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PUBLIC EDUCATION NEEDS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP

PENCIL VOLUNTEERS SHINE AT STROBEL AWARDS

PENCIL is proud to announce that some special volunteers took top honors at the 2008 Mary Catherine Strobel Awards.



WINNER, YOUTH VOLUNTEER

Bailey Roberts, president of Pencil Projects

Pencil Projects is an organization under the umbrella of Vanderbilt's Office of Active Citizenship & Service.

This year, under Roberts' leadership, the organization went from 32 members in Spring 2007 to a 120-member organization in Fall 2007. Bailey worked with PENCIL's Ann Johnston, director of Reading Partners, to recruit and place volunteers to work with children. These volunteers are impacting the lives of 165 children who need extra assistance in reading in order to be successful in school.

That's an estimated 480-540 hours of combined volunteer time from these volunteers. In addition, the Pencil Projects student board generated 250 hours of volunteer time, organizing volunteers, training and arranging carpools.

FINALIST, VOLUNTEER INNOVATOR

McGavock High School Lifeskills Class

After shopping at LP PENCIL Box, MacDawson Burton, Life Skills teacher at McGavock High School, saw an opportunity for his students.

Since September, volunteering at LP PENCIL Box has become part of these students' curriculum every Monday through Wednesday from 9:30-11 a.m. Around 10-15 students each day restock the shelves, unload and inventory supply donations, help clean up the store, break down boxes for recycling and bundle and organize donations. This is 75 hours of volunteer time each week that helps fill a critical need for the program and provides students the hands-on experience they need to develop essential skills needed to be successful in the workplace. 📦



OUR MISSION LINKING COMMUNITY RESOURCES WITH NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND PREPARE FOR LIFE

PENCIL IT IN!

www.pencilfoundation.org

A LITTLE NIGHT OF MUSIC

Annual Fundraiser

Wednesday, April 30
(Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum)

BRAVO!

Celebrating PENCIL Partners and Volunteers

Tuesday, May 13
(Curb Event Center, Belmont University)

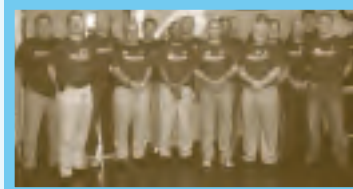
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Quarterly Meeting

Friday, June 6
(Martin Professional Development Center, 2400 Fairfax Ave.)

THANKS, UPS!

Thank you UPS for volunteering at LP PENCIL Box earlier this month! We appreciate your help as we end another successful year of getting school supplies into the hands of children who need them.



TAKE NOTE...

LP PENCIL Box will close for the year on April 23. Thank you to all who have donated school supplies, used office supplies or other items to help stock the store! We look forward to reporting end-of-year totals very soon!

HOMEBUYER EDUCATION TRAINING: BUILDING WEALTH ONE STEP AT A TIME



Shonta Sweatt is proud to be a homeowner. After enrolling in PENCIL's Homebuyer Education Program in 2007 she purchased a new condominium this past January. "I couldn't be happier about owning a piece of the American dream," she said. "I could not have done it without PENCIL's help."

The Homebuyer Education Program is an added component of PENCIL's Job Skills Training & Employment Program, where participants gain the financial education, training and job placement assistance needed to achieve economic stability. This is a voluntary program with a minimum of eight hours of in-depth education counseling and training. It is designed to prepare consumers emotionally and financially for the commitment and investment of buying a home and avoid the pitfalls of homeownership. Topics include assessing readiness, managing money, understanding credit, financing, selecting and maintaining a home. Program participants receive a certificate of completion and are offered access to mortgage/ down payment assistance programs available through various government and housing agencies.

According to the 2002 Fannie Mae National Housing Survey, more people could become homeowners if armed with the correct information.

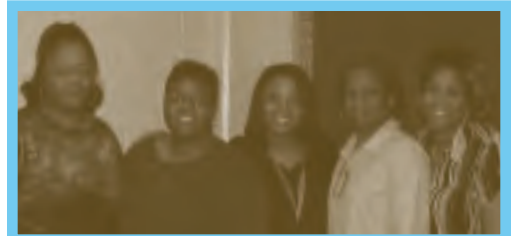
"Our clients all share the same dream of owning a home. For most, it is within their reach." said Jacque Green, Director of JSTEP. "Research shows us that when participants are motivated to find a job, buy a house, or save towards particular goal, they may be much more open to acquiring the financial skills necessary to reach their objective when faced with an immediate incentive."

Reaching prospective homebuyers like Shonta is a goal only limited by funding. If you are interested in helping JSTEP give people the tools to become knowledgeable and successful first-time homebuyers, call Jacque Green at 242-3167 x 259. 🏡

Classes are free and offered every 3rd Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Seating is limited and refreshments will be served. Interested participants should contact Jacque Green at 242-3167 ext. 259.

MAPLEWOOD'S "PILLAR OF STRENGTH"

The parents serving on the Maplewood Family Resource Center (FRC) Advisory Council are a "pillar of strength," according to Tasha Cartwright, FRC program manager. "The Advisory Council has an important role of helping to implement program and services, serving as parent



volunteers, and being a liaison between the school and home." The parents that attended the last Advisory Council Meeting were: Ms. Staci Alexander, Ms. Phaedra Black, Ms. Tamika Marshall, Ms. Chris Thornton, and Ms. Ella Washington.

The Family Resource Center provided the following activities for students and families this school year: Greet and Meet, Homebuyers Workshop, College Fair, College Campus Tour, and Gateway to Graduation Night in conjunction with Parent-Teacher Organization Meeting. 🏡

HUD DONATES LAPTOPS

PENCIL thanks the Nashville office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for its donation of 11 laptop computers, valued at nearly \$9,000. These laptops will benefit the students and families taking advantage of the services offered by the Maplewood Family Resource Center (FRC). PENCIL is the lead agency for Maplewood FRC. 🏡



Tasha Cartwright (middle), Maplewood FRC program manager, stands with Elliott Dassow and Beverly Bell with HUD.

Nashville HUD Field Office continues to build community-school partnerships by donating 11 laptop computers to the Family Resource Center of Maplewood Comprehensive High School. These resources provide students and their families the opportunity to improve the quality of life by acquiring skills in automated technology.
— Beverly Bell, HUD

LEARNING WORK SKILLS AT LP PENCIL BOX

Two 9th students at Nashville Big Picture High School have been hard at work at LP PENCIL Box (LPPB) since February. As part of the school's curriculum, students participate in internships to obtain the work skills they'll need after graduation. Michael Walker and Kevin Burke have been a huge asset to Sarah Killpack, program manager for LPPB.

"Having the interns' help at the store has made a world of difference this year," said Killpack. "We have several pallets of supplies arriving each week and around 100 teachers a week emptying the shelves so having extra hands to unload, sort and restock has been invaluable."

The interns work at LPPB from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and go to class the rest of the week. Killpack works closely with their teachers at Big Picture to make sure their education goals are being met. The interns see how their classes apply to everyday life while learning job skills. They inventory donations, work with groups of volunteers to restock the store, and assist with teacher shopping. Michael and Kevin, even though they work very hard, both enjoy their time at LPPB. Thanks guys! 🏡



Michael Walker and Kevin Burke are 9th-grade students at Nashville Big Picture High School interning at LP PENCIL Box.

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PENCIL PARTNERS CELEBRATE "READ ME WEEK"

Our PENCIL Partners love Read Me Week. This annual celebration organized by Book'em, a nonprofit that works to get books into the hands of children and inspire a love of reading, draws volunteers from across the city to read to classrooms. The 2008 Theme was "Leap into Reading" to celebrate Leap Year. Volunteer readers were invited to wear a hat, shirt, pin, etc., with writing on it for the students to read.

Comcast will air the celebrity reading session that took place at this year's spotlight school Fall-Hamilton Enhanced Option Elementary throughout the month on Comcast On Demand. Thank you to all the PENCIL volunteers who took the time to show a child that reading is fun! 📖



Jessi Myers from the Barnes and Noble bookstore at Opryland reads to children at Mt. View Elementary.



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2008 A LITTLE NIGHT OF MUSIC

*PENCIL thanks artists Trace
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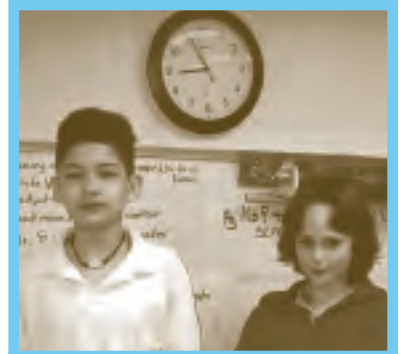
The Tennessean

THANK YOU, DOLLAR GENERAL!

After visiting LP PENCIL Box, several Dollar General employees realized that they had the knowledge and capabilities to set up a simple distribution center that would help the program better serve teachers and their students. The Dollar General team spent over 100 hours organizing every aspect of LP PENCIL Box. They donated thousands of dollars worth of store shelving and after designing the layout of the store, set up the shelving. Then they donated shopping carts and baskets for the teachers to use. They programmed and implemented an inventory tracking system to ensure accurate accounting. They also have helped keep the shelves they donated stocked with thousands of donated Dollar General items including tissues, soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, and flash cards.

PENCIL PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: HARDAWAY GROUP & JERE BAXTER MIDDLE

Since 1985, Hardaway Group has been a committed and extraordinary PENCIL Partner with Jere Baxter Middle School. Over the years, they have supported every aspect of the school, from mentoring and tutoring children, to hosting teacher/staff luncheons to landscaping the front of the school building. PENCIL thanks the employees at Hardaway for being truly dedicated to the students and staff at Jere Baxter! 🏡



Jere Baxter students stand in front of their new classroom clock. Hardaway Group purchased one for every classroom this year.



The Hardaway's have a history with Jere Baxter that goes beyond their partnership. Hall Hardaway is pictured here in 1947 (front row, far left) – the Davidson County Basketball Champs!

HOW THEY HAVE SUPPORTED JERE BAXTER:

- ◆ Adopted families at Christmas
- ◆ Landscaping projects
- ◆ Purchased honor roll pins
- ◆ Greeted students on first day with pencils
- ◆ Donated books to school library honoring volunteers
- ◆ Honored Citizen of the Month
- ◆ Purchased new atomic clocks for every classroom
- ◆ Landscaped the front of the building
- ◆ Planted trees in memory of students/staff that passed



pencil
foundation

421 Great Circle Road
Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37228

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