

HOPE

JUNE 2010

in focus



Focus: HOPE
Celebrating Diversity Since 1968

Family Learning Center

SPECIAL EDITION

Center will be community resource for area residents

Welcome to the Family Learning Center, a community resource center for residents of the neighborhoods surrounding Focus: HOPE's campus.

This center will provide a range of services, including:

- Computer training and internet access
- Safety education and training
- Tutoring and homework assistance
- Resource for health and nutrition information
- Links to social services, health services, utility assistance
- Financial literacy classes
- A credit union and ATM access
- Location for community meetings

This Family Learning Center will serve the residents of the neighborhoods surrounding the Focus: HOPE Campus. It will engage children, youth and adults through personal and professional development, community-led special interest groups, academic support services, neighborhood health and safety initiatives and community-building events.

Founding sponsor of the Family Learning Center is The Links, Incorporated, an association of professional women of color. The Grand Opening coincides with their national assembly in Detroit. Links members are offering free workshops and health screenings for adults and children during the Grand Opening as part of a service commitment they make in each city that hosts their national conference.



"The Links have made it possible for Focus: HOPE to open a learning center that will provide families, children and senior citizens with services ranging from homework assistance and tutoring to computer training and internet access," said William F. Jones, Jr., CEO of Focus: HOPE. "This center is an integral part of our HOPE Village Initiative which is committed to having a profound effect on the lives of families and children in our neighborhood."

The manager of the center will be Onia Pilgrim, a

longtime Focus: HOPE colleague who previously was manager of Student Life and Living Skills. She will be assisted by Yolanda Baker, another longtime Focus: HOPE colleague who works in the food program. The center will officially open on Monday, July 12.

Other sponsors include Skillman Foundation, Charter One and Briggs Fisher Foundation.

Open House Hours:

July 29 10 am – 2 pm

Visit the center this week:

June 30 9 am to 5 pm

July 1 5 pm to 8 pm

July 2 9 am to 5 pm



This photo by Daimon Lee-Boyd, a junior at Central High School, took first place in a competition among youths participating in our Excel photography program. His photo and two runners-up photos are displayed in the Family Learning Center. Photos from all 13 high school participants were unveiled recently in a special exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCAD) in Detroit.

HOPE Village Initiative launches

The Family Learning Center is an integral part of Focus: HOPE's new HOPE Village Initiative which is committed to making deep and lasting impact on the community surrounding our campus.

"This initiative grew out of our longstanding commitment to job training programs for adults and our neighborhood revitalization efforts," said William F. Jones, Jr., CEO. "Our next step is to do everything within our means to help young children achieve success in school and develop to their full potential. Through the HOPE Village Initiative, we are working with local schools, block clubs, churches and community groups to make the neighborhoods around our campus a desirable place to live, work and raise a family."

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Puppet project culminates in parade

On a seemingly gloomy day, students from Glazer Elementary School, Paul Robeson Academy, and the University of Michigan provided vibrant rays of sunshine during their parade through the neighborhood around Focus: HOPE. The students, along with their U-M leaders, marched down the sidewalk with colorful paper mache puppets and cardboard robots.

The parade was the culmination of a project through which U-M students, who are part of the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergrads (GIEU), worked with the students to create puppets and robots as a means of sparking a discussion about each other's lives, college culture, and the importance of education. The puppet creations represented outer space aliens learning about life on Earth.

While working with the elementary students, the U-M students literally lived at Robeson, camping on the floor and cooking in the school kitchen. In the evenings and on the weekend, they volunteered at Focus: HOPE and other local non-profit organizations. Upon completion of the puppet project, the college students flew to Italy to work in a small village and learn traditional Italian float-making.



Robeson youths built and raced wheelie cars

Several weeks of building electric wheelie cars culminated in a competition at Michigan International Speedway on June 11 between two teams of eighth graders from Paul Robeson Academy.

Putting on a show for family, friends, and NASCAR supporters, the students let loose on a miniature drag racing course. Onlookers cheered on as the students competed against one another in four events.

The 12 students had built cars after school on Fridays at Focus: HOPE's Center for Advanced Technologies under the direction of Robeson science teacher, Derek Sales.

In the end, Team Savage edged out Team Comeback in the unique competition—but all the eighth graders emerged as winners after learning how to use tools, assemble the battery-powered vehicles, and drive them without benefit of a steering wheel.

Members of Team Savage included Alize Baker, Camilia Berry, Duane Woods, Raymond Withers, Brooklyn Kirksey, and Ryon Walker. Team Comeback featured Octavia Howard, Dazhanay Allen, Anita Bailey, Larry Tharpe, Havert Beal, and Lance Cunningham. The Focus: HOPE engineering students who mentored the eighth graders included Ashley Billings, Shelly-Ann Morrison, Dennis Simmons, Tasha Thomas and John White.

"It's awesome!" said Ryon Walker. "We learned how to build a car and how to work as a team to achieve a goal." Brooklyn Kirksey added, "This is a great program. It's very educational and I would recommend it to all students."

The program was made possible by support from the SME Foundation and Shop Rat Foundation, which provided the wheelie car kits and arranged the day at MIS.



The race at Michigan International Speedway proved challenging for Teams Savage and Comeback. At top, Brooklyn Kirksey takes the lead against Havert Beal. Below, Camilia Berry shows it takes coordination to use both hands to steer the electric car.

Needed: Volunteers to build playscape

Join us in helping Paul Robeson Academy build a new playground on Saturday, July 24.

Volunteers will gather at the school, on Fenkell at Linwood, for a fun day of work and play, constructing a playscape that was designed by parents and students.

Sign up to assemble playground equipment, help with youth activities (like painting or planting), serve food, assist with registration, work on side projects (like building picnic benches), and more! The build will last from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Breakfast, lunch, snacks, water, and music will be provided. Over 200 volunteers are needed. Sign up by calling **313.494.4352**.

Robeson and Focus: HOPE are partnering with KaBOOM!, a national non-profit that helps local partners design, fund, and build playscapes in communities across the country. This playscape is sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.



Yes I Can Achieve Summer Camp

A group of 40 children will write their own books, plant flowers and vegetables, open a bank account, and build their math and reading skills in an exciting six-week summer camp.

The camp is for children who will enter third grade in the fall. This innovative pilot program is designed to inspire creativity and awaken the genius of children who live in the Focus: HOPE neighborhood. The structured programs are designed to inspire a passion for learning and expose children to a world outside of their borders.

Although the camp currently is filled to capacity, there is a waiting list in case of last-minute cancellations. For more information, call **313.494.4198**.

Construction to start on apartment building

Lutheran Child & Family Service of Michigan (LCFS), along with Focus: HOPE and The Damone Group, broke ground recently for construction of Oakman Place Apartments, a \$5.1 million affordable housing community for homeless youth and low income families.

The development will assist, in particular, youths who age out of the foster care system. Onsite supportive services will help youths seek employment, enroll in education programs, and manage their finances. Access to public transportation will allow youth to travel to work, personal appointments and school.

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.

Public Service Credit Union opens branch

Public Service Credit Union opened a one-stop banking and investment center in Focus: HOPE's Center for Advanced Technologies, 1400 Oakman Boulevard.

The credit union will provide a wide variety of financial services, including information on credit scores and how they affect your future, danger signs of debt, strategies for dealing with debt, how to establish and maintain good credit and credit repair.

Their six existing locations, as well as their 1,800 partner branches nationwide, provide easy access to members. The Focus: HOPE branch is open three days a week (9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays and 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays). An ATM, located in the lobby of the CAT building, is accessible Monday–Friday.

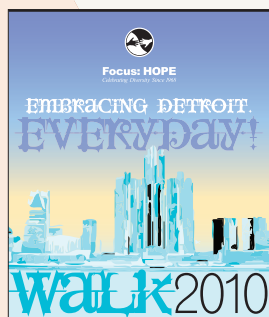
Learn home repair techniques in free workshops



Workshops on various aspects of home repair will continue on Saturdays through the summer at the Focus: HOPE Conference Center, 1400 Oakman Boulevard. They are presented by the Greater Mid-Detroit/Highland Park Community Development Council, WARM Training Center, and Focus: HOPE. Register for the workshops by calling **313.494.4468** or by email to johnsos2@focushope.edu.

Upcoming free workshops include:

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| July 17 | Introduction to Carpentry. Learn basic home carpentry skills, including selecting the right hand tool for the task at hand. | August 1 | Basic Wall Repair 1 and Painting. Learn how to assess wall problems and implement repair techniques with wet plaster or dry wall. |
| July 24 | Introduction to Plumbing. Learn how to repair your toilet or faucet and its parts. | August 14 | Basic Wall Repair 2 and Painting. Additional wall repair techniques will be explained, such as tuck pointing and concrete repair as well as basic painting techniques. |
| July 31 | Basic Electrical Repair. The session will explain how the electrical system in your home works and how to keep you and your home safe while working around electricity. Learn basic repairs including how to replace fixtures, outlets and switches. | August 21 | Weatherization and Energy Conservation. Learn the best ways to save money on your utility bills and how to involve your family in weatherizing your home. |



WALK with us

Please bring your family for the four-mile walk, entertainment, food, and camaraderie on **Sunday, October 10, 2010**, starting at 12 noon. Money raised will support our HOPE Village Initiative.

Details are at www.focushope.edu

HOPE Village Initiative *continued from page 1.*

The initiative will engage local residents of all ages in a wide range of programs, workshops, and activities. The primary components are:

Early Childhood—We are marshalling resources to support parents as they prepare their infants and young children to develop to their fullest potential. Offerings include parenting workshops for pregnant mothers and parents of young children, information on nutrition and “learning through play,” stress management and related topics.

Schools of Excellence—Focus: HOPE is working with three neighborhood schools so that each is a school of excellence. Programs already underway include exposure to science, technology, engineering and mathematics through hands-on-learning, in-class classroom assistance from retired teachers, cultural enrichment and exposure, summer academic camps, and more. The three schools include Glazer Elementary School, Paul Robeson Academy, and Joy Preparatory Academy.

Youth Development—Building upon existing programs targeted to high school students, Focus: HOPE provides creative media and arts education opportunities that engage youth in cultural diversity training and leadership skill development.

Community Health and Safety—Residents have the opportunity to improve the quality of their lives through wellness and fitness programming provided through the Family Learning Center. In addition, a range of educational forums, training and leadership opportunities are available to increase safety awareness and knowledge.

Community Revitalization—Ongoing efforts to revitalize the community include working with neighborhood residents and businesses on physical redevelopment and community building. Programs include new housing development, home repair, commercial facade improvement, park and green space revitalization, a community garden, vacant lot reuse strategies and blight elimination.

Broadband Initiative—Local residents will have the opportunity to become trained and informed internet users through a free course conducted by the Connect Your Community Corps in the Family Learning Center. Courses will begin in the fall. Residents soon will be able to use low-cost wireless high speed internet service in their own homes, thanks Detroit’s Community Telecommunications Network and a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Focus: HOPE Happenings

Photography Exhibit

Now until August 6

The Focus on the Mission Photography Exhibit is on display in the Focus: HOPE Gallery, 1400 Oakman Boulevard. Stop by to view the the stunning photographs taken by area high school students. The Gallery is open during business hours Monday through Friday.

Summer in the City

Wednesdays

Now until August 11

8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Children are invited to participate in sports, games, arts and crafts at the free Summer in the City program every Wednesday at Ford/LaSalle Park. Breakfast and lunch are provided. The activities are coordinated by volunteers from Summer in the City in cooperation with Focus: HOPE.

Fresh Produce Available

Tuesdays

Now until September 28

The Eastern Market sells fresh produce outside the Focus: HOPE Westside Food Center, 1300 Oakman Boulevard, each Tuesday. Fresh vegetables and fruit, mostly grown by local farmers, is for sale at great prices. Cash, credit, debit, and Bridge Card payment accepted.

Art Blast Jazz Concert

Thursday, July 1

6 to 8:30 p.m.

Friends and families are invited to our first summer concert of the summer in the Cool Cities Park, featuring Al McKenzie Trio with Penny Wells. The park is located at Oakman Boulevard and Woodrow Wilson. There will be fun art activities for children. Bring a lounge chair.

Free Eye Screening

Monday, July 12

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free eye screenings for children and adults will be available at the Focus: HOPE Westside Food Center, 1300 Oakman Boulevard. No appointment is necessary. The doctors will screen for glaucoma, cataracts, diabetic eye disease, and children’s lazy eye. Bring your eye glasses and all bottle medication. The screenings are provided by the Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons.

Art Blast Community Concert

August 5

6 to 8 p.m.

A gospel concert will be held in the Cool Cities Park, on the southeast corner of Oakman Boulevard and Woodrow Wilson. Bring your family

and friends for this free outdoor concert — and bring along a lounge chair. A brief community forum is also planned.

Hot Summer Nights Music Festival

Saturday, August 21

Musician Khary Frazier is organizing a sequel to last summer’s popular concert which showcased the rich diversity of talent in our community. Frazier expects to have local musicians performing a range of music from rock n roll to fusion to hip hop. Stay tuned for details on this free concert for people of all ages.

Internet Classes

Coming this fall

Classes in how to use the internet for education, employment research, and communication will begin this fall as part of a new broadband initiative. The classes are available to residents of the neighborhoods surrounding Focus: HOPE. Funding has been approved for developing an infrastructure which will ultimately give residents affordable access to the internet.