

I N F O R M E R

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Building Memories ... One Fieldtrip at a Time

Who was it that first brought cocoa beans back from the New World? This was just one of the many questions that our students would be able to answer after having attended one of their favorite Monday field trips. Every Monday morning the staff and families of the Even Start and Family Literacy programs embarked on a new adventure; adventures, which would take them to places such as the *Cybercafe*, Morrison Park and the City Government Building.



The fieldtrip contingent visit Chocolate World in Hershey, PA

This year's field trip schedule provided something for everyone. In an effort to

provide hands on learning opportunities, the families were invited to test their computer savvy at the *Cybercafe*. As the adults were sent into a separate meeting room to listen to a

FAMILIES VISIT THE CYBERCAFE, CITY HALL, AND MORRISON PARK AS WELL.

guest speaker, the children became mesmerized by the novelty of laptop computers; that is, once they overcame their fear of breaking

them.
The Y2K field trip itinerary was deemed a success

due to the hard work of our dedicated staff; namely, our field trip coordinator, Mrs. Vera White-Reynolds and our bus driver, Mr.

FAMILIES OVERCOME FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN TO VENTURE ON THE FIELDTRIPS

Tom King. However, we must also thank the field trip participants who were flexible enough to overcome

fears and challenges; they were the ones that departed with the true spirit of curiosity and learning. Furthermore, it was obvious that these field trips could be likened to a dehydrated plant receiving a much-needed glass of water and for that, we say, "Thank you!"



The new OIC van takes the families from fun spot to fun spot on their fieldtrips.

Finally, for those of you still struggling with the answer to the above written question, I will provide a clue. The answer is obvious if you can complete the following rhyme:

*"In 1492,
_____ sailed
the ocean blue."*

"OIC....one of the oldest self-help employment and training organizations in the nation."

Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America Names New President

The Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America (OICA) has named The Rev. Dr. Staccato Powell as President and CEO. The Board elected Powell, former Deputy General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, as one of its youngest leaders ever. The OIC, founded by The Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan, is one of the oldest

INPUT FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN STILL NEEDED

self-help employment and training organizations in the nation. The group announced the new president at a press conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the



Tomasenia Cotton and new OIC of America president, Rev. Staccato Powell.

end of its 36th Annual National Employment and Training Conference.

Dr. Powell, a highly

influential clergyman of the A.M.E. Zion Church and ecumenical circles and Development consultant of the Seminary Consortium on Urban Pastoral Education, has served the church over twenty-two (22) years as pastor, theologian and religious author. He outlined four initiatives which he would immediately address as president: a) changing the face of poverty throughout the country with employment gains;

b) creating greater health and housing opportunities for today's workforce; c) retooling public education with stronger adult influence; and d) strengthening and increasing the OIC affiliates across the country. Powell will also set in motion a capital campaign to raise \$40 million to increase the organization's work by its 40th anniversary.

The announcement of

the new president was met with great optimism not only at the



Tri-County OIC's Certificate of Affiliation

conference and in Philadelphia, but also

Lawyer, Clergyman and People's Advocates Takes Helm.

in many cities in the United States. As the OIC has stood since 1964 to provide preparatory skills for employment and self-sufficiency to disadvantaged and unem-

ployed citizens, Powell's election underscored the group's commitment to securing the best talent of the day to tackle the tough issues facing a great number of people. "Our divine

mandate is to alter conditions and change

"The announcement of the new president was met with great optimism ..."

lives and create new and sustainable communities," Powell said at the press conference.

New Staff

Welcome Robin Rose and Peggy Keller to the OIC

family. Robin and Peggy will be working with the Perry County Family Literacy program. Robin is the early childhood aide and Peggy is the early childhood educator. The Perry County Family Literacy program

will begin serving families this month. Staff have been participating in training and outreach sessions. Good luck to the new staff.

Thanks Bookspan Volunteers

BOOKSPAN

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We Train People for Life

If you would like an original glossy color copy of the *Inform*, email me at my OIC web address:

jwoodyard@tricountyoic.org

Thanks to all the volunteers who participated in the **Bookspan Community Book Sale**, held on Saturday, October 7th and Sunday, October 8th. The sale saw a record number of book buyers. Some of the proceeds will

Strategic Plan Update: Management Sets Priorities

benefit the OIC programs that we offer. Your support helps us provide basic education, family literacy, and support services to our program participants.

The OIC management team has reviewed all the ideas on how we can improve services at OIC. These suggestions were the result of the brainstorming sessions held at the annual staff meeting. The management team has prioritized all your suggestions and is ready to tackle as many as possible in order to provide quality service for our learners, increased comfort for staff and students, as well as enhanced training for professionals.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT LEADS TO QUALITY PROGRAMS

The management team has determined a need to address the following top ranked areas to assure program growth and OIC's ability to meet quality standards and maintain well-trained staff.

1. Staff committed to excellence
2. Increase enrollment
3. Retention
4. Recruitment/retention of students



The Board of Directors, The Program Improvement Team and the Management Team will take the lead in meeting the goals and objectives of the *Strategic Plan*.

5. Creative ways to motivate people to complete programs
6. Provide equal opportunity to tech-

- nology
7. Meeting the ever changing needs of students
8. Promoting self-sufficiency
9. Employability skills
10. Understanding students' perspectives

Those of you who completed the *Indicators of Program Quality Interest Survey* will be called upon to help the management team, the *Program Improvement Team* and the board of directors to complete