



Guiding the Journey to Responsible Living™

December, 2010

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Zoeza (zo-A-za) Institute holiday issue! We want you to know about our success, progress and needs.

On July 5th, Zoeza Institute hosted its first Mentee Independence Celebration and Fundraiser in Chestnut Hill. The steamy, over 100 degree heatwave did not deter the over 100 supporters from having a good time! A water slide and sprinkler helped to keep the kids cool as we raised funds for our programs. We often take our independence for granted as individuals, our mentees remind us of how precious independence really is!

In September, the Institute sponsored a trip to see the opening of the 2010-2011 season for the **Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra** at the Baptist Temple at Temple University. Led by the internationally acclaimed musical director, Jeri Lynne Johnson, BPCO featured the music of Beethoven along with a number of Mexican composers. The performance, Musica y Tiemplos was artistic, cultural and educational! The event celebrated Hispanic Heritage month and the bicentennial of Mexico's independence from Spain.

A highlight for this edition includes a progress report on one of the mentees we serve. We offer long term mentoring to support independent living through the SMART® (Surrogate Mentoring and Responsible Transition) model. These services include:

- Individual and group mentoring;
- Academic support;
- Social and cultural experiences; and
- Apprenticeships

One of our mentees, Marcus will graduate from Paul Roberson High School and has been accepted to 4 colleges: Gwyned Mercy, Livingstone College, LaSalle University and Widener University. Marcus plans to major in nursing and work in an emergency room. Marcus identified his foster parents, a cousin and Zoeza Institute as the major influences in his life. Marcus is also interested in part time work; contact us with any leads. Congratulations Marcus!

Among the Institute's needs is funding to support outreach to at-risk youth. We have submitted a proposal to mentor youth at the **Arise Academy**, the nation's first charter school for foster youth which hinges on funding. The school is eager to partner with us; what we need is funding to support the activities. Please contact us with your funding ideas to make this possible.

As always, make your tax deductible contribution online at www.zoeza.org. Thanks to Baba Renfrow of Synergy for hosting a charitable networking event to benefit Zoeza Institute on October 7th. And a note of gratitude to our Independence event donors, especially Ann Hozak and Mike Pearson for their generous support.

Please join our mentees and friends on February 25 at the Palestra as Penn's basketball team takes on Columbia.

Sincerely,

Jason Wingard, Ph.D.
Chairman

Phillip Cuffey
Executive Director