



Parramore . Kidz . Zone

*Leveling the playing field for Parramore's children
and equipping them to become successful, healthy, well-educated adults.*

September 2008

New PKZ Programs

Teen Xpress

In partnership with Orlando Health's Teen Xpress, PKZ now offers free healthcare to Parramore youth ages 11 to 19 once a month at the John H. Jackson Community Center.

Services include check-ups, mental health counseling, HIV/AIDS testing, reproductive healthcare, vision screening, treatment of chronic illnesses, nutrition counseling, and help in getting medications, specialty care, glasses, and dental care.



Raising Babies in the PKZ

In partnership with Orlando Health's Healthy Families Orange, PKZ also now offers weekly play groups to caregivers of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

During the sessions, caregivers learn about child development, and engage in interactive learning activities with their children. About 25 caregivers and young children attend each week.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Homework Room at New Image Youth Center

Homework Roomz flourish in the PKZ. This quarter we visited the New Image Youth Center and spoke with its Director, Ms. Shanta Barton.



Reporter: How many children attend New Image Youth Center?

Shanta: 23 children. It's amazing to see them run to the center after school, even though they know they must do homework during the first 2 hours.

Reporter: How do you motivate the children?

Shanta: Children who do well academically get to participate in extra curricular activities, such as dancing, field trips or movie nights.

Reporter: What motivates you?

Shanta: It's a two-way street. I learn from the children as much as they learn from me. We're a family and we look out for each other. On weekends, when I come in to clean, the children see me and jump in to help. They want to be part of what's going on. I'm glad I chose this job, and I'm glad the kids chose me.

Reporter: How does the Center make a difference?

Shanta: The Center provides a home for children who lack the attention they deserve and crave. Sometimes they just need someone to listen to them, and to have a place where they can smile, feel loved, give love and be themselves. They know I will be there every day for them.

Reporter: Give me an example of a child you've helped.

Shanta: Moise is a fifth grader at Lake Como Elementary School who fell behind due to issues at home. Moise's teacher and I came up with a plan to help him and as a result, he has done a lot better. He was even named "Man of the Week" for bringing his failing grades up to a B.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Newest Member of Team PKZ: Stanley Cromartie



In partnership with Orange County Public Schools, PKZ has hired a Youth Intervention Coordinator for Parramore! Stanley Cromartie brings to PKZ 18 years of experience working with and mentoring at-risk youth. With his office located in the Jackson Community Center, Mr. Cromartie spends his afternoons, evenings and weekends meeting neighborhood youth, helping them set goals for school, work and relationships, connecting them to tutoring and job training, and giving them the encouragement they need to succeed.

Summer Jobs and A Trip to New York City for PKZ Youth

In addition to enrolling hundreds of youth in summer camps, PKZ employed 11 Parramore teens this summer. Here's what 16-year-old Ira Robinson said about his first job: *"Working for PKZ made me a better person. I learned to respect others, and learned that you can always accomplish something if you're willing to work hard."* Ira will continue working for PKZ during the school year, answering phones and helping with outreach.



Ira Robinson and OPD Officer Amy



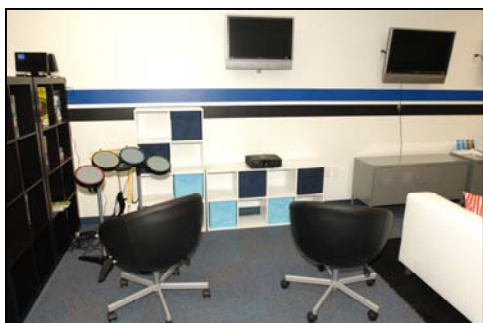
PKZ's Brenda March and Toni Shinn, marching in a peace rally with Geoffrey Canada, President of Harlem Children's Zone

Also during the summer, with financial support from the Orlando Magic, Ira and 22 other Parramore youth flew to New York City, saw the world from the top of the Empire State Building, marched in a peace rally alongside youth from Harlem Children's Zone, attended a Broadway play about the life of Thurgood Marshall, visited Columbia University, and saw the Statue of Liberty for the first time.

PKZ Supporters

Orlando Magic Renovates New Image Youth Center

This June, the Orlando Magic generously funded a complete "makeover" of the New Image Youth Center, including new walls, computers, televisions, bookshelves, musical and sports equipment, games, and furniture.



Thanks to our spring and summer Parramore Kidz Zone contributors:

Orlando Magic

AT&T

PBS&J

Bank of America

Walt Disney World

Westgate Foundation

Best Buy Foundation

Track Shack Foundation

Mayor Dyer's 2008

CityKidz! Buddy's Benefit for Children

will benefit Parramore Kidz Zone

Date: September 18th

Location: Amway Arena



Buddy's Benefit for Children



Thanks to the Track Shack Foundation, which selected Parramore Kidz Zone to be a beneficiary of this year's IOA 5K Run!



For more information, or to get involved, please contact Brenda March at the City of Orlando's Families, Parks and Recreation Department, 407-246-4295 or Brenda.March@cityoforlando.net

<http://www.cityoforlando.net/executive/children/pkz.htm>