

SGA ALLIANCE



MAKING IT HAPPEN

SGA LAUNCHES THE FIRST PHASE OF THE ROSELAND CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE

As SGA Youth & Family Services celebrates its 100th anniversary, we are embarking on an incredible journey as we continue to support our families into the next century.

SGA has launched the Roseland Children's Initiative to do whatever it takes to transform the social well-being of a community and create real opportunities for young people by providing a continuum of comprehensive and concentrated support services within the Roseland area.

Inspired by the success and study of the Harlem Children's Zone in New York City, SGA's work at Christian Fenger Academy High School and Curtis Elementary School will become part of an overall comprehensive plan for change in the Roseland neighborhood. Christian Fenger Academy High School is part of the Community Schools Initiative and offers a range of out of school services that support the success of students and their families. SGA had the opportunity to talk with individuals in the Roseland neighborhood.

SGA sat down with **Zenobia Williams**, Community School Coordinator at Christian Fenger Academy High School, to discuss how SGA is building relationships with the students.

SGA: Please tell us about your role at Fenger High School and how you work with the school staff and our partners.

Z.W.: I am responsible for coordinating before and after school programs, organizing the Parent Café, and rallying the Roseland community organizations to provide after school services in the building. I would like to make Fenger the hub of the community and the center of SGA's Roseland Children's Initiative. I also serve on the mid-level leader's management team and meet regularly with Ms. Jones, the Assistant Principal, to coordinate efforts, discuss strategies, and exchange information. This helps keep our relationship solid. We strive to put together a program for the students that will enhance their social and emotional skills to help them reach their academic goals.

SGA: You coordinate both our partner programming and the teacher facilitated programs. Please give us a preview of some of the afterschool enrichment activities that you are bringing to the school this year.

Z.W.: One of the programs that I'm really excited about is the journalism program. Students are putting together their own school newspaper and will write about issues that are affecting their lives. We will also continue successful programs from last year, such as the All Stars Intern Project. We provide mentoring support and a six month training program [for students] with various non-profits and Fortune 500 companies. Once they graduate from the program and high school, they are placed at a host company for a summer internship.

We are also partnering with the Chicago Police and Firefighter Training Academies. Once the students complete the training and graduate from high school, they receive a two year college scholarship.

SGA: Retention in the after school activities is an ongoing challenge. How do you address keeping kids involved throughout the year?

Z.W.: I work with the facilitators to continue the recruitment process all year. We organize productions throughout year and have year-end projects so the kids can celebrate and see the results of their efforts.

Ms. Elizabeth Dozier, Principal, Christian Fenger Academy High School, spoke about the changes she has seen since SGA began services at the school.

SGA: Please tell us how connecting students and families to the after (or out of school) enrichment activities have impacted your students' performance and attendance.

E.D.: Our students' attendance rates have increased for those who are participating in programs, and we've also seen higher grade-point averages (G.P.A.s) for those students.

Jack Ablin (far right), SGA Board Member and Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, Harris Private Bank and Fred Banyon, (far left) Executive Vice President, 488trade.com, conducted a workshop on financial literacy at Christian Fenger High School.

The workshop is part of **The Parent Café**, a monthly gathering of Christian Fenger Academy High School parents to share experiences and learn about such topics as nutrition and fitness, financial literacy, health screenings, and issues facing their teens conducted by community professionals.

Community Schools are neighborhood schools that have been transformed as the central hub of the community. The schools are open evenings and weekends for students and parents to provide enriching activities, language classes, music, art, tutoring and mentoring, clubs, and classes for parents and community residents. Fenger High School is one of the first community schools in the Roseland community.

"One of the great traditions of social programs that promise neighborhoods draw from is a century old community school movement, which had its roots in Chicago. Jane Addams, (one of SGA's founding board members)...settlement house model soon spread to other cities but Addams and her friends, and famed educator, John Dewey, quickly recognized that only a limited number of immigrants could be helped in homes, many more could be reached through schools as social centers."

Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, November, 2009

There is a decrease in serious behavioral incidents with these students and they are connected and they feel like they have an advocate and a space; there is a reduction in behavioral issues. Overall, our dropout rate was cut in half for this past school year, which is really awesome. This is a different school than it was at the beginning of last year.

The school becomes a hub, a kind of pillar, a light in the community that people have. They can be involved in something positive after school and on weekends.



Parent Café newcomers discover creative nutritional recipes at The Parent Café

That is what we are creating—especially in communities like ours where there aren't that many resources or activities available.

SGA: While in the school's resource office, I observed the strong working relationship of your school and SGA staff, particularly Zenobia Williams.

E.D.: Absolutely! Ms. Williams is not off in some corner by herself working in isolation. She is in a large room with our activities director, our athletics director, and a counselor who deals specifically with our highest risk freshmen.

"The school becomes a hub, a kind of pillar, a light in the community"

There is some natural collaboration. Kids come in to meet with the counselor, and they end up connecting with others. Ms. Williams has done a phenomenal job!

SGA: Can you give us an example of how a student has been helped by participating in the after school enrichment activities?

E.D.: I think of Maurice* and I look back a year ago when he was involved in gangs, running with the wrong crowd, making some poor life decisions, fighting and very angry. He has really come a long way and I think that's a result of him being connected to after school resources, and he now has a mentor.

Students and parents talk about changes seen in the Roseland Community and at Fenger and how SGA has helped.

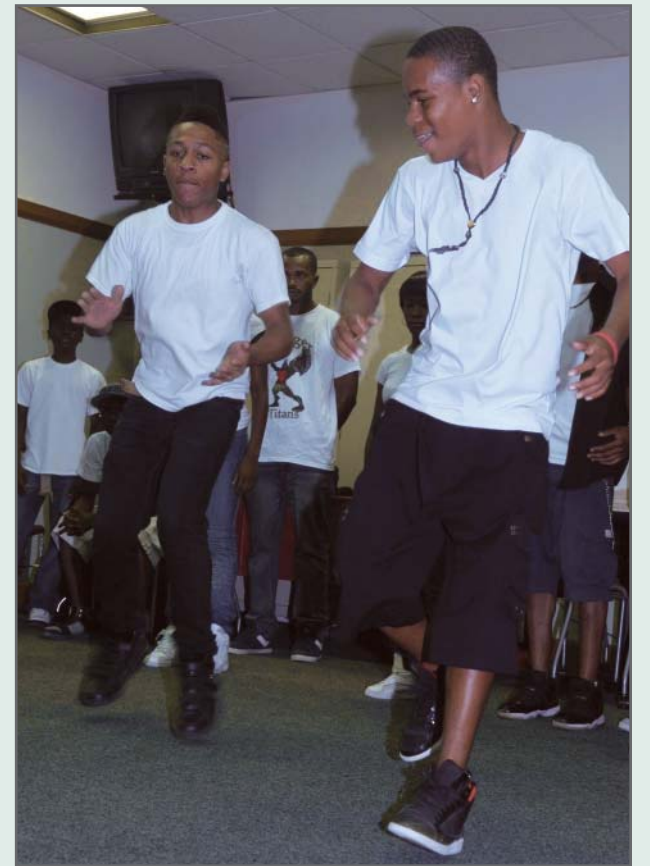
Gregory Lucas, Student, Christian Fenger Academy High School discusses his experience while at Fenger.

SGA: How have you seen things change at Fenger over the last year?

G.L.: It was chaos, but after Derrion was killed I saw more programs brought into the school. More kids, who were in trouble, started getting involved in the activities. It made them look forward to coming to school and kept their grades up.

SGA: Our partner, Juke Institute, conducts after school dance classes. How do you think participating in the dance class helped you?

G.L.: I had a 2.0 grade point average before I got involved. I was told that "if you come to practice, you must be on time and improve your grades" and that helped me come to school on time and gave



Christian Fenger Academy High School students perform dance moves taught at Juke Institute during a Parent Café

me something to look forward to! Now I have a 3.9 G.P.A. And, I maintained that G.P.A. last year, except for one B that kept me from straight A's—Algebra!

Ms. Yolanda Lucas, Christian Fenger Academy High School Parent (*Gregory's mother*) talks about strategies being used in the school.

SGA: I heard that you are the "Star Recruiter" of parents—and that you knocked on a lot of doors and made many calls to help get parents out for the Parent Café. How is that going?



FROM THE PRESIDENT SUSANA MAROTTA, PhD

This issue of SGA Life is dedicated to the Roseland Children's Initiative.

SGA has the unique opportunity to contribute to substantive and lasting change in the Roseland community and is partnering with businesses and community leaders in the Roseland neighborhood to create better and brighter futures.

SGA unveiled the Initiative to friends and supporters at our spring gala where guest speaker, Paul Tough, former editor at *The New York Times Magazine* and *Harper's Magazine*, spoke on educational reform and about the work Geoffrey Canada has done at the Harlem Children's Zone.

We currently have resources coordinators working with Christian Fenger Academy High School students and most recently began working in Curtis Elementary School.

As we make successful steps in our journey, we look forward to keeping you updated!

SGA YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



At John W. Cook Elementary School, students are tempting their tastebuds with nutritional food. Each week of the cooking class students will learn about the culture of a different country, like Italy, Mexico or China and cook 2-3 healthy ethnic recipes from that country. This is a hands-on class where children learn kitchen skills and work as a team to complete the meal.



In December, Horace Mann MST Academy hosted a holiday family night that included dinner, crafts, and games. Guest speaker Mr. Alexander (pictured to the left) spoke to the families about child development and family relationships.



Y.L.: We are trying different strategies to get them [parents] involved and meet some of the many needs that they have. We talk to them about what they are going through. There is a lot going on in their lives—depression, loss, etc. Ms. Williams provides case management and connects them to services in the community. We let them know how important they are and that they need to be involved in their child's education.

Mr. Lonnie Banks, recent graduate of Christian Fenger Academy discusses how SGA's resources enabled him to give back.

SGA: Ms. Williams tells me that you came back after graduating and worked for her this summer as a dance instructor for our partner, Juke Institute?

L.B.: I spoke with my friends who also graduated and we wanted to come back and teach current Fenger students. We wanted to give back.

SGA: How has Ms. Williams helped you?

L.B.: Every time I come around she has a smile on her face and that puts a smile on mine. She helped me get a job and I thank her for that. She stayed on me about what I should be doing (registering for college) and what I shouldn't be doing.

Mrs. Sandra Peterson, Christian Fenger Academy High School Parent (*Lonnie's mother*), spoke about the changes she noticed in her son.

SGA: What changes did you notice in Lonnie after he had participated in the extra-curricular activities?

S.P.: He's been very busy and it gives him something to do besides hang out. His interest and passion

has grown. He has always been into dance but now he's being more responsible and his grades greatly improved. It encouraged him to register for college and to study further.

SGA: What are your ideas for getting parents involved in the Parent Café?

S.P.: We tap into the talents and interest of the parents to get other parents more involved in what the kids do. If the parent played sports, and their child is active in sports, the parent can get involved with that, or if their child sings in choir, the parent can get involved with the child in volunteering with the choir.

Marsha Eaglin, CEO and Founder, Family Impact

Center, talks about the impact a partnership can have on an individual and a community.

SGA: You are one of our valued partners in the after school programming. What are the challenges faced by SGA and our partners as we work together to bring enrichment activities into the school?

M.E.: You know, they've [the community] been deprived and have been told by organizations in the past "this program is coming", and then it has been status quo.

To see an organization that is about to celebrate 100 years of being steadfast in what they said they were going to do, come in and say "we're here and we want to help" means a lot. I think the obstacle would be to win them over, but SGA's track record speaks for itself. SGA has genuine people on staff and it speaks volumes to the people in the community.

Without having these programs to offer through SGA, what would they have here at Fenger?

Recently Zenobia said, "I have the vision for what should happen here and I know we can do it." She is very particular and she is literally handpicking organizations to make sure that she has the right combination of fun, artistic, and academic type of activities in the school.

What better way to put a program together than to have a nice variety and someone from an agency who's passionate about it? We're connecting and networking, and we're making sure that we keep the best interests of this community at heart.

SGA: What is your vision for the future...your hope for the Roseland community?

M.E.: The best payment you can get is when those young people come back with college degrees, and they say "I want to come back to work and mentor youth," that is the absolute top pay that you can get. When they come back and start a business or non profit—that's when you'll see a true turnover in Roseland. The real barometer is going to be [these] people returning to give back because of what we instilled in them. That to me is the cream of the crop, that's the reason to do it all.



Principal Elizabeth Dozier listens to SGA Board Member, Elaine Fiffer, during a board tour of Christian Fenger Academy High School

**Student's name changed to protect confidentiality*

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BE SURE TO LOOK FOR SGA IN CRAIN'S!
SGA has a series of advertisements in the following Chicago Crain's publications:
2011 Book of Lists
February 28 (Focus: Finance)
March 21 (Focus: Insurance)
April 28 (Focus: Privately Held Companies)



BOARD UPDATE

SGA Youth & Family Services welcomes our newest board members:

Jack Ablin

Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer
Harris Private Bank

Lee Allison

Founder and President
Lee Allison Company

Joel Cooper

Partner
Freeborn and Peters

John Cultra

Principal and CFA
William Blair & Company

Nancy Sergey-Siegel

Sales Manager
ABC7 Chicago

Anne Harlan Strohm

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

FRIENDS OF SGA YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

ROSELAND CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE

SGA is excited to have the following partners in the Roseland Community:

AUSL

(Academy of Urban School Leadership)

Chicago Family Health Center

Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives

Chicago Public Schools

Office of School Turnaround

Curtis Elementary School

Christian Fenger Academy High School

Children's Development Institute

City of Chicago - Department of Family and Support Services

City of Chicago – 9th and 34th Ward

Community Assistance Programs

DL3 Realty

Far South Community Development Corporation

Healthcare Consortium of Illinois

Impact Family Health Center

Learning Points Associates

Metropolitan Family Services

Roseland Community Development Corporation

Roseland Community Hospital

Sinai Community Institute

University of Illinois at Chicago,

Institute for Juvenile Research



During the 2010 Reach for Dreams Gala, Paul Tough, author of *Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America* stops to pose with President and CEO, Susana Marotta; Gala Chair, Victoria Noonan; and Les Inch, Senior Vice President of SGA Youth & Family Services. Tough stated, "SGA is part of one of our most important national projects: giving kids a better chance at success".



Longtime friends of SGA, Betty and Stanley Weinberger. Mr. Weinberger was the 2010 recipient of the Jean S. Meltzer Award.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

INVESTING IN CHICAGO'S FUTURE:
PROFITING FROM COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 | 7:30-9:30 AM
CHICAGO CLUB



The **SGA Youth & Family Services Business Breakfast** will focus on the situation that exists in Roseland and other urban areas, the impact we desire to achieve through a promise neighborhood initiative, and the participation of the financial and business community required for success.

Timothy Schwertfeger (Retired Chief Executive Officer, Nuveen Investments, pictured to the left), **Andrea Zopp**, President and CEO of the Chicago Urban League,

Dr. Michael McAfee, Director of the Promise Neighborhoods

Institute at PolicyLink; and **Leon Walker**, Managing Partner, DL3 Realty L.P. will examine the role of the business community and how they can help achieve this goal. **Mike Lewis**, EVP at Harris Bank will moderate.

100TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
SATURDAY, MAY 14 | 6:00-10:00 PM
MODERN WING | ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO



A nationally recognized leader, **Geoffrey Canada** is our guest speaker at the 100th anniversary gala. Mr. Canada is the dynamic force behind educational and community reform at the Harlem Children's Zone, an initiative that targets a specific geographic area in Central Harlem with a comprehensive range of services. Featured in the documentary, "Waiting for Superman", Mr. Canada and HCZ has become a national model. The evening will feature a live auction and breathtaking views of the city skyline. For more information, contact Molly Robinson at

312-447-4338 or at sgadevelopment@sga-youth.org.

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