

Benevolence



Reflections on giving to BCS YES! Youth Empowered to Succeed

Fall 2008



Rev. Dr. William E. Flood

BCS YES! Man of the Year

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The Board of Directors salutes
Rev. Dr. William E. Flood
on the occasion of his retirement.

“Thank You, Bill!”

From the President's Desk

As many of you know, our long-time Executive Director Bill Flood retired on May 1, 2008. What most did not know was that Bill kept on going as he approached his 85th birthday. Bill soldiered the incomprehensible path of leading BCS YES! because of his strong commitment to keep providing direct care to disadvantaged youth.

At his tribute luncheon in June, Bill acknowledged that his retirement gave him more time to watch television. And what he saw caused him severe heartburn. Marching across today's screen are frequent and poignant appeals for funds to support the work of organizations devoted to protecting pets – “puppy dogs and kitty cats” as Bill put it.

Virtually missing are appeals to help the very helpless children and youth of the urban complexes in which most of us live. As Bill bluntly asked, “Are puppy dogs and kitty cats more important than the kids among us”? Are the youth of our cities, children with few advocates and scant media attention, worth less than puppy dogs and kitty cats?

Here are some disturbing observations that emerge from the Philadelphia Department of Human Services' annual needs-based budget for 2009:

- National trends show an increasing trend toward poverty among children... in Philadelphia, slightly more than 25% of the population falls under the federal poverty line.
- Philadelphia has an estimated 128,332 children under age 17 living in poverty, or over one-third (34.6%) of the 370,562 children under 17.
- Frequently children who are poor live in communities where resources are scarce and systems, such as education, health care and behavioral health, are under-funded.
- The School district of Philadelphia annually identifies 90,000 children who have eight or more unexcused absences.
- Of all placements [to private providers such as BCS – YES!] as of 6/24/08, children age 13 and older make up 46% of all dependent placements.

Leonard Pitts Jr., a reporter for The Miami Herald, put it this way in the concluding article of his 19-month-long series on poverty:

“Consider the math instead. If [an] investment of \$3,500 per annum creates a functioning adult who pays taxes and otherwise contributes to the system, why pass that up in favor of creating, ten years later, an adult who drains the system to the tune of \$60,000 a year for his incarceration alone, to say nothing of the other costs he foists upon society. How does that make sense?”

So, the next time you watch a heart-tugging appeal for abandoned pets, we hope that you will remember the abandoned teens growing up at BCS YES! and give generously to a cause of equal or greater human value.

Kenneth D. Campbell, President, BCS YES!



Dear BCS – I have enjoyed volunteering on Thursday evenings at the Meridian House in Royersford. What you are doing for these girls is wonderful. I wish I knew about it sooner! The past two years have been a blessing to me as I got to know some of the girls, *signed* Sally Mandracchia. Sally poses with Rocky the Rabbit and BCS volunteer Rosa Cespedes.



Presenting the Class of 2008

It was an afternoon of pomp and circumstance, fun and excitement, speeches and awards as BCS YES! residents, staff, and Board gathered together to celebrate the accomplishments of this year's seniors at the Graduates Reception on June 21st. William Hayward, Kendra Matthews, Sophany Sengvann, Hoa Truong, and Michelle Williams were cheered and applauded as members of the BCS YES! Class of 2008.

BCS extends heartfelt appreciation to Rev. Dale Miller and Rev. Charles Quann for their respective opening prayer and keynote address. Honoring the academic achievements of our group home and shelter residents is one of the many ways that BCS YES! empowers our young people to succeed. It is our belief that every youngster has the potential to succeed in school. Throughout the year, our award-winning Academic Tutoring and Educational Enrichment programs provide effective after-school support to residents who are at risk of failing or dropping out of high school.

The solid performance of our 2007 and 2008 graduates and the increasing enrollment in higher education among our residents are positive proof that individualized support and comprehensive, extracurricular programming are effective.

We are therefore proud to feature our high school graduates in this issue of *Benevolence*. Their remarks provide a snapshot of their success and future plans. Our gratitude is to our donors and community partners who provide the resources needed for tutoring and enrichment programs at BCS YES! Together, we are making a difference, one class at a time!



Hoa (Nikki) Truong was born in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, but don't be fooled. Nikki is an all-American girl! With fluency in Chinese, French and English, Nikki is well suited to study International Business. She is on her way to Penn State University – Berks campus. From Spring-Ford High School, Nikki received the Thomas J. Henry Memorial Award, given to a senior seeking further education.



Michelle Williams is also headed to Penn State University. Michelle plans to study Science at the Abington campus. Michelle participated in PIAA sports while at Frankford High School, playing field hockey, basketball, and soccer in each of her high school years. Michelle was also a member of the ROTC. To make the world a better place, Michelle will help young teenagers who are in foster care.



Kendra Matthews' response to the same question was equally remarkable – "Feed the homeless and help the elderly." In addition to earning her high school diploma, Kendra earned a place on the Honor Roll. Her certificate reads: "Kendra Matthews has demonstrated academic excellence by maintaining an "A" grade average and is hereby placed on the Honor Roll at Carson Valley School." It was Kendra's sixth time making Honor Roll!

Sophany Sengvann made Honor Roll three times throughout high school. Sophany circled independent living skills, and clothing and shelter as the BCS services that helped him the most. Sophany would make the world a better place by talking to youth. He would advise them to not take life for granted.

William Hayward lists World Cultures, Drama and Music as his 3 most favorite subjects. When asked which services helped him the most while at BCS, William responds clothing and shelter. How does William plan to make the world a better place when he becomes an independent adult? He writes "Help build houses for families."

BCS YES! graduates are all eligible to receive the Youth Empowered to Succeed Scholarship. We wish "our children" health, happiness and success as they pursue their dreams and make the world a better place.



BCS YES! Academic Tutors

PA-certified tutors provide on-site after-school instruction and homework assistance to BCS residents. Tutors also take an active role in attending field trips that enhance the learning experience. From left are Educational Services Manager, Rebekah Elliott, with tutors Althea Hill, Francine Stanback, Anjanett Reese, Sylvia Brisco, Samantha Duval, Karletta Turner, Amanda Hoffman, Jaye McNair, Edwin Santana, and Reading Specialist, Christine Burnley.

Creating Community with BCS YES!



Comforting Canines comes to Lewis Road Shelter. Bastian, Gizmo, and Tinkerbell and their owners provide cuddly fun to our shelter residents.



Awbury Arboretum, located in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, was the site for School House Lane Residents to learn container gardening with Awbury's Program Director Mona Margarita. Residents planted a 'pizza' garden consisting of tomato, basil, peppers, green onions, parsley and other herbs. The container gardening project was made possible through a grant from the Chestnut Hill Health Care Foundation.



before



Residential Center at Paschall



School House Lane Home for Girls



after

The BCS YES! Residential Center at Paschall is the newest BCS facility. The Center is the site of Thornbury and Logan, our two Homes for boys. The site provides dormitory-style living with ample community, recreational, and study space. Thanks to generous in-kind contributions from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia – Nutritional Services which provided industrial-strength refrigeration and kitchen equipment, and to Pottery Barn, which provided sturdy, stylish furnishings throughout, residents live comfortably in their new home.



School House Lane Group Home for Girls was the site of the 16th Annual United Way Days of Caring. FAMECO Real Estate employees teamed up with A & E Construction to provide an extreme makeover for the Home's interior and exterior. BCS YES! Board member Carole Davis was on hand to welcome the United Way and workplace volunteers.



The Lewis Road Emergency Shelter in Royersford received a face lift recently by our friends at DaVita. 50 volunteers from DaVita gave up a Saturday in June to paint and landscape, marking their third year of community service to the Shelter.

Community Partners Join BCS YES! Mission

According to an ancient proverb, it takes a village to raise a child. BCS YES! exists as a residential care provider of dependent neglected youth. We are part of a village that understands the importance of early intervention, proper guidance, educational support, positive peer-to-peer interaction, and adult role models. Our job is to provide stability and security in our facilities so that a youngster can grow and begin to develop their God-given potential. BCS YES! is not a hospital, nor school, nor a playing field. But we are dedicated to provide quality care, academic support, and socialization that adjudicated adolescents and teens have missed out on; services they urgently need in order to thrive.

BCS YES! is also part of a village that provides the financial resources that our direct services to at-risk youth requires. Our distinguished community partners are men and women who serve the public interest through community, family, and private foundations. BCS YES! is grateful for the grant-makers who support our continuous efforts to transform the lives of homeless youth. Grant funding assists in the development of program improvements that better serve the needs of at-risk youth. Our 2007-08 community partners are: (alphabetically)

Audubon Women's Club – Summer Recreation: \$600
 The Agnes C. & Robert L. Bard Foundation – General Operations: \$1,000
 Chestnut Hill Health Care Foundation – Health, Fitness & Nutrition: \$20,000
 Child Development Foundation – Psychological Counseling: \$7,000
 Child Development Foundation – Educational Enrichment: \$2,000
 Continental Bank Foundation – Recreation: \$1,000
 Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation – General Operations: \$1,000
 Fox & Roach Charities – Work Day Supplies: \$1,383
 Genuardi Employees Caring Fund – Summer Picnic: \$1,500
 Genuardi Family Foundation – Recreation: \$10,000
 Johnson & Johnson Families of Companies – Angel Fund: \$5,000
 Henry Griffith & Anna Griffith Keasbey Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation
 – General Operations: \$36,553
 Kistler-Tiffany Foundation – Recreation: \$2,500
 Laura Moses Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation – Recreation: \$4,153
 North Penn United Way – FEMA – Shelter Utilities: \$6,411
 Phoenixville Community Health Foundation – Health, Fitness & Nutrition: \$5,000
 Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation – Health, Fitness & Nutrition: \$20,000
 The Prudential Foundation – Work Day Grant: \$1,000
 Royersford Area Community Chest – Recreation: \$375
 W.W. Smith Charitable Trust – Clothing and Shelter: \$20,000
 George Stuart Bequest of St. Peter's Episcopal Church – Angel Fund: \$5,000
 Union Benevolent Foundation – Educational Enrichment: \$2,000
 United Way of Western Montgomery County – Capacity Building: \$11,570
 United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania – General Operations: \$28,751
 Wal-Mart Foundation – Recreation: \$1,000

Meridian residents and staff prepare for a day at the beach thanks to a generous gift for summer recreation from the Genuardi's Employees Caring Fund. Meridian Group Home Supervisor Jasper Crosby, center, and Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Guthridge, left, accepts a check from Genuardi's Public Affairs Manager Maryanne Crager.



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Thank You!

BCS YES! Gift-In-Kind Donors

Non-monetary gifts are provided to BCS YES! in abundance. For the coming school year, our residents will benefit from many in-kind donations.

Suggested items for you or your group to consider are:

Back-to-school supplies (back packs, scientific calculators, notebooks, binders, loose-leaf paper, pens, pencils, 3 x 5 index cards, folders); Toiletries (toothbrushes, tooth brush container, toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, skin lotion, feminine hygiene products; Clothing (men's: white t-shirts, boxers, socks, pajamas; women's: panties, socks, pajamas); Linens (twin sized comforters, sheets, blankets, bed pillows, bath towels, wash cloths; Birthdays (gift cards to Wal-Mart, Kmart, Target, TJMaxx, Marshalls, Foot Locker); miscellaneous items (duffle bags, craft supplies, alarm clocks, radios). Please contact Nancy Guthridge, In-kind Coordinator at 610-879-1440.

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Thank You!

In Memoriam:

Rev. Dr. Lincoln B. Wadsworth
-by Mrs. Juanita L. Wadsworth & Family

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The Man & His Smile



What better defines a person's sincerity than a smile? It is a simple expression with endless information about the one behind it. If you study people enough, you can learn much about their character through the other window into the soul; the smile.

When I met Dr. Flood, I didn't get my opinion in a meeting, a memo, policy, or the endless resumé of good deeds he has done for so many prior to coming aboard as the Executive Director. I found it in his warm, broad smile; one so radiant it brings out the kindness in one's eyes; the true window to the soul. It is genuine, filled with faith and light, and finds a way to bring out the same in others.

While you don't really know someone merely through one facial expression, I have found it to be an accurate measurement of

Dr. Flood's character. In getting to know this fearless, tireless, faithful leader over the years, it was obvious to me that his smile did not fail his character. Dr. Flood always said, "If the children need it, get it done!" His concern spanned beyond the children to those charged with the care of the children. After all, the best way to take care of those in need is to look after their caretakers. And he did so, in struggling times, with great concern for all. My favorite statement in all staff meetings was the last thing he said to us before we would leave the room: "Thank you for all you do." Most employers forget to do that, and those that do, well they don't always mean it. But I knew he truly meant it; every time.

I must add that his fierceness appears to be an equal and balanced side to the care and concern noted above. Do not mistake kindness for weakness. He did not always have reason to smile at us, nor did he. This beautiful expression was earned, which made it even more genuine. Dr. Flood has always been defined, in my mind, by a careful balance of concern and discipline. Respect and "the smile" were always earned.

Dr. Flood will always be a valued member of our family at BCS YES! He is admired and loved. So, without turning this into a novel, I only have one more thing to say: Thank you, Dr. Flood, for all that you do. This is said with a warm, broad, loving smile.

God bless.
(Anonymous)

From the BCS Archives

The institution was incorporated January 4, 1879. On March 15, 1880, the temporary home at the southeast corner of Seventeenth and Diamond Streets was opened. Mrs. J. J. Stadiger was the first president of the Board of Lady Managers. . . Dr. Benjamin Griffith was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Orphanage in January, 1883, about which time Mrs. Griffith became a member of the Lady Managers, of which Board she was elected president in 1884. At that time there was but one orphan, a matron, and a servant girl.

Excerpt from Benjamin Griffith – Biographical Sketches
Edited by Charles H. Banes, A.M. (page 231; circa 1920)

Gifts in honor of Dr. William E. Flood and proceeds from the Tribute Luncheon provided support for the 2008 Youth Empowered to Succeed Scholarship Fund.

Bill, as Honoree makes appeal



On May 2nd the Staff of BCS YES! received a memo from the Board of Directors announcing that it had regretfully accepted the resignation of Dr. William E. Flood as Executive Director. After 34 years of service to Baptist Children's Services on the Board and Staff, Bill had decided to begin his retirement years. On June 25th BCS paid tribute to a great administrator, advocate, and friend at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia. Receiving a shower of praise and well-wishes from over a hundred in attendance, Bill graciously delivered the following remarks.

I've been watching a lot of television lately. No, I'm not totally corrupt, not yet! I've watched the news and one of the things that has been so expressive of the news commentators is their concern with puppy dogs and kitty cats, showing them in such situations with the caveat that if you don't do

something, we're going to have to put them to sleep. So send in your money. Save the puppy dogs and the kitty cats.

Some of you know that I am a great pet lover. I've been surrounded by them most of my life. The thought occurred to me as I saw those images, send money to save the puppy dogs and the kitty cats, that someone has to speak up for the kids. Somebody has to stand up and say, "Give money for the kids. They are our future generation."

I would surmise that many might look into their wallets and checkbooks and give something for the puppy dogs and the kitty cats. But everyday on the streets of Philadelphia and the surrounding counties there are children in desperate need. And well they may die before reaching majority.

I'm proud of Baptist Children's Services and BCS YES! And I would hope that when BCS says there's a kid in need, that you'll write a check and give a contribution. Not for puppy dogs, not for kitty cats, but for children so desperately in need.

The Board of BCS YES! has to be commended for underwriting the support of this Agency. There are people who work on the Staff of BCS who serve without recognition and who over the years have not received adequate compensation for the work they do. They work long hours and have love in their hearts for the kids they serve. They are at best the unseen support of BCS. I want personally to commend them for the work that they do.

I'm proud of the Baptist churches who serve the needs of kids. I'm proud of the work and concern that we all have in the future of this country and its interest in the needs of kids and not just puppy dogs and kitty cats. Thank you for coming out. God Bless and thanks very much.

Editor's Note

January 4, 2009 will commemorate 130 years of shelter and care of children and youth by BCS YES! Youth Empowered to Succeed. We invite our family of supporters to celebrate our upcoming milestone year with a special 'stretch' gift to honor the work and ministry of caring for today's dependent teens. Also, send us your suggestions and ideas on 130 ways that BCS YES! might celebrate our 130th birthday throughout the 2008-09 fiscal year. With your involvement and above-average gifts, our key-stone event, tentatively planned for June 2009, will be an overwhelming success! Thank you.

Cheryl Barber
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Kenneth D. Campbell, President
Cheryl H. Barber, Editor

BCS YES! is the doing-business name of Baptist Children's Services. Please make a financial contribution that will have a positive life-changing impact on the boys and girls in our group homes and shelters. Thank you.