

CENTERPIECE

 **SILVER SPRING**
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER EST. 1958

A COMMUNITY OF SUCCESS

Winter 2013

Spotlight On Our Program Participants

KAREN DELANEY Northwest Secondary School CLC

At the start of the school year, CLC Coordinator

James Wilbern noticed Karen Delaney, but not in a good way. She was noticeably loud, disrespectful, disruptive, and attention seeking. But Wilbern knew exactly what to do.

He took her aside and told her, "You don't have to be that way." Those seven words were like an epiphany to Karen. She had always believed that, in order to be "cool," she *had* to act like that.

For the next week, wherever Karen was, Wilbern was right beside her; praising her every chance he could. "I would always say to her, 'You're my favorite now,' and her face would light up."



Today, Karen has made a complete turnaround. Not only is she a positive role model and peer leader, she has recruited all of her friends to participate in CLC activities – her favorites being Homework Help and Computer Club.

"Karen went from a poor student to a model student. And from a high maintenance child to one who is a joy to be around. Transformations like hers happen all the time. First, we build relationships, establishing a level of trust. Then we set standards, which we expect to be met. In the end, the kids learn to be respectful to adults who will ultimately change their lives. Though it sounds easy, it's not. But, with a large dose of patience and persistence, it works pretty much every time."

**James Wilbern, Northwest
Secondary School CLC
Coordinator**

ALANI JOHNSON Thurston Woods CLC

When 8th grader Alani Johnson started attending the CLC three years

ago, she was a self-described underperformer. Her low self-esteem, combined with the bullying she endured, had taken its toll.

"She was quiet and shy, and spoke just above a whisper," remembers Kaye Tucker, the coordinator of the Making Proud Choices program. Tucker invited Alani to get involved, and the two bonded instantly.

"Over time, Alani found her voice and her strength as a leader. It is always amazing to watch human metamorphosis: a marked change in appearance, character and function," said Tucker.

Today, Alani is a peer tutor and volunteers in the first and second



Our Mission

Since 1958, building a stronger, safer neighborhood and community by helping individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency.

Our Vision

A national model and leader for comprehensive, community-based, collaborative, and culturally relevant system of services.

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"I have been coming to the CLC since 5th grade, and I have grown as a student and leader once I decided to change my attitude about myself and coming to CLC. There were times I didn't want to come, but I always end up having fun."

**Alani Johnson,
Thurston Woods CLC**

grade classrooms. She also enjoys helping with administrative tasks for Jeff Knox, the CLC coordinator; and plays a leadership role in the Making Proud Choices program, which teaches alcohol and drug awareness, peer and family relationship building, and pregnancy prevention.

A confident young woman, who is focused on what she wants to do with her life, Alani raised her GPA from 2.0 to 3.7, and is now eligible to apply to high performing high schools. She hopes to be accepted at Riverside University or Rufus King, with a career goal of being a pediatrician.

SHANTELL GAIL School of Career & Technology CLC

If you happen to bump into 10th grader Shantell Gail in the halls, ask her where she's going. Ten to one, she'll say,



"I'm on my way to class to learn something new!"

"That's her catch phrase," explains CLC Coordinator Antoinette Johnson, "And it's also her philosophy. Shantell's the quintessential eternal optimist. She exudes so much energy other students want to follow her lead."

As a peer leader, Shantell will tell anyone that it's the choices they make that determine their future. "I just separate myself from trouble and stay focused on academics." And she's proven that by her nearly perfect school attendance and a 3.0 GPA.

"The CLC gives me an opportunity to complete my homework, without the distractions of home. It also gives me an opportunity to participate in NASA experiments, which are exciting because of my love of science."

**Shantell Gail, School of Career
& Technology CLC**

Shantell's favorite CLC activities include Zumba, African dance, and Hip Hop classes, and Making Proud Choices. Her hobbies are double-dutch, basketball, and music.

TAYVEIN GEE **Browning CLC**

Tayvein Gee, a 4th grader at Browning School, has been a student there since K4. His enthusiasm is boundless. "I like the posters we have up on the walls," he said, gesturing toward those in the cafeteria; I like the arts; I like the MAP testing we do for the WKCE tests."



*"I like everything about
Silver Spring!"*

Tayvein Gee, Browning CLC

As one of six children in his family, Tayvein is devoted to his one-year-old baby sister, whom he calls the most important person in his life. When he is not playing with her, he loves to play video games, watch television, or play football and basketball with friends.

Tayvein is already thinking about a career, even though he is just nine years old. "I'd like to be a sports player or work at Jack L. Marcus Company, where my mom works." His plans definitely also include college.

KEVIN SPIGHT **Teen** **Leadership** **Club President**

Kevin Spight, a senior at Rufus King High



School, got involved at Silver Spring in 2009, when he wasn't quite old enough to qualify for a job. But he hung in, did volunteer work, and when he turned 14, he worked in our greenhouse and took on other jobs around the Center. Today, he is president of the Teen Leadership Club for the second year in a row.

Kevin recognizes how the Center helped him cure his "bad temper" and help him reach the place where he is both a leader and an employee at the Center. One of nine children, Kevin was always the one who stood out. His mom raised the family at Westlawn.

*"I love the Center because there
is always someone here to talk
to me about my feelings."*

Kevin Spight, Browning CLC

Kevin loves to study astronomy and enjoys modeling and photography. He will attend MATC for two years, and hopes to complete his education at Alabama A & M University, which he visited on the teen college tour last summer. He feels his future is oriented toward business.

JAMEL & JAMAL WHITE **Spartans**

Jamel and Jamal White, twin brothers, joined our Spartans basketball team as small forwards last fall. Both have played basketball since third grade, formerly as members of the Scholars team.



Jamel White and Jamal White

As 8th graders at Henry David Thoreau High School, the White brothers are planning their high school careers. Both hope to go to either Shorewood or Whitefish Bay High School, where they expect to further their love of science, math, and social studies.

Jamel's hobbies include working out and making it to honor roll last year. Jamal puts a strong emphasis on getting good grades and also has a love for listening to rap music.

Nothing is too high a dream for the White brothers – they both are aiming for the NBA. With parental

*"I am proud of not doing
stuff on the streets, making
something of my life."*

Jamal White, Spartan

*"I am proud to have learned
from my dad's mistakes when
he was my age. He is a great
support of my efforts."*

Jamel White, Spartan

encouragement, basketball has become a family affair, with their mom often bringing food to the team.

**JAMACIA
BOWERS
Banner School
Graduate
Earns 4.0 In
First Semester
At College**



Banner 2012
graduate

Jamacia Bowers continued her outstanding academic achievement during her first semester at Concordia University. Having graduated at 17 as the valedictorian of Banner, "Mae Mae," as her friends call her, earned a 4.0 in the Criminal Justice program at Concordia in December.

"I chose to transfer to Banner because it was a smaller school than the high school where I was. Also, my sister was at Banner and told me about the small classes and the greater degree of engagement of the teachers. Concordia resembles Banner, with small classes and teachers who are really involved with learning."

Jamacia's hobbies include cheerleading, and she currently is the assistant cheerleading coach for Central City Cyber School. She also loves her job as a cashier at Rocky Rococo because "I meet lots of new people, and I like customer service."

Her plans include a possible move to Marquette University in the fall of 2013 so that she can experience dorm life and a larger academic environment.

**ORNESHIA
MOORE
Adult
Education
Graduate**



A resident of
the Silver Spring
neighborhood,
Orneshia Moore

decided to enroll in our GED program a year and a half ago. The single mother of a 14-year-old son, who always held one or two jobs simultaneously during the last 20 years, Orneshia realized she needed her GED to secure a more reliable professional life. "I was tired of getting laid off at factory jobs," she said. Despite difficult circumstances over the last few years, instead of complaining or coming up with excuses, Orneshia continues to move forward and remain positive. Indeed, her teacher, Adult Education Coordinator Pat Schmal calls her "an inspiration to the entire class."

Orneshia expects to pursue a career as an LPN at MATC. She is currently a part-time housekeeping supervisor at the Mental Health Complex. While career choices matter to Orneshia, her key focus is providing the best possible life for her son. She proudly notes that she regularly saves money to provide for his future.

**UPDATE: We just learned
Orneshia passed her final two
GED exams with flying colors!
We wish you all the best in your
journey forward!**

**CARISMA
LANE
Transitional
Jobs Program
Graduate**



Hired last
February
by GENCO
Pharmaceutical

Services, Carisma Lane attributes a great deal to Silver Spring's Transitional Jobs Program, which connected her to GENCO. "I love it and they love me there." As a CBC scanner, Carisma works from 6 am – 2:30 pm in what she terms "the most important department, since we scan all the incoming products." She prides herself in the fact that some of her colleagues had to become pharmaceutical techs before landing a similar job in the department.

After work, she pursues her hobby by attending cosmetology school at night. While nails and hair are her main focal points now, she hopes to learn how to do massage and to eventually become the manager of a salon.

After graduating from high school in Texas, Carisma moved back to Milwaukee and found out about our Transitional Jobs Program by word of mouth. "I never would be where I am today without Shyrida Cunningham," co-director of the program. "She provided the preparation and classes I needed to succeed in my job."

NEW SSNC BOARD MEMBERS

Silver Spring Neighborhood Center Announces New Slate Of Officers And Directors

At its recent annual meeting, the Board of Directors of Silver Spring Neighborhood Center elected new officers and directors. They are:

Roger Siegel, president; Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc.
Delta Triplett, vice president, programs; The Ten Group
Sean Scullen, vice president, board governance;
Quarles & Brady

Viktor Gottlieb, treasurer; Associated Bank, N.A.
Sharon McDade, secretary; Browning School
Delicia Morris, Westlawn Resident Council,
was elected as a new board member.



Roger Siegel – New Board President

Roger Siegel, Executive Vice President at Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc. has assumed the presidency of the Board of Directors of Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, Inc. Mr.

Siegel is the past president of St. Aemelian's Lakeside and has been an active advocate for disadvantaged families and children in the Milwaukee area.

"Poverty affects all of us, directly impacting those with the fewest resources and education, as well as the

community at large, diminishing our resources and devaluing our neighborhoods. I am inspired by Silver Spring's efforts to help its participants improve their lives at every stage – from newborns to seniors."

During his term as president, Siegel hopes to continue to build on Silver Spring's visibility in the community and its financial strength, while continuing to provide quality programming for our participants.

A resident of Whitefish Bay, Roger lives with his wife Julie and their three children.

CONGRATULATIONS BROWNING SCHOOL!

Last fall, Browning School, with which Silver Spring Neighborhood Center shares a roof and many activities, was named a GE Innovation School (one of 10 chosen in the city). This five-year grant will support staff, materials, professional development, and computers to "create a model school," said Principal Sharon McDade. (McDade also serves

as the secretary of the board of directors of Silver Spring.) "We will transform students through the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, and in so doing, we will trail-blaze the way for other schools."

By December, Principal McDade could already see a difference in the implementation of the curriculum

as standards are embedded in both teaching and learning, and are designed to help all kids be career ready, college ready, and ready for civic life. She noticed a shift in the staff's engagement and focus in the teaching process.

"This is a big deal," she said. "It's awesome for our students and our community."

HALLOWEEN FAMILY NIGHT

Every year, SSNC hosts a Family Night for Halloween. This year's was especially well attended, with more than 200 families participating.



THANK YOU!

BAR MITZVAH MITZVAH

Many thanks to Thomas Schimmel, who donated dozens of pieces of sports equipment, as part of his Bar Mitzvah service project. Way to go, Thomas!



THANKSGIVING DINNER

On November 15th, we served our annual Thanksgiving Dinner to a capacity crowd of 450 neighborhood residents. Special thanks for providing all the food go to **Feeding American Eastern Wisconsin**, the **House of Corned Beef**, **Salvation Army**, **Pepsi**, and our own **Marvin Pickett**. We especially thank our volunteer servers: board members **Fraser Engerman**, **Sharon McDade**, and **Rich Neureuther**; **Camille Lumpkin** and **Barbara Ford** of **Seaway Bank**; **Melissa Jenkins**; and **Latascha Trotter**.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Browning Community Learning Center participants enjoyed decorating Christmas cookies, a meal, and then the ultimate – opening presents. Special assistance was provided by volunteers from **Core Creative**. More than 150 children received presents that were donated by **Direct Supply** through the **Giving Tree** program, which is coordinated by the **Volunteer Center**. The kids' smiles express our thanks!

CORE CREATIVE VOLUNTEERS

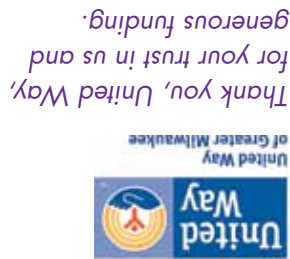
Thanks to volunteers from **Core Creative**, our annual Holiday Party was extra special. They led a cookie decorating activity and a holiday card making project. (We don't think any of the cookies made it home!)

Core Creative, a vibrant marketing company located in the Walker's Point neighborhood, volunteered a half-day of 30 employees' services in December. Projects ranged from setting up our holiday party to painting administrative walls to creating a snazzy, new bulletin board for our youth development programs

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

3rd Annual ALUMNI AWARDS EVENT

Honoring three alumni and
a surprise couple with Statewide recognition

Thursday, May 30, 2013
Hilton Milwaukee City Center
11:30 Registration
12:00 Luncheon and Program

Sponsored by:

Johnson Controls, Inc.

Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc.

Mark Travel

Weyco Group, Inc.

List in formation

Ticket: \$50.00 Table: \$400.00

Sponsorships begin at \$500 up to \$10,000