

December, 2009

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Zoeza Institute! We are engaged in a number of key activities that support our mentees' journey to independent living. Long term mentoring includes guiding mentees in the completion of college applications, writing essays, and preparing for ACT and SAT tests. We also have a goal to obtain a PC for each mentee! Zoeza Institute has partnered with Teamchildren (www.teamchildren.org) to provide refurbished PCs at a cost of \$25-\$250. Can we count on your support to help us achieve this goal and continue our programs? Click on this link to donate today <http://zoeza.org/supportcontributions.html>. Thank you for your support.

4th of July in August

One of our key goals is to transition mentees to positive life situations and independent living. We celebrated our first mentee's transition to independent living. Gail is a senior at Bartrum and president of the national honor society. Gail and her 2 year old daughter, moved from their foster parent's home to their first apartment in August! Congratulations! Zoeza Institute continues our support of their journey to independent living. Gail aspires to obtain a masters degree in nursing and was successfully matched with a professional mentor, Christina Costanzo-Clarke, the assistant dean of the school of nursing at the University of Pennsylvania.

Zoeza Institute at Franklin Field Community Day

Zoeza Institute mentors, mentees and supporters gathered at Franklin Field to see the Penn vs. Bucknell football game. The weather was cool, sunny and crisp as the Quakers, missing their top 3 quarterbacks, started sophomore John Hurley who led them to victory 21-3. For the mentees, this was their first college football game attended! The mentees were surprised to see the slices of bread passed through the stands, and tossed onto the field (when singing about a "toast") during the Penn school song! They quickly joined in on the fun! Special thanks to Sally Katz who made a professional mentor connection, nurse Felicia Wrice for mentee, Gail! And welcome real estate developer, Chris Booth in his professional mentor match with mentee Matt!



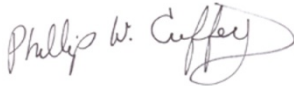
Saving the Still Journal

Zoeza Institute sponsored a trip to the *Saving the Still Journal* at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. This event commemorated the meticulous and well preserved journal kept by William Still, the Father of the Underground Railroad during the 1850s in Philadelphia. Seeing the journal, as well as the in-character performances of William Still and Harriett Tubman was extraordinary! Meeting the performers, as well as Dr. Arlene Ackerman, superintendent of school at the reception was cool, too!

Save Our Youth Community Forum - Focus on Solutions

Approximately 100 guests were on hand for the *Save Our Youth Community Forum: Focus on Solutions* held at the University of Penn! The participation level was high, as evidenced by a plethora of poignant questions from the audience. Dr. Eli Anderson referenced his current book, "*Against the Wall: Poor, Young, Black and Male*" and also showed a video documentary of the same title that focused on the Philadelphia neighborhood of Germantown. Tracey Matisak from WHY, skillfully moderated the panelists, Dr. Rich Roberts from ETS, Dr. Juanita Blakney from the Hammond Group, and Mr. Chad Lassiter from Black Men at Penn. Each provided key insights from research and the field that challenged the audience to re-think their assumptions and focus on solutions. We also established new relationships with several organizations that supported the event as sponsors. A special note of gratitude to the following sponsors of the event, PRWT Services, through the efforts of Senior Vice President Sherri Kyle-Jones, Eye Associates of Surgicenter of Vineland, and the Tyson Family Foundation thanks to Dr. Sydney Tyson, and PNC Bank through the efforts of Shirlynn Swann. Thank you to all who supported this event!

Sincerely,



Executive Director