

Faith Report

Restoring Community

By Kate McGrath

Volunteer Ardyn Brooks has been faithfully tutoring Jachele in math at the Pen Lucy Youth Partnership (PLYP) Learning Center for the last two semesters. When Jachele started as a first grader, math was hard and frustrating, but Ardyn (and other tutors) wouldn't let her give up.

Ardyn began to develop a real and deep relationship with Jachele. She grew from a once-a-week tutor to a dedicated mentor investing in the child's life in many ways. This year Jachele is in third grade, and what was once so hard for her is now fun. Ardyn said, "The Learning Center is something Jachele looks forward to now. She loves the challenge of math."

Jachele's math skills have improved so much that Ardyn is helping her apply for the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth's summer program. Jachele also plans to join the math club at her school!

Jachele is one of many students from Pen Lucy and the surrounding neighborhoods who are receiving one-on-one attention at PLYP that is giving them the academic foundation for future success.

Ardyn is just one of many volunteers who are committed to realizing PLAN's mission to make disciples of Jesus through the promo-

tion of educational, social and economic opportunities.



PLYP Learning Center is just one of the programs of Pen Lucy Action Network (PLAN). This year PLAN has also overseen:

- **PLYP sports leagues in soccer, basketball and flag football.** Each season about 75 student athletes from Pen Lucy and the surrounding neighborhoods learn skills, have fun, and hear of Christ's love for them.
- PLAN also sponsors events throughout the year to serve the community such as:
 - **Hope Springs HIV/AIDS Testing and Counseling Day** in which community members receive free testing and are connected to follow up care.
 - **Health Fair and Buck-a-Bag Store** where attendees receive flu shots, blood pressure checks and sugar level tests. They receive information about health care and clinics for the uninsured. They are also able

to purchase a bag of food items for a dollar.

- **Christmas Store** in which high-quality toys are made available to community members in exchange for a contribution of a canned good or a dollar donation.

The PLAN Board has dedicated the first 6 months of 2011 to seeking the Lord's purposes for PLAN's ministry and programs. As we look into the future, we are prayerfully considering ways in which we can grow to better serve our community. We are seeking new team members who want to volunteer their God-given gifts to invest in Pen Lucy. These might include the following areas of interest:

- tutors or coaches
- website design, support and maintenance
- join a task force to evaluate the need and options for possible future programs and partnerships
- financial supporter
- Photography or videography
- fundraising, marketing, etc.

If you are interested in volunteering as part of our team, please contact PLAN Board President Giles Reneau or Kate McGrath, the Faith Urban Works Development Director. ♦

Kate McGrath is the Faith Urban Works Development Director.



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*United that the
world would
know*

⁸ He has shown you, O
mortal, what is good.
And what does the
LORD require of you?
To act justly and to
love mercy
and to walk hum-
bly^{ly} with your God.
Micah 6:8

Blake Scheidt's New Role



Blake Scheidt came to FCF last August to be Sports Director of the Pen Lucy Youth Partnership (PLYP). PLYP just finished a very successful basketball season during which eight teams played basketball for eight weeks at the YMCA, plus participated in a championship game. During that time, coaches presented a Gospel series on the Sermon on the Mount in the huddles. Blake is thankful for the 18 or 20 awesome coaches who assisted him during the basketball season. The season concluded with a banquet for about one hundred parents, guardians and children. He is looking forward to flag football which starts on **Saturday April 16** at the Walter P. Carter Elementary and Middle School.

Blake's responsibilities recently increased. He is now the (part time) Assistant Youth Director to Phil Davis, with special responsibility for Middle School youth. This includes planning weekly D-group talks and games, communicating with youth leaders, and just hanging out and building relationships with the youth throughout the week. In addition, Blake began to pursue a M.Div. at the LAMP (Learning and Ministry Preparation) Seminary at FCF.

As you can see, Blake's role has evolved since he arrived and he is now wearing several hats. He says that the multiplication of his duties have both necessitated and helped him to be more disciplined and organized. He has had to learn to delegate and recruit volunteers.

We are delighted to have Blake ministering in our midst, and that he and his wife, Leeza, a social worker, recently became church members. ♦

Bits and Pieces

- William Eugene Jones went home to be with the Lord on March 6. 'Gene' was the father of Jocelyn Murrain and grandfather of Randall Murrain. See Gene's profile in the February Faith Report for more details about his life.
- Several new members were presented to FCF in March: David Hiller, Jen Pluznick, Jacob and Emily Risner, Blake and Leeza Scheidt. Phoebe Risner was also baptized. Welcome to all!

EASTER: A Time to Celebrate

We will again celebrate Easter at the Kraushaar Auditorium at Goucher College. The service is at 10 a.m. on Sunday April 24. **Grab some postcard invitations and invite your family, friends, colleagues and neighbors.** The auditorium is located at 1021 Dulaney Valley Road, just inside the Beltway. Transportation will also be available from the church. Look for more details in the bulletin.

We will also, as usual, be having a joint Good Friday evening service on April 22. This year the service will be at New Song Community Church. ♦

CALENDAR

- Apr. 1 Concert of Prayer, 7 p.m.**
- Apr. 1-3 Women's Retreat at Black Rock**
- Apr. 13 No Faith Leadership Night in April**
- Apr. 22 Joint Good Friday Service, 7 p.m. at New Song Community Church**
- Apr. 24 Easter Service, 10 a.m. at Kraushaar Auditorium, Goucher College**