September: Hopkins Brings Big-Business Technology to Church

Back-to-school just was not the same for Collington Square Elementary School. It was better. In September, Johns Hopkins announced the opening of the first of four community computer labs in East Baltimore, the first to be located at Trinity A.M.E. Church, right across the street from the school.

Collaborating with representatives at Trinity A.M.E. Church, Johns Hopkins Medicine’s Center for Information Services and Johns Hopkins Health System’s Community Services Department provided an upgraded computer lab to give neighborhood children access to computers. Hopkins replaced older systems with 12 computers no longer in use on the medical campus, upgraded them with added memory and appropriate educational new software, and installed them at the church. Now, children who attend Collington Square Elementary School, directly across the street, can attend an after-school computer program at the church and learn basic computer skills as well as various software applications and educational games.

Steve Sears, director of Hopkins’ Desktop and LAN Services, devised the plan for the computer network at the church applying the same technical processes used by large businesses and institutions such as Hopkins. The system setup is stored on a disk, so if one computer fails, it can be restored quickly. His goal was to keep the center operating for a longer period of time with a minimum amount of assistance. “This is a commitment, not just a one-time deal. We’re going to respond to them as we would any of our clients,” said Sears. “We’ve also told our staff that they can go to the church and help the kids out as much as necessary, and we’re hoping that it is just as rewarding to them as to the kids.”

Three more centers are scheduled to be opened in the East Baltimore area.

October: First-Year Students Help Chick Webb Shine

The JHU School of Medicine Class of 2005 started off their academic careers last fall by making an impact on the community surrounding the medical campus. First, they decided to tackle some of the trash, so one windy October morning they teamed up with JHHS Community Services and some community residents to get rid of the debris lying around the Chick Webb Recreation Center. When they finished cleaning the area around the center, they cleaned the street.

That one day of work inspired the students to take on a job with more long-range responsibilities in the form of the Chick Webb Tutoring Program. Medical students from the class visit Chick Webb each day, Monday through Thursday, to tutor children after school.

Thanks!

November / December: Holidays for Giving

Hopkins provided community outreach in several diverse ways during this past holiday season.

In November, JHHS Community Services contributed complete Thanksgiving dinners to the Salvation Army’s food campaign. Through the program, 167 families from all over Baltimore City were able to enjoy the holiday.

Later in the month, The Mount Vernon Saxophone Quartet, who are students at the Peabody Institute, performed a concert for residents of the Berea Senior Housing Building.

The month of December is perhaps the most hectic time of year for most families. It can be particularly stressful for those who cannot afford food or gifts for their loved ones. This year, JHHS Community Services collected toys and clothing from employees and students across the East Baltimore campus. The items were distributed to 400 East Baltimore families through a partnership with the Mayor’s Crisis Center. It was a happy holiday indeed!
Radio One Joins the Battle Against Breast Cancer

Just one week after breast cancer claimed the life of Bea Gaddy in October, two popular radio stations, Magic 95.9 FM and Spirit 1400 AM, broadcast live from JHMI’s East Baltimore campus to join the fight against breast cancer and pay tribute to that remarkable lady.

Favorite DJs interviewed clinicians of the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, breast cancer survivors, and screening professionals live on the air outside the Johns Hopkins Outpatient Center. Throughout the broadcast, women were encouraged to come to The Johns Hopkins Breast Center for a free walk-in clinical breast exam conducted by nurse practitioners. Breast cancer information was also available on site.

The live broadcast, sponsored by the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center and Johns Hopkins Health System Community Services Department, was a direct outreach to our East Baltimore neighbors. Twenty-five women took advantage of the screenings that day, and because of the Radio One event, 125 women later scheduled appointments for clinical breast exams and mammography.

Helping Community Residents Keep Their Legs for Life

The JHH Cardiovascular Diagnostic Lab is on a mission. They want to keep East Baltimoreans walking for their entire lives. First, they need to stop peripheral vascular disease in its treatable stage.

Peripheral vascular disease (known as PVD) affects arteries in the legs by narrowing the arteries and obstructing blood flow. It can lead to foot ulceration, infections and possible amputation of the legs if left untreated. Most people do not know that the disease can be detected in its treatable stage with a painless, non-invasive test that measures the pulses in the feet.

In September, the CVDL department participated in the third annual “Legs for Life” event lead by Dr. Hyun “Kevin” Kim. For an entire day, clinicians performed free PVD screenings in JHOC on a walk-in basis. They teamed up with the JHHS Office of Community Health to help spread the word throughout East Baltimore and encourage people to take part. “I’ve seen so many patients who came in too late,” said Dr. Kim. “My priority is to detect this earlier so that surgery is not necessary.”

The day was a big success, with 118 participants in all. Among those were 10 patients who tested positive for PVD and five patients who required more testing due to specific risk factors. Hopefully, with community education and available testing, PVD will be a thing of the past in our community.
Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Since our summer publication of Community Ties, the city of Baltimore has mourned the loss of Bea Gaddy in October. Miss Bea, as she was known to friends, exemplified the spirit of community service through her work as a philanthropist, a humanitarian, a city council member, a mother and a friend. She has been described as an angel on earth, and most of us would agree. She was a beloved neighbor of ours decades before her illness, and her medical treatment brought her here to Hopkins. It was amazing to see how much more she was able to accomplish even while she was battling breast cancer.

I am pleased to announce that Johns Hopkins Medicine has installed a living memorial to Bea Gaddy on the East Baltimore campus, as a reminder of her lasting dedication to the community. In addition, last fall Chapel Valley Landscape Company planted a new Zelkova serrata tree near the ornamental iron fence and ceremonial steps in front of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center. An engraved plaque will also be installed in the near future.

Miss Bea can never be replaced, but together, we can make sure that her commitment as a community servant lives on. In the spirit of her life and all that she believed in, I encourage you to call JHHS Community Services (410-614-2430) and find ways that you can participate in the revitalization and unification of the community. There are many programs that could use the help of either individuals or departments. Let us all remember Bea Gaddy’s mission in hope that we would not falter and her hard work and years of commitment be in vain.

Colene Y. Daniel, M.S., M.P.H., C.H.E.
Co-Chair, Johns Hopkins Urban Health Council
Johns Hopkins University
Vice President
Corporate Services, Community Health and Services
Johns Hopkins Health System

Teaching Future Picassos

HEBCAC employee (and JHU student) Denise Graves remembers her childhood in East Baltimore. There was heat and humidity, and for some kids there was not much to do. Denise saw this as an opportunity. Having a love of art and culture, which she learned as a child through various summer programs, she decided to share her passion with children in the neighborhood. She created a summer program that would include exposure to music and visual arts, and feature field trips to cultural destinations. “This was a perfect fit for me. I love art and I love children, so it was the natural thing for me to do,” said Graves.

This past summer, the Arts and Culture Program hosted 25 youth ages 7 to 15 for its inaugural season at the Milton/Montford Community Center. “The children were so dedicated to what they were doing. There were times that we couldn’t get them to go home,” said Sarah Broadwater, co-founder of Milton/Montford. The children were encouraged to work in all kinds of media and experiment with various materials. Their enthusiasm led to the creation of a mosaic sculpture that was included in a special exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

The Arts and Culture Program was made possible through a grant from the JHU Alumni Association, and supplies and other funding came from The Enterprise Foundation, HEBCAC, Johns Hopkins Medicine and other organizations and businesses.

Published by The Johns Hopkins Hospital Division of Corporate Services, Community Health and Services for employees and friends of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. Send community story suggestions to 550 N. Broadway, Suite 500, Baltimore, Maryland 21205, or call 410-614-4976.