



Chase Team

www.cityyear.org/columbus

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give a year. change the world.

SERVICE PARTNERS

Weinland Park Elementary School
211 East Seventh Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201

**Godman Guild
A.C.E.S Program**
300 West Sixth Ave
Columbus, OH 43201

**Ohio State University
Schoenbaum Family Center**
175 East Seventh Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201

QUOTE FROM TEACHER

"We appreciate City Year having structured activities on the playground. It really promotes safe play and the children enjoy it."

- Teacher of Weinland Park

UPCOMING EVENTS

Starfish Corps Graduation
Thursday May 28, 2009

Weinland Park Field Day
Friday June 15, 2009

City Year Graduation
Thursday June 18, 2009
North Bank Pavilion

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SPONSORS



Community Engagement



CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Chase Team attends the monthly civic association meetings held in the Schoenbaum Center right next to Weinland Park, to discuss with the community members the issues, visions and solutions for Weinland Park.



READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

February 27 was Read Across America Day. City Year and Weinland Park Elementary celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss with the help of volunteers from JPMorgan Chase, the Godman Guild and the Northside Library. One highlight of the day was a spectacular "Horton Hatches the Egg" skit performed by special guest Jake Whittenberg.

The main purpose of this day was to demonstrate to children how fun and exciting reading can be. We wanted to promote literacy and explain it's importance to children in hopes that they will take the initiative and read on their own.



THE GODMAN GUILD

The Chase Team and the community outreach center in Weinland Park, the Godman Guild, have created a supportive collaboration this year. The Chase Team has been sure to assist the Godman Guild in the all of the Family Fun nights and Carnivals they hosts. In return the Godman Guild has provided us with great support, resources and time that contribute greatly to the success of our Starfish Corps program.



CAMP CITY YEAR

Each year during Columbus Public Schools' Spring break, City Year holds a day camp for elementary school students. The camp sites this year were Windsor STEM Elementary and Heyl Elementary. The theme of our camp this year is "All the Places You'll Go" / "ROAD TRIP!" Each grade level represented one major city of our United States, including Miami, New York, Chicago, and New Orleans.



Besides showing these kids a great time, Camp City Year also focused on engaging the children in consistent activity and safe, constructive play. Our goal with camp was to open the eyes of our campers to the world around them, keep them engaged in various enrichment activities, make sure that their spring vacation was well spent, and allow them to have FUN!

CORPS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Ericka Nelson



Her journey starts in New York. Born and raised and faced with challenges that she decided to conquer, this is where it all began for Ericka. She attended A.P.Randolph High School in NY, NY.

During her freshman year she focused on extracurricular activities. She bounced from sport to sport not really knowing what she wanted to do. But what caught her attention was the fundraisers. Whatever sport she was in that month, she had to raise money selling candy or fruit snacks or whatever was available. She loved fundraising and realized that she enjoyed helping her school and community more than playing sports.

When her sophomore year arrived, she enrolled herself in activities that focused more on benefiting her community. Ericka joined the Sisterhood program led by her track coach which was a community service and outreach group that consisted of ten young ladies ready to make a difference. They cleaned up the streets around their school and neighborhoods, they helped out at soup kitchens during the holidays and they raised money for and attended all the walks for causes like AIDS and Premature births.

Ericka moved to Columbus her junior year of high school and wanted to continue doing service. Her best friend was a City Hero and told her all about the City Year program. She attended one of their service days and spoke to a senior corps member. She applied for City Year and is now a communications and resource coordinator for a wonderful program that she says has shaped her into the exact person that she wants to be.

"City Year has really been my avenue towards taking initiative and it has prepared me for the real world."

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
Ericka Nelson**

Corps Member + Team Sponsor Liaison
Chase Team

Youth Serve-A-thon

April 25th, 2009



On April 25 more than 200 community volunteers joined City Year corps members for City Year Columbus' second annual Youth Serve-a-Thon presented by Huntington Bank. Similar to a walk-a-thon, volunteers created teams, set fundraising goals and then collected pledges for their participation in a day of service. City Year corps members planned, organized and led volunteers in 14 projects throughout the day.

This year, City Year Columbus selected Indianola Middle School as the service site for Youth Serve-a-thon. Indianola Middle School is the oldest public junior high school in the country, celebrating its centennial anniversary this year. City Year Columbus has strong ties with Indianola Middle School; during the founding year in 1994, service was held at the school during City Year's annual convention.

Kicking-off at Indianola Middle School with breakfast and coffee provided by Einstein's Bagels, Au Bon Pain, and Starbucks, Youth Serve-a-Thon was a huge success. Joined by local leader, Representative Dan Stewart, volunteers were pumped up for a powerful day of service. Partner volunteers from Frito Lay, Kohl's, Huntington, JPMorgan Chase, local churches, City Year alumni, friends and family, Young Heroes and City Heroes participated in the day. Together, volunteers:

- Painted 4 four-square courts;
- Beautified school hallways with pennants of Ohio colleges and university, and with a music mural;
- Beautified entrance ways to school by painting doors school colors, mulching and landscaping, spreading more than 20 cubic feet of mulch;
- Refurbished the school courtyard – renaming it the centennial courtyard and painting a mural in dedication of this;
- Removed grass and weeds to create a sand volleyball court;
- Planted 10 trees around the whole school along with many flowers and bushes;
- Painted room numbers above every classroom inside the school

Starfish Story

By Curt Butscha, Corps Member

This year I have had the pleasure to work with a wonderful Kindergartner named Ja'Sean. He is a very shy and nice kid that has come a long way in the time I have spent with him. He always brightens up my day whether it is working with him or just seeing him smile when he arrives at school in the morning. Out of the eight students I work directly with at Weinland Park Elementary, I would have to say that he is one of my favorites.

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning I tutor Ja'Sean through the Columbus Reads program. The first thing I ask him every day to start our session together is, "how is your week going?" To which I get the usual response "good", with a beaming smile. Next, we get started into reading. We always have two books to work with; one that I read to him, and one that I help him read. Every time I finish reading a book to him he always says "that was a good book", with an accompanying smile. After we finish reading, we start working on his sight words. At the beginning of the year he didn't know all the letters of the alphabet, and I had to work every day on new letters with him. Now he knows how to read and write five words! It makes me feel good to know that I played a part in bringing him this far! At the end of our session he always tells me "thank you", and we both leave with big smiles on our face.

Next year I hope to check in with Ja'Sean at Weinland Park to see that he has continued growing and learning. I hope that a great person replaces me here to keep working with him and helping him develop, because the kids need great mentors, and they both will benefit greatly from the experience. Ja'Sean will be one of the kids I will never forget after leaving City Year. He exemplifies the reason I chose to serve, and shows that you really can make a difference in a child's life. I will miss his smiles and playing with him on the playground at recess, but I know my time with him has helped to put him on a path to success in such a critical part of his life.