your ideas of how you'd like to help.

SPREAD THE WORD:

Learn about ESS by coming on a tour, and bring a friend! "A Few Words with ESS" is a one-hour informational session and tour designed to give our friends an up-close and personal look at what we do. We promise not to keep you more than an hour and that you will leave inspired. Please visit our website, www.essnyc.org, for upcoming tour dates.

For more information on how you can help Episcopal Social Services, please contact Mary G. Connolly, Director of Development and Communications, at 212-886-5604 or connollym@e-s-s.org. Or visit our web site at www.essnyc.org