

# **United Methodist City Society Board of Directors Report Friday, June 18, 2010**

**Prepared by Ms. April Callender, Associate Executive Director**

## **Olmsted Center**

### Retreat Program

The retreat program at Olmsted Center served 356 people representing 15 groups during the period of March through June 2010. Retreat participants included 7 Methodist Church groups (170 participants), 3 groups from other denominations (37 participants), 1 not for profit group (20 participants) and 4 family groups (129 participants). In addition there were two school groups with 266 participants. Although our usage for the year is down overall, these figures represent a significant increase over this period from last year (232 participants).

As you know in 2008, Five Points Mission partnered with the volunteer group the NOMADS (which stands for Nomads on a Mission in Divine Service) and began the renovation of the kitchen in the Dining Hall. Through their volunteer efforts and with the generous support of the Park Avenue United Methodist Church Trust Fund we have doubled the size of the kitchen and purchased upgraded appliances. The result is a more spacious and energy efficient work space that will better serve our clients and cut down on our long term costs. The NOMADS completed their work on this project earlier this month and the kitchen should be fully operational when the first campers arrive at Olmsted on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

You are all invited to Managers Day at Olmsted which will take place on Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> from 12noon – 3pm. During this annual event you will be given the opportunity to tour our facilities and enjoy a hearty lunch with campers and staff. If you are interested in attending please contact me or Carla Maisonet.

### Summer Camp Program

At this writing there are 102 children registered for summer camp, which is comparable to where we were in terms of registration this time last year. Once again, many of these children are registered for more than one session so out of the 240 camper slots available we have campers in 130 of the slots.

We have filled almost all of the positions at camp. There are still openings for two female counselors. On Monday our staff will be starting their one week mandatory orientation session prior to the start of camp. This orientation includes sessions on meal planning, first aid, child development, child abuse and appropriate discipline.

This year over 70% of the families registering for camp are applying for scholarships so raising funds to assist families with the camp fees has been a priority. Once again we have received funding from the American Camp Association and the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies for camper scholarships. In addition to these scholarships, the President of the Five Points Mission Board, Mr. Spencer Disher, helped to secure an additional 6 camper scholarships from the Jack and Jill of America Foundation (Westchester Chapter) and the Beta Zeta Foundation.

You will also see in your board package a special appeal for scholarship funds in memory of Janet Hayes. She was a former President of Five Points Mission and Camp Olmsted had a special place in her heart.

Lastly, on April 8<sup>th</sup> we held our sixth annual Camp Scholarship Benefit at Park Avenue United Methodist Church. As you know this event helps us raise funds for camper scholarships. This year the honorees were James W. Perkins, Esq. and the Tremont United Methodist Church After-school Program in the Bronx. We raised \$6,000 for the camp program. Thank you to our honorees and all the Board members that supported this event.

## **Children's Program**

As we have highlighted in previous meetings, UMCS has contracted with ActKnowledge; a research and evaluation agency based at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Through this relationship we hope to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the centers in the UMCS Children's program.

In May program staff persons at our centers were asked to have the parents of their students complete surveys to help us assess their satisfaction with the program. The completed surveys will be sent to Actknowledge for analysis. In addition Actknowledge staff will be conducting both in person and telephone interviews with the directors of each of the programs receiving funding for the City Society to find out if they are satisfied with the level and quality of technical assistance being offered by UMCS staff.

Staff continues to make site visits to programs and this is the time of year for closing programs and special events. While this was a good year overall for the Children's Program in terms of the level of program assistance we were able to provide and the type of information we were able to share with the directors, many of our centers continue to struggle with financial issues and leadership challenges. There are at least four centers that are about to have transitions in leadership and we are concerned about how these transitions will affect program operation and management in the fall.

## **Summer Task Force**

The funding for the Summer Task Force for 2010 is \$30,000. We received applications from 20 churches. UMCS staff and members of the Child Care Committee reviewed the applications in May and made funding awards at our meeting in June.

The final award amounts are as follows:

▪ Asbury United Methodist Church	\$1,100
▪ Brooks Memorial United Methodist Church	\$1,200
▪ Butler Memorial United Methodist Church	\$1,500
▪ Chinese Methodist Center	\$1,700
▪ 82 <sup>nd</sup> street Academy/Community UMC	\$1,600
▪ Embury United Methodist Church	\$1,000
▪ Epworth United Methodist Church	\$1,900

▪ Faith United Methodist Church (Staten island)	\$1,000
▪ Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church	\$ 900
▪ Freeport United Methodist Church	\$1,400
▪ John Wesley United Methodist Church	\$1,200
▪ Jubilee Cluster United Methodist Church	\$1,100
▪ Kings Highway United Methodist Church	\$1,000
▪ Salem United Methodist Church	\$1,900
▪ St. Johns United Methodist Church	\$1,200
▪ St. Mark's United Methodist Church	\$1,200
▪ St. Paul's United Methodist Church	\$1,100
▪ Summerfield United Methodist Church	\$1,000
▪ Tremont United Methodist Church	\$1,700
▪ Wakefield Grace United Methodist Church	\$1,100

In addition to the grant awards listed above the City Society will also be providing tickets to a New York Liberty Summer Camp event in July and purchasing copies of a vacation bible school curriculum from Scripture Union. We would like to thank the Budget and Evaluation Committee for their continued support of this program.

## Head Start

Both of our centers are fully enrolled and are meeting the daily attendance requirement set by the Administration for Children's Services (ACS).

In late March ACS released a concept paper "Early Learn NYC" on the proposed reconfiguration of Child Care services (Head Start, Day Care, and Family Day Care) in New York City. This paper outlines best practices for child care in New York City and requires that all centers operate programs that are consistent with those practices. Among those practices outlined in the proposal – full day service for children, minimum training levels for teachers and enhanced screening of children.

To ensure that all programs will follow these practices ACS is going to require that all existing child care centers which receive funding through that agency re-apply for the contracts to operate their centers (essentially voiding existing contracts).

We are directly affected by this "Early Learn" concept because:

- 1) we will need to submit a new proposal and application for the operation of our centers (even though we are in the midst of a new contract);
- 2) currently both of our centers operate half day sessions and would now have to move towards full day service (which would have an impact on our staffing plan and staff hours); and
- 3) these new practices do not allow for the existence of centers comprised of less than three classrooms(which would lead to the closure of our center in Long Island City).

Initially the RFP for the Early Learn Initiative was to be released in June with an early August due date. The latest information is that the RFP will be released in July with a late September/early October due date.

Our director, Mamie Anguiano, and I have been attending information sessions and workshops on the implementation of Early learn NYC. She is working on revised program

and staffing plans which would meet the guidelines of Early learn NYC. I have reached out to Federation for help in securing a consultant who can assist us with the proposal.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> staff and parents met to work on the DASAT (Delegate Agency Self Assessment Tool). During this meeting staff and parents break up into teams to discuss our program operations in different categories such as program design, governance, facilities, parent involvement, etc. Parents and staff outlined the strengths and weaknesses of the program and came together as a group to discuss them.