



2007

Reach Out!



News from Youth and Family Outreach of Portland

Wizards Storm Portland for MuggleFest!

The magic dust has finally settled, and we are pleased to announce that MuggleFest 2007 was an enormous success!

Thanks to an ambitious team of dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors and supporters, creative artists and actors, adventurous vendors and exhibitors, and our wizard of an event coordinator, Kirsten Cappy, our family festival in Portland was the largest Harry Potter event in the country and appeared in press all over the world.

The \$30,000 we netted for Youth and Family Outreach will help to support our programs, including the highly

successful early literacy program. While this figure represents less than 5% of our annual operating budget, it is certainly a welcome edition.



Youth and Family Outreach would like to thank everyone involved.

Special Thanks to:

- Jan Love and the Portland Co. Complex
- Barbara Bush Children's Hospital
- Bernstein Shur, Counselors at Law
- Coast 93.1 Radio
- The Forecaster Books, Etc.
- The Breakwater School
- Bull Feeney's
- Gorham Savings Bank
- The Mimi Foundation
- Glidden Owens Design
- Gil Tenney & UBS
- Starbucks
- J.B. Brown & Sons
- Maine N.G. Railroad
- Warner Bros.

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The YFO Chapel is Getting a Makeover!

Youth and Family Outreach has received two significant grants over the past year for renovation purposes. The first, a Community Development Block Grant, will be used for improvements to the exterior, window repair and re-

placement, as well as residing of the damaged stucco. The second grant, received by the JTG Foundation, will be used to complete the construction of a parent resource center and meeting area on the third floor.

Our Chapel will soon look better than ever!



We're on the web!

www.yfoutreach.org



Our Mission

Youth and Family Outreach creates opportunities that enhance independence and learning to support the quality of life for children, youth, and families in Greater Portland.

Our Little Ones are Big Learners

Year number three of the Early Reading First (ERF) grant is underway. The children are into unit two and engrossed with the task of learning all they can about being a good friend. This past summer we saw the first true results of what a year with this grant can do for young learners and readers. The excellent scores from Glenwood Research have convinced us that we are doing the right thing for our children as we watch them reach their potential and have fun while they are doing it.

Kindergarten teachers are reporting that the children coming from the five ERF centers are more prepared comparatively than children that are not in the project and they are able to jump right into the standard kindergarten curriculum without a struggle.



This third and final year of the grant will be a year of transition and discussion as we determine the sustainability of the program. We are committed to maintaining this important programming at Preble Learning Center. So as we move forward into 2008 we have a plan in place to begin the process of seeking out the resources necessary to continue in the absence of the financial and physical support of the grant. Our sweet little 4 and 5 year olds deserve nothing less. . .

Teen Adventure Ventures into New Territory

The Teen Adventure Program has two new exciting pieces of news. First, we are sending four of our veteran youth to the Youth Leadership Conference put on by the Maine Youth Action Network. On November 16th and 17th, our teens will join hundreds of youth from all over the state to participate in workshops that focus on youth leadership, teamwork, self-esteem, and peer mediation. The goal of attending this workshop is to help our Teen Adventure youth reach

their potential as leaders both within our program and in their communities.

The second piece of news is that Teen Adventure has a new AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) member, Lindsay Blazej. As part of a three year grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and Communities for Children and Youth (C4CY), Lindsay will be focused on building the capacity and

sustainability of the Teen Adventure Program. We are very excited to have a VISTA on board, and are looking forward to what Lindsay will bring to the Teen Adventure Program in the coming year.



Lindsay Blazej, AmeriCorps*VISTA

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