



704 Haywood Drive  
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www.ccfutures.org



# Futures News

Summer 2009

“Brighter Futures Through Education”

## Every Child Stays



Imagine being told exactly how you could change the world. Too far-fetched?

How about changing your local community? Still a stretch?

OK, how about changing just one life. Only one. And knowing for sure that it worked?

Right now we need your help to be sure that **Every Child Stays** enrolled in Futures’ after-school and mentoring program. Stays in school. Stays to graduate. Stays on course for a better life.

**Every Child Stays** is the theme of our 2009 matching gift campaign. Give right now and Deerbrook Charitable Trust and Phoenixville Community Health Foundation will automatically double your donation dollars with their own matching gifts. Together they’ve challenged us to raise over \$60,000 for them to match!

Count on that happening when you support Futures, because we absolutely do change young lives. Hundreds of poor and minority children are counting on us to keep them safe and sound in school this year. It’s imperative that they finish their education. That’s the only sure way to escape from poverty.

Education—not race, ethnicity or family income—is the single greatest indicator of future income. It is the key to freeing children from poverty. The key. Yet poor children with the most to lose are the very ones most vulnerable to dropping out of school. Times are tough. Futures’ resources are stretched thin.

Your matching gift doubles in value and keeps all 340 deserving disadvantaged Futures’ students safe in school.

Please add your might to theirs so that **Every Child Stays**. You won’t have to imagine changing the world. You’ll be in on the ground level, changing the future of one child after another. Our 13-year track record speaks for itself—100% of our students have graduated from high school and 92% went on to college or trade school. Instead of poverty, our grads earn an average \$32,000 coming out of school. Stack that against the 50-50 odds they faced of even earning that high school diploma.

We need to have you fighting in our corner as we help some 340 deserving local children defy the odds!

## Evening at the Races!



Patrick and Patricia Burke



Jim and Jean Macaleer



Patrick and Marie Pendergast

Some 145 guests experienced the thrill of indoor horse racing at the 4th Annual Evening at the Races, a lively, rip-roaring charity event held Sat., April 4 to benefit 340 low-income high school students served by Chester County Futures.

Over \$40,000 was raised to support Chester County Futures, including \$22,000 from the fabulous silent auction!

A big “thank you” to all who contributed to making this event such an overwhelming success! Special kudos to our three “godmothers” who played an invaluable role in putting together the silent auction: Cherie Bach, Monica Didier, and Jeevitha Nuggihalli.

Futures’ 36 graduating seniors from the class of 2009 will be attending the following Colleges and Universities:

- California University of PA
- Delaware County CC
- Empire Beauty School
- Harcum College
- Holy Family College
- Indiana University of PA
- ITT Tech
- Kutztown University
- Montgomery County CC
- Moore College of Art
- Neumann University
- Penn State University
- U.S. Marine Corps
- University of Pittsburgh
- Wesley College
- West Chester University
- Widener University



Congratulations Futures’ Seniors!

Don’t miss our moving Every Child Stays photo gallery at [www.ccfutures.org](http://www.ccfutures.org)!





## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We live in extraordinarily difficult times, and low income families are suffering more than most. If a family wage earner was just getting by with a 40 hour per week job, when those hours are cut to, say, 30, that family is faced with severe difficulty. This scenario characterizes many of the families of our students.

Also donors themselves are faced with job insecurity, much reduced 401K balances and a general need to be much more watchful of every dollar spent. So the need increases; yet at the same time there is a risk that donations become smaller and scarcer.

How has this all affected Chester County Futures? First we examined every line of our proposed expenditures and cut them back to the bone wherever possible. We froze salaries, merged jobs and delayed new hires. We relied even more on in-kind donations from local companies.

The Class of 2009 has 36 graduates and we planned to recruit 70 students in the Class of 2013. The Board of Directors and management discussed at length the wisdom of doing this in these uncertain economic times, and finally decided to proceed as planned. Many of our larger donors were involved in, and supported, this decision.

In the end the decision was simple. Futures is a program that works. It is both effective in its outcomes and efficiently managed. With more and more young students needing our help, and hoping to be included, we must find a way to provide it for them. Thanks to the heart-warming generosity of our hundreds of donors this year, we have been able to do so.

Despite the vicissitudes of these times, we remain financially sound, organizationally strong, and committed to helping more and more disadvantaged youth pursue their dream of succeeding in high school and even going to college.

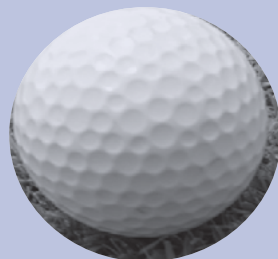
Jeremy Allen, Chairman of the Board

## STONWRIGHT HOMES CORPORATION 2009 GOLF CLASSIC

TO BENEFIT CHESTER COUNTY FUTURES  
September 14, 2009  
White Manor Country Club Malvern, PA

### 2009 Golf Committee - Jim Coyne, Chair

- |                 |                    |                  |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Rob Loose       | Mike Roynan        | Doug Kloppenburg |
| Chris Annas     | Jim Smart          | John Lehning     |
| Dave Mc Fadden  | John Panizza       | Dave Fazzini     |
| David Rosenberg | Mike Ferreri       | David Bock       |
| Pat Burke       | Patrick Pendergast |                  |



## STUDENT AWARDS NIGHT '09: APPLAUSE, TEARS AND HOPEFUL EXUBERANCE!

*Picture a crowded high school auditorium with only a few modest decorations interrupting the blandness of the stage. Then imagine the room coming alive, aglow with the hopeful, noisy exuberance of 170 young teens with much to celebrate.*

It's 6:30 PM on May 20 and Chester County Futures' annual student recognition reception is about to unfold. This is always a momentous occasion for Futures' students, culminating a year of hard work that brings them ever closer to the ultimate goal: a high school diploma backed by the academic credentials it takes these days to get into college.

A diploma? A chance to enroll in college? This in itself may not seem like a very extraordinary goal. But in an era when 50% of disadvantaged minority youth drop out of school and only 11% earn college degrees, it's more than extraordinary. Extraordinary because these 170 students, and 30 others who could not make the reception, are the very ones described by these dooming percentages. They are all poor.

Most are Black or Hispanic. They've relied on grit and determination rather than family laurels to make it this far. That and the guidance and help of Chester County Futures, whose mission is to give deserving teens like them a chance to get the education they must have to break free of poverty's tenacious grasp.

An audience of several hundred family members, staff and board, mentors and volunteers, donors and sponsors cheered, laughed and shed an occasional tear as the proud students walked on stage to accept academic awards and thank the hundreds of supporters who made their high school journey so successful.

From start to finish, it was a student-planned event. A sophomore served as emcee. Others

read heartfelt essays. One or two recited original poems. Dozens appeared in a video show. Nearly all added artwork and personal messages to a large linear collage prominently displayed for arriving guests to admire.

It was a win-win evening for all. For the audience, the privilege of witnessing young lives on the brink of much brighter tomorrows. For the students, a brief moment to strengthen their resolve, reinforced by cheers and applause. Last but not least, Futures' 36 graduating seniors mounted the stage. Confident. Proud. Relieved to have made it. Every one of them bound for college or trade school. Nearly all the first in their families to get so far. They are Futures' largest graduating class ever.

*Below is the text of a moving message delivered on this night of nights by Kathy McLaughlin, the magnificent woman who heads Futures' student services program. She is addressing the students, her students, aka Futures' kids. Every word springs straight from her heart. A hush fell over the room as she spoke.*

## "NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF YOUR STAR"

"The reason we are here tonight is to honor our students who are in Futures. To recognize our students who participate in Futures – who have shown their unwavering dedication to their academics, their community and their future.

"As Futures students you have done so much together. You have visited colleges, participated in community service projects, attended after school meetings and other events. We have watched as you have formed deep bonds with your fellow students – creating lasting friendships. As another year passes, we have watched you grow. As students, you have demonstrated your hard work and perseverance.

"For those students in 9th, 10th and 11th grade – we look forward to our continuing work with you – to help you recognize your dreams and achieve your vision of what you want your future to be. You have done an excellent job so far. You too will be graduating from high school one day, very soon for some. For now, keep up your hard work,

keep your focus and remember what you want out of life.

"This is a bittersweet event – since we have to let go of our seniors – after working with them throughout high school. We have to let them go to embark on their dreams, their goals, their future. You are beginning a new and exciting chapter of your life. Graduating high school and getting accepted into college is an accomplishment, one of many that you will achieve. We hope that what has transpired over the past four years with Futures has helped to shape you in some way, to better prepare you for your journey and your success.

"Since the theme of tonight is 'Rising Stars', I found an inspirational quote that I would like to share with you – the author is unknown:

'To be a star you must follow your own path, and never fear the darkness, for that is when the stars shine the brightest.'

Be sure to visit [www.ccfutures.org](http://www.ccfutures.org) to see our "Faces of Futures May 2009" slideshow!

"I hope that you remember the road may not always be easy, it can be challenging, and you may face some obstacles along the way. But remember, don't let anything or anyone deter you from your dreams and always keep hope and believe in yourself – your own shining star.

"I know that you've heard this a million times before from me, and your Student Services Coordinators. I am so lucky to have the chance to say this to all of you one more time. All of your hard work will pay off – to get you to where you want to go and to reach your star. Never lose sight of your star."



**"We are all so proud of you."**