



# EducationWorks

Greater Philadelphia Edition

December 2010

## Ronald and Friends Unveil New Playground

On October 6, EducationWorks held a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open its new Early Learning Center (ELC) playground. Partially funded by Ronald McDonald House Charities (RHMC) and Nonprofit Finance Fund, the playground provides EducationWorks students a safe, clean, and secure play area.

The ceremony began with an introduction by Executive Director Marty Friedman, who stressed the importance of play in how children develop and learn.

“When children play, they do much more than just have fun,” he said.

Following his remarks, Jennifer Wilson of Academy Community Music led ELC students in song performances of “Hooray for Music!” and “Heynanna,” complete with choreography.

Board Chair Lisa Dickson spoke to the guests about how RHMC was impressed with EW’s service to the community and wanted to help further its mission.

Students then clambered to join Ronald McDonald, the other funders, and friends to cut the ribbon. Before the ribbon



EW Learning Center students help Ronald McDonald and Friends cut the ribbon for the brand new playground.



The new playground!

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touched the ground, the students raced to the playground. Ronald McDonald joined the fun, climbing and sliding, and also provided special entertainment by juggling while riding a unicycle.

“The playground is really nice,” said Tieshia Moultrie, a parent with two children in EducationWorks programs. “I like how everything is organized, and my kids really like it, too.”

As the students played outside, parents and

guests walked through the Open House, which showcased a range of students’ work. The Youth Media Initiative program set up a table to display their video and photography projects. Building Healthy Communities students made “Monkeysicles”—made of bananas, peanut butter, and granola—to encourage healthy snacking.

“It’s great seeing all the family and kids here,” said Ted Enoch, Education Director at Spiral Q Theater and a guest that evening. “We’ve been collaborating with EducationWorks for seven or eight years, and I’m thoroughly impressed. I’m excited for EducationWorks and the communities it’s serving.”

“These kinds of things have a positive effect we can’t quantify,” said Starla Crandall, an EducationWorks board member. “It’s very powerful.” ✨

## Shutterbugs Develop at Steel Elementary

Students at Steel Elementary School recently had the opportunity to get in touch with their artistic sides when a Visiting Artist from Art-Reach led a photography workshop. Julia Blaukopf, a well-known

photographer based in Philadelphia, led a group of 10 students as they explored their neighborhood looking for “stories that told their everyday experience,” with the assignment to make a postcard.

Ms. Blaukopf instructed the students not to take any snapshots, but instead to experiment with angles and subjects of the photographs. The students were then led around the neighborhood surrounding Steel, looking at their environment from a new perspective. Students chose to take pictures of everything from the sky to alleyways, as they searched for subjects to photograph.

Nikita Brazelton, a 6th grader, said of the experience, as she snapped a picture of a squirrel in a nearby park, “I’ve never gotten a chance to take pictures in school. I like taking photos of nature and wild animals and everything I see.”

As a partner of Art-Reach, EducationWorks has the opportunity to give students invaluable lessons and connections to the arts community of Philadelphia. Ms. Blaukopf said of her experience, “I love community arts because it is seeing art impact change and impact education and young people that I wouldn’t normally get to reach.”\*



A student at Steel Elementary School snaps a picture to tell her "everyday story."

## An AmeriCorps Member on a Career Path

Every day at 1:30 p.m., Jazette Moye walks through the doors of Hartranft Elementary School. The AmeriCorps member is an hour and a half early, preparing her lesson before she escorts 25 K-1st grade students into her classroom.

“Right now, we’re working on the MLK, ABC, And Me Mural—that one over there. It’ll be for this upcoming Martin Luther King Day,” Jazette said, pointing to a poster pinned up on the wall. She explains that the project-based learning part of the EducationWorks program is very helpful and fun for the students.

“They get to learn about something that has been done, or a message that they can let the community know about. Their job to put it out there helps them feel that they are important. They have a dream. The projects let them have a voice and people are actually listening,” she said. And the poster does speak. On it is a blend of images and colors so jaggedly placed that it seems every student contributed at least an

illustration or a glued-on piece of paper—an aggregation of many voices into a poster of peace.

Jazette is now in her third term as an AmeriCorps member for EducationWorks. The Corporation for National and Community Service recently issued a ruling allowing AmeriCorps members to serve up to four terms of service. Seeing the barriers Philadelphia children face to get a good education, Jazette took the opportunity to enroll in an additional year of service.

It is why she wanted to continue working with EducationWorks despite already having to juggle caring for her 2-year-old daughter and taking classes at Community



Jazette Moye, a third term AmeriCorps member, is heading towards becoming a child psychologist.

College of Philadelphia.

“At first, I wasn’t too sure about the job. I had just graduated from Northeast High School, so I felt like I was still a kid. I wondered if I could really do it,” Jazette said. However, as Jazette spent more time  
*(Continued on next page)*

## Meet EW's Board



**L**isa Dickson is the Senior Vice President, Finance, with Radian Guaranty. She was elected to serve as the Chair of the Board of Trustees in October 2010 after providing significant leadership as the Board Treasurer.

*Can you give me a brief background on yourself--what you do, where you're from, how you came to Philadelphia?*

I grew up in New Jersey, am a graduate of Rutgers University, and moved to PA in 1996 for a job opportunity.

My connection to the city really began in the Fall of 2008 when I had the privilege of joining the Leadership Philadelphia class. That experience acquainted me with the city and was a catalyst to furthering my involvement with education.

I now have had many opportunities to meet and work with great people in and around the greater Philadelphia community.

*How did you get involved with EducationWorks? Anything in particular about it that caught your attention?*

My passion for education and desire to be part of the solution for the challenges that this country, particularly Philadelphia, faces led me to EducationWorks. In the winter of 2009, I was introduced to various education organizations. What I liked about EducationWorks was its holistic approach to education and how it engages students of all ages throughout the year, not just during the traditional school day or year.

*What has your experience been working with EducationWorks?*

The first word that comes to mind is rewarding. It has been a personally satisfying experience and a great opportunity to help EducationWorks support its mission to improve children's odds of obtaining a quality education. To me, one of the pivotal moments was the Champions for Children's event this past June, a great reminder about what serving EducationWorks is all about. It was humbling to listen to the students, parents, and caregivers talk about what EducationWorks has meant to them.

*You are just taking over as Board Chair; what made you decide to take on this position with EducationWorks?*

I was motivated to continue the momentum that the organization and the Board have built up in the last few years, as I strongly believe in the importance of EducationWorks' mission.

I was also inspired by the genuine caring and the support of EducationWorks by its staff, many volunteers, and Board members. I hope to continue to inspire active leadership and involvement in support of EducationWorks and its mission.

*Where would you like to see EducationWorks go in the future?*

The ultimate goal is to serve as many students as we can, enriching their lives and ultimately increasing the number of high school graduates. By increasing the level of awareness of the positive impact EducationWorks provides, we can increase private and public support and advocacy on our behalf. With increased support, we can serve more children and have an even more significant impact on reducing high school drop out rates.

In the end, education is the key ingredient to improving one's station in life, regardless of the social or economic strata of origin. Access to education is a real life manifestation of the principals of equality and democracy this nation was created to protect and foster. I believe EducationWorks can provide that educational opportunity to the communities and children they serve.\*

## An AmeriCorps Member on a Career Path

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with the K-2nd grade students at Emlen Elementary (where she was assigned for her first term), she discovered that she was capable of leading and that kids liked her.

Yet she was challenged again during her second year, when she served at Sheridan Elementary. She recalls a student who caused more ruckus than others.

"I decided to put him as a leader of the class. That gave him a sense of responsibility, and it really changed him. The teachers noticed the change, too. It was a complete turnaround."

Jazette also has a keen interest in helping her students where they sometimes need it most—homework.

"We take a day out to help out students individually with their homework. That's when they need individual attention, so we try to do that for them."

However, the students are not the only ones benefiting from the program. Jazette has gained more drive and focus for her own future. Particularly inspiring for her was a girl whom she calls the "main problem child."

"She caused a lot of problems for teachers and students, but whenever something

went wrong, she would confide only in me. I felt good about being able to help her. Before that, I wasn't too sure about working with children, but she helped me along with that."

This type of success from understanding children assures Jazette that a job working with children is exactly what she wants. Jazette will be transferring to Temple University in January to earn a bachelor's degree in Psychology. With three years' worth of experience working with children through EducationWorks, Jazette is confident in her career path towards becoming a child psychologist.\*

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EducationWorks is a nonprofit that enriches the lives of children, youth, and families by providing educational programs and services in communities confronting high rates of poverty and other barriers to educational achievement.

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# HiStep Students Focus on Fashion

Camera shutters clicked throughout the halls of Germantown and South Philadelphia High Schools. The HiStep program and the schools' fashion clubs organized \$5 Fashion Photo Shoot fundraisers. With support from our AmeriCorps members, the students in the clubs designed, promoted, and implemented the event in order to raise money for their upcoming fashion shows and a trip to visit the fashion capitol of the world, New York City.

The Fashion Club at Germantown High School raised over \$230 and more than 50 students and families took photographs. Transforming a classroom into a photography studio, the students provided a professional setting for their models to pose for a good cause.

Students at South Philadelphia High School decided to have fun with the theme of the fundraiser, a 1980's photo shoot, which brought in over \$175. The Fashion Club is planning and designing a holiday-themed photo shoot in December where

students and their families can purchase packages of photos.

Jayda Kennedy, a junior at Germantown and Fashion Club member, said of the event, "I think it is a good way to raise money because we earn money in a constructive way. We get something and they get something out of it, too."

As Jayda and her classmate, Jackie Randall, sold tickets to the fundraiser, they spoke of how excited they are to have the opportunity to put on the fashion show as Germantown High School's culminating event.

"We've been practicing with the models every day; it takes a lot of work," said Jackie, who will be



Students at South Philadelphia pose for a good cause, raising funds for a trip to New York City.

working as the head designer of the show. "I want to be a fashion designer, so this is really good practice."\*



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