



# Futures News

Fall 2009

“Brighter Futures Through Education”



## 2009 Passport to College Expo

A new year has begun for Chester County Futures and the eager group of dedicated scholars entrusted to our care. To kick off the 2009-2010 school year, Futures held its 3rd Annual Passport to College Expo. On August 6 a bustling group of over 200 students proudly wearing Futures’ logo loaded onto buses and headed to Brandywine Picnic Park for this exciting event. The group included the new class of 2013 recruits to Futures’ program who were joining the rest of Futures’ students for the first time.



Futures’ students met with representatives of over 30 colleges and universities

doctors, lawyers, and other professionals, students were also able to learn about various careers directly from those working in that particular field.

Joe McDonough of the B+ Foundation delivered a stirring keynote address to the students. He shared the story of his 16-year-old son who bravely battled leukemia for over 5 months before succumbing to the disease in July 2007. Joe stressed the positive attitude his son amazingly maintained throughout his life and encouraged the students to “Be Positive” no matter what obstacles they may encounter. Futures students were motivated and inspired by Joe’s story; some were even moved to tears. No matter what their reaction, the students grasped the clear message to work relentlessly to set and achieve the goals laid out before them.



Students discussed various careers with local professionals

The day commenced with a College and Career Expo featuring over 30 colleges and universities and over 20 career presenters. Students interacted one-on-one with admissions representatives and gleaned invaluable insight into the college experience. Information about financial aid, the application process, courses of study, dorm life, and a myriad of college prep topics were at the fingertips

of these enthusiastic students who, without Futures, may never have had access to this information. Futures’ graduates were also on hand to answer questions about their experiences in college during the “College Panel” sessions. Thanks to an incredible group of volunteer business people,

At the conclusion of the day, students enjoyed the many activities available at Brandywine Picnic Park. They swam, used paddle boats, played miniature golf, volleyball, basketball, and just had a great time forging bonds with other Futures’ students. Students left that day energized and inspired to embark upon the upcoming school year with focus and determination.



Students enjoyed the festivities at Brandywine Picnic Park

**A special thanks to the businesses who generously donated snacks and supplies for the Expo:**  
**WAWA #85 EXTON**  
**COUNTRY BAGEL**                      **SUPERFRESH**

## UPCOMING EVENTS!



**A Strike for Education Bowl-A-Thon!**  
November 21, 2009  
11:55-3:15pm  
Palace Bowling  
Downingtown, PA

This is not a fundraiser!

*This is your opportunity to meet Futures students and have a fun-filled afternoon at the bowling alley. This fabulous event will be completely sponsored by local businesses, and there is no cost to you to attend. Please be our guest for a day of bowling, contests, prizes, snacks, and fun with the great students of Chester County Futures.*



### EVENING AT THE RACES!

April 10, 2009  
Concordville Inn  
Concordville, PA

*Enjoy the thrill of indoor horse racing and an extensive silent auction as you show your support for Futures' students! A fast-paced, fun-filled evening awaits!*

Invitation and sponsorship information to follow!

## 2009 SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

Immense desire. Incredible challenge. Indomitable dedication. Our 2009 special scholarship recipients have all these things in common. On August 11, 2009, Futures' staff, board members, donors, and mentors joined these outstanding students and their families to celebrate their accomplishments and wish them well as they pursue their dreams of post-secondary education. The special scholarships awarded to these students were made possible by the generosity of some phenomenal Futures' supporters.

The Cidor Scholarship is a special merit-based award established by former Futures' Board member Susan Springsteen. Susan is an amateur dressage rider who competed on her award winning Grand Prix horse, Cidor, until his retirement in 2005. To raise funds for the scholarship, Susan donates her competition winnings and dressage lesson fees to Futures for the Cidor Scholarship. Susan presented this year's scholarship to Jennifer of Coatesville who is now attending Holy Family University. Jennifer is majoring in Biology with aspirations of continuing on to medical school to become an ophthalmologist.

The Huston Foundation generously provides a single scholarship to a deserving Futures' graduate as well as supports Futures' general scholarship fund. Maritza of Oxford was selected as this year's Huston Scholarship winner. She is attending Penn State where she is majoring in psychology and planning to use her degree to help autistic children.

Suburban West REALTORS® Association awarded three Futures' students with scholarships through their Partnership in Education Scholarship Program. Funds were raised for the scholarships at the Partnership in Education Golf Tournament which took place in July and raised over \$18,000. Terry Kirkwood, Chairman of Suburban West and Molly Kirkwood, Marketing and Member Relations Specialist, were in attendance to present the awards. The students selected for this year's awards were Ariana of Coatesville, Freddy of Kennett Square, and Araceli of Oxford. Ariana is pursuing a degree in Nursing at Delaware County Community College. Araceli is at Harcum College in the Dental Hygiene program.



Pictured above: Back row (left to right) Molly Garavito and Terry Kirkwood of Suburban West and Susan Springsteen. Front row (left to right) Futures' students Araceli, Maritza, Freddy, Ariana, and Jennifer

### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



We all remember, and enjoy singing Nat King Cole's classic song "Summertime, and the living is easy". Unfortunately, it doesn't always apply to our high school graduates.

As readers of this newsletter already know, every one of Futures' 2009 seniors graduated from high school last June. And, for the second year in a row, each and every one was accepted into the college or trade school of their choice.

But, before they can become the college Class of 2013, some daunting hurdles had to be overcome last summer.

There were the usual fears about leaving home and going off to college that many teenagers (and their mothers!) feel. In a few cases, there was the extra conflicting burden of a child, who had to work throughout high school to supplement the family income, being pressured to stay home and work rather than head off to college. The most difficult hurdle, however, is always financial.

College is expensive. There are many grants, scholarships, loans and other financial assistance available; but the system is byzantine, difficult to navigate, and invariably falls short of what is needed. It is heart-breaking to witness a promising student unable to attend a top-rate college because they can't find enough money.

In April of this year, Futures responded to this dilemma by investing funds to recruit a Scholarship Services Coordinator to help our juniors and seniors to first identify and then secure scholarships that may be available to them. After less than six months, we are very encouraged by the results.

*Jeremy C. Allen*  
Jeremy Allen  
Chairman of the Board

## 2009 GOLF CLASSIC



Futures' Golf Chair Jim Coyne gets the day started.

Chester County Futures would like to extend a big thank you to all of the volunteers, sponsors, donors and golfers who made this year's 9th Annual Golf Classic for Chester County Futures a success. On September 14, 2009, participants enjoyed an amazing day of golf at White Manor Country Club and had the opportunity to support Futures by joining in our live and silent auctions. We always have an enthusiastic turn-out for this event and this year was no exception. Businesses and individuals from around the Philadelphia area joined us to tee off for a great cause and to have some fun.

Thanks to our Chairman for the event and Futures' Board member, Jim Coyne, who worked very hard in the months leading up to our event to help ensure success. And a special thank you also goes out to Board member John Panizza and the Stonewright Homes Corporation, our presenting sponsor for this event.

With the support of a dedicated and enthusiastic golf committee, we raised awareness about our important poverty prevention mission while also raising funds to support the 400+ kids who benefit from our programs this school year. This year's fabulous committee included Pat Burke, Chuck Campbell, Dave Fazzini, Mike Ferreri, Doug Kloppenburg, John Lehning, Jeff O'Donnell, John Panizza, Patrick Pendergast, David Rosenberg, Mike Roynan, and Jim Smart. Thank you for helping make this event a success!



Gold Sponsors Meridian Bank and Chris Annas show their support for Futures.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
2010 GOLF CLASSIC!  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2010  
APPLEBROOK GOLF CLUB**



704 Haywood Drive  
Exton, PA 19341

[www.ccfutures.org](http://www.ccfutures.org)

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

### BECOME A ONE-TO-ONE MENTOR

Few people are more important to our students' success than their mentors. Each mentor is matched one-to-one with a student. Mentors are all ages and all walks of life. The primary qualification is a desire to make a difference in a young life. We have a critical shortage of volunteers for this all-important two to three year role.

### SIGN ON AS A TUTOR

We are looking for on-call tutors in every academic subject to work with students in our after-school setting in one or all six of our secondary schools:

Coatesville Area High, Coatesville Area 9-10 Center, West Chester East, Oxford Area High, Phoenixville Area High and Kennett High.

### TRAIN AS A CHOICES WORKSHOP PRESENTER

CHOICES is our fun, interactive middle school workshop offered during the school day in all five of our middle schools each spring. It requires maybe an hour of your time. We provide the training; you add the energy and enthusiasm.

### SERVE ON AN EVENT COMMITTEE

It takes dozens of willing hands to put on our two biggest annual benefit events, a Golf Classic in September and an Evening at the Races dinner and indoor racing event in April. Help is needed for advance planning, sponsorships, silent auction solicitations, event day set up and registration.

### HAVE A TALENT TO SHARE IN THE CLASSROOM?

Add your name to our Talent Bank of volunteers willing to be guest presenters in our after-school program. Presentations may include career, inspirational, or academic enrichment topics.

### SPONSOR A SCHOLAR

Futures invests up to \$4,500 a year to support each student during high school. We're looking for individuals and company's willing to fund this cost for one year or all four years as the personal sponsor of a particular high school student. Our popular Sponsor a Scholar program allows sponsors to receive regular personal and academic updates as their sponsored student progresses toward graduation.

Futures' Volunteers  
donated

**7,500 hours**  
in 2008-2009

mentors  
tutors  
event committees  
office help  
class presenters  
Talent Bank  
expo participants  
chaperones  
ride providers  
Sponsor a Scholar  
career experts  
college tour hosts  
Board Members  
Advisory Boards

**CALL TODAY!**

Learn how you can  
be a part of the effort  
to reduce poverty in  
Chester County

**610-458-9926**