



Ozanam
basketball
program

Newsletter



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

OZANAM, INC. Pittsburgh, PA

VOLUME 3

ISSUE: FALL 2014



Afterschool Participant Feature Robert "RJ" Sledge

Robert "RJ" Sledge, who is in third grade, has been a participant in the Ozanam Afterschool program for five years. RJ has been a part of the Ozanam ASP growth from the time Ozanam opened its doors at Ammon Recreation Center in the Hill District community of Pittsburgh.

"The Ozanam ASP has been very good to me," stated RJ. "The tutors do a very good job helping me with my homework, and preparing me for school the next day," he added.

The ASP helps RJ become more disciplined and he has seen his behavior improve.

"I also like the ASP because we do a lot of fun activities and trips," said RJ.

Kayla Reynolds, RJ's mother is very pleased with the Ozanam ASP. She has seen a change in RJ from his academics to his citizenship in school. "Those changes are a direct reflection of RJ being a part of the Ozanam ASP." She added, "The staff and tutors of the Ozanam ASP have provided RJ with positive role models and a safe and healthy environment to learn and grow."

Duquesne University provides tutors for the students in the ASP in all subjects.

Students have an opportunity to complete homework, get assistance on assignments, and meet other kids from the community.

Ozanam ASP is helping RJ and others thrive and improve academically and socially.

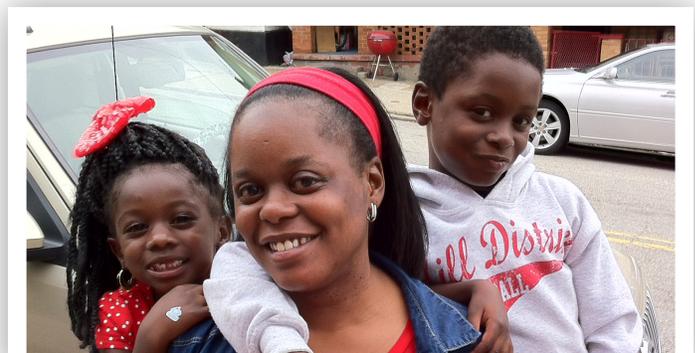
Ozanam After School Program

The Afterschool Program within Ozanam Basketball Program, Inc. is off to a good start for the 2014-2015 school year.

The kids are starting to get back in the routine of coming to ASP every day.

Ozanam ASP kids have the opportunity of having Duquesne University students serve as tutors in various academic subjects. Duquesne students have been consistent tutors with the ASP. "Duquesne University has been very good to us over the years, and even this year supplying us with tutors earlier in the school year. The tutors began the first full week of September," said Alvis Rogers, Ozanam ASP Director.

Forty kids from five different Pittsburgh Public Schools grades K-7 and ranging in age of 5 to 13 have signed up in the ASP.



Sledge Family: Rhyan (sister), Ms.Kayla (mom) and Robert Sledge.

Ozanam Summer League Champions



12U Penn Hills



15U Penn Hills



18U Winchester Thurston



Art class



Historical landmark first union for musicians



Bowling at funfest



Art therapy

Summer: Camp Challenge had 4 areas of concentration this summer: **Aspire** , **Health and Wellness**, **African American Legends** and **Field Trips**....

Ozanam Q.&A. With Curtis Aiken

Q. How long have you been sponsoring Thanksgiving Dinner for the kids of Ozanam?

A: *ProTech Compliance, Inc. has been sponsoring the Thanksgiving Dinner for Kids at Ozanam for 7 Years and will continue to be an "Annual Tradition".*

Q. Why do you sponsor the dinner?

A: *To give back to the community and be a blessing to Kids during the Holiday Season!*

Q. Where did the idea evolve from?

A: *My organization and I have a genuine desire to play an active role in the Enrichment / Development of Kids and providing Jobs and Internships to Students!*

Q. What is your joy in sponsoring the dinner?

A: *Being able to engage with the kids and putting a smile on their faces!!!*

Q. What is your connection with Ozanam?

A: *Darelle Porter (Ozanam Program Director and Basketball Coach) is a personal friend of mine and we are both Alumni of The University of Pittsburgh.*

Board Member Feature:

Diane Stotts is a new member of the Board of Directors; she is a Clinical Transformation Consultant for Highmark Inc. She provides hands on consultative and training services to network providers facilitating and directing transformation activities geared towards meeting the health goals of care delivery models. Her employment history includes program management for the Highmark Foundation, pharmaceutical sales for Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, health insurance sales for Gateway Health and as a supervisor in the Department of Pathology at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital. She has served on several executive committees in various organizations and is a volunteer and active member at Mount Ararat Baptist Church.

She enjoys serving in the health care field because she is committed to helping people make health conscious decisions that enhance the quality of their lives. Improving the quality of life of the children that flow through its doors is one of the core values within the mission statement of Ozanam and why I want to bring heightened awareness to the great programs offered in our community through Ozanam. Ozanam has a rich, deep rooted foundation that has provided positive developmental training, educational programming, social and cultural activities to our children since 1970. The Ozanam Board of Directors invites you to get excited and involved in making a difference in our future..., our Children.

Ozanam Board Members

Officers:

Curtis Cureton
Executive Director

Milona Wall
Board President

Darelle Porter
Assistant Executive Director
Program Director

Karen Hall
Director of Communication
Girls Program Director

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Speech and Language Specialist
Retired Pittsburgh Public School

Alan Lincoln
Riverside Sales Group, LLC

Ralph Parks
Branch Manager
Fifth Third Bank Hill District Branch

Diane Stotts
Clinical Transformation Consultant
Highmark Inc.

Alumni Corner

My first competitive experience with The Legendary Ozanam League, was at the tender age of twelve. The league was a National Brand and second to none in terms of talent. I along with fellow Ozanam alumni were given the opportunity to showcase their talent in a competitive arena of the country's most talented athletes.

This beginning built a platform for me to play at Penn Hills High School, the first women's team in Western Pennsylvania history to win seven consecutive W.P.I A.L championships and obtain a full athletic scholarship to West Virginia University. The lessons learned for me were not just basketball, it taught me teamwork, dedication, work ethic and how to fellowship with other people.

Having the Ozanam experience I was motivated to want to give back my lessons learned. This was done through obtaining assistant coaching positions at both Penn Hills and The Legendary Schenley High School. Currently I am the Head Coach at Obama Academy 2013-2014 City League Champions, who also participate in the Ozanam League.

Ozanam serves as a building block to help build a community, character, self worth, the desire to achieve, and love who you are as an accomplish person.



Ozanam Alumnae Monique McCoy

African American Facts:

Joe Gilliam, a Pittsburgh Steeler, was the first ever African-American starting quarterback

March 1780 the Pennsylvania Assembly lapsed “An Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery,” which deemed no child born in Pennsylvania could be a slave.

1887 Lemuel Goggins was elected the first African-American to Pittsburgh City Council.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

1. Ozanam was named in honor of Antione-Frederic Ozanam, known as Blessed Frederic by Catholics. Saint Frederic helped the underprivileged. He founded the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.
2. Occupations of ozanam alumnus includes dentists, lawyers, broadcast personalities, federal government staff, collegiate coaches, law enforcement, professional athletes, former Olympians, educators, and more.
3. Ozanam was the first league in Pittsburgh to allow African American referees to officiate games together.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- Girls and Boys Mini-Fall Basketball League
- Fuel Up To Play60 Nutritional Session
- Holy Family Institute Exchange Games

November

- Ronald McDonald Service Project
- Board Meeting
- ProTech Compliance, Inc Sponsor Thanksgiving Dinner

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.

Ozanam Facts:

- Ozanam is now an approved employment option under the federal work-study program at Duquesne University.
- Children who had either high or above average attendance in tutoring program also had an increase in their G.P.A in 2012-13 school year.

Ozanam, Inc.

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Curtis Cureton, Executive Director