

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

December 2010

www.thinksmartoutreach.org

admin@thinksmartoutreach.org

telephone number: 910-814-8762

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



I love the holidays and enjoy the family time, the Christmas Carols/Songs, fellowship, decorations, etc. The one thing I enjoy more than anything is helping other people during the holiday season. Sometimes we get so “caught” up in the hustle and bustle, spending money, making sure we get our families and friends everything that they want on their shopping list that we forget that there are people in this world that will be alone this holiday season or that there will be some children that will not have “one” gift under the Christmas Tree. Several years ago when I was attending Fayetteville State University, I decided that God has blessed me beyond measures so I would adopt or help a family in need during the holidays. I am not doing this because I have too but I am doing this because helping others is one of the real reasons for the Christmas

Holiday. So while you are at the malls, buying online or thinking about what else you can spend your money on, I have found some ways that you can help others this holiday season. **I challenge everyone reading this newsletter to help someone else during the holidays because the feeling you will get is PRICELESS! Once you start helping others it is contagious and it will spread to others. What a wonderful world we would have if everyone would stop thinking about themselves and their loved ones and start helping someone else. It's true what they say, you REAP what you SOW~~its time for us to start reaping a HARVEST but it starts by GIVING back and HELPING others! So who is ready to Make a Difference this Holiday Season?**

The holiday season is a time for joy for families, traditionally, but the unfortunate truth is that, for many families, the holidays are a time of great need. People within your community, and likely some you know, suffer hunger, depression and calamity. So, what can you do to make a difference during the holiday season?

Help an Elderly Neighbor

The winter months, especially in the northern climates, will bring snow and ice, sometimes in great amounts. More deaths in the elderly population occur within the winter months of December to March.

If you have an elderly neighbor, take a few extra minutes to shovel the walk and driveway for them. It will not take much time and could save their life or keep them from serious injury.

Sometimes, just being there for them can make all the difference; talk to them about their day or let them reminisce about past holidays. Doing this shows them someone cares for their welfare, and you just might learn something you never knew before.

Donate Toys

It is an unfortunate fact that many children will go without a present for Christmas. Some families, living paycheck to paycheck find the financial stress even more difficult during the winter months, with increased heating bills.

There are a number of organizations established dedicated to giving presents to these poor children. Some set up bins at toy stores and shopping malls, allowing you to give a toy that you have purchased for that purpose; others will accept cash donations.

Giving even a small toy can bring a spark of joy into an otherwise difficult life.

Volunteer

The holidays are a great time to give to different charitable organizations that

help out the less fortunate, but you could consider donating your time instead of money. There are many children's hospitals, homeless shelters and senior citizen centers that could use your help, especially in the winter months; this is when they see the most people seeking assistance.

Food Banks

Many food banks are glad to accept cash donations instead of food, because they are given deep discounts when purchasing grocery items. They will, of course, accept food donations, but it is worth keeping their discount in mind when giving.

Donate Blood

As with any other time of year, the winter months bring accidents and misfortune; the frequency is even greater when the weather turns foul. Blood is a precious resource that is greatly needed when things go wrong.

Donating blood is easy to do and takes little time. There is no greater gift you can give to someone than saving their life. By donating blood, you will do just that.

The holiday season can bring great joy, and great sorrow, to families and friends. What you do with your time and money can not only make a difference to someone, it can change their life forever.

www.suite101.com/content/simple-ways-to-make-a-difference-during-the-holidays-

Christmas PAST



So many times the adults are left out when it comes to Christmas so we are doing a Christmas Past for the adults “around” Think Smart and asking them what was the BEST gift(s) they received for Christmas as a child.

When asked the question, **Mr. Charles** was smiling and said the best gift he ever received was a Cowboy Gun Set. **Mrs. Anita** had a HUGE grin on her face when asked the question and said it was her Easy Bake Oven. She said she thinks she cooked everything in that one night! When I asked **Ms. Nell** the question, she looked up into the air and then said my best Christmas present as a child was a boombox because I got to record music from D103 FM. Mrs. Chona put her hand on her hip and with the biggest smile on her face she said Baby Alive. I can remember the best Christmas gift that I received was the complete Barbie Set which consisted of Barbie’s two story house, pool, van, Barbie and Ken, and a packet of clothes for Barbie. I was all smiles on that day!

So regardless if you received the gift 10 or 20 years ago, the most important thing is that you still remember that special moment and with that one question it made you reflect back on your childhood. Even as adults we still need to have special “memories” for Christmas. Whether we are making them for our own families or doing something for a complete stranger. Christmas is NOT only about the children but should be a GREAT time for all of us. Never stop embracing that inner child inside of you.

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.

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.

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

Kids Café- A hot dinner is prepared nightly at our facility.

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

From the After school Corner at Think Smart



Primary Class

It's a wonderful time of the year to be a part of the Primary Class. The students are still getting help with their daily homework assignments as well as getting tutorial assistance. However, each group is focusing on various topics:

Kindergarten is working on writing their names correctly on the kindergarten paper as well as spelling sight words.

1st Grade is working on 2 digit addition and subtraction and writing sentences with correct punctuations.

2nd Grade is working on Alphabetical Order and 3 digit addition and subtraction.

3rd Grade is working on multi-digit, math problems, graphing, and writing paragraphs.

The students are working extremely hard and are extremely excited to come to the after school program on a daily basis. We are focusing on academics, life skills, social skills, recreation and character education. The students have enjoyed a lot of fun academic games which consist of but not limited to: Human Tic Tac Toe Spelling, Math Bingo, ABC Relay, and Alphabet Bingo.

The students have also completed their assessments. The assessments are given to each student in order to give the tutors insight in reference to what the student's need help in during academic time. The students are also given progress reports on a weekly basis to communicate with the parents in reference to what they are mastering and focus areas.

Elementary Class

The Elementary Class has found the "scientist" within them. The first weeks of the month they finished their Science Projects and then made brochures and pamphlets detailing storms.

The students are also working on spelling and math fluency with academic games, double-digit multiplication, single digit fact fluency, reading social studies passages, answering comprehension questions from the text, and using headers and subtitles to narrow down the text.

Progress reports are sent home weekly.

Middle School Class

The middle school group is gearing towards a new year and working hard to achieve the goals they have set for themselves in 2010. They are working hard on the multiplication table both on paper and spoken and creative writing as they are changing lyrics to a "traditional" song into their own words.

They also made Christmas Cards for the elderly which provided them the opportunity to show their form of art expression and creativity.

The Middle School group has also started their own Radio Station entitled

“Think Smart Exclaim”. They are on air every Monday from 5:00 pm-5:30 pm. The students are coming up with the topics, running the switchboard, and working on and behind the scenes. This is a youth ran production but Ms. Ashley is the advisor to make sure the show runs smoothly.

From the After School Corner at Harnett Central Middle



Our HCMS site is having a great time. All the kinks are out and the program is running smoothly. They are currently using three classrooms as well as the art room for their art class, and the auditorium for their dance class. The students are doing homework, EOG Preparedness Activities, and going to the computer lab to work on fun brain and other educational games that is enhancing their math and language arts skills.

The students are still enjoying Art and Dance as part of their Special Session and are having a ball with the curriculum.

Some of the parents are stating how much the program is helping their child(ren) and how the homework assistance is helping them especially with their math assignments. We continue to have more students sign up for the program on a daily basis. They are giving 100% and their hard work is paying off!

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



(Some of the mentees and Mentor Coordinator)

Excellence through Sisterhood, Think Smart’s Mentor Program, had the opportunity to create Christmas ornaments and art projects with their mentors. The mentor program also completed their “cooking class” and is now ready for the KITCHEN.

Mentors and Mentees attended “Shop with a Cop” and were able to share in the amazing experience of serving “less fortunate” families during this Christmas season through the wrapping of gifts, serving breakfast and assisting youth choose Christmas GIFTS.

Another month has approached us and once again we learned a lot and had bunches of fun!



Mayor Patsy Carson, Erwin Town Manager, Bryan Thompson, and Erwin Chamber President Erica Gallion at our center for our Shop with a Cop 2010

Our Shop with a Cop 2010



On Saturday, December 11, 2010 from 11am-1pm, Think Smart's Police Athletic/Activities League (PAL) program sponsored our 3rd Annual Shop with a Cop Holiday Event.

Most people do not know what it would be like to not have warm winter clothing or at least one toy under the tree at Christmastime. Local families experiencing economic hardships can't always provide their children with their own celebration of Christmas but on this day we brought some smiles to the faces of some wonderful children.

We would like to thank the Erwin Ladies Club, Mrs. Linda Holliday, and Ms. Claudette Williams for your donations towards this event, Also, thanks to Harnett County's Sheriff Department, volunteers, Pre-Collegiate Students, Mayor Patsy Carson, Town Manager Bryan Thompson, and Erwin Chamber President Erica Gallion for assisting with this event to help others have a Merry Christmas. We cannot forget about Santa who dropped by 55 Think Smart Lane during his busiest time of the year to help us with the event! Remember Christmas is about helping others. So continue to spread love throughout the holiday and all year long.

From the Pre-Collegiate Corner

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



During the month of December, our Pre-Collegiate Program helped with our Annual Shop with a Cop Community Service Projects.

They arrived at the center at 8:00 am. After their arrival, they decorated the center to look like the North Pole from hanging stockings to placing snow outside (that looked like the "real" thing). They did an "awesome" job. After they decorated, the selected youth, and their families, the officers, volunteers, and Santa himself arrived. The students enjoyed the breakfast and then it was time to work again. The students went to Walmart where they were paired up with an officer and a child and they helped the children to pick out Christmas Presents. After the event, Tyjiriah said "I am happy to be blessed and it always feels good to give. We also had a Pre-Collegiate Graduate, Charles, Jackson, come back to help with the event. The high school students had a great time and after this event, it hit home to them and they understood the real meaning of "its better to give than to receive". Thanks for giving your time to this event!

On December 18, 2010, our Pre-Collegiate students had a workshop entitled "Show Your College Spirit".

This was an event when our Class of 2010 came back to the center to try to “recruit” the students in our program to attend their college. This was a great Question and Answer Forum!

From the HCPAL Corner

Ms. Nell-PAL Director
Mr. Walter-Recreation Director
Mr. Alex-Recreation Assistant



Come check out the Cougars in action when the season begins January 6, 2011.

Our program currently has the following age divisions for our Winter Sports:

Boys and Girls 6 U
Boys and Girls 8 U
Boys and Girls 10 U
Boys 12 U
Girls 13 U
Boys and Girls 15 U
Boys 18 U
Cheerleaders 13-18

Thanks to our 2010-2011 Athletics Sponsors

J & J Repairs
Williams' Income Tax Services
Annie's Nursing Services
S. McNeill Trucking
Walker Memorial Funeral Home
One Stop Financial Services
R & W Rental and Auto Sales
S & J of Raleigh
Advantage Properties of Fayetteville
Hart & Hart Car Care
Dafford Funeral Home

Also thanks to our Volunteer Coaches:

Coach Anthony, Coach Maurice,
Coach Angela, Coach Shawn,
Coach David, Coach Juanita, Coach Al
Coach Yolanda, Coach Stanley, Coach
Craig, and their Assistants

On December 29, 2010, we are sponsoring a Meet and Greet at the Harnett County Governmental Complex at 6:00 pm. It is mandatory that the parents or guardians of any of the children playing basketball or cheering be present at this event. Food will be served. You must RSVP with a headcount by Monday, December 27, 2010.

The Booster Club is sponsoring another fundraiser. We are selling doughnuts for \$5 a box. Please see any basketball player, cheerleader, or coach to make your purchase!

We are now hiring for the following part time positions:

Recreation Program Supervisor
Administrative Assistant
Community/Public Relations Specialist
Income Development Specialist
Cook/Bus Driver

Please go to our website at www.thinksmartoutreach.org and Click on Employment Opportunities for more info.

We had a Wonderful time in Jamaica!!



(Some of those that participated in the Cruise Fundraiser)

Thanks to the 40 people that made our Annual Fundraiser Cruise a HUGE SUCCESS! We had a GREAT time on the ship and a GREAT time in Jamaica! We are getting the information ready for our next cruise for Dec 2012 so if you were on this one, we know you ready to travel with us again. If you weren't; then come and experience what you missed!

Welcome to the Think Smart Family



We would like to take this time to Welcome Mr. Clay and Mrs. Palmer to the Think Smart Family.

Mr. Clay is a Middle School Tutor at our facility. He is currently a student at Campbell University.

Ms. Palmer is a Middle School Math Tutor at our HCMS site. She is currently a teacher at HCMS and is a certified Math Teacher.

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

FSU's EOC Program is now at Think Smart!



The Educational Opportunity Center helps high school graduates and college dropouts to make career choices and set educational goals. The Program also helps high school dropouts to enroll in adult high school alternative educational programs. Participants must be at least 19 years of age and have an interest in pursuing a college degree. Services are available at No Cost to U.S. citizens who meet Federal eligibility requirements.

Their services include:

- Information on two-year and four-year colleges, universities, vocational schools and proprietary schools
- Computerized career guidance information
- Career counseling and assessment
- Workshops on study skills, test taking skills, career decision making and time management
- Information on financial aid (Pell grant, scholarships, other grants, and student loans) and they do Financial Aid
- GED and other referral services

You don't have to be interested in attending Fayetteville State University. This program assists with any college

They are at our office every Monday between the hours of 1:00 pm-5:00 pm. It is highly recommended that you contact our office to be placed on the schedule in order for them to serve you better.

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

Office Manager
Mrs. Anitra Hart

Think Smart Outreach Center, Inc.
55 Think Smart Lane
Erwin, NC 28339
910-814-8762
www.thinksmartoutreach.org

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!!

Season's Greetings



Our Christmas Wish To You

**From our Family to
yours, have a Merry
Christmas, Happy
Holiday, and a
Prosperous and
Healthy New Year!**