

Starr News

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STARR COMMONWEALTH SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 1913

Inside:

Founder's Day 2009

Starr Columbus
Music Workshop

Alumni Scholarships



M I C H I G A N A N D O H I O ' S P R E M I E R C H I L D R E N ' S C H A R I T Y

Michigan: Albion, Battle Creek, Detroit | Ohio: Van Wert, Columbus Hannah Neil Center

Starr News

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Mission:
Create positive environments where children flourish.

Starr News Autumn, 2009 Volume 66, No. 3

Starr Commonwealth is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families & Children. Starr Commonwealth is a non-profit organization serving children and families regardless of race, religion, color, or national origin. Founded in 1913, Starr is licensed by the states of Michigan and Ohio and serves children and families from locations in Albion, Battle Creek, Detroit, MI.; Van Wert, and Columbus, OH. The Albion campus is a Michigan Historic Site. Starr Commonwealth receives funds from social agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.

Honorable Eugene A. Moore, Chairman of the Board; Martin L. Mitchell, Ed. D., President and Chief Executive Officer; Herman J. McCall, Ed. D., Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer; Christopher L. Smith, B.B.A., C.P.A., Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Simon P. Bisson, CFRM, Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer; Wm. Chuck Jackson, MA, Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer.

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Martin L. Mitchell, Ed.D.
President/CEO

A Feeling of Family

Foster youth are among the most vulnerable members of society, and those who demonstrate resiliency likely are those who also cite supportive relationships with caring adults.

Our Founder's Day celebration this year featured actress, author and foster youth advocate Victoria Rowell, who exhibited how having mentors in her childhood helped her overcome the odds.

What Ms. Rowell communicated to Starr Commonwealth staff and students was how powerful respectful alliances can be between youth and adults. As noted in Starr's most recent book, "Deep Brain Learning," children benefit from strong positive attachments to adults and peers.

Just look at how Sam, the student from Montcalm School for Girls featured in this issue, credits the staff for helping her understand healthy attachments.

But these relationships can be difficult for youth who have, like so many foster children, experienced trauma. And they're not alone.

Many of the youth we serve have experienced trauma as children. It's our goal to help meet their universal needs of attachment, achievement, autonomy and altruism, in order to create pathways toward resiliency and fulfill their boundless potential.

Like so many young people today, those pathways weren't paved for Ms. Rowell in a traditional manner. She understood who her mentors were and continues to recognize how each of them influenced her life. She experienced her own sense of family, much like the environments created through Starr's strength-based philosophy and caring staff.

During the Founder's Day program, Ms. Rowell greeted the crowd by saying, "When you walk into a room like this, you get the sense you are breaking bread with family."

We hope the youth and families Starr serves today and in the future experience that same feeling.

Martin L. Mitchell

Martin L. Mitchell, Ed.D., President/CEO



A Familial Experience



One by one she greeted each of the students sitting around the table and asked them what their aspirations are.

Finish high school. Graduate from college. Be an athlete. Be a realtor. Become a model. Open my own clinical practice.

She listened genuinely and with intent before giving each individual youth her own pointed advice. Having spent 18 years in foster care, Victoria Rowell has walked in their shoes, shared in their sadness and rejoiced in their successes.

Rowell – a dancer, television and film actress and author – celebrated Starr Commonwealth’s 96th anniversary on October 4, 2009, by joining the organization for its Founder’s Day celebration in Albion, Michigan. Rowell is not only a foster care advocate but also the creator of Rowell Foster Children’s Positive Plan, an arts and athletic-based foster child enrichment plan.

While at Starr, Rowell toured campus and met staff, friends, supporters of the organization, alumni and youth currently in Starr programs. The day also included a luncheon with a group of youth from foster care.

“I was given the opportunity to meet about 20 of the youth, and we got to dialogue about what it’s like to be here versus not being given this circumstance,” Rowell said. “And that there are no accidents. You’re here for a purpose and it’s more than what will be revealed.”

While speaking with each of the youth, Rowell gave tips and cautionary tales, but stressed the importance of securing relationships with people who contribute in positive ways.

“Who are your mentors?” Rowell asked one young man. He responded by saying he didn’t have any, and the actress quickly refuted that claim.

“Who gets on your nerves the most? Who is constantly bugging you about stuff? There’s that one person who is always looking after you whether you realize it or not. Those people are your mentors.”

In her best-selling novel, “The Women Who Raised Me,” Rowell pays homage to the matriarchs and mentors who helped her become the successful celebrity and children’s advocate she is today. Prior to her speech, Rowell also showed a video she produced called “The Mentor” in which she recognizes each of these women through the values and guidance they instilled in her and how they shaped her life.

“It’s the same story but a different script with all of us,” she told the Founder’s Day crowd. “We want to be loved. We’re all teachable. We all want the ballast of permanency in a familial structure. We’ve all got those core needs and desires.”

Starr Commonwealth President & CEO Dr. Martin L. Mitchell previously saw Rowell speak and knew it was important to bring her to Starr.



“On a daily basis, our staff does what she experienced with the women who raised her,” Mitchell said. “They provide love and knowledge in a caring environment, in a place where these young people can capitalize on their strengths. They are mentors.”

Founder’s Day is celebrated annually on the first Sunday of October to recognize the day that founder Floyd Starr and 13 boys moved into Gladsome Cottage, his first residence. Despite chilly, rainy weather, the event attracted nearly 1,000 students, alumni, families, staff, trustees, supporters and other guests to campus. The program also included a performance by the All Starr Choir and a book-signing by Rowell immediately following her speech.

Rowell also was presented with the Starr Commonwealth Child Advocacy Award, an honor bestowed previously to child champions such as Mayor Dennis Archer, Wendy’s founder Dave Thomas, educator Edward James Olmos and humanitarian Muhammad Ali.

“We were so blessed to have Victoria Rowell here,” Mitchell said. “Her message is one that our students can certainly relate to and that our staff can be inspired by. Someone once saw the potential in her as a child, and it is our job to find and foster the strengths in all the youth we serve.”

Behind the Scenes

Ciera sat quietly and patiently next to the celebrity and waited her turn. Victoria Rowell was speaking with each person around the table individually, and Ciera would be last.

She didn't mind. It gave her the opportunity to hear the stories of youth similar to her. To understand and empathize. Ciera, 19, is a youth in Starr's Supervised Independent Living (SIL) program in Detroit.

For young adults who lack support of their biological parents, Starr's SIL program provides them with the support to pay rent and complete life skills training which includes learning to manage a budget, grocery shop, pay bills, get a driver's license and register to vote, among many other things.



Ciera introduced speaker Victoria Rowell at Founder's Day 2009

When the conversation made it to her, Ms. Rowell asked Ciera what were her goals?

The young lady seemed shy and a bit timid at first, but that quickly evaporated. She explained that she is currently attending Henry Ford Community College to pursue a degree in nursing. She also wants to return to Michigan State University where she began her college career.

"I have experience working as a Certified Nurses Assistant (CNA)," Ciera said. "I like helping people."

Steve Gillespie, SIL Treatment Counselor, said that's true, and that Ciera is a very polite, well-spoken young lady. For those reasons, she was chosen to introduce Ms. Rowell during the Founder's Day program.

"I enjoyed having lunch with her and the other students," Ciera said. "Introducing her was an honor. She inspired me in so many ways and motivated me."

Mr. Gillespie said Ciera is committed to returning to MSU and they have worked together to complete the application for a Starr scholarship.

"Next year I hope to be back at Founder's Day," she said. "This time as a scholarship recipient."

Write these kids off in 2010.

\$50.00

\$100.00

\$200.00

OTHER



Make a generous donation today and get a nice deduction next April. You'll also make a big difference in the lives of area youth. Donate online at starr.org.


STARR
COMMONWEALTH

Students of Starr Columbus, formerly the Hannah Neil Center, participated in a six-week Hannah Neil Music Workshop Series focused on Songwriting and Music Technology. For those interested, the Music Workshop provided them an opportunity to further their experience, education, and work within the music industry.

According to Damon Burks, Unit Coordinator at the Columbus campus, "The young men utilized a lot of their talents in a positive manner. The Workshop was educational and taught them skills beyond singing. I was so happy to see these guys making demos, writing songs, learning about the broader music industry and career options. It really was a great experience for them."

The Starr Columbus Music Workshop is a number one hit.



Sponsored by the Hannah Neil Center Key Club, the Music Workshop was led by Chris Rayis, sophomore at Belmont University.

Students were not only encouraged to show their creative sides through

hands-on experimentation and creation, but also learned the history of song, profiles of great songwriters, chord structure, reading sheet music and all different music styles.

“Offering a program where the guys can use music as a therapeutic outlet is so important. Many of the young men now know that something they only dreamed about can be a reality for them. That means the world!”

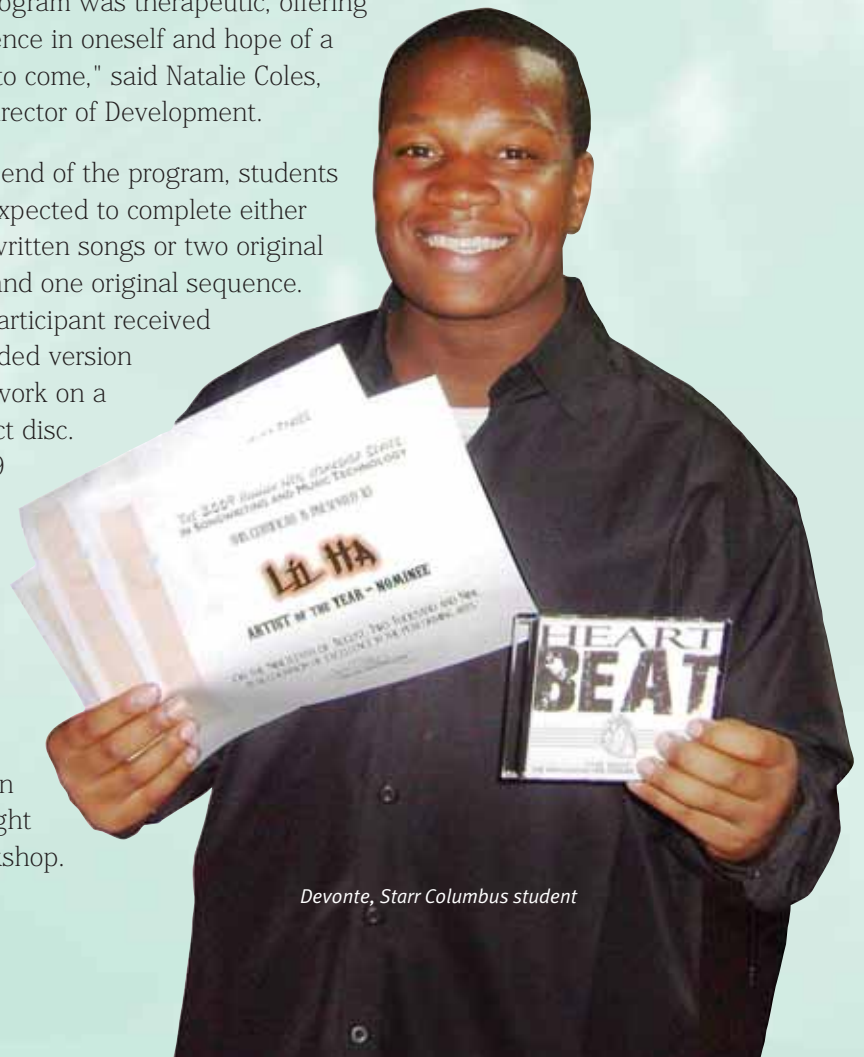
Mr. Shawn Hertzfeld, Assistant Director Residential Services

A Musical Showcase was held on August 19 for the staff and students of Starr Columbus, providing a live performance of the students' hard work.

“The music workshop was a great experience,” said Devonte, a youth at Starr Columbus. “I learned so many things about music that I didn't know before. During the music workshop, even though I had my own issues, I felt relaxed and calm. I never thought music could be so appealing until the workshop. Mr. Rayis was a magnificent instructor.”

“It has been a long time since I have seen the guys get so excited and engaged in something. I saw them smiling and laughing, they were happy and excited about drawing something out of themselves they never knew was there or simply didn't know how to bring to the surface. This program was therapeutic, offering confidence in oneself and hope of a future to come,” said Natalie Coles, Ohio Director of Development.

By the end of the program, students were expected to complete either three written songs or two original beats and one original sequence. Each participant received a recorded version of his work on a compact disc.



Devonte, Starr Columbus student

A long journey

Jeffrey arrived at Montcalm School for Boys in Albion, Michigan on October 1, 2003.

“When I first entered the program, I was a scared little boy. I did not know the damage my behavior was causing,” Jeffrey said during his speech upon graduating from the program on August 9, 2009.

He spent nearly six years in the program, learning, evolving and growing into an intelligent, caring, independent man who now lives in Austin, Texas, and is attending College Living Experience (CLE), a program for students with special needs.



Patti Hiatt with Jeffrey after his June, 2008 high school graduation ceremony

“Today, I stand before you a man who clearly knows the difference between right and wrong as well as helping and hurting,” he said.

The staff and many of the students who had gotten to know Jeffrey so well over the years, were proud of him for transitioning to CLE, but sad to see him go.

“Jeffrey still maintains contact with some of the staff and students here,” said Jenna Copenhaver, Senior Structured Transitional Living Clinician. *continued on page 17*



NEW “OUTSIDE IN” WHITEPAPER

A team from Starr Commonwealth and Montcalm Schools has authored a new whitepaper for parents trying to understand Autism Spectrum Disorders, and how treatment options are available through Montcalm’s Outside In program.

“From the Outside In: Meeting the Needs of Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders” is a free booklet available to families of youth with Spectrum Disorders and for professionals who work with youth with autism, Asperger’s and other Pervasive Developmental Disorders.

The information consists of research from Dr. James Longhurst, Senior Vice President of Clinical and Psychological Services at Starr and Director of Montcalm Schools, insight and guidance from Dr. Pamela Lemerand, Director of the Autism Collaborative Center at Eastern Michigan University, as well as decades of experience from Patti Hiatt, Dana Richards and Robert Shumaker, all of whom work closely with students with developmental disabilities.

For a free copy of the booklet, please call 800.837.5591, ext. 2312, or visit www.starr.org/publications to download the file.

Commonwealthia

by Amy Reimann, Director of Archives and Alumni Affairs

*Albion Evening Recorder, September 8, 1938 –
“...Miss Ruth E. Martin of Alton, Illinois, is a new
member of the faculty this year and will teach Music
and English. Miss Martin will also have charge
of religious services at the school.”*

*All the teachers in 1938 were men except me, and we
all lived on campus in various apartments. Mr. Cleo
Kelly was the principal. I lived on the second floor of
Hillside and took my meals with Newton Hall. We were
vegetarian at that time and ate a lot of peanut butter.*



Ruth Martin
on right

Choir Trip, 1939



Ruth Martin, 1939



Ruth Martin
second from left

Starr faculty, 1941

*Thus was announced the addition of a young woman
from Illinois who began her teaching career at Starr
Commonwealth. Ruth Martin was 19-years-old and
had two years of college education when she received
a job offer from Mr. Starr to teach at his Common-
wealth for Boys for the fall of 1938. After having
recently reconnected with Starr Commonwealth
through our new Facebook page, Ruth Martin Parks
was kind enough to share her story with me over
the phone from Illinois.*

*“I was at Starr Commonwealth from 1938 to 1941.
I was hired to teach music, lead the choir and organize
the religious services. At that time we were having
services in the gym, on the second floor of Webster
Hall. Mr. Starr was a very active leader and he
would give me the topic for his message for Sunday,
and I would get hymns and additional scripture
readings to go along with it.*

*I think there was peanut butter at every meal. Some-
times the food was a little strange. I remember someone
meeting me coming down the hill from Newton Hall
as I was going up to take my evening meal, shaking his
head and saying, ‘Hominy grits and tomato sauce.’
I decided to eat in my room that night, for sure.*

*After leaving Starr, I went back to Illinois Wesleyan
and took my last two years of school. I also worked at
Fort Custer during World War II with the service club.
We would organize the USO girls who came to enter-
tain and run other services out of the base. I taught
music in Illinois and eventually married and had a family.
I have never forgotten those early years at Starr.”*

*We are thankful to Ruth for sharing her memories.
Photographs, articles and memorabilia of this time
period are found in the scrapbooks of teacher Wendell
Haner, student Charles Lind and housemother
Gertrude Houston.*

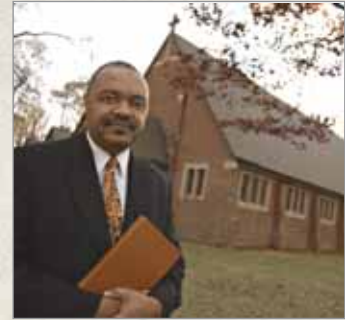
*If you have questions or comments about any Starr historical topics,
please contact Amy Reimann, Director of Archives and Alumni Affairs at 800.837.5591.*

Chaplain's Message

Each of us is born into different biological families. Some families function very well, others don't. Regardless of how a family may function, every family gives its members a name and ethnicity, and instills in varying degrees in each member values, traditions, spirituality and a sense of love and belonging.

However, as we live our lives we often become disconnected from our families, not only physically but from many of the ideas and feelings which they instilled within us that help keep us grounded. We become orphans and at-risk children ourselves separated from our families and family members.

During Starr Commonwealth's recent Founder's Day celebration, we were privileged to hear a wonderful story of disconnection from family and reconnection into family. The story was shared by Ms. Victoria Rowell, actress, dancer and advocate for children extraordinaire. She spoke of being disconnected from her family at birth, but being reconnected to family through a series of wonderful women who welcomed her into their homes, lives and hearts – her foster Moms.



Chaplain Kenneth T. Ponds



Victoria graciously met many of the Starr family, young and old

Having been disconnected from her family of origin, Ms. Rowell entered the foster care system where she was nurtured, challenged, given values, traditions, spirituality, a sense of belonging and perhaps most important of all – love. She became connected to a family even larger than her birth family.

Throughout the years, beginning with Floyd Starr and maintained by those who have followed him, Starr Commonwealth has sought to be “family” for every young person Starr has been privileged to work with. A larger family, in which they are nurtured, challenged, given values to sustain them throughout life, connected to others, and most important – given love. Floyd Starr's idea was based on the example set by his parents of what family is, and on his faith in God who, out of love, invites all to be part of a larger family who live out God's love in their lives.

Watch your gift grow. Do you work for a company that offers a matching gifts program? Or, are you retired from a matching gifts company? If so, you could double – maybe even triple – your gifts to Starr Commonwealth children simply by letting us know. Just ask your employer or former employer to provide you with the paperwork you need.

Fill it out and send it to Attention: Development Office, Starr Commonwealth, 13725 Starr Commonwealth Road, Albion, MI 49224-9910

Thank you for caring!





For one weekend, parents can call it home.

Koby Cottage



Designated a home away from home for visiting parents, Koby Cottage is a gift from thankful parents in recognition of the great results achieved for their son after treatment at Starr Commonwealth.

Koby Cottage is now open for parents to reconnect with their children in treatment, while nestled in the beautiful, secluded setting of Montcalm Lake on the Albion campus.

Parent involvement in treatment is critical, making it essential to provide the family a private, supportive environment to spend quality time.

Experience this architectural showcase, a first in green modular construction, while enjoying the convenience of staying on campus, within walking distance of your child’s cottage and activities. With two bedrooms, two baths, a kitchen and living room all centered around the dining room table, Koby Cottage offers the standard modern-day amenities in addition to the breath-taking views of Montcalm Lake.

Therapeutic services and recreational activities are available for families staying at Koby Cottage. Families may choose from these fee-based options: Conflict Cycle Training, Service Learning Projects, Outdoor Adventure Education and Family Relationship Dynamics.

To cover the cleaning and maintenance of Koby Cottage, there is a per night charge. Inquire more about this unique, one-of-a-kind home by calling 517.630.2401 today.

Additional funding was provided through generous gifts from the Maurice H. Sobell Trust and the Glenn M. Williams Trust.



RISING STARRS

According to staff at Montcalm School for Girls, the Samantha you meet today is much different from the Samantha you might have encountered earlier this year.

Samantha, or “Sam” as she is known, is a 15-year-old from Cincinnati, Ohio who graduated on October 23, 2009 from Montcalm School for Girls in Van Wert, Ohio. Prior to her graduation from the program, Sam took a minute to talk about her success at Montcalm.

After completing a 90-day placement at a wilderness program in North Carolina, Sam had a brief two-day visit with family before arriving in Van Wert.

“I loved being at Wilderness,” Sam said. “It was one of the best times of my life. It was kind of like a vacation, though, and I really didn’t address my issues, just avoided them.”

Sam said her parents learned about the Montcalm program through the Internet and appreciated that it was close to home.

“They liked how it felt really home-like and really welcoming,” Sam said, adding that she agrees. “I was kind of scared going to Montcalm, but I loved it right away. I thought I’d just be another student, another number, but it’s not like that. People care.”

Those caring people Sam refers to are the peers and staff she met during her seven-month stay.

“I will really miss all the people,” she said. “It really kind of feels like home. I know everyone here and it might be hard to not have the structure, but it’s really about the family feel. I have never had relationships with anyone like this before.”

Dani Duncan, Activities Coordinator for Montcalm School for Girls, also credits the program for strengthening Sam’s bonds with her family and in her decisions about other relationships.

“From the day Sam got here, she had a huge problem with knowing what was healthy and what wasn’t in relationships,” Duncan said. “Now she knows what healthy boundaries are. Her relationship with her parents used to be superficial and unhealthy but now she is open and honest with them.”

Returning to Cincinnati, Sam plans to attend a private school and prepare for college.

“I feel really prepared to go home. I’m really confident. I got my mind straight, and I’ve made goals I want to reach. I want to go to college for music, and I want to work with special ed students. It’s always been a goal of mine, but I kind of forgot about it until being here. Being at Montcalm just kind of grounded me and put me where I needed to be – back in a good frame of mind.”



SAMANTHA

We guard your privacy. Starr Commonwealth does not sell or trade donor contact information. We do recognize and celebrate our donors’ contributions by using their names in various publications. If you would like your gift to remain anonymous, please let us know. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Development Office at 800.837.5591, ext. 2436 or info@starr.org.

Featured Friends

Andrew Freemire of Battle Creek, Michigan became a friend of Starr Commonwealth through the introduction of a mutual friend, Charlie Robertson, CEO of Arts & Industry Council of Calhoun County.

Once Robertson saw Koby Cottage, she immediately thought that Andrew Freemire should become involved in helping Starr with the finishing details of Koby Cottage, a unique, modern building now available to families of Starr and Montcalm youth.



"As always, I approach any and all new works with the patrons' needs in mind," said Freemire, an accomplished multi-medium artist of national notoriety.

"Upon touring the Starr Commonwealth campus and experiencing Koby Cottage, I was surprised and excited to see this stunning structure, and that it is so filled with a sense of sanctuary, light and stability."

Freemire since has presented several models of proposed stainless sculptures for Koby Cottage's exterior, as well as some ideas for paintings for the interior. His inspiration came from seeing the cottage in August, from which there was a view of the tranquil Montcalm Lake, the wooded backdrop across the lake and a late-summer sun beginning to set.

He also was inspired by the poem etched into Koby Cottage's entrance, written by the father of the young man for whom the cottage is named.

"It is essential to note that after reading the quote etched on Koby Cottage's entrance window, and experiencing the fresh, unencumbered interior of said environment," said Freemire, "that each of the proposed works of art, sculptures and paintings evolved swiftly and evokes a sense of welcome to parents and their child, hopefully bringing a natural sense of peace, light and a positive future."

In early October, Freemire arrived at Koby Cottage and installed "Montcalm August 2009," an original oil on canvas inspired by the lush flora colors found in the environment that surrounds the cottage.

"The painting is full of life and activity," said Freemire, as he and friends worked to install the donated 6-foot by 1-foot horizontal painting above the bed in the parents' room of the cottage.

"Andrew Freemire's vision for art in and around Koby Cottage matches not just the environment in which Koby Cottage rests, but the sometimes chaotic, sometimes peaceful environments that many of the youth and families we serve are experiencing," said Simon Bisson, Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer. "His art is a welcome addition to this beautiful new feature on the Starr Albion campus, and we hope families who stay at Koby enjoy how the art adds to the experience."

For more information on how to create a named endowment or give to Starr through other means, please call our Development Office at 800.837.5591 or visit www.starr.org.

ALUMNI AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year thoughtful friends and supporters of Starr Commonwealth contribute funds to help our alumni continue their educational endeavors.

This year, more than \$200,000 was awarded to 46 former Starr Common-

wealth and Montcalm School students for the 2009-2010 academic year. Alumni who could attend were presented with their scholarships during Starr Commonwealth's annual Founder's Day on Sunday, October 4, 2009.

Presenting the scholarships were Chuck Jackson, Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer, and Herman McCall, Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer. Also in attendance and assisting with the presentation were State Representative Jase Bolger (R-Marshall) and State Representative Kate Segal (D-Battle Creek).

Awards were given to students who currently attend local schools such as

Kellogg, Lansing and Henry Ford Community Colleges, as well as colleges from around the country, including the University of Denver, Florida Gulf Coast University, Indiana University, DePaul University and more.

Funding for the scholarships is made possible through 20 named scholarship funds established at Starr Commonwealth. Students are able to use the funds to help offset the costs of their tuition and any supplies needed relevant to their course of study.

Listed below are the named scholarship funds and the students each fund is helping this year.

Christian & Emma Breisch Scholarship

Ahmanda Lee (BC Foster Care) – Coppin State University
Kandace Quilter (Detroit – SIL) – Baker College-Allen Park

Collins Carter Scholarship

Kurt Tech (Montcalm School for Boys) – Albion College

Mildred J. Carter Scholarship

Martin Norfleet (Van Wert) – Art Institute of Ohio-Cincinnati
Aimee O'Brien (Montcalm School for Girls) – University of Denver
Andrew Romanowski (Montcalm School for Boys) –
Montgomery Community College

Miriam & Samuel Crowder Memorial Scholarship

Nina Livingston (Montcalm School for Girls) – Indiana University
Ian Stover (Montcalm School for Boys) – Everett Community College



John D. & Ruth Gillman Scholarship

Jeff Malone (BC Foster Care) –
Jackson Community College
Jeremy Forster (Montcalm School for Boys) –
Kellogg Community College

Floyd Kent Scholarship

Michael Woloszyk (Albion Residential) –
Macomb Community College

Thomas Metz Kent Scholarship

Jacquell Ashton (Columbus Foster Care) –
Central State University

Thomas T. Lloyd Scholarship

Donald Maxwell (Montcalm School for Boys) –
Kellogg Community College
Ali Runyan (Montcalm School for Boys) –
Florida Gulf Coast University

Louann & Russ Mawby Scholarship

Branden Barnes (Albion Alternative Ed), Lansing Community College

Harry C. Moores Scholarship

Ai-Mei Wlasuk (Montcalm School for Girls) – Indiana University

Charles & Evelyn Munford Scholarship

Bethami Moore (Montcalm School for Girls) – DePaul University
Stephen Smith (Montcalm School for Boys) – Mercer County Community College
Anne Whaley (Montcalm School for Girls) – Bluffton University

Tim Ness Memorial Scholarship

Megan Beliveau, (Detroit-RTRS) – Henry Ford Community College
Paige Beliveau, (Detroit-RTRS) – Henry Ford Community College

Richard & Clara Patterson Scholarship

Michael Reygaert (Albion Residential) – Western Michigan University

Earl & Eileen Payne Scholarship

Kevin Boley (Albion Residential) – North Central Michigan College
Quentin Hines (Albion Residential) – University of Cincinnati
Ryann Karabush (Montcalm School for Girls) –
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Jessica Kellerman (Montcalm School for Girls) – Jackson Community College

Ruth & William Pierce Scholarship

Kyle Andrews (BC Foster Care) – Wayne State University
Alexa Nichols (Montcalm School for Girls) – Paul Mitchell The School

Frederick & Anne Raisch Scholarship

LaQueshia Bell (Detroit – SIL) – Wayne State University
Lukina Burks (Detroit – SIL) – Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine
Nikisha Burks (Detroit – TFC/SIL) – Dominican University
Michael Domke (Albion Residential) – South Florida Community College
Steven Haller (Montcalm School for Boys) – Ferris State University
Michael McKinster (Columbus Hannah Neil) – Ohio Dominican University
Mark Neal (BC – SIL) – Macomb Community College
Samuel Sawyer (Albion Residential) – University of Michigan-Flint
Jeffrey Weinthal (Montcalm School for Boys) – Austin Community College
Paul Wokoluk (Albion Residential) – Baker College-Clinton Twp

Herbert J. & Ruth Ann Richmond Scholarship

Kadeem Sims (Detroit – SIL) – Wayne State University
Andre Vaughn (Albion Residential) – Henry Ford Community College

Floyd Starr Scholarship

Keith Cullinan (Montcalm School for Boys) – Western Michigan University

Jane & Dwight Weber Scholarship

Alex Fryling (Montcalm School For Boys) – Gannon University
Morgan Quigley (Montcalm School for Girls) –
Indiana University - Purdue University - Indianapolis
Gavin Teague (Montcalm School for Boys) – Longwood University

Wayne Yanz Memorial Scholarship

Frank Offrink (Albion Residential) – Baker College-Flint

A Long Journey continued

“He sends updates by emails and calls. For some of these guys, this is really building true relationships. They don’t have the experiences in the past of having true, long-lasting friendships.”

While on campus, Jeffrey graduated from high school, earned college credits from a nearby community college and worked part-time at a local bowling alley. None of this would’ve been possible six years ago.

“He really had a hard time gaining peer acceptance, which led to issues with honesty and lying,” Ms. Copenhaver said. “Jeffrey was a fantastic storyteller.”

“He also struggled with what it takes to be a good friend. He wanted to be treated well so when he felt like he wasn’t, he felt justified in treating others poorly.”



Through the skilled guidance of Montcalm’s clinical staff and the peer group empowerment model employed here, Jeffrey began building on his self-confidence, gained and maintained peer relationships, improved his relationship with his father and developed his life skills.

“We continued to provide him several different opportunities to enhance life skills,” Ms. Copenhaver said. “He was in charge of his own medication, responsible for his daily scheduling, held a job with the bowling alley, did chores, and cooked and prepared his own meals.”

Back in Austin, Jeffrey said those skills are helping him meet new people and become more independent every day. But it isn’t always easy. “He calls back when he needs support,” Ms. Copenhaver said. “Several staff members got a call once, asking for advice. He knows he can trust us.”

SPECIAL REMEMBRANCES Honor and Memorial Gifts

HONOR GIFTS are thoughtful ways to remember a special person and/or a special occasion, such as a new birth, birthday, anniversary, graduation, Mother's Day or Father's Day, while also helping Starr children. When sending an honor gift, please provide the

address of the honoree. We will send an acknowledgement card to let them know of your thoughtfulness, but we won't mention the gift amount. You may call in your honor gift for faster acknowledgement at: 800.837.5591. Honor gifts also may be made online at: www.starr.org.

MEMORIAL GIFTS offer an enduring tribute to the memory of a friend or loved one, while extending a helping hand to the children of Starr Commonwealth. When sending a memorial gift, please provide the address of a family member of the deceased to whom we can send an acknowledgement card. We will let them know of your thoughtfulness, but won't mention the gift amount. You may call in your memorial gift for faster acknowledgement at: 800.837.5591. Memorial donations also may be made online at: www.starr.org.

Here is a listing of Honor and Memorial gifts received from 6/05/2009 to 10/08/2009. Givers are listed below the name of the person in whose memory or honor they contributed. Gifts not listed here will appear in a future issue of *Starr News*.

If we missed your name or an error has occurred with your listing, please forgive us and contact us so we may correct it in the next issue.

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You heard our plea and rose above the challenge.

Thank you to all the wonderful, generous friends of Starr Commonwealth who understand that our Funding is Fading due to declines in revenue from program fees and from individual and corporate contributors. Like so many other non-profits, and even some for-profit businesses, we have faced some challenging economic times the past year, but we are weathering the storm as best we can.

During our recent call for help, you responded by giving an impressive \$46,182. Your tax-deductible gifts help youth in our programs understand their behaviors, evaluate their decisions and work toward getting back home and connecting with school, community and loved ones.

On behalf of the youth and families we serve, we are so grateful for your support and sincerely thank you!





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