

Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc.
“Reaching for Success one star at a Time”

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EXTRA.....EXTRA.....READ ALL ABOUT TSOC
21st Century Community Learning Center

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



For the month of October we are going PINK! Did you know that Breast Cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among African American and Hispanic women? Minorities have lower overall survival rates for many cancers. Factors that may contribute to these stark actualities include lack of education about cancer risk-reduction strategies, symptoms and screening, and reduced access to cancer screening and treatment facilities. To combat this reality, we are on a mission to educate “our community” concerning breast cancer awareness and early detection. We have had some children in our program who have parents that have been diagnosed with breast cancer and are currently going through treatments, are survivors of breast cancer, or who put up a good fight! A parent having breast cancer can be very difficult for a child to understand. This program was for the family to get information on the disease and for the children to know they are not alone. They were able to listen to and talk to other children and families who this disease had affected. Together we can find a cure and together we can educate the community!

On October 9, 2010, Think Smart Outreach Center hosted a Celebration of Life - Breast Cancer Awareness program. The event was held at Triangle South Enterprise Center in Dunn, NC.

The staff and participants of the program took part in various activities/tasks throughout the event. The Mistress of Ceremony for the evening was Dr. Vikki Andrews. Keynote Speaker was Mindy Sopher. Ms. Sopher is employed by North Carolina State University and Peace College. She teaches Public Speaking and Non-Profit Leadership and Development. She has been diagnosed with cancer four times. At the date of the event, it has been the longest she had been cancer free since she was diagnosis in August 1999. Also speaking at the event was Bernadette Pickles and Carol King. Mrs. Pickles is a 6 year Breast Cancer Survivor who currently serves as the Director of Community Outreach and Volunteer Services for the Pretty in Pink Foundation. She has held this position for the last two years. Ms. King has worked for PSNC-Energy in Raleigh, NC for 38 years. She has been a volunteer for Pretty in Pink Foundation for little over a year. She is a 1 year 9 months breast cancer survivor. All three ladies gave their testimonies and provided the audience with information about early detection, importance of yearly physicals, understanding your body, and ways to cope when you are diagnosed with breast cancer or have a family member or friend that has been diagnosed with this disease. There were also great performances by Promise of Lillington and Catina-McNeil-Autry.

Our goal was for 100 individuals to attend this wonderful event and we had 120 to participate. We would like to personally thank each of you that attended and for those that provided material/information placed in each participant’s Breast Cancer Goody Bag. Again, this was a wonderful event and those in attendance are already asking about next year’s event. We will see you then!

Working Hard for the 2010-2011 term



The new program year started on October 4, 2010 and we have been working hard for the 2010-2011 term. We were recently awarded the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant and this is a grant for a four year period. We have been "hitting" the pavement and providing information about our program to Harnett County Schools, churches, community agencies, government agencies as well as going house to house in numerous communities to inform parents/families of our services.

The week of September 20, 2010, our program established a Recruitment Pool in which we had staff, students, volunteers, and parents of our program to go in the community and speak to the families about our services. We knocked on doors and the families allowed us to sit in their living rooms and kitchen tables as we presented our program to them and their families. We felt as though this was a great way to reach the families because we are reaching them in their comfort zone. The families were extremely impressed with the fact that a program actually understood the real meaning of "outreach".

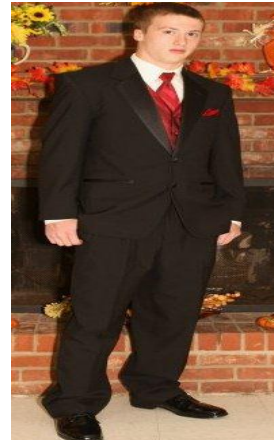
There are so many children that we feel will benefit from our program that are falling through the cracks. We need the "entire community" to help us reach these students and the only way we can reach them is if we go to them and not wait for them to knock on our doors

Currently, at our Erwin Site we are at capacity. We now have a waiting list for the 2010-2011 term. We feel as though our hard work, dedication, and our reputation in the community is the reason for this great blessing. We have students at our program that are eager to come to the facility every day and look forward to the many activities/projects that we provide to them on a daily basis.

We also have staff that have worked with us for years that understand our purpose, our mission, and gives 110% daily to the students and the program. Our staff understands that with our program you have to "think out of the box" and you have to provide students and families with activities that they will not get during the school day or with any other program in the area.

We have implemented new activities within our organization for the youth and their families. We define this year as a "New Beginning". Therefore, we have new activities, new ideas, new programs, and new adventures. We will continue to keep some of our "older" activities but we do understand that in order to keep a program "fresh and new" that you have to breathe new life into the program in order to reach the level you are seeking. Since we are embarking on 10 years in April 2011, we are taking Think Smart to a new level and "Elevating 110% this Year"

RIP Kenneth Andrew "Drew" Watkins



Think Smart has lost one of our own. Our "baby" Drew Watkins passed on 9/14/2010! He was a Senior at HCHS. We had some great moments and to us Drew was a part of our family! We will always cherish the memories of the Shawtown gym, the games, and practices. The bond the "team" shared is unbreakable. No matter where we were, Drew would always come up to us and hug us and hold "lengthy" conversations (lol). RIP Drew! The Cougars attended the service to show our respect to our Forever #33

What Going on at Think Smart???

(You can also check out our website at www.thinksmartoutreach.org) and check Upcoming Events for additional information



Youth after School Program Meets Monday-Thursday from 3:00 pm-7:00 pm. We also have 2nd shift available until 11:45 pm.

Pre-Collegiate Workshops (High School Students) meet the 1st Saturday of each month from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm and then attend trips as they become available

High School after School Programs meets Monday-Thursday at our facility. Times are based on the activities which they participate.

Think Smart's Radio Station airs every Wednesday from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm at 646-381-4846 or www.blogtalkradio.com/thnk-smrt-undrgrnd

Family Reading Night meets Bi-monthly (see monthly calendar)

Male/Female Mentor Night meets Bi-Monthly (See monthly calendar)

Martial Arts are on Mondays from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

Art Classes are on Tuesdays from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

French Classes are on Wednesdays from 5:00 pm-5:45 pm

Culinary Art Classes are on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

Dinner served nightly from 5:30 pm-6:00 pm

From the After school Corner at Think Smart:

Mrs. Anitra-Site Coordinator



The youth after school program at Think Smart started on Monday, October 4, 2010. Our program is still focusing on academics, life/social skills, enrichment activities, and recreational activities. The hours of operation are Monday-Thursday from 3:00 pm-7:00 pm. The program serves students in grades K-8th. We have a Primary Class (K-3rd), Elementary Class (4th-5th) and Middle School Class (6th-8th).

The students have completed their Math and Language Arts assessments. The purpose of the assessment is for the teachers to find out what areas the students have mastered and what areas they need improvement in so while they are at the after school program, we can assist them with their educational needs. The students will take a Pre-Assessment, a Mid-Term Assessment, and then a Final Assessment so we can track their growth.

The students have also done a fashion design class in which they designed shirts and pants. Since starting Oct 4th, they have had Field day, Game day, and made homemade pizzas and NO bake Fudge Pie.

Students have learned about Character Education and Life Skills by playing the Game "Oh no you didn't" and Choices. Some of the activities they have done during Academic Group included the Soul Train line which emphasized Mathematics and History and Spell it Out which dealt with spelling (words used from their spelling words during the day). All of the activities were taken out of the Energizer Book provided by Department of Public Instruction in which Ms. Pam helped contribute to this book.

The after school program is heading to the NC State Fair on October 21, 2010, for a Community Service Project.

**From the After School Corner at
Harnett Central Middle**



Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. 21st CCLC will be housing our after school program at an additional location for the 2010-2011 term. Our program is extremely happy for the opportunity to be able to provide our services at Harnett Central Middle School. The Principal, Mrs. Clara Clinton, the fine staff, and wonderful students are also excited about this new partnership between our program and their school. Mrs. Clinton is eager to implement our program. Although, this is her 1st Year as Principal at Harnett Central Middle School; when she was the Principal in Monroe, North Carolina her school also had a 21st Century Community Learning Center Program housed there. She knows first-hand the great benefits of 21st CCLC Programs and how they can provide resources to help the students in the local school system.

The program will consist of: homework assistance, fine arts/special sessions, academic group games, family involvement, literacy program, technology programs, and so much more!

Again, we are excited about this opportunity and we are looking forward to working with the great students, fine administration/staff, and wonderful families at Harnett Central Middle School.

If you would like for your child (ren) to sign up for the program at HCMS, please complete the Interest Form and return it before the deadline date. There is a cap on spaces and it is on a first come/first serve basis.

**Promoting Excellence through Sisterhood
Think Smart Mentoring Program
Ms. Je Toya-Mentor
Coordinator**



Promoting Excellence through Sisterhood is one of our newest programs. It is a mentoring program for our girls' ages 7-15 years old. The purpose of the program is to pair the girls up with positive role models who will provide them with the information and skills they need in order to become productive citizens. The girls have participated in two Community Service Projects which consisted of them visiting the Universal Health Care, located in Lillington, NC. They also have participated in a Meet and Greet and Girl Talk Session at the facility.

They are still recruiting for girls in this age group who would like to receive a mentor in addition to Youth (ages 15-17) and Adult (ages 18 and older) who would like to serve as Mentors.

We are in the process of implementing our Male Mentoring Program. If you would like to refer a male ages 7-18, please contact our office. We are also in need of Males ages 18 and older to volunteer as Mentors.

"A hundred years from now...it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove...but the world may be a different place because I was important in the life of a child" -Forest E. Witcraft

Seeking Volunteers



In order for a program grow and to reach its highest level, it is extremely important that reliable volunteers are in place to assist with the mission.

Benefits of Volunteering

People volunteer for a wide variety of reasons, especially wanting to help others. But it's also OK to want some benefits for yourself from volunteering.

Some people are uncomfortable with the notion that a volunteer "benefits" from doing volunteer work. There is a long tradition of seeing volunteering as a form of charity, based on altruism and selflessness. The best volunteering does involve the desire to serve others, but this does not exclude other motivations, as well.

Instead of considering volunteering as something you do for people who are not as fortunate as yourself, begin to think of it as an exchange.

Consider that most people find themselves in need at some point in their lives. So today you may be the person with the ability to help, but tomorrow you may be the recipient of someone else's volunteer effort. Even now you might be on both sides of the service cycle: maybe you are a tutor for someone who can't read, while last month the volunteer ambulance corps rushed you to the emergency room. Volunteering also includes "self-help." So if you are active in your neighborhood crime watch, your home is protected while you protect your neighbors' homes, too. Adding your effort to the work of others makes everyone's lives better.

Your Motivations

Think about how much you receive when you give and consider why you want to volunteer. You may have several different reasons. Here are just a few of the many possible motivations identified by other volunteers:

- To feel needed
- To share a skill
- To get to know a community
- To demonstrate commitment to a cause/belief
- To gain leadership skills
- To act out a fantasy
- To do your civic duty
- Because of pressure from a friend or relative
- Satisfaction from accomplishment
- To keep busy
- For recognition
- To repay a debt
- To donate your professional skills
- Because there is no one else to do it
- To have an impact

By: Susan J. Ellis

At Think Smart, we need YOU to volunteer. Volunteering is as simple as coming by to read to a student or have them read to you, assisting them with homework, chaperoning field trips, donating items, teaching a class/activity, decorating an event, or just being an ear to listen. No task is too big or small. We need all the "helping" hands to assist the leaders of today and tomorrow. If you would like to volunteer, please come to the lobby area and sign up.

From the Pre-Collegiate Corner

Pre-Collegiate Director-Ms. Pam
Pre-Collegiate Assistant Director- Ms. Nell



Our Pre-Collegiate Program had their first official meeting on Saturday, October 2, 2010. The room was full to capacity. The topic was "Is this Really What I Want to do for the Rest of My Life". The students researched various careers and then had to do a budget based on the amount of money they will make for the month. They had to pay mortgage/ rent, car payment, tithes, light bill, phone, water, car insurance, personal supplies, gas for car, life insurance, health insurance, cable, etc. Additionally, they learned how to track their money and to look "twice" at their spending habits.

After the classroom assignment, we took a trip to J&J Construction in which the students learned how to build a house and were given information about the construction world. Mr. Jesse, owner of J&J Construction, is a General Contractor. He informed the students that a General Contractor can make \$300,000 a year depending on what type of bids and their expertise.

The students will be heading to Fayetteville State University on October 23, 2010, for a College Experience.

The high school after school program meets Monday-Thursday and the 1st Saturday of the month from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm.

We have sent more students to college than any other program in Harnett County. We are committed to continue to provide wonderful services for students in Harnett County. If you want to go to college or if you want your child (ren) to go to college, we have only two words for you---**Think Smart!**

From the HCPAL Corner

Ms. Nell-PAL Director
Mr. Walter-Athletic Director



It's about that time again....Basketball Season. Our basketball season is getting underway and this year we will have teams for girls and boys. We will be having an interest meeting on the dates below and if you are interested, please come by our center at 6:00 pm on those dates to take part in the meeting.

October 27th- ages 6 and 8 under (boys and girls)

October 28th- ages 9-10 under (boys and girls)
ages 12 u (boys ONLY)
ages 11-13 (girls ONLY)

November 1st- ages 15 and under (boys and girls)

November 2nd- 18 and under (boys ONLY)

Our Cheerleader Team (ages 14 to 18 years old) had their first showcase on October 4th and 5th. We will be having another one soon for those ages 11-13 and 14-18. The deadline to register for Cheerleading is November 2, 2010.

We are currently seeking Volunteer Coaches!

You can go to our website and click on the Sports Page Icon and then download the Athletic Application.

Also, the Athletic Booster Club will meet on Saturday, October 23, 2010, at 10:30 am, to go over their goals, grants, and sponsorships for the 2010-2011 term.

Think Smart has also incorporated a Junior Booster Club which consists of school age youth. Their purpose is to recruit their peers to play on various sport teams implemented by our organization.

Welcome to the Think Smart Family



We would like to take this time to Welcome Mrs. Lori and Mrs. Shannon to the Think Smart Family.

Mrs. Lori is the Middle School Teacher at our facility. She is currently employed by Harnett County Schools as a High School Teacher. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree from East Carolina University in Information Technologies and a Master of Art Degree from East Carolina University in Business Education. She also has a North Carolina Teaching License in Business Education (6th-12th grade). She has also worked as a Tutor, Teacher Assistant, and School Attendance Counselor.

Mrs. Shannon is the Elementary School Teacher at our facility. She is currently employed by Harnett County Schools as a Special Education Teacher CCR 4th and 5th Grades. She has an Associate Degree from Iowa Lakes Community College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education. She holds a teaching license in the State of Iowa along with Special Education, Coaching, and Reading and Pre-K endorsements. In North Carolina, she has a teaching license in the areas of Elementary Education (K-6), Reading (K-6), EC General Curriculum (K-6), Middle Grades Language Arts (6-9), and a Pre K/K add on. She has worked as a substitute teacher and a volleyball coach.

When you see them, please give them a BIG smile and welcome them to the Think Smart Family!

Board of Director Members



We are currently seeking individuals that would like to serve on our Board of Directors. A Board of Directors is a body of elected or appointed members who jointly oversee the activities of an organization. The Board of Directors supports, believes, and understands the purpose of the organization and will make sure the program is sustained and help with their current or present needs.

We are looking for a few Good Men and Women for our new term since those that have served on our board for their 3 year term is soon to expire. Please submit your name by November 1, 2010.



We are currently accepting applications/resumes for some of the positions that we have available. If you are interested in seeking employment, please go to our website and click on Employment Opportunities and follow the directions.



Mount Pisgah Harnett OFWB Church for allowing our program to participate in your 150th year Celebration Parade as well as giving us the opportunity to set up an informational booth, Harnett Central Middle and Harnett Central High Schools for allowing us to come to your fine schools to do a presentation for your great staff, Triton High School for allowing us to set up an informational booth during your lunches, our partners for all your feedback during our Partner's Meeting, and Johnston-Lee Harnett Community Action Center for allowing us to display an informational booth at your community center. Also thanks to all of you for reading our newsletters. We hope you have enjoyed reading the great things that are going on at 55 Think Smart Lane!

Where our aim is "Reaching for Success one star at a Time"



Newsletter Prepared by
Ms. Pamela Williams

Chief Executive Director
Ms. Pamela Williams

Chief Financial Director
Ms. Nell Williams

Chief Executive Assistant/Site Coordinator
Mrs. Anitra Hart

Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc.
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We were established on April 24, 2001. Nine Years and Still Growing Strong!! We would like to say a Special Thank You to our Wonderful Staff and our Volunteers. You complete the puzzle at Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc. 21st Century Community Learning Center!!