

# Futures News

*A publication of Chester County Futures, Inc.*

## First Annual Passport to College Expo

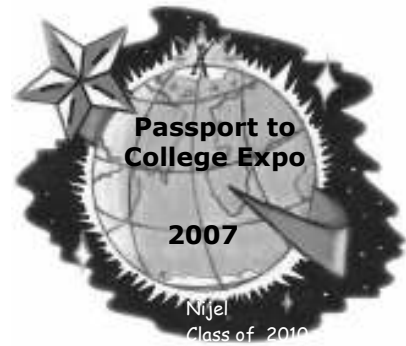
August 17, 2007 marked the debut of Futures' exciting new academic enrichment program. "Passport to College" was kicked off at an Expo sponsored by PNC bank at the Inn of Chester Springs in Exton. The event was attended by over 100 of our students.

The day began with a morning Expo showcasing dozens of colleges, trade schools and businesses from across the region and state. The students spent the morning visiting booths, gathering information and winning lots of prizes!

The keynote speaker at the midday luncheon was nationally syndicated cartoonist Robb Armstrong of "Jumpstart" fame. Robb shared stories from his childhood growing up in West Philadelphia, with a mother who was a single parent determined to find a better life for her son. Many of the students could relate to those circumstances, and they agreed that he was a major highlight of the Expo.

After lunch, the students attended workshops on managing money, finding scholarships, job seeking techniques and character building sessions, along with a panel of Futures' college students who returned to offer advice and encouragement to the high school group.

At the end of the day, the students were presented with a leather-like portfolio which they will fill with certificates throughout the coming school year. These certificates will be presented to them upon completion of a wide range of projects such as job shadowing, learning based field trips, cultural outings, volunteer service, student hosted programs and more. By their senior year, students will have honed their social and presentation skills, gained valuable career insights and built up a wealth of credentials to boost their eligibility for admission to the college of their dreams.



*Pictured above: Joe Wilson of PNC Bank, Expo Sponsor and new member of Futures' Board of Directors, with three of his nieces who attended the Expo.*



## 11th Annual Futures' End of Year Banquet



Pictured above: Representatives of the Class of 2007 at the Awards Banquet

On May 17, 2007 a record number of students, parents, mentors and supporters attended Chester County Futures' 11<sup>th</sup> Annual End of Year Banquet. The banquet celebrated the achievements of Chester County Futures' students over the 2006-2007 school year.

Futures proudly graduated 19 members of its class of 2007, sending them off to their various post-secondary institutions with a college gift pack. A large number of students received Board Academic Achievement Awards.

The event featured the announcement of two scholarship awards: Cidor Scholarship to Christina from Kennett Consolidated High School, and Suburban West Realtor's Association Scholarships to Karelis and Precious from Coatesville Area High School and Alejandra from Kennett. (Note: at a later ceremony, Wilfredo from Coatesville received the Huston Foundation Scholarship)

### Student Stats

- With Futures' broad network of support, 100% of the underclass student group remained in school, earning at least a C average.
- Among the senior class of 2007, an astonishing 100% graduated this past June—50% greater than the national average for all students and 67% greater than the national average for low-income minority students.



## Mentors...Lending A Helping Hand



*The mission of Chester County Futures is to provide mentoring, academic enrichment and post secondary scholarship funding to motivated, low income Chester County high school students who plan to continue their education beyond high school.*

Mentoring does matter, as proven by the many success stories and strong bonds forged between our Futures' students and their mentors. Several opportunities exist for volunteers to work with our students, including:

**One-to-One Mentors** Each mentor is paired with a student who lacks a positive role model at home with the goal of providing the student with personal guidance and friendship over several years.

**Talent Bank Mentors** From all professions and walks of life, these mentors are wonderful advocates for staying in school as they serve as guest presenters in our classrooms, offer professional advice and wisdom, tell their success stories and generally provide encouragement.

**Job Shadow Mentors** These mentors are specifically recruited so our students can explore various career options. They hold job positions in many different professions and take our students to work for a day so they can learn first hand the real activities of the workplace.

In the coming year we plan to launch a new **Team Mentoring Program** designed to match pairs of mentors with 4 -5 students. To learn how you can make a difference in the lives of these deserving students, please call Holly Parker at 610-458-9926.



Pictured above: Mentors Joan Lindstrom and Barbara Miller on a college visit with their students Patrice and Keya.

# Technology 2010

## *Preparing Disadvantaged Students for Success in a Digital World*

Futures is excited to announce a new initiative, **Technology 2010**, designed to provide our diverse, capable, disadvantaged students with ongoing tech support, hardware and software, as well as technology training and home Internet access that they must have to achieve the level of technology literacy necessary for academic and career success.

The four school districts serving Futures' students (Coatesville Area, Kennett Consolidated, Phoenixville Area and Oxford Area) do provide an array of student technology services. Yet recent studies show that regardless of how wired a district is, the technology literacy gap between middle and upper income students and economically disadvantaged students is every widening due to lack of

access at home.

With Futures' help, over 90% of our 10th, 11th and 12th grade students now have working computers in their homes. Our major focus in the upcoming year is to boost end-user skills, distribute computers with Internet access to the 56 new freshmen, and increase the high-tech abilities of our students.

Futures' new Technology 2010 Coordinator Amedeo DiDonato has been assessing the needs of the students in the various districts, and will be offering instruction throughout the school year based on their individual needs.



Futures is in need of laptops made in 2003 or newer with the following:

- CPU = pentiumIII 1 gigahertz or higher
- Operating System = Windows 2000 or newer
- Hard drive = 20 gigabytes or higher
- memory = 256 or higher
- battery recharging (if possible)
- a/c adapter power cord

Please email  
adidonato@ccfutures.org  
for more information

## Microsoft's Diversity Day



*Pictured above: Futures' Students at Microsoft Corporation*

A select group of Futures' high school students from Coatesville and Kennett Square attended a Diversity Day hosted by Microsoft Corporation on Tuesday, September 11, 2007.

Students submitted a three paragraph essay answering the question, "If you owned a business, how would you guarantee its success?" This event, held in Malvern, was an exciting opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience learning about product development, and also counted as a Portfolio Project.

With help from the Microsoft staff, students formed into four teams: engineering, marketing, sales and finance to discuss the Zune, Microsoft's version of the I-Pod. Each team then created and delivered presentations geared toward that aspect of product development.

. Students also had the opportunity to hear from a panel of Microsoft employees regarding their experiences attending college, getting a job and most importantly, the value of their education.

The day concluded with the announcement of the essays winners: 1st Place and a laptop went to Candiss, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Coatesville; 2nd Place and an X-box went to Nijel, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Coatesville; 3rd Place and a Zune went to Jordan 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Coatesville. Honorable mention and Zunes went to Samantha and Vanessa of Kennett High School. In addition, all students left with a book bag, including MS software and a most memorable experience.

## Coatesville Carwash



Futures' student fund. The event was sponsored by PNC Bank and held at the Thorndale branch under the direction of manager Joe Wilson.

The hardworking students made posters and recruited traffic to the carwash. Patrons were impressed with how detail oriented they were.

Futures is grateful to the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Kennett Square for providing transportation to the event.



*Pictured above:* PNC Thorndale Branch Manager Joe Wilson with the Coatesville carwash team.

On July 17, 2007 an energetic group of students from Coatesville held a carwash to raise money for their own



### Contributors' Corner

Futures extends its sincere thanks to the Donors listed below. These generous foundations, corporations and individuals have donated at the Silver Patron\* level or above between January 1, 2007 and September 15, 2007. \*Note: If you notice an omission or error please call 610-458-9926.

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## 2nd Annual Evening at the Races

On March 16, 2007 Chester County Futures held its second annual "Evening at the Races" at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern. In spite of inclement weather, a rollicking crowd enjoyed an evening of dancing and cheering their favorite horses to victory. Many of the attendees took home fabulous silent auction prizes along with their race winnings. A record number of tickets were sold for the event resulting in net proceeds of over \$28,000 to help support Futures' mission.



### Save The Date!

3RD ANNUAL  
CHESTER COUNTY  
FUTURES EVENING  
AT THE RACES  
APRIL 5, 2008  
AT THE  
CONCORDVILLE  
INN

### *Futures' Wish List*



Along with monetary donations and sponsorships, individuals and corporations can help our mission with in-kind donations of the following supplies:

1. Ink cartridges!!
2. File folders
3. Hanging folders
4. Staples
5. Paper clips
6. Copy paper
7. Notebooks

For more information please call 610-458-9926.

*Thank you!*

### Futures is United Way Donors Choice Agency.

Please keep Futures' great kids in mind when you make your United Way donation this year.

Our UW designation code is #1267

Eligible United Ways are:

- United Way of Southeastern, PA
- United Way of Chester County
- United Way of Southern Chester County

You may direct your donation to Chester County Futures by designating CC Futures #1267 on your workplace donor card.

## 7th Annual Chester County Futures Golf Classic

Eighty-six golfers enjoyed a beautiful day for a wonderful cause on the links at RiverCrest Golf Club and Reserve in Oaks, PA. as they participated in the 7th Annual Futures Golf Classic on August 28, 2007. The event featured several skill contests and a silent auction. Trophies for the top 4 teams were awarded at a banquet at the end of the day. Title sponsor of the Classic was the team of Independence Construction Materials and Allan A. Myers Contractors, and the Gold Sponsor was


Microsoft Corporation.

Under the leadership of golf Chairman Jim Coyne and his committee, proceeds from this event netted over \$35,000 for our deserving students.

Along with Jim, Golf Committee members included: Chris Annas, Pat Burke, Bruce Hartlein, Rob Loose, Daniel LoPolito, Dave McFadden, John Panizza, and David Rosenberg.



*Pictured above:* Foursomes representing Title Sponsor Independence Construction Materials and Allan A. Meyers Contractors



**Chester County  
FUTURES**

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www.ccfutures.org

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*Building Brighter Tomorrows Through Education!*

## Passport to College Expo



*Pictured above:* Two high school students visit an exhibitor's booth at Futures' First Annual Passport to College Expo held August 17 in Exton. (Full story is inside on page 1.)

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