



Nine students graduate!

by James
Brown
Leadership
Development
Director

Urban Concern's mission is to empower individuals to be agents of positive change in South Linden. Matt 5:14-16 helps summarize this mission and gives meaning to our strategy to build a "counter-community" in South Linden:

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

One of the most important tools for breaking the cycle of poverty is education. Urban Concern has made education a high priority in our strategy to build a "counter-community" in South Linden.

Thus, an exciting trend we see in our counter-community is a growing consensus among our high school students to graduate from high school and aspire to higher education. This year we had our largest number of high school graduates ever!

Nine students in our programs graduated and went on to either college or skilled trades:

Anita Allison attends Ohio University. Moniquia Alston attends Capital University. Jasmyne Dalton will enroll at Columbus State Community College this winter. Whitney Franklin attends Columbus State and works for City Year. Lee Knox is enrolled



at Ohio University's extended campus in Pickerington. Mike Malone attends Mt Vernon College. Cierra Foster works at Stanley Steamer. Jamal Chubb is training to become a Columbus City firefighter and Paul Ware is training to become an electrician.

These achievements shine like a light breaking through the darkness in a community that has a high school dropout rate that exceeds 60 percent.

Please pray that these students continue to be lights in the midst of darkness. Thanks for your prayers and support.

This year we had our largest number of high school graduates ever: nine!



An exciting trend we see in our counter-community is a growing consensus among our high school students to graduate from high school and aspire to higher education.

restoring hope

developing leaders



For years, Harambee Christian School has been a leader in teaching economics to inner-city youth.

Harambee Imports, Inc.

By Donna Spengler

Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he will eat for a lifetime.

This well-known Chinese proverb reminds us that development, in the long run, is more important than charity. Leadership development empowers people to become more self-sufficient. But as John Perkins, founder of the Christian Community Development Association, often remarks, "It also matters who owns the pond!" True empowerment enables more people to enter the playing field.

This is at the heart of Harambee Imports, Inc., a new project at Harambee Christian School that teaches real world economics to fourth and fifth graders.

For years, Harambee Christian School has been a leader in teaching economics to inner-city youth. Harambee has incorporated economic education in three ways:

formal economics instruction, a school economy and now Harambee Imports, Inc., a student business for fourth and fifth graders.

Formal instruction takes place in grades K-5. Each class teaches one economics unit per year. Teachers also seek to integrate economics into other aspects of the curriculum.

The faculty has seen marked improvements in students' habits and behavior. Tardiness in some classes has dropped to zero, and homework completion is often 100 percent.

The school implemented a token economy three years ago to teach economics and provide incentives for students to make better choices throughout the day. Their currency is called "Bling." Students earn Bling by practicing four positive behaviors: completing their daily homework, getting a parent's signature in their daily assignment book, being prepared and in their seat on time at the beginning of the school day, and having a good attitude and behavior.

Students can earn up to five Bling per day. Each week, students receive a faux paycheck with paystub showing the amount of Bling earned for each of the four categories.

As a result of the school economy, the faculty has seen marked improvements in students' habits and behavior. Tardiness in some classes has dropped to zero, and homework completion is often 100 percent. Urban Concern's After School Program contributes to this success by

assisting with homework.

With Economis, a new web-based software application developed at Youth for Christ, students' earnings are recorded electronically into a personal account. Students use the application to manage their finances and to purchase items at an online school store.

They may buy items such as school supplies, snacks, T-



Capital Campaign Update

We are excited to announce the groundbreaking ceremony for Urban Concern's new Harambee Community Center on Tuesday, November 28 at 10:30 a.m., at 1000 Bonham Avenue.

To date, \$2.8 million has been pledged—88 percent of our goal! "We were honored to be awarded \$100,000 by the Mary Louise Bohannon and Adelaide C. Craig funds of The Columbus Foundation in October."

Learn more about the project on our web site at www.urbanconcern.org.

We thank God for the volunteers' and investors' time and support for this campaign. So far this year, we purchased the land, raised support and have nearly completed the architectural plans.

Would you like to help us reach our goal in 2006? Please help us with prayer and financial support, or connect us to potential investors for this project. Contact Alex Steinman at (614) 291-0885 x 115 or SteinmanAl@xenos.org.



On November 7, Archie Griffin, two-time Heisman trophy winner, was the guest of honor at a reception hosted by Squire Galbreath at the Scioto Country Club. \$187,600 was raised at this event.

building community



continued from page 2

shirts and prizes. Or they can purchase privileges, such as lunch with a teacher or special outings. Students learn to save for higher-priced items.

According to HCS teacher Jim Flaherty, "Economics is the science of choice. Our students have to decide, 'Do I want this certain item from the online store, or do I want to save it?' Occasionally, a student will over-spend and lose the chance to attend the school outing. It's a real-life lesson in reckless spending."

Harambee Imports, Inc. is the newest addition to the economic teaching repertoire at HCS. The student business imports, markets and sells products from the Community Based Rehabilitation Project in Thailand and benefit poor families there.

All products, including, handbags, greeting cards and bookmarks, are made by impoverished mothers of disabled children. Ordinarily, they would be required to work in rice fields away from their very needy children.

It will also provide a needed source of income for the Harambee school economy.

Harambee students will manage all aspects of the business, including logistics, accounting, marketing and sales. Students will earn Bling for the work they perform at Harambee Imports, Inc.

Students will sell items the weekend of December 2-3 at Xenos Central Teachings. If you are interested in purchasing items but are unable to attend one of the Central Teachings, please call Teresa Foster at Urban Concern, (614) 291-0885 x 128.

By integrating economic concepts into the fabric of school life, Harambee students are learning personal responsibility, finance, entrepreneurship and, most important, compassion.

Employee Giving Campaigns

Many employers offer Employee Giving Campaigns where your gifts may be directed to Urban Concern: Abbott Laboratories, Allstate, Franklin International, ING, JP Morgan Chase, Medco, The McGraw-Hill Companies and Morgan Stanley are just a few of the companies that support community-based non-profits. Most companies also match their employees' gifts from 15 to even 100 percent. Check with your human resources office to see if your company will match your gift to Urban Concern.



www.urbanconcern.org



Urban Concern is a member of the Christian Community Development Association

Urban Concern's mission is to empower individuals and families to be agents of positive change in South Linden. Activities include an After School Program, summer Job Club, Bible studies, Parent Partnership and a private Christian school.

The work of Urban Concern staff and volunteers in South Linden is nationally and locally recognized: designated as one of the White House's Thousand Points of Light, and receiving the World Vision Mustard Seed Award and Columbus Dispatch Community Service Award.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

All of Urban Concern's Board members serve without compensation.

- Steve Bauer, Secretary/Treasurer (non-voting)
- Gary DeLashmutt
- William Dodson
- Tom Dixon
- Jeff Gordon, M.D.
- Jody Kear, D.D.S.
- Jim Leffel
- Dennis McCallum
- John McKewen, RIA
- John Rue

Urban Concern's Board last met at Xenos Christian Fellowship on December 6, 2005.

URBAN CONCERN

1478 Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211

- | | |
|--|--|
| Dave Glover
(614) 823-6510 x 136 | Executive Director
GloverD@xenos.org |
| Holly Borghese
(614) 291-0885 x 129 | PT Grant Writer
BorgheseH@xenos.org |
| James Brown
(614) 291-0885 x 121 | Leadership Development Director
BrownJ@xenos.org |
| Tonette Brown
(614) 291-0885 x 110 | Leadership Development Assistant
BrownT@xenos.org |
| Wilma Collins
(614) 291-0885 x 120 | Parent Partnership Coordinator
CollinsW@xenos.org |
| Wakeshia Harris
(614) 291-0885 x 130 | PT After School Program Director
HarrisW@xenos.org |
| Donna Spengler
(614) 291-0885 x 127 | Stewardship Director
SpenglerD@xenos.org |

HARAMBEE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

1474 Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211

- | | |
|--|--|
| Alex Steinman
(614) 291-0885 x 115 | Principal
SteinmanAl@xenos.org |
| Teresa Foster
(614) 291-0885 x 128 | Administrative Assistant
FosterT@xenos.org |

Non Profit Org
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Columbus, OH
 Permit No. 7217

1478 Cleveland Avenue
 Columbus, Ohio 43211

Address Service Requested



In this Issue
 1 Nine students graduate
 2 Harambee Imports, Inc.
 3 Capital campaign update