

# I N F O R M E R

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## Tri-County OIC Graduation: An Organization Wide Effort

**S**aturday, October 28, 2000 marked the day for *Tri-County OIC's* annual graduation. It was a celebration attended by more than one hundred guests. In attendance were Tri-County OIC graduates, their families, and their friends. The success of the graduation was due (in no small part) to the efforts and dedication of members of the OIC staff, board of directors, and auxiliary.

The formal ceremony took place at St. Paul Baptist Church and was complete with caps and gowns, a slow march to *Pomp and Circumstance*, and an opportunity for



Just a few of the Class of 2000 at St. Paul Baptist Church

graduates to have photographs taken for future enjoyment. The banquet reception was held at OIC's main site where a bountiful feast was had for all.

This year, the graduates

consisted of OIC students who were able to meet the requirements to achieve either a GED diploma or nursing assistant certification. Special awards were presented to students who completed with exceptional scores.

## OVER 100 PEOPLE ATTEND OIC'S ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation committee would like to thank those members of the staff, board of directors, and auxiliary who gave of themselves to make the

graduation a true success. We would like to extend a special thanks to Donald Evans and Gladys Sigue for their help with the graduation ceremony. We would also like to

thank Reverend Emma Woodyard and her daughter Stacy for their efforts with the banquet reception. We also need to show our sincere appreciation to the busi-

*“I thought the graduation was especially meaningful this year. It was very touching.”*

### THE GRADUATION COMMITTEE THANKS ALL WHO HELPED

nesses that donated items: Karns Foods, Weis Markets, BJ's Wholesaler, and 1400 The Touch. Thanks so much to everyone who participated and we hope to see you there next year as well.

*By David Wisman*



Constance Jackson is elated

## It's That Time Of Year



# W

hen the weather turns bad this winter and you need to know if OIC is open for business, be sure to watch ABC's Channel 27. OIC will notify the TV station as soon as a decision about school closings and delays occur. Also, you can get on the *Snow Watch* e-mail list and get notification of school closings at your e-mail address. To get on the Snow Watch list simply e-mail me at [jwoodyard@tricountyoioc.org](mailto:jwoodyard@tricountyoioc.org) and ask to be added to the *Snow Watch* e-mail list.



Get on the OIC SNOW WATCH list.

## Today's Message for a Better Tomorrow

**A**mong my fondest memories are those created by children. Their laughter, their smiles and even their tears. They are the stories that I have been privileged to share with many young faces. In fact, they are the inspiration for so much of what I do and even who I have become today. Experience has taught me that it's not just about the teachable moment anymore, but rather the entire

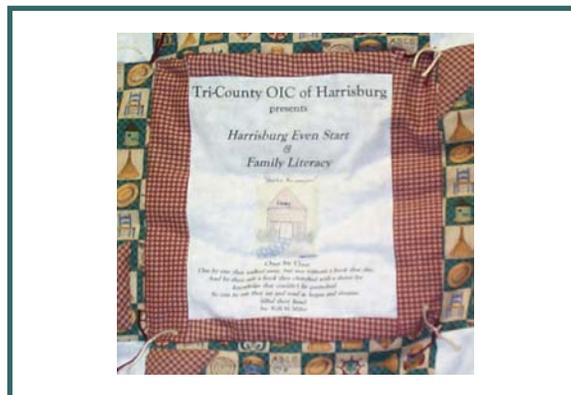


journey that we take with our students. Which reminds me – make sure that I tell you about some of our most memorable journeys.

- Like the day when a student followed the footsteps

of Michael Finnegin, and what she found at the end of her journey.

- The day a miniature clown taught Physics during the summer program at the East Shore Library. (\*Specifically, Newton’s second law, best known as the Law of Momentum.)
- The day the children sewed their first stitch onto a piece of fabric and realized that they could do something that the adults do a means of socializing.
- The days when our cooking experiments provided more than an exciting chemistry lesson, but also a means of shared communication between friends and families.



Tri-County OIC’s Family Literacy Quilt

However, no project has ever been as stimulating or as worthy of answering a rhyme as the one we have undertaken at this time. It reads as follows:

What do you get when you cross technology with American folk art? The answer is quite simple. You get a beautiful quilt or a lovely wall hanging.

This project started out as a simple idea, which grew beyond measure.

That’s exactly what we are creating this month. This project started out as a simple idea, which grew beyond measure. With the advice of a few experts along the way, a roadmap was created and the planes were set into motion. The notion of marrying what some people view to be a primitive art form with current technology soon become an exciting adventure. Moreover, it provided an outlet for positive self-expression.

Finally, to those involved in this project, it provided a symbol of warmth and hope, the kind of hope, which depicts the innermost thoughts and dreams of the children in our programs. This project will serve as an example of living art. Living art, which provides some insight into our hearts and minds. We hope that you will take some time to share in our journey and view the history of our project at Tri-County OIC during the month of September.

*“There is an  
unseen force, a  
spiritual dimension,  
guiding our lives  
like a loving parent  
guiding its child. –  
Pythia Peay”*

*By: Kelli Miller*

*Inspired by: Petitesa Teal and the children of the Even Start and Family Literacy programs.*

## OIC Is Awarded Job Retention Contract

**O**IC has been awarded a contract from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare to assist current and former welfare clients retain their jobs and obtain better jobs that lead to greater self-sufficiency. Lola Lawson coordinates project Job Retention. For details about eligibility, program services, and project goals, contact Lola at 238-7318 or llawson@tricityoic.org.

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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:

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## FAMILY LITERACY COORDINATOR WILL BE MISSED

OIC's Family Literacy Coordinator, Mike Sobkowski, is resigning his position at OIC to become an advisor for the Bureau of Adult Basic and Literacy Education. Mike OIC's loss is truly the Bureau's gain. Mike has worked at OIC for 7 years. During that time he has used his easy going personality and *can do* attitude to work wonders with each of the programs with which he has been associated. Over the years, Mike has worked on many projects including Project TEAM, the Telecommunications Education project, the Blue Shield workplace project, and most recently the Even Start and Family Literacy programs.



We admire Mike as a true team player who always put students and families first. Please join me in offering him our heartfelt appreciation for all the he has done and continued success as he moves into a position that will allow him to do even more

OTAN



## Online Connection

A publication for members of the Outreach and Technical Assistance Network  
<http://www.otan.dni.us>

Lesson plans, student resources, research updates, search links, and teacher exchanges are just a few of the services that are provided by one of the best online educational databases – OTAN. OTAN (Outreach and Technical Assistance Network) is funded by the California department of Education. Widely used in California, this network of resources is one best-kept secrets outside of California. Teachers and administrators who are not registered users should take a few minutes to visit the OTAN website at [www.otan.dni.us](http://www.otan.dni.us). You can also visit the OIC website and go directly to the OTAN link.

## Best of 2000

In cooperation with the Dauphin County Library System, Tri-County OIC is sponsoring a collection of books for the whole family to enjoy. You can borrow the books, which we hope will encourage families to read together, from your local library. The collection of books by famous authors are divided into these categories:



Babies & Toddlers	Preschool & Kindergarten	Primary Grades
Intermediate Grades	Young Adults	The Whole Family

Call the Dauphin County Library System (234-4961 ext 108) to ask about The *Best of 2000* collection, or see your OIC family literacy instructor.