



Dale Robinson helps children see brighter futures

"What are your dreams?" Dale Robinson asks the Kings Center kids. Dale has big dreams for himself and for others. That's why he comes to the Center twice a month with colleagues from the Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation to talk with the kids about their dreams and how the future might look for them. "We want to show the kids there are opportunities out there for them," he says.

Bad choices took Dale away from his family for 10 years while he was incarcerated. He saw how hard it was on his boys and he wants young people to make better

choices and have better outcomes. His good choices – along with his hard work, determination, and infectious enthusiasm – helped him become a business owner, an author, a motivational speaker, and co-founder of the Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation.

Dale says kids need positive role models, especially black, male role models. He wants them to know that they can be successful, too. Seeing Dale's book, *The Making of a Ninja*, one child said, "You wrote that? Maybe I could write a book." They talk about hard stuff, too, like bullying and gun violence. They also talk about self-esteem, gratitude, and respect. "These kids have a bright future," he says. "If they can be around the right people, they can become what they are meant to be."



New face at the Kings Center

Meagan Morrow has created a cozy office upstairs at the Kings Center, where she is spending a year serving as an Americorps/VISTA volunteer for the Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation. Her focus with WJR is to build the structure for a mentoring program for children affected by incarceration. While she's here, Meagan will also be working with the KC kids.



Creativity connections

We're excited about having two of our most popular programs back next year, with the return of HeartBEATS and Peace of Mind.

HeartBEATS is the powerful trauma-informed Hip Hop youth development program for middle and high school students through which students learn basic music theory, audio production vocabulary and equipment, and how to create and perform their own music. Peace of Mind is a spoken word program through which children discover their own abilities to write poetry as a way to express their thoughts and feelings, and describe the world around them.

Both programs were funded by generous grants which allowed the Kings Center to bring in teaching artists to work with the children to develop their creativity and new ways to communicate, and both programs are looking for sponsors to help keep the programs going. If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring one of these programs, please contact Sheila Burton at sburton914@aol.co.





Fall highlights

It's been a busy fall at the Kings Center, with so many wonderful opportunities for the children to learn and grow, with help from our wonderful staff and caring community. In addition to the stories on the front of this newsletter, here are more highlights:



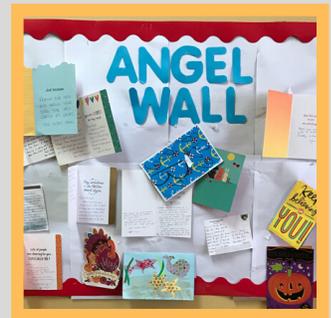
- Several children who participate in the HeartBEATS program at the Kings Center performed at the Grand Theatre as part of the Yes Arts (formerly Hands Healing HeArts) Just Say Yes Summit in September.
- HeartBEATS students also performed at the Farmers Market in October (and got some vegetables).
- Kings Center student Jeremiah Stoner received an award at the KSU Promising Youth Center for Excellence Harvest Child and Family Recognition awards ceremony in November.
- Cynthia Elliot has been working with the Kings Center to provide tennis lessons at the Dolly Graham Park with coach David Hartsek.
- Anna Whites invited the children to come to her law office up the street for a fun Halloween party.
- Yes Arts has made it possible for many of the children to take piano lessons at First Corinthian Church around the corner. Capital City Christian Church donated multicolor keyboards so the kids can practice between lessons.
- Volunteers from First Presbyterian Church come twice a month to do craft projects with the children, including Thanksgiving cards.
- Climbing, crawling, running, and jumping, were some of the skills the children used to maneuver up, over, around and through obstacles at the Urban Ninja Gym -- oh, and laughing. Plenty of laughing.
- Aetna's metamorphosis program uses the life cycle of real Monarch butterflies to reinforce the ideas of healthy choices and healthy lifestyles with the children.
- Deneen, Jaz and some of the children hosted a table at the annual South Frankfort Neighborhood Association annual picnic with a contest to guess how much candy.
- The kids also love to play with Legos, hike at Cove Spring and so much more ...



City of Angels

Every time Kay Scott pops in to the Kings Center, she's greeted with a chorus of, "Do I have mail?" The children love receiving monthly cards from their Secret Angels, although for some a month is a long time to wait! Director Deneen Petty decided that a bulletin board, where angel cards could be shared, would help alleviate the time problem.

The City of Angels program was started by Paula Miller in 2003 to make a positive difference in the lives of the Kings Center children. Secret Angels pray for their sponsored child, send monthly cards or letters of encouragement, donate toward school supplies, snacks and field trips, and provide Christmas gifts from a wish list.



Over 60 children at the Kings Center have a Secret Angel. Nine angels sponsor more than one child and six children are sponsored by groups. It is our goal to help the children know that people in the community love and care about them. If you are interested in this program contact Kay Scott at kaykellerscott49@gmail.com



The Kings Center
202 East Third Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-227-8010
kingscenter.org