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EverBank selects Bridge to partner on teen initiative

The Bridge of Northeast Florida proudly announces they have been selected by EverBank for a partnership program targeting at risk teens. The *Fast Path* program, an EverBank outreach initiative, will engage selected high school students through a multi-year process. Teens will be exposed to a well-rounded educational and career development program including mentoring and tutoring components, and a financial curriculum. Qualified students, participating in the program, will be employed in summer jobs with EverBank.

Additionally EverBank will connect interested bank employees with volunteer opportunities at The Bridge.



Above: EverBank's President/Chief Financial Officer Blake Wilson (center) is pictured with Bridge students (left to right) James Smith, Tiara Sermons, Janetta Howard and Terry Mitchell. Wilson joined The Bridge of Northeast Florida's board in August and was pivotal in initiating the *Fast Path* partnership between EverBank and The Bridge.

Did you know?

This summer, more than 900 youth participated in Bridge camps city-wide.



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Important Notice

Effective with the March 2010 issue, The Bridge will replace its print newsletter with a digital e-newsletter version. To receive the newsletter electronically, along with periodic updates on Bridge news and events, please email your preferred email address to info@bridgejax.com. Should you later wish to opt out of email communications, simply send your request to info@bridgejax.com to remove your name from our distribution list.

Please be assured that we respect the privacy of our clients, friends and donors and will not share your contact information with others.



bridge connections

Where Children and Opportunity Connect

VOLUME 5—SEPTEMBER 2009

Bridge speaks for kids in city budget crisis

This summer The Bridge was mobilized during the city's budget crisis. Mayor Peyton's budget proposal, including spending cuts and a revenue increase for vital services, met with a mixed reception from the City Council. The future city funding of children's services was in jeopardy.

In response, Bridge board, staff, children and their families joined other area agencies and the Jacksonville Kids Coalition in advocating for city funding of vital children's services. We invited City Council members to tour our programs and met with them at City Hall. Friends sent emails and letters, and made phone calls.

Efforts resulted in the City's Finance Committee recommending a 3% cut for the Children's Commission. Summer camps will be reduced from 8 weeks to 6. September 29th's final budget vote was pivotal for Jacksonville's youth and services.

It is evident that our community recognizes the value of child-serving programs like those at The Bridge, and is willing to advocate for them.

Capital Campaign reaches \$3.85 million, renovations continue

Thanks to the efforts of Campaign Co-Chairs Poppy Clements and Terry Walton, and Weaver Zone namesake Delores Barr Weaver, The Bridge's capital campaign to fund renovations to the former Beulah Beal School edged closer to completion this summer. To date, the campaign has raised over \$3.85 million dollars.

Renovations continued as more than two hundred youth attended summer camp at The Bridge campus. Over the next few weeks builders will focus on improvements such as patching walls, painting and installing floor coverings and window treatments. In the adjacent outdoor play area, the asphalt is resurfaced and sealed, and a volley ball

court was added. In the shade of a stately live oak tree, picnic tables and benches will offer a place to sit with a book or visit with friends.

As construction moved into the final stages, we were blessed to have the help of Cheryl Thompson from the Duval County Schools. Her expertise and eye for design made an invaluable contribution to the renovation team.

Just \$150,000 is needed to achieve The Bridge's \$4 million dollar goal. For information on the Weaver Zone Capital Campaign, contact Cindy Sullivan, Campaign Coordinator, at 354-7799, ext. 136, or visit us online at www.bridgejax.com.



Above: CEO Davy Parrish and board members Dr. Charles McIntosh and Dave Edwards make visits to City Council.

Special points of interest:

- CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REACHES \$3.85 MILLION DOLLARS
- WEAVER ZONE RENOVATIONS PROGRESS
- VOLUNTEER TUTORS AND MENTORS NEEDED FOR YOUTH AT THE BRIDGE MAIN CAMPUS. CALL JUDITH BROWN AT 3547799 EXT. 137 FOR INFORMATION.

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Volunteer Spotlight – Interline Brands



Above: Interline Brands' 2009 Volunteer Team Leaders, pictured from left to right, are Debby Covington, Pam Maxwell, Tracy Flynn and Ryan Moor

Supply drive helps 500 youth

There are many ways for volunteers to help The Bridge. We salute Interline Brands, a great example of community volunteerism! For the third consecutive year, Interline sponsored our Annual Back-to-School Supply Drive to help Bridge students return to school prepared and ready to learn. Interline Brands contributed binders, pens, pencils, pencil boxes, paper, and rulers for over 500 youth. Many Interline employees went above and beyond to ensure that Bridge students would have the school supplies they need.

Other community partners joined Interline Brands in this year's drive. Over 300 book bags were provided via a partnership with Staples, and Jacksonville Orthopedic Institute collected numerous items at several of their locations.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our community partners for their investment in The Bridge's students.

Board members receive honors



Above: Mark Green with CEO Dr. Davy Parrish and Bridge staff member Chris Brooks. **Below:** Dr. Charles B. McIntosh

Mark Green and Dr. Charles B. McIntosh, two long-time Bridge board members, were honored recently with prestigious service awards. Green was honored September 10th with the Tree of Life Award. This humanitarian award is given by the Jewish National Fund to individuals in appreciation of outstanding community involvement.

Dr. McIntosh received the Certificate of Merit, the highest award given by the Florida Medical Association. He was the first African-American with a private pediatric practice in Jacksonville, and only the second in the state. He was a founding member of the Florida Sickle Cell Foundation, later serving as its president. In 2005, the Shands Pediatric Sickle Cell Disease Center was named for him.



Above: The Bridge of Northeast Florida was pleased to welcome four new board members this summer. Pictured from left to right are Board Chair Craig Van Horn, and new board members Susan Jangro, Mimi Stephens, Johnny Rembert and Blake Wilson.

Thank you to all the sponsors who make our Bridge work programs possible:

Baptist Health
BestBuy
Comcast
Moran Foundation
Shands
St. Vincent's Hospital
Winn Dixie
WorkSource

Winn Dixie Foundation supports teen employment

Winn-Dixie Foundation chose the BridgeWorks job skills/employment program at The Bridge of Northeast Florida, Inc. for a \$15,000 donation. This funding was used to provide 18 teens with stipends for eight weeks of employment this summer. A check was presented at the Monument Road Winn Dixie location during a celebration at the newly remodeled store.



Pictured are Bridge Director of Training and Youth Employment Programs Tanzy James and Winn Dixie Store Director Melonie Buchanan.



Dr. Davalu Parrish, Bridge of Northeast Florida President and CEO, with high school graduate and Bridge spokesperson Johnathan Horton.

Words from The Bridge

This summer's city budget process required our attention and time. The Mayor urged us to mobilize! Advocacy is part of our work and always a learning experience. City Council members were touched and influenced by the power of our young people's stories as they spoke at several of the hearings. They heard of the hardships and realities in their lives and the change that occurs over time through the positive relationships and the impact of the Bridge. The second best point was our ability to take the City's investment, combine it with private fundraising and produce measureable results that show improvements in the lives of children!

We extend our gratitude to all who became engaged in this democratic process! Together we created a vision for the kind of Jacksonville we want to live in!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONOR RECOGNITION—Gifts received through September 1, 2009

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The Delores Barr and J. Wayne Weaver Family

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