

Portland School Committee

Legislative Delegation – 5:30pm to 6:45pm

Workshop – 7pm – 8pm

Executive Session – at conclusion of workshop

Room 321, PATHS

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Assuring that all students are learning for their future

5:30 – 6:45pm

1. Meeting with Legislative Delegation – Justin Costa and Kate Snyder
 1. Update From Portland Public Schools
 - a. Useful statistics
 - b. Special Education
 - c. High School Netbooks
 2. Update From Legislators
 - a. FY10 curtailment and FY11 budget status
 - b. High school graduation requirements
 3. How Legislators Can Help

7:00 pm - Workshop

1. Caring Across Communities, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Grace Valenzuela

8:00pm – Executive Session

Consideration and action to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A).

Moved ___ Seconded ___ Voted ___ to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A).

Moved ___ Seconded ___ Voted ___ to come out of Executive Session.

Adjournment

Moved ___ Seconded ___ Voted ___ to adjourn the meeting at ___

Upcoming School Committee Meetings – Room 250, CBHS

Nov. 18, 6:30pm Caucus
Nov. 18, 7pm Business Meeting

Upcoming Workshops

Nov. 18, 5:30pm New School Committee Orientation; Legislative Activities and Direction
Nov. 18, 8pm Workshop – Alternative to NEASC

Upcoming Subcommittee meetings

Nov. 10, 5pm Joint City/School Finance Committee, Room 24, City Hall
Nov. 10, 6pm Policy Committee, Room 250, CBHS

Caring Across Communities Collaborative – Portland, Maine
Empowerment Across Communities:
Nurturing Children and Youth, Strengthening Families

Executive Summary

This project will serve eight of the largest linguistic groups of immigrants and refugees in Portland Public Schools, Maine's largest and most diverse school district. These include Acholi, Arabic, Khmer, Nuer, Serbo-Croatian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese-speaking children, adolescents, parents and other adult members of their families.

The trauma associated with the refugee experience as a result of war, torture, rape, death of loved ones, child soldier phenomenon, survivor guilt, persecution, and long stays in refugee camps has a huge impact on the psychosocial development of children and youth. For both refugees and immigrants alike, acculturative stresses associated with adjusting to a new culture and systems, learning a new language, minority status, poverty, and separation from other family members, who may still be in the home country or refugee camp, impact the well-being of children and their families, and the children's ability to be successful in school. Stigma and belief systems associated with mental health, lack of culturally competent mental health professionals, lack of training among potential paraprofessionals and interpreters, and inability to provide services that consider the socio-cultural and economic needs of the target participants are huge barriers to accessing mental health services.

This project will design and develop a mental health service delivery response for children and youth that takes into account the cultural norms and values of the target communities. Approaches and actions to healing interventions will be coordinated, collaborative, and culturally responsive. Through a comprehensive process of community engagement, this project will help reduce mental health care disparities among refugees and immigrants by: 1) addressing the training needs of professional and paraprofessional staff, 2) building trust and cultivating strong relationships between clients and providers, 3) increasing access to school-based and community-based intervention programs, and 4) establishing outreach and mental health awareness strategies within the eight target linguistic groups. These are outcomes that can help build capacity among school-based staff, community mental health providers, and other youth-serving organizations that are collaborators on this project. The ultimate outcome that the project will measure is the degree to which the target communities increase utilization of mental health services.

Collaborative partners include Center for Grieving Children, City of Portland's School-Based Health Centers and Office of Minority Health, Community Counseling Center, DayOne, LANA (Language Access for New Americans), State of Maine's Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the University of Southern Maine's School of Social Work.

60 Primary Home Languages Other Than English: September 2009

Acholi*	French	Latuka	Serbo-Croatian
Albanian	German	Luo-Ugandan	Somali*
Amharic	Greek	Madi	Spanish*
Arabic*	Hindi	Mandarin	Swahili
Azerbaijani	Telugu	Nuer	Swedish
Azande	Kazak	Nyanja	Tagalog
Bengali	Khmer*	Pashto	Thai
Bulgarian	Kinyawanda	Persian	Tigrinia
Cantonese	Korean	Polish	Ukranian
Creole	Kosal	Portuguese	Vietnamese*
Dari	Kurdish	Punjabi	SCCyrilic
Dinka	Japanese	Romanian	Telugu
Farsi	Lingala	Russian	
Fur	Bari	Georgian	
Burmese	Kirundi	Shona	
Hebrew	Indonesian	Mende	

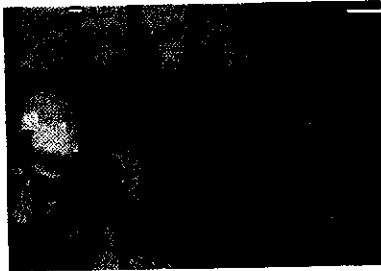
* 50 or more students speak these languages



from the Heart

Summer Newsletter 2009

Multicultural Community Night



Since 2000, The Center for Grieving Children has been collaborating with Portland Public Schools and the Multilingual Center to provide support groups for refugee and immigrant children who have relocated to Portland from areas of the world in great conflict. The program currently works with students from Riverton Elementary School and East End Community School as well as Lincoln Middle School.

After another successful year of The Center's Multicultural program, The Center held 2 Community Nights for the multicultural community.

The Community Nights were designed to bring together the families of the multicultural students, community members, center staff, volunteers and school personnel. These events gave participants an experience of the support The Center provides. There were movies and pictures of the children from their year's activities, the students' performed tableaus from theater work they had created during the program, and parents had an opportunity to participate in creating a leaf for the children's wish tree (an activity created at The Center.) There was also time for the adults to learn more about the program and an opportunity for family members to ask questions about how The Center supports the children in their loss, and acculturation to their new home by supporting and empowering their natural resilience, collaboration and leadership potential.



During the Community Nights, the families expressed their gratitude to The Center and the school. One participant was very touching with her words: "Thank you for loving our children." Each evening there were interpreters available in a variety of languages of attendees to facilitate the communications. All involved were very happy with the evening and the connections that were created.

continued on page 2

Thank you Volunteers!

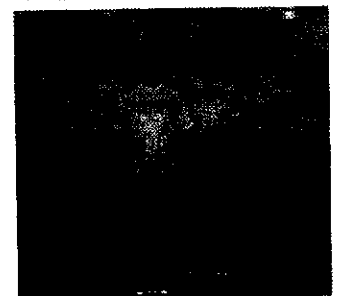
Over the past few months we have been very fortunate to have volunteers from Hannaford Bros., UNUM, RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program), Wellpoint/Anthem and Dawson, Smith, Purvis & Bassett P.A come to The Center and help with projects such as spring cleaning, organizing our basement, gardening, working on bulk mailings, and anything else that needed to be done! Our programs, events, and special projects couldn't happen without our volunteers, and we are very thankful for the time and energy they so generously give. Our volunteers are the heart of The Center for Grieving Children. If you would like to become a volunteer at The Center, or just learn more about the opportunities waiting for you, please call Diane Kimball at 775-5216 or visit our website at www.cgcmaine.org.

Thank You Wal-Mart



Anne Lynch
and Alexandra Serra

The Wal-Mart Foundation of Northern New England recently announced that The Center would receive a \$25,000 Agency Partner Award to support the programs and services of The Center. Board Member, Quincy Hentzel-Germann and Alexandra Serra, Wal-Mart Senior Manager for Public Affairs and Government Relations worked alongside Anne Lynch, Executive Director and Paul Golding, Development Director to secure this support that will help fund Bereavement Peer Support and the Multicultural Peer Support Program.



United Way Day of Caring
Volunteers

Bereaved Parents Group

The Center ended an eight-week peer support group for Bereaved Parents on June 21, 2009. Living through the loss of a child can be one of the most challenging things a parent ever has to face. Being able to share with others who have had a similar experience can be beneficial. Each evening of the eight-week session offered an opportunity to learn about and practice "tools for the journey" that other bereaved parents have found helpful. This new format was very successful.

Beginning in September, The Center will offer four eight-week sessions this year with a one month break in between. We invite you to join us if you have an interest in attending. Please call Patricia at (207) 775.5216 for more information.

Paul Golding elected President of the NAGC



The Center for Grieving Children is excited to announce that Paul Golding, Development Director, has been elected to serve as the President of the Board for the National Alliance for Grieving Children for the 2009-10 term.

The National Alliance for Grieving Children (NAGC) promotes awareness of the needs of children and teens grieving a death and provides education and resources for anyone who wants to support them.

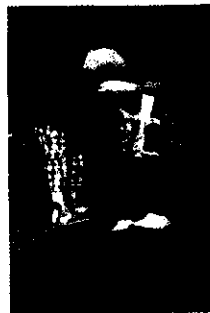
Paul Golding
"It is a great honor to serve as the President of the NAGC. I feel privileged to work alongside an incredibly talented and dedicated group of volunteers who are doing tremendous work all across the US," said Paul Golding. "I am excited and energized that the NAGC can bring resources and awareness to the hundreds of agencies and programs in communities around the country who support grieving children, teens and families."

"This work helps kids improve their academic performance in schools, reduces their likelihood to self medicate through alcohol and other drugs and decreases behavioral problems by building on their natural resiliency. My hope would be that more families connect with local grieving centers for services, more people offer their time for a rich and rewarding volunteer experience and that individuals, foundations and companies support the work that is going on around them by getting involved as donors."

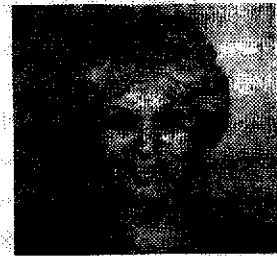
Pet & People Walk

Our 18th Annual Pet & People Walk was a great success raising over \$35,000 to benefit The Center's programs! We had a beautiful sunny day for the Walk around Baxter Boulevard and the festivities in Payson Park. We want to give a big thank you to everyone who participated in the Walk and all of our wonderful volunteers who made this event possible! Also, thank you to our Event Sponsor Wal-Mart and Lead Sponsors - Wright Express, Midas, Pet Quarters, Coast 93.1 and Tex Tech Industries.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 12, 2010 - the 19th Annual Pet & People Walk - see you there!



Volunteer Spotlight



Longtime Center volunteer, Glenda McKertich, recently said goodbye to The Center as she is planning a move out of state to be closer to her family. Glenda has spent 8 years at The Center as a facilitator for the Adults on Tuesday Night.

When Glenda and her husband retired to the Portland area many years ago, she was looking for a way to give back to the community and to meet new people. She had heard many great things about The Center and thought it would be a perfect volunteer opportunity for her. For the past eight years, Glenda has enjoyed being a facilitator for the Adults. Originally, she wanted to be a facilitator in one of the kid's rooms, but she is so grateful that she has had the opportunity to work with the adults.

Glenda's favorite part of working with the adults is seeing the progress the participants make, and witnessing how they are able to put their lives back together and begin to see a ray of sunshine again. She finds it rewarding to see the participants get to the point where they are helping each other and finding so much comfort in their group.

Glenda has gained greatly from her experience at The Center. She has made lifelong friends, learned about supporting others and has truly felt like she has made a difference. She encourages interested volunteers to sign up for an Orientation to learn more about the many volunteer opportunities available at The Center. Please call The Center at (207) 775-5216 for more information.

Save the Date

8/27	Volunteer Orientation
9/9	7th Annual Golf Tournament
9/14	TLC Fall Session Begins
9/15	Volunteer Orientation
9 / 22 - 10/3	Fall Volunteer Training
10/4	19th Annual Maine Marathon
10/8	Volunteer Orientation
10/17- 10/23	7th Annual Fall Training Institute
10/24	Volunteer Orientation Linda Kelly Appreciation Night
11/21	Fred & Marilyn Durst Gold Room Event
2/5	13th Annual Auction
6/12	19th Annual Pet Walk

7th Annual Golf Tournament



Please join us on September 9th for our 7th Annual Golf Tournament. We are excited to announce that this year our tournament will take place at Dunegrass Golf Course in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Dunegrass is one of the premier golf courses in Southern Maine. Foursomes are \$500 and we have some sponsor levels still available. For more information please visit our website: www.cgcmaine.org.

The Center for Grieving Children
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www.cgcmaine.org



Executive Director's View Point

Despite the late start to the summer due to what seemed like endless rain - we have been able to enjoy several bright spots since I last wrote to you. In June we celebrated our 18th Annual Pet and People Walk and we were thrilled to see so many friends old and new come out and walk the boulevard at the back cove and help us raise over \$35,000 to support our children, teens and families.

We were very pleased that we also had a high turnout for our Multicultural Peer Support Programs parents' nights in partnership with Riverton Elementary and Lincoln Middle schools. It was a thrill to showcase some of the great work the children have created in the program and get a chance to meet their parents and families. This year we saw a third group of children join the program - this time young children from the East End Community School and we are excited that we continue to support children transitioning to new lives in our wonderful state.

In addition to expanding our Multicultural Peer Support Program this year, we also pilot a new Bereaved Parents Support program and it is our intent to offer that to more parents our community as we move forward.

As a founding Board Member and former President of the National Alliance for Grieving Children, I want to take a moment to congratulate our Development Director, Paul Goldi who was recently elected to serve as the Board President for the National Alliance for Grieving Children - which reflects very well on the high esteem that our Center is held in the United States.

This last year was one of many challenges for all of us here in Maine and the US, but I am thrilled to say that because of the commitment of our Board, volunteers and donors we have been able to meet the demand for our services and provide the exceptional support. The Center is well known for. Thank you for your continued support - your hearts are tremendous!

A huge 'Thank You' to all involved with the Multicultural Program (con't from page 1)

Riverton School: Principal Nancy Kopack and Rosemary Mason; Lincoln Middle School: Principal Steve Nolan, and Deb Deschambeault; East End Community School Principal Carol Dayn, Jane Hubby, Larry Herdade and Ina Demers; Marie Sheffield, Consultant, Dr. Bruce St. Thomas, Consultant, Sara Asch, Visiting Artist; Center Volunteers: Barbara Kaufman, Weston Pease, Karen St. Peter, Kathi Wagner, Betsy Elliman, Kim Marie, Denise Sullivan, Debra Lovsin, Jasmine Smith, Desiree St. Cyr, Laura Beaudoin, Sare Chisholm, Sally Bancroft, Karen St. Peter, Brooke Proulx, Sophia Hapsaing, Kristen Nichols, Nancy Greenleaf, Janelle Doshier, Corrie O'Brion, Afton Trotter, and Bri Chamberlain.

Suicide Class held at The Center

For the fourth year staff members Patricia Ellen and Valerie Jones taught the course Adolescent Depression and Suicide offered through the USM Professional Development Center. The week long class was held at the Center for Grieving Children and was attended by school professionals such as teachers, counselors, and administrators as well as other health care professionals. The course is designed to promote awareness and insight into teen depression and suicide as well as provide students with skills to reinforce the protective factors against suicide such as safe expression of feelings, deep listening, and building supportive communities. Teaching methods included lecture, group discussion, guest presenters and hands on activities. Through taking the class students were able to network with other professionals, share resources, and develop connections that they will be able to integrate into their future work with young people in their communities.



Anne Lynch

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for teens (17 and older) and adult volunteers who want to be part of this dynamic multicultural program. This year's training for this program will be held Thursdays from 1 to 5 from Sept 24th to October 22nd. Program begins October 26th and 29th and runs through mid May. Time commitment is Monday or Thursday afternoon from 1 to 5.

Call Valerie or Patricia at 775-5216 for more information.



the center for grieving children

 LOVE REALLY COUNTS

 Portland, Maine • www.cgcmaine.org

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 Portland, ME 04104
 (207) 775-5216

Non-Profit
 Permit #467
 US Postage Paid
 Portland, ME

Wish List

- CD Players
- Coffee and Tea
- Paper Towels, Paper
Cups, Napkins, Toilet
Paper
- LCD Projector
- Video Cart
- LED Candles
- Basketballs
- Karaoke Machine
- Drums
- Light Bulbs
- Hand Soap

To donate an item please
 call The Center at
 (207) 775-5216



Standing: Patricia Ellen, Lynn
 Aboud-Pelletier, and Carol
 Sylvester
 Sitting: Allison Beck, Myra
 Hopkins, and Sara Asch
 not pictured: Kelly Williams

America's Camp

Facilitators from the Center for Grieving Children (called "Buddies" at Camp) are on their way to the Berkshires, August 16-25th for their 8th year at America's Camp. This camp offers support to children who lost a loved one on 9/11 as well as other children whose parents have died in the line of duty as police officers and firefighters.

Close to 300 children are supported during this great camp experience where the children also share their losses and transitions and honor those who died. It is a week of powerful strength and love of all who are there and where great bonds have been formed. The children especially look forward to seeing each other, the counselors and the facilitators from Maine each year. The Buddies from the Center, with their 'hearts with ears', offer grief support and a safe place at Buddy Central for the children to gather and share. For more information: www.americascamp.org

Young Widow and Widowers Group

The Center for Grieving Children is offering a new peer support group for individuals age 50 and younger who have experienced the death of a spouse. The group will meet for six weeks on Friday evenings from 6:30-8:00 beginning October 30th. For more information, please contact Valerie Jones at 775-5216 ext. 109