

Solutions Night focuses on technology

Duquesne City Schools representatives interact with parents, students

BY MICHAEL DIVITTORIO

New technology for students was the focus of Duquesne City School District's Solutions Night on Thursday.

Parents and their children learned about technology that will be available for the approximately 350 kindergartners through sixth-graders next school year.

The district purchased an iPad cart with 20 iPads, and materials to improve its English and math curricula.

The iPads will remain at the school and are not for students to take home.

Assistant to the Superintendent Stan Whiteman said the district does not have enough iPads to give to every student, but the devices will be very useful tools.

"Two plus two is still four," Whiteman said. "It's going to be that way. That part of education hasn't changed, but the way education has evolved is how we get to that answer."

Every classroom will have upgraded projectors with Apple TVs.

"All school districts and our children are advancing and evolving in technology," district behavior specialist Eric Harper said. "We have to keep (our students) up to date and make sure our kids are going to be able to compete out here in this world for jobs and compete academically. When our kids leave, they're going to (either) West Mifflin or East Allegheny (school districts).

So we don't want them to lose a step."

"It's kind of unfair because I'm in sixth grade and won't be here much (longer)," Amnia'sha Zanders, 12, said. "For my little sister (Shautay'e McKoy, 10), I think she will learn faster and my niece will learn better."

Amnia'sha and Shautay'e's stepfather, Sean Powell, was pleased to learn the school will put such technology to use.

"A lot of people at home can't afford (iPads), so good for (the district) to get them in school," Powell said. "It's going to be a great thing toward the future because books will be obsolete soon. Everybody's going to be going to the Pads. If you go to church, people pull out Nooks and stuff. I'm like, 'What happened to the old Bible?' The times are changing."

Whiteman showed a brief video about the trail of data left behind by users of digital services.

"It's all about protecting yourself," Whiteman explained. "Anything you put out there digitally stays out there for life."

Harmony Tillman, who is 6 years old, will enter first grade next school year.

She said she likes her school and is excited to use the new technology to play games.

Surveys were provided to parents to gauge their interest and involvement in education, as well as provide feedback on various topics.

"We have to bridge the relationship between the community and school," Harper

said. "Right now the hot topic is our technology ... If parents want more information on healthy lifestyles, I'll bring that in. It's really parent/community driven."

The Pittsburgh Penguin Foundation provided 20 Kindle Fire devices this year.

Additional information provided at Thursday's event included documents from Bank On Greater Pittsburgh, UPMC Cancer Center and Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh.

Another Solution Night is planned for August, before classes begin.

More information will be sent to parents and posted on the district's Facebook page.

Michael DiVittorio is a staff writer for Trib Total Media. He can be reached at 412-664-9161, ext. 1965, or mdivittorio@tribweb.com.

"Two plus two is still four. It's going to be that way. That part of education hasn't changed, but the way education has evolved is how we get to that answer."

STAN WHITEMAN

ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT



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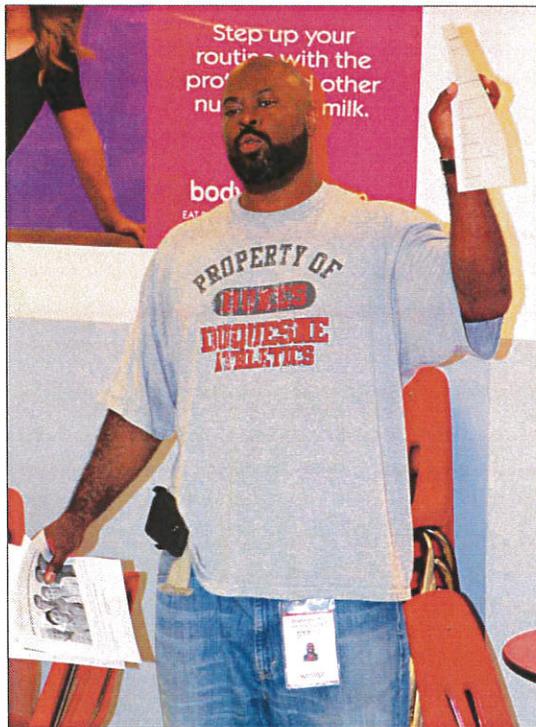


PHOTO COURTESY OF DUQUESNE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Duquesne City School District behavior specialist Eric Harper shows a survey available to parents gauging interest and involvement in education and technology.

B-PEP Jazz 2014

by Debbie Norrell
 Courier Staff Writer

On Easter Monday in Pittsburgh, B-PEP Jazz has become a staple. On April 21, at the Wyndham Hotel University Center, a six-hour jazz marathon featuring over 70 of Pittsburgh's best jazz musicians and vocalists came together to support the Black Political Empowerment Project. With support from BNY Mellon Jazz and with former Steeler and founder of the Best of Batch Foundation Charlie Batch as honorary chair it was an extraordinary evening.

Each year B-PEP honors community champions; this year's honorees included: Carey Harris, executive director, A+ Schools; Esther L. Bush, president & CEO of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh; Richard Carrington, executive director of Voices Against Violence; Mark Nordenberg (former chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh); and Amachi Pittsburgh led by Executive Director Anna E. Hollis. Amachi Pittsburgh works to empower the minds and overcome the challenges

for children of incarcerated parents. The awards were presented by Andrew Stockey of WTAE TV.

Roger Humphries and the RH Factor and the Tim Stevens/Leonard Johnson Project were the host bands and remembered three of Pittsburgh's jazz artists, the late James "Buster" Alston, Jimmy Ponder and Harold Young.

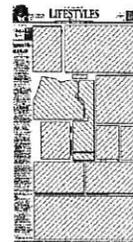
B-PEP is a non-partisan community collaborative, consisting of agency, organization and religious leaders, as well as committed individuals who seek to build political power and influence for the African-American community.



GUEST VOCALIST—Tom Evans

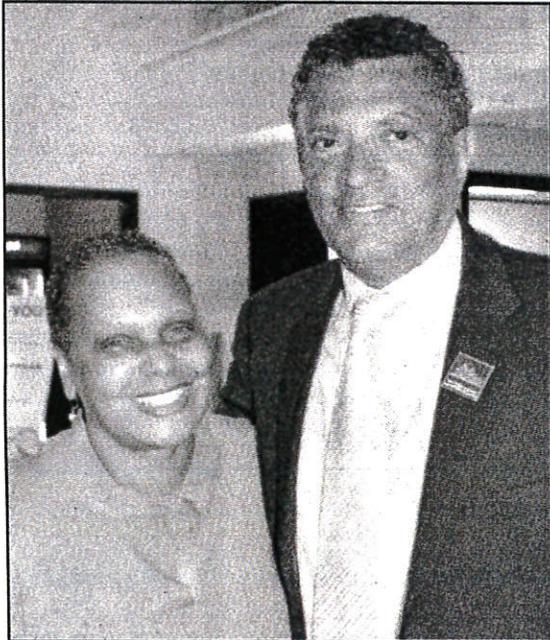


JAZZY LADIES—Crystal McCormick and Tamara Whiting





SAX MEN—Nelson Harrison, Kenny Black and Lee Robinson



WELCOME—Debra Walker and Tim Stevens



READY FOR SOME JAZZ—Aubrey Bruce, Marva Josie and Jerry Magnelli



HANDSOME TRIO—Al Martin, Roger Humphries and Derek Martin



HONORARY CHAIR—Latasha and Charlie Batch



THIS IS B-PEP 2014—Anna Hollis, Jack Simmons, Ellen Estomin, John Wilds, Charlie Batch, Esther Bush, Richard Carrington, Valerie Dixon, Cary Harris, Tim Stevens and Tony Mowad (Photos by Debbie Norrell)

LAWYERS JOURNAL

Attorneys Against Hunger raises all-time high of \$119,315

by Erin Rhodes

The Attorneys Against Hunger campaign of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation topped off its 21st year as a pleasant surprise, raising an all-time high of \$119,315 in support of local hunger service organizations.

"This was a record-setting year," said campaign Co-Chair Mary McClosley. "Accolades to the team, which was comprised of dedicated staff from the bar foundation and members of the bar, who generously donated time and money. This year's campaign will reach many hunger agencies and the people they serve."

The 2013-2014 campaign was underwritten by lead sponsor Steidl & Steinberg and supporting sponsor Clemons & Associates. This support ensures that every dollar donated will be directly distributed to organizations supported by the campaign.

In addition to underwriting, the campaign also received a \$15,000 challenge grant from long-time campaign supporters Rickson Seaman Charis & Melton, the Rita M. McClosley Foundation, and the McClosley family members of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

The bulk of support comes in the form of donations from ACBA members, law firms, and substantive sections and divisions of the ACBA.

"Given the difficult economy, it was a nice surprise to see the 2013-2014 AAH campaign set a new high for collections," said campaign Co-Chair Bill Saag. "Everyone who contributed should be thanked and should feel good knowing that 100 percent of the funds raised were used for the fight against hunger in southwest

Pennsylvania. On behalf of the entire AAH Committee, we are grateful to the entire legal community for the support we received."

Since its inception year in 1993, the campaign has significantly expanded its reach. In its first year, the campaign distributed approximately \$20,000 to three organizations. Today, the campaign supports 17 organizations that serve a diverse population throughout Allegheny County. The organizations range from small volunteer-driven food pantries to large-scale facilities like the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

"The Food Bank is deeply appreciative of the support we receive from the Attorneys Against Hunger campaign, not only this year, but every year," said Lisa Seale, chief executive officer of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. "It's because of such generosity that the Food Bank is able to help nearly 110,000 people each month. As our challenge continues to grow, it is heartening to know we have partners in our community like the Allegheny County Bar Foundation. Without such support, we simply could not meet the daily needs of so many friends and neighbors."

The campaign is not only about raising funds. The ACBA encourages attorneys and their families to participate in outreach events held in conjunction with the campaign. This year, outreach events were held at the Urban League's annual Thanksgiving distribution, South Hills Interfaith Ministries, and Rainbow Kitchen.

"We can never have enough AAH presence at the Thanksgiving distribution," said Jim Jackson, program manager for hunger services at the Urban League. "Some of the same attorneys have been coming for eight years. I just enjoy seeing them. They lend such credibility to our effort."



PHOTO BY JAMIE WELLS

AAH volunteers serve a Valentine's Day-themed brunch at Rainbow Kitchen in Homestead.

Since its inception, AAH has awarded over \$1.3 million in grants. The campaign currently supports the following agencies: East End Cooperative Ministry, First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Pictus in Rasnow, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Intervention, Jubilee Kitchen, Just Harvest, North Hills Community Outreach, Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force, Rainbow Kitchen, Saint Mary of Mercy Parish, Southfield United Church of Christ, South Hills Interfaith Ministries, Sagamore Hill Community Food Pantry, Trinity Cathedral, and Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Hunger Services.

For more information about Attorneys Against Hunger, visit the ACBA's website at www.acba.org.

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ACBA endorses bit-x-bit

by ACBA Staff

The Allegheny County Bar Association has once again provided its exclusive endorsement to bit-x-bit, LLC to provide computer forensics, data loss prevention and electronic discovery consulting services to the association's more than 6,500 members.

"We are certain that our members will continue to find bit-x-bit's services helpful to their practices," said ACBA Executive Director David Hauer.

Since receiving the ACBA's exclusive endorsement in 2008, bit-x-bit has worked on more than 250 matters for over 60 Pittsburgh law firms and their clients, as well as hundreds of other cases throughout the country. As part of its services to the ACBA, bit-x-bit regularly provides assistance to ACBA

members with general questions relating to computer forensics, data loss prevention and e-discovery issues.

"We are again honored to receive the ACBA's endorsement. For the past seven years, we have very much enjoyed working with the ACBA and its members," said CEO Susan Ardison. "We will continue to strive to provide the highest quality of e-discovery and forensic services in the region to the Pittsburgh legal community."

Through the endorsement, ACBA members receive a 5-percent discount on bit-x-bit's hourly charges and services, which include forensic investigation of computer use or misuse, the capture and preservation of electronic business documents, recovery of deleted information, hard drive imaging and analysis, backup tape

restoration; and processing of electronically stored information, such as de-duplication, culling and searching, preparation of expert reports and affidavits, as well as assistance in trial or other proceedings.

As part of the ACBA program, bit-x-bit regularly plans and holds continuing legal education courses. Since 2008, bit-x-bit has prepared and coordinated 11 CLE programs, including the annual E-Discovery Symposium, which is co-sponsored by the ACBA and the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. Other topics have included controlling the cost of e-discovery, document retention, technology tips in everyday cases, relevance of metadata, capturing and securing

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ATTORNEYS AGAINST HUNGER

2013-2014 Attorneys Against Hunger campaign raises all time-high of \$119,315

We are excited to announce that the 2013-2014 AAH campaign has raised **\$119,315**, the highest amount raised to date! We couldn't have done it without the generous support of the local legal community: attorneys, law firms, and sections and divisions of the Allegheny County Bar Association.



Generous underwriting from **Lead Sponsor Steidl & Steinberg** and **Supporting Sponsor Gleason & Associates** will allow us to distribute 100% of campaign proceeds to seventeen hunger service organizations throughout Allegheny County.

In addition to underwriting, the campaign also received a \$15,000 challenge grant from long-time campaign supporters **Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, the Rita M. McGinley Foundation, and the McGinley family members of the Allegheny County Bar Association.**

Since its creation in 1993, Attorneys Against Hunger has awarded over \$1.3 million in grants.

The campaign currently supports the following organizations: East End Cooperative Ministry, First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Focus on Renewal, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Intersection, Jubilee Kitchen, Just Harvest, North Hills Community Outreach, Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force, Rainbow Kitchen, Saint Mary of Mercy Parish, Smithfield United Church of Christ, South Hills Interfaith Ministries, Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry, Trinity Cathedral, and Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Hunger Services.

Thanks again to all who supported this year's campaign. Your generosity will go a long way in the fight against hunger in Allegheny County!

For more information on Attorneys Against Hunger, contact Erin Rhodes at 412-402-6641 or erhodes@acba.org.

Evolving dads: Fathers are bringing more emotions to parenting

By [Rachel Weaver](#)

Saturday, June 14, 2014, 5:47 p.m.

Brandon Coney was playing football with son Christian, 7, when the young boy fell and hurt himself. Coney immediately could tell his son didn't want to show how shaken he was.

"I told him it was OK to be upset and show emotion," says Coney of Regent Square. "I told him he's not any less of a boy because he cried if he hurt himself. It's OK to show that."

The moment was just one of many Coney has used to teach his kids about understanding their feelings. His approach to fatherhood is not unique. A report from the Pew Research Center shows gender stereotyping in parents is undergoing a shift.

According to "The New American Father," released in June 2013, the expectation for fathers to provide emotional support for children is nearly as high as it is for mothers. Fifty-two percent of the 1,004 adults who responded to the survey indicated it is extremely important for fathers to serve as emotional supporters. Sixty-one percent say the same about mothers.

When it comes to discipline, both parents are viewed as having an equally strong responsibility — 47 percent for fathers and 46 percent for mothers.

Dr. Deborah Gilboa, the Pittsburgh-based parenting expert and physician behind www.AskDrG.com, says the data shows a move toward society becoming less inclined to assign gender-specific qualities to parents.

"It's now socially acceptable for men to talk about more than three emotions — anger, frustration or boredom," Gilboa says. "It's a societal shift that's had a really positive impact on families and what guys now believe they can bring to parenting. Unfortunately, it's still noteworthy, as opposed to normal, to talk about dads instead of moms."

Coney, also father to Taylor, 4, and a board member of the Urban League of Pittsburgh Charter School, says parents veering from traditional gender roles is good not only for them, but also for the children who get to see both mom and dad as sources of emotional support. Coney's parents — Terry and Diedra — raised him in a similar manner, shaping the way he thought about parenthood, he says.

"My wife (Brandace) and I are always showing the kids that Dad loves you as much as Mommy does," he says. "My father would tell me his own father didn't tell him a lot that he loved him, even though he knew he did. My father took the time to do it all the time."

Jonathan Mayo of Squirrel Hill also says he learned about being emotionally available for his children from his father.

"My dad was fantastic," Mayo says. He and wife Sara are parents to Elena, 10, and Ziv, 13. "He was way ahead of his time. He was much more hands-on than other fathers of his generation. So, no one ever had to tell me I should be actively involved in shaping who my kids are. To me, that's what parenting is."

Mayo travels frequently for work, so being present for his kids when home is key. He says he tries to teach his children compassion by example through getting the family involved in charitable work. His son's recent bar mitzvah project involved collecting donations for a local food pantry.

"I'm always looking for ways to connect with them that way," Mayo says. "It used to be that dads were the disciplinarians and nothing else. But that's not effective unless you're a combination of all the other things. Discipline combined with leading by example combined with being present and emotionally available is as close to perfect parenting as you can get."

"You're always a work in progress, but if you strive to find a balance among those things, you have a better chance of looking back and knowing you did everything you can for your children."

Dr. Gary Swanson, child and adolescent psychiatrist at Allegheny Health Network and father of nine, says while fathers have always been viewed as the moral compass for the family, their emergence as emotional supporters is caused by several factors affecting society.

"When you had standard two-parent families and fathers had been the breadwinners and mothers were at home, it was pretty easy to say it was the dad's job to bring home money and the mom's job to give emotional support to the kids," he says.

"With two-breadwinner families now ... if dad is gone and mom is gone, then both shoulder the other loads that were primarily left to mom. We see dads doing more chores and providing more emotional support because moms are working and the work is divided."

Men traditionally tend to lead by example rather than through verbal interaction, Swanson says.

"In general, men do things and kids see that and learn by that example. Moms are very good at explaining things to kids. Dads are good at leading lives of actions that kids can see and say, 'Hey, I want to be like that.'"

Tony Drane of Collier, father of Joelle, 14, and Dylan, 17, does that by being there for his kids, whether it's at sporting events, school meetings or simply hanging out at home.

The three love to travel together and plan yearly trips. They also love to cheer on the Pens, Pirates and Pitt basketball team. But mostly, they just like being together.

"He cares a lot," Dylan says of his dad. "He always wants to talk. He cares about school. I like him as a person a lot."

As COO of FamilyLinks, a Mt. Lebanon-based agency providing family services focused on behavioral-, social- and developmental-health issues, Drane has seen many families from broken homes. He also grew up in a single-mother home, an experience that shaped him as a father.

"There is no blueprint, and no one's perfect," says Drane, who is divorced from his children's mother, with whom he shares parenting responsibility. "You just try to be there. That's most important."

For Dylan, that means having his dad at all his hockey games or learning about a band his dad loves to listen to. Joelle also shares her father's love for music, and appreciates his help with everything from homework to anything else she's dealing with.

"He understands me," Joelle says. "We get each other. We're very similar."

But, while his children rarely require discipline, Drane admits his role as dad can be stressful.

"Parenting is all about worrying," Drane says. "When they're young, you worry they'll fall and hit their head. Then, you worry whether or not they'll make friends in school. Then, they bring home their first boyfriend, and you worry. The anxiety never stops."

For Danny Shaw and wife Shayna, communication is key to good parenting. The Shaws of Squirrel Hill are parents of four children — Rami, 6, Coby, 4, Miri, 3, and Ty, 1.

While Danny Shaw says his wife is "really the backbone of the family," he does his best to learn from her and provide emotional support.

"I definitely think men have to teach their children to use words and that it's OK to cry," Danny Shaw says. "Men can do more emotionally than just go to work, yell at their kids and take them to ball games."

Danny Shaw always asks his children about what's bothering them if they seem upset. As the director of student life at Hillel Academy and a director of education for Emma Kaufmann Camp, he understands how children can have hectic schedules and long for calm.

"Kids' lives are stressed," he says. "The last thing they need is craziness at home. My goal is to make it a more relaxed environment for them at home."

Shayna Shaw says her husband "takes every opportunity to connect with our kids on their level."

"He is the dad covered in mud and spit up with a giant smile across his face surrounded by our four beaming children," she says. "He is understanding, honest and expressive."

The two of us truly value and nurture our own relationship as spouses and parents, and I believe this helps our children feel supported emotionally, as well."



Brandon Coney with wife Brandace , son Christian, 7, and daughter Taylor, 4

Submitted



Program gives students a voice to express concerns about violence

by Tracy Carbaso

More than 2,000 local students participated in this year's Do the Write Thing (DWT) challenge to share their thoughts about violence and its ramifications.

"The program continues to grow in popularity because the violence problem is rising itself within many schools and teachers are excited about this innovative program, which empowers their leadership in guiding the students to tackle the violence issue," said Allegheny County Clerk of Common Pleas Judge Dwayne Woodruff, who co-chairs the Pittsburgh DWT initiative with his wife, Joy. "This program opens up the lines of communication around the subject of violence. It also increases the students' awareness about the effects of violence and leads to more mental sensitivity."

The DWT challenge, an initiative of the National Campaign to Stop Violence, gives students a chance to participate in classroom discussions and write an essay about the impact of violence. Following a discussion about the problem, students are asked to promise not to be involved in violent situations.

Local youth began participating in 2004 with 30 students writing essays. Participation has grown dramatically since then with 1,800 students taking part last year and a total of 2,534 this year. The students represent 47 schools within the Pittsburgh Public Schools, the Woodland Hills School District and the Catholic Diocese.

The effort is also aimed to help students express their feelings about how violence has impacted them personally, what they believe causes youth violence, and what they think could be done to reduce its prevalence.

"I am involved in countless working with this program primarily by the desire to celebrate our students for doing something positive in contrast to the negative view of our children that we see on television and in my courtroom," said Woodruff, a judge in the Family Division. "Additional motivation comes from the sentiments of teachers and parents who tell me how much this program means to the students and how this celebration is such a unique and beneficial opportunity for students, parents and teachers from all different neighborhoods and schools to come together and share. It breaks down barriers and builds bridges."

The essays are reviewed by students at Carnegie Mellon University and the Duquesne University School of Law. They are then forwarded for review by local leaders and dignitaries who volunteer to read the students' work.

Two first place winners, a male and a female, are selected as national ambassadors to represent the local area at the National Campaign to Stop Violence celebration in Washington, D.C.

The local students receiving top honors were Katie Hanchett from Woodland Hills Academy and Anthony Ramsey from St. Elizabeth Elementary. They both received a laptop computer, Pittsburgh Steelers tickets and a monetary award.

Second place winners, who received an Android tablet and other prizes, were Isamar Holey from Pittsburgh Schiller and Alexander Hill from St. Martin's. Third place winners, who received a Kindle Fire e-reader and other prizes, were Melissa Aares from Pittsburgh CUSA and Eleana Frye from Pittsburgh Sacrament.

All of the students' teachers received Steelers tickets and visa cards.

A recognition dinner was held in May at the David L. Lawrence Convention

Center to honor the students and their teachers. More than 500 people attended the celebration and the names of 122 students, considered to have the best writings, were announced. All of the students got to walk across the stage, receive their prize packets and be congratulated by numerous judges, including Woodruff, Alexander Hicker, Guido DeLuca, Kathleen Malligan, Eleanor Bush and retired Judge Livingston Johnson. Other judges who support the program throughout the year are Kim Bartlesley Clark and Katelya Jones-Cross, Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Max Baer also attended the dinner to congratulate the students and show support for the program.

"My vision is to one day celebrate all of the students who participate in the DWT program as one of the students. I would also love to send DWT representatives from each participating school to give the students and encourage the incoming seventh and eighth graders to participate the following year," said Woodruff. "Volunteers are needed to plan and conduct such assemblies, along with others to help raise funds to meet the anticipated increase in the number of students who participate in the program."

Funds for the program currently come from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, United Assistance, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and DWT Mallin. The Steelers and Pirates donate game tickets and Clear Edge provides coasters for all 50 tables at the dinner.

"We are very grateful to each sponsor as it would be impossible to have such a positive and successful program without their support," said Woodruff. "We pray for additional funds to accommodate the growth that we are experiencing."

Woodruff said it is impressive that people like Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin, Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala Jr., County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Highmark Inc.'s Senior Vice President of Community Affairs Evan Fryler, Highmark's Community Specialist Alex Marchewka, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh President Fisher Bush, UPMC's Director for Youth Programs Woodruff Torbert, Clerk of Common Pleas Family Division judges, and other local leaders take the time to read the essays of the top students and mark them.

"I think this lends credibility to the program and also gives these leaders a glimpse into the lives of our youth," said Woodruff.

Mike Manko, spokesman for the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office, said Zappala has been helping with the essay project for several years.

"There are a small group of staff members, including myself, who go through the bulk of the essays and then forward a small number to the district attorney for his review," said Manko. "This is an important project because not only you can gain insight into how young people view their community and those around them, it is quite valuable in formulating policies so they relate to public safety."

"Additionally, for some of these students, taking part in the essay contest may be the first time that they have ever spoken about some of the issues they deal with every day," added Manko. "While some of the essays can be heartbreaking, others are quite uplifting for detailing what these young people deal with and overcome each day in an effort to be a productive student."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE MARSH OF HANCOCK PICTURES

The Do the Write Thing initiative is becoming increasingly popular as a way to help students discuss their feelings about how to stop violence. A celebration was held in May to honor the students. The local program is co-chaired by Judge Dwayne Woodruff and his wife Joy. Standing, from left, are Joy Manbury Woodruff (first place winners Katie Hanchett and Anthony Ramsey) and Judge Woodruff. Seated are Judge Alexander Hicker, Kathleen Malligan, Livingston Johnson, and Eleanor Bush.

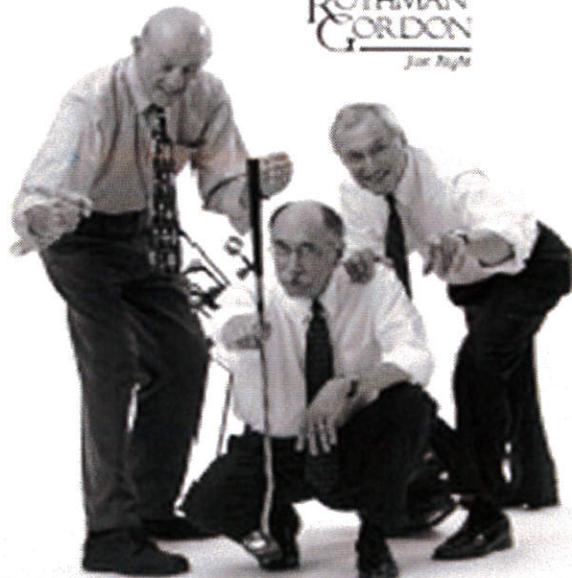
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Do the Write Thing Challenge dinner celebration

There were 122 middle school students honored at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center at the Do the Write Thing Challenge dinner celebration.

Students representing 47 schools within the Pittsburgh Public Schools, Woodland Hills School District and the Catholic Diocese, have written their hearts out on the impact of violence on their lives and have accepted the challenge to make personal commitments to help stop violence.

Over seven months, they were led by their teachers in classroom discussions on violence and created literary works which were originally read by students of Carnegie Mellon University and Duquesne University School of Law, which were then passed on to the Pittsburgh dignitaries to choose the finalists.

County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Steelers' Coach Mike Tomlin, Urban League of Pittsburgh's Esther Bush, District Attorney Stephen Zappala, Highmark BCBS' Evan Frazier and UPMC's

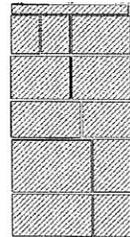
Winifred Torbert joined Allegheny County Family Court Judges in choosing the 122 DTWT National Ambassadors from among the 2,158 middle school student writers.

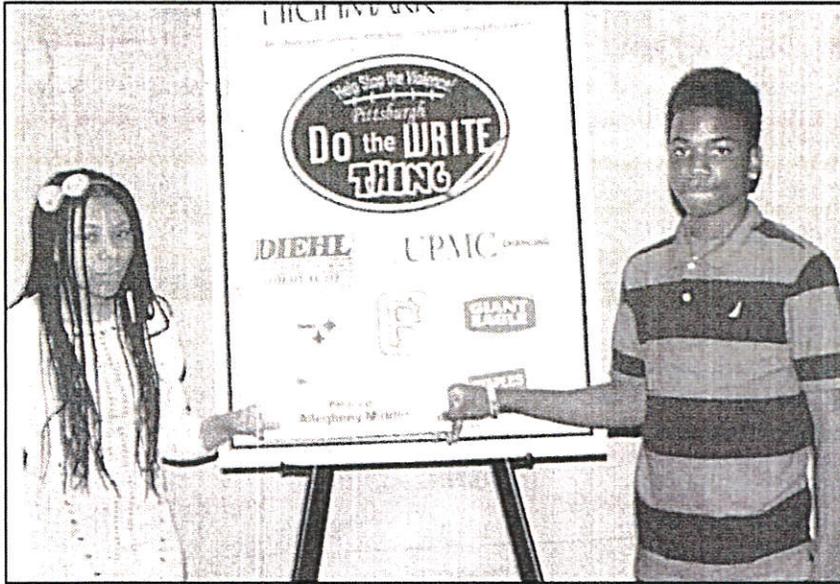
DTWT is a program of the Allegheny County Family Courts. In an effort to build bridges between schools and communities, the program brings together students, teachers and parents from all areas of Pittsburgh to celebrate a common goal: ending violence! During the event, students are given the opportunity to mingle and shake hands with Pittsburgh juvenile judges in addition to Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Max Baer. Additionally, Chris Moore of WQED-TV, PCNC-TV and KDKA Radio served as the master of ceremonies.

DTWT, with gratitude, receives generous sponsorship from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Diehl Automotive Group, UPMC, Pittsburgh Steelers, Pittsburgh Pirates, Giant Eagle and BNY Mellon.



CO-CHAIRS—Joy Woodruff and the Honorable Dwayne D. Woodruff, Do The Write Thing co-chairs, giving the welcome. (Photos by J.L. Martello)

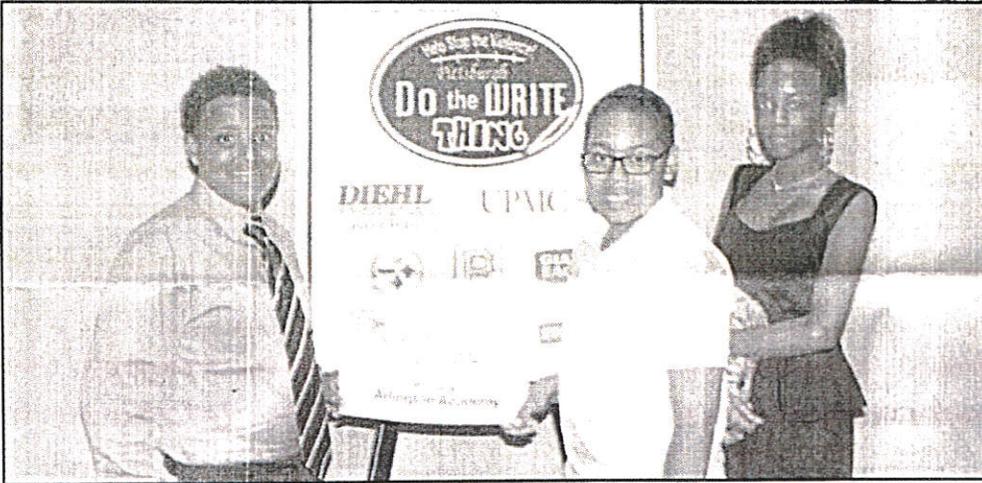




ALLEGHENY MIDDLE SCHOOL—Nyah Faulk, left, and Nasir Stewart



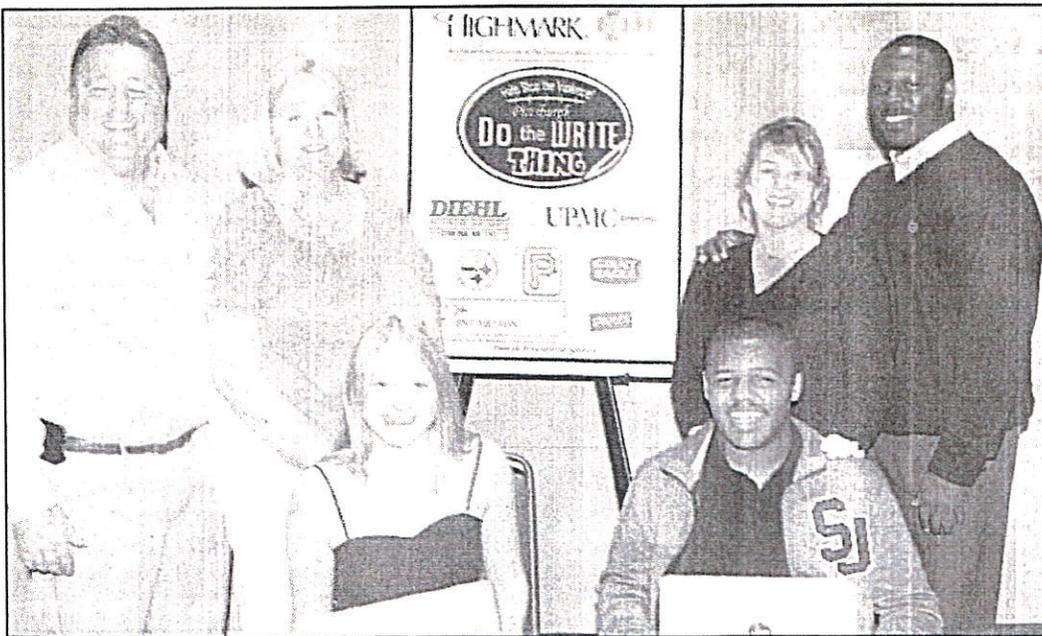
PITTSBURGH MLK—Mark, left, and Shy'neen Glover



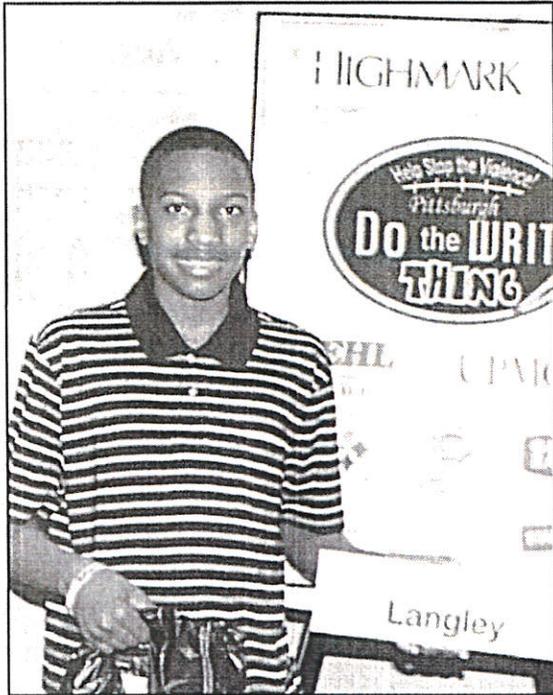
PITTSBURGH ARLINGTON ACADEMY—From left: DaShawn Cruse, Russell Harris and Daja Samuels.



MASTER OF CEREMONIES—Chris Moore



2014 AMBASSADORS FOR PITTSBURGH DTWT—Katie Hanchett, seated on the left, an 8th grader from Woodland Hills School District and Anthony Ramsey, seated on the right, an 8th grader from Saint Elizabeth, holding their new HP laptop computers and posing with their parents.



PITTSBURGH LANGLEY—Quincy Stanley



PITTSBURGH SUNNYSIDE—From left: Malachi Helenkamp, John Horsley, Adrionna Love and Alona Sloan.



PITTSBURGH SCHILLER—Summer Helvy



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The Do the Write Thing initiative is becoming increasingly popular as a way to help students discuss their feelings about how to stop violence. A celebration was held in May to honor the students. The local program is co-chaired by Judge Dwayne Woodruff and his wife Joy. Standing, from left, are Joy Maxberry Woodruff, first-place winners Katie Hanchett and Anthony Ramsey, and Judge Woodruff. Seated are Judges Alexander Bicket, Kathleen Mulligan, Livingstone Johnson, and Eleanor Bush.

Courier to honor 50 stellar men at MOE reception

by Ashley Johnson

Courier Staff Writer

After a brief hiatus, the New Pittsburgh Courier will once again celebrate 50 of the city's most stellar African-American men at its 2014, 50 Men of Excellence Awards Reception to be held Thursday, July 24 at 6 p.m. in the ballroom of the Fairmont Pittsburgh Hotel, located in Downtown Pittsburgh. The event honors exceptional men, who through their time and talents are making a difference in their communities.

"The New Pittsburgh Courier is pleased to present another outstanding array of men who exemplify the standards of excellence in their individual endeavors," Rod Doss, editor and publisher of the New Pittsburgh Courier, said. "We salute them on their varied accomplishments and invite you to join us on July 24 when we honor the 2014, 50 Men of Excellence at our awards ceremony."

This year's reception, which will be emceed by Lynne Hayes-Freeland, KDKA-TV news reporter and producer/host of "Lynne Hayes-Freeland Show," will also pay homage to two outstanding men, the Hon. Livingstone Johnson and Hon. Justin M. Johnson, the 2014 legacy awardees. The brothers are the first dual awardees to receive this honor.

Livingstone Johnson is a retired senior judge of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, which he served from 1982-2007. The Howard

University graduate earned his juris doctorate from the Uni-

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versity of Michigan Law School in 1957. Along with his judicial duties, Livingstone Johnson has also served as the assistant solicitor for Allegheny County; the chief negotiator of the United Negro Protest Committee; was the first African-American appointed to the Allegheny County Bar Association's Board of Governors; and so much more. He also served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War as a "double headed monster," flying in 58-night combat bombing missions, and was awarded with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Commendation Medal and more. He is also a charter member of the Allegheny County Hall of Valor.

Like his older brother, the background of the Justin M. Johnson is just as impressive. Justin Johnson retired in 2007 after serving 27 years as a Pennsylvania Superior Court judge. His appointment in 1980 made him the second African-American to be appointed to the Pennsylvania Superior Court. Prior to his judicial duties, the University of Chicago graduate who earned his juris doctorate in 1962, practiced alongside his father, Oliver Livingstone Johnson, and his brother, at the firm Johnson, Johnson & Johnson. In addition to serving as a judge, Justin Johnson has served as the assistant solicitor and assistant secretary for the Pittsburgh and

Mt. Oliver Boards of Education; an adjunct professor at the Duquesne University Law School; a chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Examination; and as a trustee for a host of organizations. Like his brother, Justin Johnson served his country in the U.S. Air Force from 1956-1959 as an aircraft commander and in 1963-1973 as a major.

The two have received many awards for the achievements and were inducted, as a part of the first class, into the Wilkesburg High School Wall of Fame in 2010.

Along with the Johnson brothers, the other 2014 Men of Excellence recipients are: Emmal Aliquiva, Hip-Hop on L.O.C.K.; Caster Binion, Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh; Cecil Brazos III, Bayer Material Science LLC; Reginald Brown, F.A.H.M., Colonial Life; Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess, Pittsburgh City Council; Bishop Otis Carswell, Potter's House Ministries; Winford Craig, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh; Paradise Gray, activist and rapper; Elwin Green, Luminaria Productions LLC; Jeffrey Grubbs, Pittsburgh Symphony; Paul Terrace Harper, PhD, University of Pittsburgh; Eugene Harris, Harris Consulting; George Howard, UPMC Health Plan; Melvin Hubbard El, Pennsylvania State House of Representatives; Lance Hyde, EQT; Billy Jackson, NOMMO; Charles Chernor Jalloh, University of Pittsburgh; Kevin Jenkins, Pittsburgh Foundation; Rev. Thomas Johnson Jr.,



The Neighborhood Academy; Rev. Cornell Jones, State Correctional Institution of Pittsburgh Prison; Darryl Jones, Pittsburgh Fire Bureau; R. Blaine Jones II, Esq., Blaine Jones Law LLC; Abass Kamara, The Carey Group; Brandin Knight, University of Pittsburgh; Robert McCall, chef; Everett McElveen, Life's Work of Western PA; Nate Mitchell, Natural Choice Salon and 720 Music Café; Richard Morris, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh; Josifani Munyika Moyo, Bidwell Training Center Inc.; K. Chase Patterson, Corporate Diversity Associates LLC; Dr. Chentis Pettigrew Jr., University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Clyde Wilson Pickett, Community College of Allegheny County; Curtiss Porter, PhD, City of Pittsburgh Mayor's Office; Richard Portis, XXI-C Industries LLC; James Reid, Brothers and Sisters Emerging; Gregory T. Rogers, JD, Point Park University; Charles Saunders, Boys & Girls Club of Western PA; Pastor Michael Smith, Destiny International Ministries; Eric Strong, Strong Cleaners; J.T. Thomas, Black-N-Gold Cheesecake Company; Page Thomas, Empty Space Design Inc.; Frank Walker II, Frank Walker Law; Wayne Walters, Barack Obama Academy of International Studies; Homer Walton, Esq., Tucker Arensberg Attorneys; Jesse Washington, AP writer; Derrick Wilson, Wilson Group LLC; Ralph Watson, Classic Events; and Reginald Young, Allegheny County Department of Human Services.

"Pittsburgh has an amazing history of powerful men that have dedicated

their lives to the empowerment of our communities and our people...I am honored to be chosen along with these amazing men," Rev. Jones said. "I hope (this) event brings awareness of the different levels of freedom fighting that people are doing. Whether it is in the prisons, streets or in the boardroom, we all have to be builders for our future. My 7-year-old son should be looking at me and saying that when he grows up he would like to be a Men of Excellence too. Lets Set The Standard!"

Reservations are \$75 and may be made by contacting Save The Date Creative Services at 412-828-7922 or savethedate_pgh@yahoo.com.



JUDGE JUSTIN JOHNSON



CHASE PATTERSON



JUDGE LIVINGSTONE JOHNSON



LYNNE HAYES-FREELAND



CURTISS PORTER