

The Book Report

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 2—Wine Tasting Fund-raiser



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A Message from Julia

YES WE CAN! Those are the words of President Barack Obama. Yes we can heal our nation and bring about change. I find inspiration, courage and hope in these words.

There is no doubt that the citizens and the children of Racine are facing some of the same struggles as the rest of the country. Jobs are being lost, homes are in foreclosure and people are scared. But this is when the children of Racine need the Cops 'N Kids Reading Center more than ever before. They need the security and the hope that the Center and our wonderful volunteers bring to their lives.

We are striving daily to bring the joy of books and reading to the children of our community and

throughout the world, and we have many exciting things planned for this year!

In April, we will host our first ever wine tasting fundraiser at Uncorkt. Save the date of April 2nd and get ready for a night of food and wine! And the 2nd



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annual Cops 'N Kids Golf Outing will again be held this August. We are continuing to provide exciting field trips and learning opportunities for our students,

but to continue the Center's success we need your support.

Thank you to our donors and supporters for all you do to ensure that our children will have books in their lives. These are difficult economic times, but I hope that we can continue to rely on your monetary support as well as your attendance at our events and even volunteering at the Center.

We look forward to the challenges and joys of 2009. Together we can work to assist children on the road to high school graduation and on to college.

With love and help from our supporters we can make it.

Yes we can.

“Grape Expectations” Wine Tasting

Please join us on April 2nd at the first annual Cops N Kids wine tasting fundraiser, “Grape Expectations” at Uncorkt, 240 S. main Street. For \$25, guests can sample 8 different wines and wine experts will be on hand to answer questions.

Enjoy a night of good food, wine and a “theme basket” raffle while helping to support the children at Cops 'N Kids. There is also a 25% discount off any bottle of wine that is purchased the night of the event.

The event will take place from 6:00-8:00pm and tickets can be purchased at Uncorkt.

Information, please call Liz Powell at 886-1823.



Annual Book Giveaway a Success!

On December 6, 2008 The Cops 'N Kids Reading Center partnered with Merchants Moving & Storage and held Racine's largest Book Giveaway ever. Over 1,000 preschool through middle school children and their families made their way through stacks and stacks of books.

The first 250 kids received Nike hooded sweatshirts donated by Racine's own Caron Butler of the Washington Wizards. The Racine Police Department, the Racine Fire Department and the FBI were present to autograph books for the kids.

The kids could also sign up for Racine Public Library cards and be photographed, finger printed and videotaped for The

Safe Assured ID Program.

Santa was on hand to hear the children's Christmas wishes and souvenir pictures were taken.

Wonderful entertainment was provided by several local church choirs. And there were tables for gift-wrapping the books being given as gifts.

Children also could enjoy making their very own crafts with glitter shining as bright as the smiles on their faces.

Culver's and McDonald's provided treat bags with juice and holiday cookies. All this was made possible with the help of over 100 volunteers, some from the Volunteer Center of

Racine and Racine Unified School District's distribution of informational flyers.

It is estimated that approximately 40,000 books made their way into the hands, hearts and homes of children!

- *Becky St. Martin*



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Witherspoon

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Rebecca, Antonio, Luca and Gary Alvarado look through books at the 2008 book giveaway.

Volunteer Profile - Cherie Lyford

For six years, Cheri Lyford has volunteered as the librarian at the Cops 'N Kids Reading Center. Cherie is responsible for making all the decisions that involve the library including, managing operations, training volunteers and overseeing library time with students.

Cherie visited the Center in 2002 and decided that she could use her education and work experience to create a library where students and staff could access a book through its author, title or subject. "It was a privilege to create a small library geared to the interests and educational needs of the students who attend the Center."

Cherie enjoys the interaction with the students that come to the Center and says, "the camaraderie of the staff and volunteers provide a warm place to volunteer."

When asked what she hopes for the future of Cops 'N Kids, Cherie says she hopes a larger number

of students will be able to participate. "With more students, better use can be made of the wide range of excellent materials that are located at the Center. I hope more parents realize the extreme importance of reading and education and the role it plays in the lives of children."

"I enjoy the interaction with the students that come to the Center."

- Cherie Lyford



Volunteer Librarian, Cherie Lyford.



Julia's Keynote Speech at NAACP Banquet

"Leadership by Example," that was the theme of the National NAACP Banquet in San Angelo, Texas on February 7, 2009. Julia Burney-Witherspoon, Executive Director of the Cops 'N Kids Reading Center was the keynote speaker.

Julia presented to over 400 attendees including the Mayor of San Angelo, the Police Chief and the

Assistant Police Chief of the San Angelo Police Department, numerous teachers, librarians and church pastors.

Julia's presentation centered on taking up the initiative to change things in San Angelo and not waiting for someone else to take up the cause. "You need to lead by

example to change your situation." Julia says.

Julia also spoke on encouraging children to become leaders. Julia told the story of how Cops 'N Kids was founded and how the Racine community was instrumental in it's success. She said, "No one person can do it alone, it takes an entire community to help you."

San Angelo's NAACP made Julia feel like a queen. Julia said, "I am touched that they thought of me as a person that leads by example."



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Cops 'N Kids New Basement

A HUGE “THANK YOU” goes out to Brent Montry, Entrepreneur of Tri-State Basement Repair. Because of his community and civic mindedness, The Center was able to achieve yet another milestone.

With the help of 30 volunteer inmates from the Racine County Jail, our dark, wet basement was transformed into a bright, clean, and dry space within 3 days.

Brent with Tri-State donated approximately \$15,000.00 in time, talent and materials. With the help from the Racine County Jail and Probation & Parole we saved an additional \$14,500.00 in labor for the week.

We never could have done it without ALL OF YOU!

Brent and his crew did a fabulous job! They were conscientious and diligent workers. They put their heart and soul into the job they did for us. We are truly grateful for all they did for The Cops 'N Kids Reading Center.

A special THANKS to Fairfield Inn Marriott, Kestrel Hawk, Culver's, Popeye's, 7Up Bottling, Deputy John Jacobs & C.O. Sheriff at the Racine Co. Jail; Jeff Fiddler, Superintendent of the City of Racine, DPW; Mike Miklasevich w/MM Investments, Dick Lorenzini and Michael Witherspoon. We

couldn't have done it without your assistance. Thank you also to The National Association of Waterproofing and Structural Repair Contractors, Inc.

THANK YOU to Brent Montry and his crew: Ron Olson, Edward Anderson, Brian Kerr, Jacob (& Charlene) Layton, Gabe Schultz, Anthony Spies and Craig Montry.

You have made a difference in so many lives and touched the hearts of many. The memories created here will last a lifetime. Especially the memory “Paco” created for us.

- Submitted by
Becky St. Martin