



Ozanam
basketball
program

Newsletter



We are committed to making a difference in the lives of the youth we serve.

OZANAM, INC. Pittsburgh, PA

VOLUME 5

ISSUE: SUMMER 2015

Board Member Feature



Milona Wall

My association with Ozanam dates back to the early 1970's. As a sophomore at Duquesne, I had the opportunity to work for a brief period under Carl Kohlman, the Founder and Executive Director of Ozanam Cultural Center. I witnessed a host of activities and events: Ozanam was the place to go.

As time progressed, I was able to see many of my students become a part

of the program. Soon after, both of my daughters played in the program. There is no amount that I could place on the experiences that my children gained from their time in the Ozanam program. Building relationships, developing leader-

ship skills, setting goals, cultural awareness, and becoming a well rounded player/ team are just some of those things that Ozanam delivered to its participants.

Today, as the Chair of Ozanam, Inc. Board of Directors, it is wonderful to see two Ozanam Alumni head the organization: Darelle Porter, Executive Director, and Karen Hall, Assistant Executive Director. Their leadership has made Ozanam thrive into an organization that has branched out to meet the needs of our youngsters.

Aside from our After school Program, Summer Basketball League, and Summer Camp, Ozanam has broadened its reach to include: football, dance, strength and conditioning, SAT Prep, leadership conferences, fall leagues, workshops, or what we call: Ozanam's Triple Threat: Body, Mind, and Heart. We are very fortunate to have many Ozanam Alumni actively involved in our program.

Having OZ Alumni return and give back speaks volumes to the commitment and quality of Ozanam's programming. If you want to become involved in our programs, are an OZ Alum and want to reconnect, or you just have a passion to work with our youngsters, please contact us at: 412-389-4305 and visit our website @ www.ozanamprogram.org.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

1. Ozanam is housed inside Ammon Recreation Center located at 2217 Bedford Avenue.
2. The original Ozanam name was the Ozanam Cultural Center.
3. There are 20 High School jersey's hanging in the rafters of Ammon Recreation Center. All 20 are Ozanam alumni. Only two of the 20 are women.



AMMON RECREATION CENTER

What's Happening at Ozanam



Pittsburgh Riverhounds at Highmark Stadium



The Miles Group at Community Brotherhood Day



Pittsburgh Blackout Dance Team



African American Legends class tour...
Crawford Grille



Swimming during Summer Camp



UMOJA Boys 16 & Under Summer
League Champions



212 Degrees Boys 12 & Under Summer
League Champions.



Foster and Grand parents Appreciation Day



AAL Class Tour... August Wilson's House

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct

30 - Halloween Party
31 - College Trip Temple University

Nov

4 - Strength and Conditioning
5 - SAT Prep Class
24 - Protech Thanksgiving Dinner

Dec

1 - Development League Starts
3 - SAT Prep Class
23 - Christmas Break

Ozanam Board Members

Officers:

Milona Wall
Board President

Darelle Porter
Executive Director
Program Director

Karen Hall
Assitant Executive Director
Director of Communication
Girls Program Director

Members:

Howard Bullard
Former Administrator/Principal

Timothy Freeman
Director
Pittsburgh Milliones/University Prep

Rahmon Hart
Director of Community Relations
Rivers Casino

Gary Schwager
Senior Investment Analytics Consultant
BNY Mellon

Diane Stotts
Clinical Transformation Consultant
Highmark Inc.

Alumni Spotlight

Ozanam Q.&A. With Monica Williams



18 & Under Girls Champions

WHO IS MONICA WILLIAM?

Monica Williams is a strong willed Recreation Center Director who has dedicated 22 years of her life to helping children inspire to a higher level of athletics.

Q. HOW WAS OZANAM INSTRUMENTAL IN YOUR DEVELOPMENT?

A. I grew up sort of sheltered being raised by my grandmother who is old fashion. I loved to play the game of basketball but teaching myself the game wasn't making me a better player. It wasn't until meeting Eddie Wilson and playing in the Ozanam Leagues that I began to really pick up the game. I developed stronger skills, workmanship, drive & ambition. I also met some of the best players and friends that I have through the program.

Q. WHAT ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR OZANAM EXPERIENCE?

A. Taking a trip with my Ozanam team to West Virginia to play against the girls All Star basketball team. It was my first time away from home and playing against that type of talent. Ozanam opened my eyes to experiences that I would not have had; had I not played Ozanam ball.

Q. WHY IS OZANAM AN IMPORTANT ORGANIZATION IN TODAY'S CULTURE?

A. It has grown into something even more special then back when we were involved. They have expanded their program to more than just basketball. They help children through educational programming, life skills development, as well as athletic training.

Q. DO YOU FIND IT UNIQUE THAT OZANAM IS OPERATED BY THREE ALUMNI?

A. I do find it unique because they have firsthand knowledge of what it took to make it successful in their era, and a combined knowledge from past experiences as well as a present outlook of what is needed now. They are all dedicated to building a legacy that will carry on in the future, and they are giving back to the program that made them who they are today and that changed their lives.

Q. WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE YOUTH CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH OZANAM?

A. Stay focused and involved, take advantage of the opportunities provided for you, and spread the word so we can get others involved.

Q. WHAT SHOULD THE COMMUNITY KNOW ABOUT OZANAM?

A. I like that it's a family environment, a Home away from Home. The programs they have available for the youths and community, and how to get involved with the programs.

Q. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE OZANAM TO SOMEONE UNFAMILIAR WITH ITS PURPOSE?

A. Tell them about my great experiences when I was involved. Explain the mission of the organization and then send them to the website to check all the wonderful things they offer.

Q. HOW CAN SOMEONE BECOME INVOLVED WITH OZANAM?

A. They can volunteer for one of our programs or help with fund raising.

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After School Program Spotlight

Quameir & Jaymeir Bostic

Q.&A.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF OZANAM ASP?

Q. *Getting Help From Coach Porter On My Math Homework*

J. *African American Legends class because it teaches me things I don't learn in school...*

WHAT SCHOOL DO YOU ATTEND?

Q. *Obama Academy 6th Grade*

J. *Liberty 4th Grade*

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM THE OZANAM PROGRAM?

Q. *Homework is the most important thing about the program*

J. *Ladies first & do your work*

WHAT WAS THE BEST OZANAM FIELD TRIP?

Q. *Washington DC and the MLK Memorial*

J. *Duquesne University with the Haunted House*



African American Facts:

Edward Carl "Pops" Dean molded the lives of youths for 40 years by running sports leagues at the Ammon Recreation Center.

Notable Jazz Artist from Pittsburgh include Kenny Clarke (Jazz Drummer), Mary Lou Williams (Jazz Pianist) and George Benson (Jazz Trombonist)

Central Baptist Church, located in the Hill District, was constructed in 1945. The church is symbolic of the organizational strength of blacks during the 19th century.

Today it is home to one of the largest Baptist Congregations in Pittsburgh.

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Thank You:

T.E.A.C.H.E.R.S., First National Bank, APOST, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Department of Human Services, Duquesne University Learning Center, University of Pittsburgh, Willis Foundation, McGinley Foundation, UPMC, Citiparks, BNY Mellon, Josh Gibson Foundation, Dr. Maria Townsend, Heinz Endowment, Pittsburgh Promise, Fifth Third Bank, Fuel Up to Play 60, Clark Hill Thorpe Reed., Dave Edmunds, Urban Officials, Focus Imaging & Printing, The Miles Group, Ammon Rec Center.

Ozanam Facts:

- Cultural Exchanges domestic and abroad are trademarks of Ozanam.
- Participants attend Public, Private, Parochial and Charter Middle and High
- Five of seven Board Members are Ozanam alumni.