



NAVIGATOR

Winter 2004

LIVING CLASSROOMS EXPANDS ON THE HARBOR TO SERVE MORE YOUTH

Groundbreaking Ceremonies Celebrate New Living Classrooms Facilities

Living Classrooms Foundation (LCF) recently broke ground for two new facilities: the Mikulski Workforce Development Center and the Frederick Douglass - Isaac Myers Maritime Park. Both sites will provide more children and young adults with Living Classrooms' academic and job training programs.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the **Mikulski Workforce Development Center**, located on the Foundation's East Harbor Campus, included Mayor Martin O'Malley, City Council President Sheila Dixon, and special guest U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, a longtime supporter to whom this building is dedicated.

The Mikulski Center will provide additional workforce development services for at-risk youth and young adults. The Center will include space for youth to meet with counselors and practice work readiness skills, as well as a centralized job bank database for all of LCF's workforce development program participants. Students in LCF's Crossroads Middle School will also receive career development, life skills, and academic instruction in the Mikulski Center.

Senator Mikulski stated at the groundbreaking ceremony, "Living Classrooms and I share the same values, which are 'Let's give help to those who are working to practice self-help'."

Living Classrooms' Project SERVE, a community-based job-training program for disadvantaged young adults, is helping to build the Center, providing participants with an array of valuable skills. Project SERVE is using donated and recycled materials to construct the 3,000 square foot building. Tools have been donated by Black and Decker.



Crossroads student speakers and Senator Mikulski at groundbreaking celebration for new Mikulski Center.

This will be the first waterfront building in Baltimore City to have a "green roof" (e.g., covered with plants), which will help reduce runoff into the Chesapeake Bay and become part of our environmental curriculum.

The fall groundbreaking for the **Frederick Douglass – Isaac Myers Maritime Park**, located at the corner of Thames and Caroline Streets in Fells Point, featured Fresh Start and Crossroads School students speaking about the Maritime Park's honorees, Frederick Douglass and Isaac Myers. The waterfront celebration included a performance by the Baltimore City College Marching Band, a fireboat water display, and *Pride of Baltimore II* cannon fire, all in celebration of Baltimore's first project dedicated to African-American maritime history.

"At long last there will be a national, cultural center where the contributions of African Americans to Baltimore's maritime history will forever be enshrined.

Most of all, it will be a place to learn and a place to remember." *Kweisi Mfume*

Ceremony speakers included NAACP President Kweisi Mfume, Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, Mayor Martin O'Malley, Congressmen Ben Cardin, Elijah Cummings, and Dutch Ruppersberger, State School Superintendent Nancy Grasmick, Dr. Patricia Schmoke, and City Council President Sheila Dixon. Frederick Douglass IV, the great-great grandson of Frederick Douglass, was the Master of Ceremonies.



Executive Message

With successful programs and strategic partnerships throughout the region, Living Classrooms Foundation is committed to providing high quality programming for disadvantaged youth and direct service to the community. With the addition of the Mikulski Workforce Development Center and the Frederick Douglass – Isaac Myers Maritime Park, the Foundation will enhance and diversify educational resources for youth and bring alive Baltimore's waterfront.

Year-round programming on Living Classrooms Foundation's East Harbor Campus, aboard historic vessels, in schools, and in Baltimore and Washington, DC neighborhoods, is serving thousands of youth and young adults with hands-on education and job training. Our dynamic programs have become local and national models for innovative education. They empower disadvantaged individuals and create a lasting and visible positive impact throughout the community.

Crossroads School is making great strides and our successful outreach efforts are expanding to more schools in the Baltimore and Washington, DC areas, providing more students with effective hands-on academic and job-training programs.

Through a new partnership with Baltimore City, Project SERVE has taken on the responsibility of refurbishing and maintaining five East Baltimore parks and neighborhoods, with results being reviewed by the Mayor's CitiStat team on a regular basis. The 38 Corps Members of Project SERVE also continue to revitalize low-income neighborhoods, clearing tons of trash from 900 abandoned properties annually, in addition to cleaning and mulching 460 vacant lots as part of the major East Baltimore Development, Inc. revitalization effort near Johns Hopkins Medical Institution.

Living Classrooms Foundation's staff, Board of Trustees, and supporters are devoted to helping youth build successful lives. We wish to thank you for helping to break the cycle of poverty in our community and for our youth.



James Piper Bond
President and CEO

Living Classrooms Foundation thanks Deutsche Bank Alex.Brown for their donation of 100 computers, which are being used in our many educational and job-training programs for at-risk youth.

Living Classrooms Foundation mourns the tragic loss of Fresh Start student Isief Thompson. Isief had only recently joined the program to make a positive future for himself. He was 15 years old when his life was suddenly taken by violence. Our prayers are with his family and friends.

The Douglass – Myers Maritime Park will be a Living Classrooms multipurpose facility that will house educational and job-training programs and a working shipyard for historic vessels. Students and visitors will learn about Baltimore's diverse maritime history and shipbuilding tradition. The Maritime Park will honor the first African-American-owned shipyard and marine railway and the contributions of the African-American community to the development of Baltimore's and our nation's maritime industry and economy.

The site will be the historic gateway into Fells Point, a prominent attraction on Baltimore's Waterfront Promenade, and a cornerstone of the National Historic Seaport of Baltimore. The Maritime Park will include the restored Sugar House (Alex.Brown Maritime Education Center), which is the oldest remaining industrial building on the waterfront (c. 1804). This historic structure will be connected by a glass bridge to the new Weinberg Education Pavilion. The \$12 million Maritime Park is scheduled to open in the spring of 2005.

Living Classrooms greatly appreciates all of the support from the individuals, organizations, and government leaders that have helped make both of these important projects possible.

Photo from left to right: LCF President & CEO James Piper Bond with Maritime Park benefactors, Eddie and Sylvia Brown, Jennifer Brown, Frederick Douglass IV, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume, Joel Weingarten, and Nathan Weinberg of the Weinberg Foundation.



Living Classrooms Foundation President and CEO, James Piper Bond, was awarded the *Andrew White Medal* on Maryland Day at Loyola College, for "bringing innovative and successful approaches to our educational system, for increasing the cultural and economic vitality on Baltimore's waterfront, and for his service to the community".

James was also presented with the 2004 *Theodore McKeldon Leadership Award* by Mayor Martin O'Malley and Ravens Coach Brian Billick at the 30th Annual Mayor's Luncheon, sponsored by the Baltimore Junior Association of Commerce.

LIVING CLASSROOMS EXPANDS WORK DIRECTLY IN THE COMMUNITY

Living Classrooms' Project SERVE is increasing job training and service work in East Baltimore, while continuing to improve the quality of life for residents. Since 1998, Project SERVE has been providing disadvantaged individuals, many of whom have been recruited from treatment centers or are ex-offenders, with skills training and supported employment experience, while they revitalize their Baltimore neighborhoods.

Project SERVE (*Service-Empowerment-Revitalization-Volunteerism-Employment Training*) has expanded its partnership with Baltimore City's Departments of Public Works and Recreation and Parks, and Housing & Community Development to provide direct service to clean, improve, and maintain five city parks and their surrounding neighborhoods. Initially, Project SERVE worked to stabilize and address the immediate needs within the parks to restore them to their best possible physical shape. With that accomplished, Project SERVE is now maintaining the condition of these parks and cleaning the two blocks surrounding each park in the adjoining neighborhoods (totaling 50 city blocks). The parks include Johnston Square, Collington

Square, Madison Square, Dewees Park, and Coldstream Park, totaling 38 acres of parkland.

Project SERVE has also recently partnered with East Baltimore Development, Incorporated (EBDI), established to manage the major revitalization in the neighborhoods located near Johns Hopkins Medical Institute and Medical School.



Project SERVE Director Fred Hawkins and members.

"We're very proud from the city's standpoint to support Living Classrooms. Project SERVE's work to stabilize our neighborhoods, to give all of our neighbors a reason to believe- through the hands, through the talents, through the eyes and the hopes of our young people...is very, very important for our city." *Mayor Martin O'Malley*

Through this partnership, Living Classrooms is assisting EBDI with community revitalization work, while providing job and life skills training to Project SERVE members who are from and work solely in EBDI communities. So far, work in these neighborhoods is focused on cleaning up, mulching, and fencing 460 vacant lots. Additional service work includes planting and maintaining the Broadway corridor, and other projects that will contribute to the Eastside

revitalization efforts and improve quality of life in the community.

Project SERVE plans to increase services to ex-offenders that will be returning to this East Baltimore community. Living Classrooms is working with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Baltimore City agencies, EBDI Family Advocacy Services, Respect Outreach Center, and Parks & People Foundation to develop this initiative, which would provide wraparound services to ex-offenders starting from "behind the fence" to transition participants back into the workplace and society.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Stephen, Brian, and Coleman Bass, three brothers celebrating graduations and special occasions, who asked that gifts from family and friends be made as donations to Living Classrooms, in their wish to help disadvantaged children. We received 40 gifts totaling \$3,684.



Living Classrooms will be a beneficiary of the Constellation Energy Classic for a second year. The Champions Tour golf tournament, sponsored by Constellation Energy Group, raised funds to support Living Classrooms Foundation, Kennedy Krieger Institute, and Chesapeake Bay Foundation in 2003. The event will be held again this year at Hayfields Country Club from September 27 - October 3, 2004. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, contact Jeff Miller at (410) 234-6224.

Photo from left to right: Dr. Gary Goldstein (Kennedy Krieger Institute), Parker Rockefeller (LCF Senior Vice President), Mayo Shattuck (Constellation Energy), and William Baker (Chesapeake Bay Foundation). Photo courtesy of Constellation Energy Group.

USS CONSTELLATION CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY



This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the 1854 launch of sloop-of-war USS *Constellation*, a ship descended from the Baltimore-built US Frigate *Constellation* of 1797. The historic ship is a major tourist attraction, an exciting living classroom, and the flagship of the National Historic Seaport of Baltimore.

Constellation's 150th anniversary will be celebrated throughout 2004. The following special events are planned:

- 150th Speaker Series, hosted by the Maryland Historical Society, featuring monthly speakers.
- The BLAST! will be held on May 14th, Preakness Eve, with fireworks, live music, and delicious food and drink donated by the Brass Elephant.
- Independence Weekend will begin with a July 1st ceremony celebrating the official 150th Anniversary Commemorative Stamp published by the US Postal Service. The weekend will include visiting tall ships and the July 4th Spectacular Fireworks Display.
- Festival of the Sea on Pier 1 will take place on the weekend of August 28-29 and will include the ship's annual Crew and Descendant Reunion.
- The anniversary year will culminate in October when USS *Constellation* will make a homecoming voyage to the US Naval Academy, where she was a training ship from 1871-1893. This event is sponsored by a generous contribution from the Northrop Grumman Corporation and is also made possible by The Vane Brothers Company.

For details of upcoming events, please visit the USS *Constellation's* web site at www.constellation.org.



Photo Courtesy of Bill McAllen Photography

Special thanks to Sierra Military Health Services for their generous contribution and continuous support of our educational and job training programming, and for sponsoring the National Historic Seaport of Baltimore.

THE NATIONAL HISTORIC SEAPORT HAD 1.3 MILLION VISITORS AND EMPLOYED 85 YOUTH IN 2003.

Liberty Week at the Baltimore Maritime Museum

The Baltimore Maritime Museum will honor the heroes of World War II and the 60th Anniversary of D-Day during Liberty Week (May 29-June 6, 2004). The week's special events will take place at Harborplace, and on the historic vessels of the National Historic Seaport and the Liberty Ship *John W. Brown*. For further information, please call (410) 396-3453.

Living Classrooms Foundation is deeply saddened by the passing of beloved staff member, Ann Dandridge, Director of Marketing for the National Historic Seaport. She courageously fought cancer for the past few years, and will be missed tremendously by all of us.

NOTES OF RECOGNITION

Project SERVE member Henry Knight will be honored by WBFF Fox 45 as a *Champion of Courage* during Black History Month. Baltimore's Champions of Courage are selected as positive role models who exemplify the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Congratulations to Career Starters student Ashley Meadows on winning the Baltimore County Office of Employment & Training 2003 *Award of Excellence!* Ashley came to our Career Starters program after dropping out of high school at the age of 15. After eight weeks of hard work and intensive support, Ashley passed the GED test and became the first person in her family to earn a high school diploma. With the support of Living Classrooms' case managers, Ashley applied for a Pell grant and is currently enrolled in community college.

Special thanks to Black and Decker for their support of Living Classrooms and their generous donation of tools to several of our programs.

Crossroads School Measures Success and Connects Students with the Work World

Crossroads School: Evidence of Success

- Crossroads ended the 2002-03 school year with 97.1% average daily attendance- one of the highest attendance rates in the Baltimore City school system.
- Thus far in the 2003-04 school year, Crossroads is averaging 98.5% daily attendance for all grades. This is the highest attendance rate in the CEO's district.
- 100% of Crossroads parents and guardians were actively involved in student-led conferences and presentations.
- 100% of Crossroads students successfully met the requirements of the end-of-year portfolio assessment process.
- 92% of Crossroads 6th graders passed the Maryland Functional Reading Test during the 2002-03 school year. Crossroads outperformed area middle schools by an average of 9.5 national percentiles in reading, language, and mathematics on the 2002-03 Terra Nova CTBS in grade 6.
- Crossroads students participate in 15 after school and weekend programs offered through community and corporate partnerships.
- Crossroads School currently has a waiting list of over 175 students.
- 100% of Crossroads faculty meet the No Child Left Behind definition of highly-qualified and possess state certification for the subjects they teach.

"When I left fifth grade I wasn't an "A" student. Then I came (to the Crossroads School) and my learning ability increased. I'm doing things here that other kids only dream about doing. I do expeditionary learning projects, tae kwon do, computer studies, and one-on-one after school programs. When I go home I tell my mother everything that happened that day because each day is a different adventure and each day I learn something new."

Kiauna Dorsey, 7th grade Crossroads School

Living Classrooms' Crossroads School, a public middle school serving East Baltimore communities, has established a mentoring program that will link its students with businesspeople in the community.

The Foundation's *Bridges Mentoring Program* will match Crossroads students with one-on-one mentors from companies such as Constellation Energy, Comcast, Verizon, Venable LLP, and Cummins Power Systems. Students and their mentors will meet every other week to create long-term, meaningful relationships, to expose students to the world of work, and to foster students' understanding of how leadership skills are utilized in school, the community, and the workplace.

Mimi Piper, recipient of the Foundation's Volunteer of the Year award, is coordinating the mentoring program. Please call (410) 685-0295 ext. 259 if you are or your company is interested in participating.



Crossroads 6th and 7th grade students pictured above. The school will add an 8th grade by Fall 2004, eventually serving 150 students.

LIVING CLASSROOMS SERVED 30,856 YOUTH WITH HANDS-ON EDUCATION & JOB TRAINING IN 2003.

Help Disadvantaged Youth When Hosting Your Special Events

P.W. Feats, Inc. and the Classic Catering People are excited to help in promoting Living Classrooms Foundation's many distinctive venues including the USS *Constellation*, Baltimore Maritime Museum, and Living Classrooms East Harbor Campus to corporations, event and wedding planners, and associations. If you are looking for a place to host your upcoming company meeting, sales conference, corporate retreat, or team-building program, contact Victoria Schumaker at P.W. Feats for rental information on any of these sites at (410) 727-5575 ext. 145.



Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to support the Living Classrooms Foundation. Thanks to my support, the Foundation will continue to provide programs that help children in need.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____
 Please check if your company has a matching gift program.
Company Name _____

Membership Categories

Individual \$50.00
 Family \$100.00
 First Mate \$250.00
 Captain \$500.00
 Admiral \$1000.00
and above

Call (410) 685-0295 or visit
www.livingclassrooms.org
for additional information.

Leaving a Legacy
*Please indicate if you are
interested in learning about our
planned giving opportunities.*

Securities Deferred Gifts
 Boat Donation Bequests
 Real Estate Memorials

You can make your contributions through the United Way by designating #5072.

**LIVING CLASSROOMS FOUNDATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2004**

Louis Akers, Jr.
Theodore M. Alexander, III
Michael J. Baader
Gregg Baty
David J. Beck
Patricia Bernstein
Drew Berry
Brian Billick
William N. Blake
Michael Brown
Edward B. Cohen
George Collins
Mark Collins
John Colston
Harriet Cooperman
Sheila Dixon
Carserlo Doyle
John Erickson
William Fanshawe
James A. Flick, Jr.
Barbara A. Gehrig
Sandra Gerstung
Suzanne M. Giannasca
Fred Gloth, Jr., Treasurer
John S. Graham, III
Jack S. Griswold
Henry G. Hagan, Chairman
Edwin F. Hale, Sr.
Kevin Hall
Dean S. Harrison
Terry Harwood
Scott Iodice
Gary A. Jobson
Francis X. Kelly

Dr. Joan Kozlovsky
John Magness
Peter M. Martin
Paul McBride
Robert Merrick, III
Robb Merritt
Sally Michel
David Nelson
John C. North, II
Andrew M. Obrecht
Michael Ott
Dr. Selvin Passen
Richard Pate
James Pomfret
Stephanie Rawlings Blake
William Roberts
Ted Rouse
Stuart Rubenstein
Dr. Patricia L. Schmoke
Keith B. Sullivan
Alan Walden
Stuart Walman, Secretary
Joseph N. Weaver
Preston D. Williams
Herman Williams, Jr.
Sam Woodside
Drake C. Zaharris

EMERITUS
Harvey Meyerhoff
G. Dennis O'Brien, Founder
William Donald Schaefer

James Piper Bond, President/CEO

Special thanks to Webb/Mason for the printing of this newsletter.
Newsletter writing and design by Thara Mathew.

the **NAVIGATOR**

Living Classrooms Foundation
802 South Caroline Street
Baltimore, MD 21231
(410) 685-0295
fax (410) 752-8433
www.livingclassrooms.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Living Classrooms Foundation is a nonprofit organization, operated for the benefit of the community at large, providing hands-on education and job training for students from diverse backgrounds, with a special emphasis on serving at-risk youth. The Foundation uses maritime settings, community revitalization projects and other challenging learning environments, and a low staff to student ratio. Our experience-based educational programs emphasize the applied learning of math, science, language arts, history, economics, and ecology. Key objectives of all Living Classrooms programs are career development, community service, elevating self-esteem, and fostering multicultural exchange.

www.livingclassrooms.org