



PKZ

Parramore • Kidz • Zone

August 2009

Parramore Kidz Zone is leveling the playing field for Parramore's children and equipping them to become successful, healthy, well-educated adults.

PKZ Youth Head Off to College

PKZ youth are going through an important rite of passage: graduating from high school and going to college and other post secondary institutions. Many will be the first in their family to go to college. PKZ helps Parramore youth and their families navigate the college and post secondary application and financial aid process, and offers college tours for youth to see what a college campus is like and speak to college students about their experiences. Gino Nichols is one of the youth who PKZ has helped go to college, and he is preparing to start Edward Waters College in Jacksonville as a freshman this month. According to Gino, "Going to college is like winning the lottery" for someone from Parramore, and now he's ready to cash in his ticket. Thirteen PKZ youth are entering the following colleges or other post secondary institutions as freshman this fall: the University of Central Florida, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), Edward Waters College, Valencia Community College, Lynn University, Garden City Community College and Orlando Vo Tech. Congratulations to Casilande Francisco, Chris Miller, Daniel Joseph, Eric Griffin, Etosha Starke, Gino Nichols, Jamaal Reynolds, Latisha Starke, Phillip Gordon, Rodney Poitier, Shamir Robinson, Carlos Harrison, and Tara Holmes.

**(L to R) Gino Nicolas, Carlos Harrison,
Casilande Francois, Jamaal Reynolds,
DeMarcus Womack, Ashton Bell, Eric Griffin**



Building Parramore's Youth Infrastructure

Orlando Magic Continues Dedication to PKZ



City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, Commissioner Daisy Lynum, Orlando Magic VP Linda Landman-Gonzalez and Community Ambassador Nick Anderson cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the Orlando Magic Reading & Learning Center and Teen Room at the John H. Jackson Community Center.

Orlando Magic mascot Stuff celebrates with Parramore children at the opening ceremony of the new "green" basketball courts made of recycled materials at the John H. Jackson Community Center thanks to NBA Cares, Toyota Project Rebound and the Orlando Magic.



A few yards from where the community's new Events Center is being constructed, PKZ children joined Orlando Magic, Hunt Construction Management Team, and HZ Construction at their "Construction & Kids Safety BBQ" celebrating the construction of the Orlando Events Center. Activities for the children included learning from minority subcontractors, viewing the construction, and receiving a hard hat signed by Orlando Magic Community Ambassadors, Bo Outlaw and Nick Anderson.

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Events that Make A Difference

Feed The Children Comes to the City of Orlando thanks to NBA Player Marquis Daniels



Marquis Daniels with Parramore children.
(L to R) Gino Nicolas, Carlos Harrison, Casilande
Francois, Jamaal Reynolds, DeMarcus Womack,
Ashton Bell, Eric Griffin

NBA player and Parramore native Marquis Daniels, in partnership with international hunger relief organization Feed The Children, gave 400 Parramore families boxes of food and personal care items on July 17 at the City of Orlando's Downtown Recreation Complex.

PKZ Cultural Arts Program at the Orlando Pottery Studio

The art of Parramore children was displayed at the City's Art Extravaganza on August 14, 2009 in the Orlando City Hall Rotunda. This event featured the artwork of summer campers from all the City's community centers. Parramore youth have also been creating art at the City's Pottery Studio in the Clay Camp and Teenz Clay Club launched in partnership with PKZ. The participants have learned how to use their hands to sculpt a wide variety of projects including Africans masks and a menagerie of animals.



Back to School in Parramore

PKZ Pool Party and "Lock-In" Celebrates the End of Summer



PKZ teens enjoying the pool party at the lock-in event.

PKZ hosted an end-of-summer celebration for Parramore youth ages 13 to 18 on August 1st and 2nd, as part of a Youth Development Program funded by Dr. Phillips Charities. The event began with a pool party at the John H. Jackson Center pool and, later in the evening, participants were "locked in" for the night, with the girls staying at the John H. Jackson Community Center and the boys sleeping over at the Orlando Downtown Recreation Complex. During the "Lock In," the teens participated in life skills programming, heard speakers regret lives behind bars, competed

for prizes in a variety of contests, and broke bread together at barbeques and breakfasts. The Lock-In was the latest of PKZ's many efforts to give older Parramore youth positive things to do and safe places to hang out in the neighborhood.

Drop Back In at the John H. Jackson Community Center

PKZ community partner Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. is beginning its second year of the Drop Back In program at the John H. Jackson Community Center. Starting August 24, 2009, youth ages 16-21 who have dropped out of high school can enroll and earn their high school diploma. Contact the center at 407.246.2327 for more information.



To sponsor a PKZ project or for more information, please contact Brenda March at the City of Orlando's Families, Parks and Recreation Department, 407-246-4295 or Brenda.march@cityoforlando.net