

Say *Yes* for the Arts

By: Christie Burnett



Beginning in the month of February we began a new program in both the Teen and Children's Afterschool Programs here at Stewpot! We have integrated the Arts and Humanities into the time that we spend with our kids everyday. The goal is to find out what each child is passionate about and what they have been gifted to do- is it poetry, drawing, singing, drama, photography, dancing, cooking, sports- whatever they can think of- and then giving them the opportunity to pursue and deepen those dreams and talents in ways that might not be afforded to them outside of Stewpot. We are finding camps and classes that they can be a part of, museums and plays that we can go to, professionals and lay people that are willing to teach us the "how to's" of each area and then release the imaginations of our kids to achieve what they may have thought was impossible.

Our Children's program is studying the arts by country. First, since February was Black History Month, we learned about Africa, we read traditional folk tales, made African drums and did an arts project that showed that even though we are different shades, shapes and sizes- we are all the same and we can all be unified and asked the question- What talent do I have that I can use to create unity in my family, my city and my world? We are now studying the country of France. For our Teens, we started out talking about the same themes of Black History Month as the children except we used the

deconstruction of the poetic rap of Common (a hip-hop artist familiar to them), showing them where they had been, where we are and where we can go – if they believe and dream.

We are starting lessons on photography now- culminating in their own photographic portfolio on a topic of their choice.

I am excited as we enter the end of the school year and look to the things we will be planning for summer camp! We already have dance classes for our girls on Fridays and are looking to try to make some sort of karate or self-defense class available to our boys as well.

So, how can you help you ask? If you yourself or anyone you know, is interested in donating your time and talents to our helping our kids dream big dreams, either during the school year or during the summer- please email Christie Burnett at cburnett@stewpot.org. Also if you are interested in helping by donation- any and all art supplies would be appreciated. We are also looking for people that would be willing to financially support one or more of our kids to be able to go to specific arts camps that are in line with what they are interested in or where their talents lie. A lot of the camps are willing to work with us – all we need to do is raise the support! Thank you so much for the support you give to us and these kids!

Stop by one afternoon and see what we are creating.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

they need and to find jobs; 30 people a day that get food from the Food Pantry; 30 people a day that get clothes from the Clothing Closet; 110 children and youth that benefit from our after-school program; and numerous people that benefit from our counseling, elderly program and other smaller programs.

Please help us get the word out by having groups in which you are a participant invite a Stewpot speaker to tell the Stewpot Story. To get a speaker come to share the positive happenings of Stewpot call Michelle Bingham at Stewpot at 601-353-2759 or e-mail her at mbingham@stewpot.org. We are waiting to be your guest!



Hello, my name is...

My name is Tammothy Thompson but I prefer to be called Tammy. I came to Sims House Transitional Shelter in great need of a place to lay my head, encouragement and stability. I was referred by United Way's 211 services. I'm a 37 year old female with two teenagers who did not come to the shelter with me because I was extremely embarrassed about my situation. The only thing I had going for myself was my employment at What A Burger restaurant here in Jackson, Ms. where I have been employed for the past five years.

After going through the intake process and counseling sessions provided by Sims House, I realized my greatest problems were bad money management and no transportation. My first week in the program was a smooth transition from that of my previous fast pace with no control and no stern responsibility way of life. It gave me an opportunity to take a deep breathe, mediate on a positive outlook and concentrate on how to be a more effective and efficient parent in my children's life before it becomes too late. Honestly, when it came down to saving 50% of my earnings a week, I felt as if going to have a temper tantrum like a child. But this saving was for me and my housing opportunity that was to come. Every Monday when I reported my earnings I felt encouragement, which was one of my 3 goals. My time spent here was pleasant even though I've gained about 6 pounds in 3 month from the numerous church donated cooked meals and volunteers just stopping by to donate a varieties of cooked meal throughout the week. Also, when I first came to Sims House Shelter I only had one bag of clothes, now I have more than I can count and plenty of shoes.

I left two days before my exit date because my new residence at Westwick Apartments became available. I was so excited even though it was only a one bedroom. Yet, it feels great to have my new profound independence once again! I patted myself on the back and said job well done. After years of house hopping I can't believe I HAVE MY OWN PLACE! Thank you Stewpot and Sims House for giving me back hope that people still care enough to help and not give up on you.

P.S. I loved my room at Sims House; the bed was so comfortable!

After School in Action!

By: Monique Ealey

The children's program is on the move! We are pleased to have Ms. Morgan Cherry, a student, a Belhaven University, teaching ballet and other forms of dance to our kids. Morgan is volunteering her time every Friday afternoon to work with the children. When asked why she was willing to take on this task Morgan stated "I love dance and have been doing it for years and I wanted to give back the gift God has given me." As I stand and watch them in action I can't determine who is enjoying it more, Morgan or the kids! For both it is a wonderful opportunity and we are so blessed to have this incorporated in our program. This is just one of the many ways the Children's Program is in action!



GET YOUR LEMONADE!

On May 5th the students in our after school programs will be participating in National Lemonade Day here on the grounds of Stewpot. Lemonade Day is a fun business education program that teaches youth how to start, own, and operate their own business using a lemonade stand. This day allows youth to learn valuable lessons about life and how to be successful. In preparing for the event we are talking with the students about money management and savings. We are asking that everyone come out on May 5th between 10am and 2pm to the Stewpot parking lot and buy a cup of lemonade from the kids and support them in their endeavors.

Anyone interested in helping make this event a success please contact Monique Ealey at 601-260-9277 or mealey@stewpot.org



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Best Entrée: Kathryn's Steak House & The Holy Smokers of St. Andrews

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**Thanks to all the Restaurants that entered!
We look forward to your Participation
in Taste of Mississippi 2013.**

Stewpot Community Services, Inc.

1100 West Capitol Street,
Jackson, MS 39203

Phone: 601-353-2759

Fax: 601-353-7071

E-mail: www.stewpot.org

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fspencer@stewpot.org

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mthompson@stewpot.org

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wlogan@stewpot.org

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ykirkland@stewpot.org

Nancy Dennis: Food Services,
ndennis@stewpot.org

Caroline Ellender: Children's Services,
cellender@stewpot.org

Tara Lindsey: Volunteer Services,
tlindsey@stewpot.org

Michelle Bingham: Director, Special
Events, mbingham@stewpot.org

Sherry Spille: Accountant,
sspille@stewpot.org

Stacey Howard: Grants,
showard@stewpot.org

Shamberi Horton: Executive Assistant,
shorton@stewpot.org

Christie Burnett: Accounting Assistant/
Capital Campaign Liaison,
cburnett@stewpot.org

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Faith meeting needs in our community

JOIN US FOR A Groundbreaking!

I know some of you have been wondering what we are talking about when you hear your Stewpot family mentioning the “Faith Meeting Needs Capital Campaign”. Well, we want to make our facility more accommodating to all of our clients by remodeling and making this current building handicap assessable. We are now half way there!! On Tuesday, May 8th, we will have groundbreaking for our new lunch/assembly area and kitchen at 11:30am. We would like to invite you to join us for this monumental occasion. Help us celebrate taking your Stewpot into the next 30 years... See you there!!

Your Stewpot family now has a Facebook page!!

When you are browsing the social network scene look up the Stewpot facebook page and become a fan!



April Memorials: Vivan Chambers, Edward Nicholson, Robert Thomsen, George Fluker

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