

Little VOICES

A Newsletter for Friends and Supporters of the Community Child Care Center of Delray Beach

VOL. 1, EDITION 2 SPRING 2005



*"If there is hope in the future,
there is power in the present."*

-- JOHN MAXWELL

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A United Vision on Two Campuses

The CCCC's Beacon services make great strides in short time

Last summer the news broke: the Community Child Care Center was named as new management for the implementation of Beacon services at the Village Academy, a deregulated public elementary school. The Beacon services encompass extended-day, teen, adult education and community programs. It

seemed like an easy fit, since the CCCC already operated similar programs for children and families. If serving more children was the only challenge, then the last eight months might have been an easy transition. However, with the addition of 400 children came a new facility, staff and structure. The management and staff have worked diligently to ensure that this expansion would thrive while maintaining the excellence achieved in their existing programs for the last 35 years.

Since August 2004, when the CCCC began managing the Beacon services at Village Academy, 40 staff members were added, including Beacon Director Percyell Pratt. They have been monitored by several agencies, including the Children's Services Council, the United Way, and the Department of Education. They have also been monitored and licensed by the Health Department.

In early February, several Board

members from the CCCC participated in a full tour of the Village Academy campus, led by Principal Dr. Tammy Ferguson, with CCCC Executive Director Nancy Hurd, Director of Programs Shirley Bryant and Mr. Pratt. This was the first time many Board members had ever seen Village Academy. The tour helped them understand

Duane Boucard, an instructor for the Brotherhood.



how the extended-day programs work in tandem with the school curriculum to better serve the children of the community.

They saw firsthand the tremendous impact that specialized groups like the



Brotherhood members Michael Charles, 5th grade, (back) and Norris Lee, 4th grade (front).

Brotherhood and the Sisterhood have on children with behavioral and academic problems. Students in these two groups have either failed the FCAT, are in danger of repeating a grade, or have disruptive behavioral problems. These gender-specific groups, each with about 20 children, have more one-on-one interactions with both certified teachers and activity instructors to address academic and emotional needs.

When the tour paused to observe the groups in action, one impressed Board member (who also happened to be a former school teacher) said jokingly, "I've seen

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COMMUNITY CHILD
CARE CENTER
2005

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Members designated with an asterisk
(*) belong to both the Foundation and
the Operational Boards.

New Faces

Stephanie Seibel joins CCCC as Director of Development

Stephanie Seibel joined the Community Child Care Center's staff in January 2005. Previously, she worked for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as Associate Director in their Boca Raton fundraising office. Responsible for a \$2 million dollar budget, she organized such events as the "FedEx/St. Jude Angels and Stars Gala" in Miami, and the "Night of Miracles" with the Miami Dolphins.

"I am grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of such a dynamic and growing organization that impacts so many right here in our backyard," Stephanie said.

Stephanie graduated with a B.A. degree in Psychology from Ohio University and a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology and Higher Education from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. Stephanie and her husband Dale live with their daughter Makenzie in Delray Beach and have been residents for 10 years.



Chairman's Message

Operations Board President Thomas N. Murphy, Jr.

in the Pre-K part of the Center where the kids put on shows and had their meals. We sat on little benches next to little tables and conspired to move forward with our dreams.

Sometime in 1999, it occurred to us that we should provide our children with a place to come back to after they graduated from Pre-K. We hated to see them go, and so did they. After years of effort, we cobbled together the land to build our beautiful Morton Downey Family Resource Center, which opened in October 2001. Dreams do come true.

On August 1, 2004, after submitting our application and being rigorously examined by the Children's Services Council, we took over the management of the Beacon Center at Village Academy in Delray Beach, with urging from the City. What Nancy Hurd and her staff have managed to accomplish in this short period of time is nothing short of miraculous. Nancy, Shirley Bryant and the whole team made certain that adequately trained and enthusiastic staff serve our kids at Village Academy through the Beacon Center program. I am happy to report that we are moving full-speed ahead and that the quality of our care at the Beacon Center is second to none. We have every intention of helping these children attain and maximize their goals, particularly their education and their FCAT performance. "The proof is in the pudding," as they say, and we are already seeing signs of substantial improvement.

The Community Child Care Center at the main campus and the Beacon Center at Village Academy now serve well in excess of 700 children from ages 12 months to 18 years old. The challenges that face us are still daunting. The Village Academy will continue to expand its grades, its ultimate goal being Kindergarten through High School. Thus, the responsibility of the Community Child Care Center will expand exponentially as well. Based upon past performance, I have every confidence that our managers and staff will meet each challenge that faces them with courage, conviction, love and good cheer.

Little did I know 11 years ago that my happiest days and most gratifying moments would be the result of my association with the Community Child Care Center. One only has to look at the smiles of the children we serve to understand how well our staff performs its mission. Thank you for your continuing support and good wishes.

Dear Friends of the Community Child Care Center,
Approximately 11 years ago, I and my friend David Henninger joined the Board of the Community Child Care Center. At the time, we met

"What Nancy Hurd and her staff have managed to accomplish in this short period of time is nothing short of miraculous."

Alumni Spotlight

Vince Clinton keeps it in the family

For 32 years, the Community Child Care Center was open only to children in preschool, ages 3 to 5 years old. When these children went on to public school, we couldn't always stay in touch with how these little people fared in the real world after leaving the Center.

One who always kept in touch was Vince Clinton.

"Vince is the youngest of, I believe, 13 children," remembers Executive Director Nancy Hurd. "He was in my first class (I also taught) when we were in a donated Sunday School room at the First Presbyterian Church. We had an older donated bus and he would ride home on it and sometimes his family would forget to come to the pick up point. He used to tell me that with that many children, it would take a while before anyone missed him."

"I'd get a call from a neighbor or the bus driver asking me to come get a little boy who was crying at the bus stop. I'd always say, 'Don't tell me...he has on little tiny blue jeans and red cowboy boots.' They'd confirm it and I'd tell them he was our little boy, his name was Vincent, and I'd go pick him up and take him home. The kids on his street got used to seeing us together and they'd run to his front door and say, 'Hey, y'all, Miss Hurd done got Vince again, open up.'"

"It was kind of a ritual, and one of my fondest memories because now Vince comes to 'rescue' me, like when we had 11 trees down after the first hurricane and he came here first to get us back in shape."

Now 39, Vince owns his own lawn maintenance business, which he started in 1987. At the time, he was working for the City of Delray Beach, and he started a small, part-time business, which quickly grew into a full-blown operation.

"Once I started, I had more business than I could handle all of a sudden. I had to choose between the

City and my business." Needless to say, the business won. "Now I have a full-time employee of my own."

One of his biggest clients is the Community Child Care Center. Vince used to

drive by the present-day Lake Ida Road campus on 4th Street to visit Mrs. Hurd and Mrs.

Thomas, (who still teaches 3-year-olds at the Center) and he

noticed that the lawn needed some attention.

"Mrs. Hurd gave me a shot, and the rest, as they say, is history,"

Vince said with a big grin.

When the hurricanes tore through South Florida last year, there was no need to call anyone. Vince was already there to help with the clean-up.

"One of the first stops I made after the storm was to see how the school held up, and there was Mrs. Hurd. We had a lot of trees down that needed to be propped back up, but luckily that was the worst of it."

In 2001, the Morton Downey Family Resource (FRC) center opened its doors to 175 children for a new after-school program. One of those children is Vince's daughter, Deyjah, 9. His daughter Destiny, 1, is in the Toddler Center. Vince usually brings Destiny in the mornings, and loves that he gets to see her on the playground when he's working at the Center.

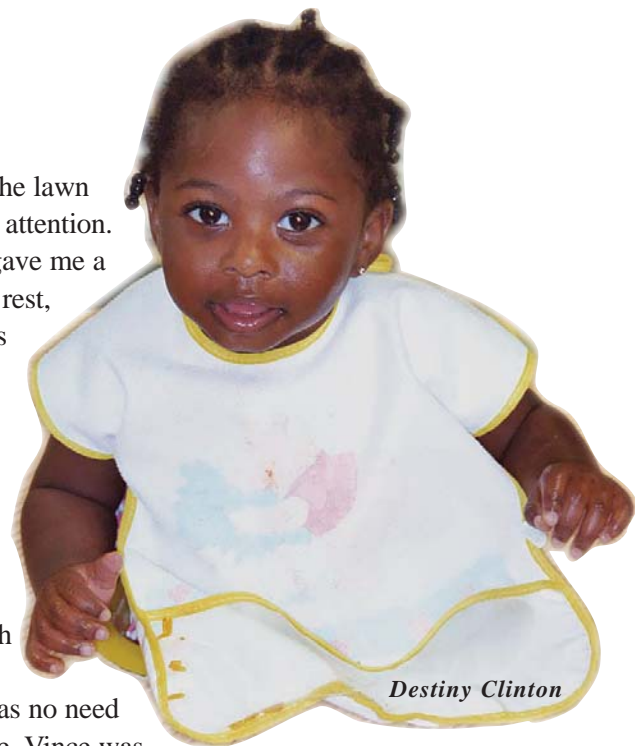
"I always try to do a lot for the school," he said. Generosity is a trait that seems to run in the family. Vince's father, Rueben Clinton, usually donates the use of his tow truck for the float that the kids at FRC have in the Holiday Parade every year.

"There's a whole lotta love floatin' around this place. The staff is so caring... they're always babying my girls. I would never have a problem leaving my kids here. As a parent, I try to encourage other families to try and get their kids enrolled. It's a great program."

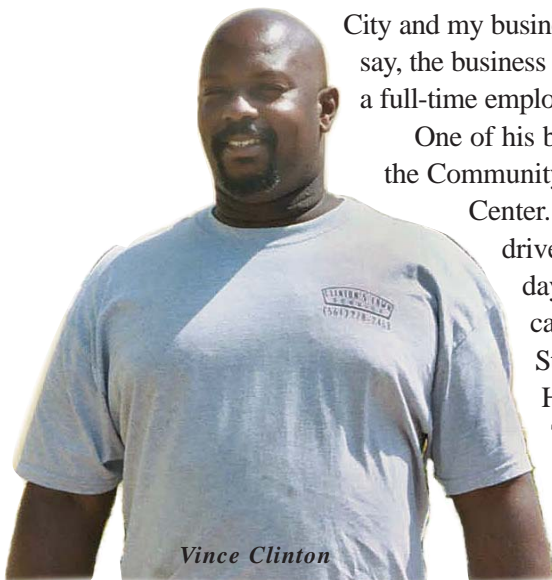
Vince said he would like to see the Child Care Center grow, so that more children in the community can benefit from the lessons it has to offer and the love it has to give.

"If Mrs. Hurd is in charge, I'm quite sure whatever it becomes, it will be a success."

Vince's own success is a tribute to the very program of which he speaks so highly. And now, he's teaching this legacy to his children so the circle of love continues.



Destiny Clinton



Vince Clinton

Endowment

Ensuring a legacy of opportunity

Over the past several years, many non-profit organizations have launched capital campaigns to have donors "endow" their gift. An "endowed gift" involves making a gift whose investments create funds for current use each year, into perpetuity. In other words, the organization will take the endowed gift and spend a set amount of the gift each year, providing income to supplement the organizations annual revenues. The organization will then reinvest the difference.

The need and desire to launch an Endowment Campaign here at the Community Child Care Center has been frequently discussed. With services now reaching over 700 children, the funding challenges that we face today are substantially greater than those of the past.

In February, the Foundation Board President, David Henninger, assembled a task force and consulted with several credentialed individuals with expertise in Capital Campaigns. After careful consideration, the Foundation Board decided to move forward to prepare for the inevitable pinch of public funding cuts, or, worst-case scenario, elimination of such funds.

The need for endowment is twofold: **first, it ensures seamless and ongoing funding.** Currently, 70 percent of the annual budget comes from public sources. This funding has become increasingly erratic in terms of dollars, requirements, criteria and terms. Each year, we ride the waves of uncertainty, never knowing for sure if the ebb and flow of dollars from these funding streams will continue. Without backing away from this funding, we need to protect the organization by moving in a direction that secures its existence.

Second, it will enable the funding of new programs and will allow for emerging needs to be met. The Community Child Care Center has been looked to as a leader in creating services and developing programs that address the needs of the entire family. An endowment will allow this forward-thinking policy to continue. When the journey began 35 years ago, no one ever dreamed the Center would provide support groups for alcohol, drugs or domestic abuse, but their existence today is invaluable.

To remain without an endowment runs the risk of compromising the Center's programs. Endowment bolsters the Center's mission by solidifying the covenant to the community, whose needs have always been greater than our ability to meet them. Now is the time to engage in an action plan, ensuring existence for future generations. This endowment will strengthen staffing, programs and services, the maintenance and improvement of

the facilities, and the mission of serving families. Establishing this fund will allow for the continuation of visionary leadership and the creation of a comprehensive social service agenda.

On March 9, 2005 the Foundation Board hired Dr. Tom Ezell, of Ezell & Co. Inc., a specialist in innovative management strategies and capital campaign development, to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of a \$10 million Endowment Campaign. A fund of this size would generate enough income

to sustain the operating costs of the Center if all public funding ceased. To date, 44 supporters have been interviewed by Dr. Ezell, and he will present his findings to the Foundation Board, who will decide if there is enough support to move forward. If the feasibility study concludes that the goal is attainable, the next step will be to outline a plan on how the funds will be spent beyond a safety net for the potential loss of funding.

"A fund of this sort would not only give us security for our current services but could allow for the addition of programs that we haven't even thought of yet. That is pretty exciting. We would like to get off the treadmill of year-to-year funding; we just have to believe in our mission." said Foundation Board Chairman David Henninger.

Please contact the Community Child Care Center Foundation if you would like more information on endowing a gift or the Endowment Campaign.

en•dow•ment: *noun*
The property or capital donated to an organization that is invested and producing income.

Effortless Giving

Would you like to be able to support the Community Child Care Center with the stroke of a pen? All you have to do is name the CCCC as beneficiary of a certain percentage of your new or existing life insurance policy. For example if you have a \$100,000 policy, you could give 99% (\$99,000) to your spouse and children and 1% (\$1,000) to the Center. Just arrange with your insurance agent to sign a beneficiary change form. In just minutes, you can ensure support for the Community Child Care Center beyond your life time.

Another way to give effortlessly is through matching gifts. Many companies match the charitable contributions of their current and retired employees and board members, some will even match your gift at a ratio of 2:1. Check with your employer and send your matching gift form to the Community Child Care Center Foundation. Double your contribution!

children in this age group before, and they were never this well-behaved! Are you paying them?"

Being invited into the Brotherhood or Sisterhood has great appeal to students who see this as a privilege of inclusion, rather than a negative label. The activities are exciting; they build mastery skills, and provide individual attention for their special needs. This combination sets the stage for school success, which feels good to the child.



*Village Academy Principal,
Dr. Tammy Ferguson*

The Brotherhood and the Sisterhood are just two groups out of 18 different activities and clubs offered to children in the extended-day program of the Beacon Center. Over 26 instructors teach 400 children from ages 5 to 13. A major focus of the programs here is academic, with eight different enrichment programs. These academic programs continue throughout the summer, in addition to the increase in field trips for sports, cultural activities, and special events such as participation in the Roots Cultural Festival. The children can also participate in Creative Dance, Drumming, T-ball teams for boys and girls, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Two years ago, the Village Academy was graded as an "F" school. Last year, they raised that to a "C." Principal Tammy Ferguson is hopeful that this year's grade will be even better. She attributes that largely to the extra effort of the enrichment programs that are at the core of the Beacon Center's extended-day program.

Parents of children from both the CCCC campus on Lake Ida Road and the Beacon Center program at Village Academy got to see clubs in action during the pageant for February's Black History Month celebration, held at the Village Academy. The evening featured performances by many groups from both campuses, including the CCCC Drumline and the Beacon Center Cub Scouts. It was "standing room only" as parents and staff cheered on the performances of our youngsters' best efforts.



Students in the Sisterhood program.

The smiles of pride on the faces of the parents, the staff and the students were clear evidence that our best efforts are paying off.

YOUR LOGO SHOULD BE HERE.

Are you interested in sponsoring the next issue of "Little Voices?" Contact the Foundation at (561) 276-0520 for information!

Q: What is a Beacon Center?

A: A programmatic body of services that evolved from a pilot program in New York City. These programs are located in public schools that serve children, families and neighborhoods in blighted areas that are considered high-risk for crime, poverty and high dropout rates. The term 'Beacon' symbolizes "lights on at night," and acts as a community center, drawing the people into a "safe harbor." The program uses the Village Academy's building and works closely with their principal and staff. The Beacon Center also provides adult education and is entrenched in the community, working through the Community Advisory Council to seek resources for neighborhood improvement.

Q: Who runs the Beacon Center?

A: A Beacon Center is a partnership between a public school (Village Academy), a community-based organization (the CCCC) and the community surrounding the school (a southwest Delray neighborhood). The City of Delray beach holds the contract for the Beacon Center and in August 2004, the CCCC was subcontracted to assume the management of programming and day-to-day operations. With 12 Beacon Centers in Florida, the CCCC operates the only one in the city, and has become a model for others.

Beacon Center Director Percyell Pratt

Our Partner in Excellence

On September 7, 2004, Percyell Pratt joined the Community Child Care Center staff as the Director of the Beacon Center, taking on the responsibility of the day-to-day staffing, implementation of all program services and acting as a liaison for the different funding agencies, the Village Academy, and the additional partner agencies. Extended Day Coordinator Rose Newbold, Community Child Care Director of Programs Shirley Bryant, and Mr. Pratt all work together with the principal of Village Academy, Dr. Tammy Ferguson, and make every effort to coordinate programs, share space and tackle any challenges along the way.



*Beacon Center Director,
Percyell Pratt*

Mr. Pratt approaches his responsibilities with a positive attitude, shaped by the coaching methods that have played such a large role in his career up to this point. After playing football for Florida A & M University, and then working as a certified Athletic Trainer, teamwork is second nature. It is this cooperative approach that he credits for the success of the Beacon Center.

"Since I started with the Beacon Center, I have seen a real team effort from both sides, between the Village Academy school staff and the Beacon staff," Mr. Pratt said. "We are doing whatever it takes to get the job done."



This magnificent French chateau-inspired home, designed by Delray's own Frank McKinney, hosted lunch on the ocean.

Home Run!

The 2005 Delray Beach Home Tour raises a record \$60,000

All our prayers were answered. The heavy rains that fell all day Wednesday before the Community Child Care Center's annual Home Tour had volunteers and staff saying prayers for clear skies. Thankfully, the clouds parted the next morning, and gave way to a gorgeous South Florida day, making sure that the event was "the best it's ever been," according to both volunteers and attendees.

The tour relies on local homeowners who generously open their homes. Seven exquisite homes were featured, showcasing their owners' individuality through "shabby chic" style, Mediterranean flavor, and British West Indies-inspired décor. Over 100 volunteers rolled up their sleeves to play host to over 500 attendees. The ticket price of \$75 included lunch, complimentary valet parking and trolley service between the houses.

Twenty-four lucky raffle winners walked away with valuable prizes including: a two-night stay at the Jupiter Beach Resort, a hand-carved console table and matching mirror



Event Chairwoman Anne Bright, left, and Executive Director Nancy Hurd, right.

from Rustic Rooster, gifts from Brecashé Jewelers, Kientzy & Co., and Excentricities, spa packages from N. Reagan Day Spa, and certificates from Van der Wolks Interiors and Virginia Courtenay Interiors, among others.

"When we proposed the idea three years ago, we were told we wouldn't raise any money," said event chairwoman Anne Bright. "Each year, we exceed our own expectations, and this year is no exception. We already have

homes committed in the historic Swinton and Lake Ida areas for our 2006 Tour, scheduled for March 9."

Now in its third year, the event brought in a record-breaking \$60,000. The Delray Beach Home Tour has become a signature event for the Community Child Care Center, raising funds as well as awareness within the community.

"We're thrilled at the success of our Home Tour, which brings so much pleasure to our community, while at the same time providing value support for our needy children," said Executive Director Nancy Hurd. "Once again, our community has stepped up to embrace this important mission and we're very grateful."



L-R: Susan Hurlburt, Anne Alexander and Pat Duane enjoy a poolside lunch.

SAVE THE DATE!

Rotary Club of Delray Beach &
The Community Child Care Center present

"Open House - Open Doors"
A gala dinner and auction

In honor of the

Delray Beach Rotary's Centennial Celebration

November 5, 2005

DELRAY BEACH HOME TOUR

*Featuring the historic Swinton
and Lake Ida areas*

MARCH 9, 2006

PLEASE CONTACT THE CCCC FOUNDATION FOR MORE INFORMATION (561) 276-0520

Delray Beach Police Chief Speaks at Chamber Breakfast



The Community Child Care Center played host to approximately 65 guests on April 21, for the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce Breakfast for the second consecutive year.

"The breakfast allows the business community to meet, see and experience the Community Child Care Center as one of our most important parts," said Bill Wood, President of the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Delray Beach Police Chief Larry Schroeder

(above left) was the guest speaker at the event. The focus of his address was the importance of intervention as prevention through the ongoing programs at the Delray Beach Police Department that benefit the youth in the community. Guests enjoyed a full breakfast spread from Ellie's 50's Diner, pastries courtesy of the Old School Bakery, and entertainment by a pre-school group performing the "Preschool Stomp" (lower left).



The mission of the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce is to provide

leadership to promote the economic well-being of our total community - to preserve our free enterprise system and to promote business growth and development.

"We are honored to have such esteemed guests at our facility, and we look forward to making this an annual event in partnership with the Chamber," said Foundation Board Chairman David Henninger.

CHAMPS Scores High Marks

Champs is an academic enrichment program available at only 39 after school programs in Palm Beach County. The curriculum uses themes, hands-on learning and group-based projects to make learning fun. This year's theme, "Blast Off," will include a study of the arts, sports and careers from around the world. The Community Child Care Center offers this program at both campuses to students in grades 2-5.

"The piece that I like the most about this program is that it enhances the children's ability to read a passage with great understanding because of the activities that follow," said Head Teacher Clayton Bell. "What we read about and what we study about, we bring to life through the activities."

The Champs program was recently monitored at the CCCC, and each of the four instructors received excellent marks. Each instructor was complimented on they way they interacted with and engaged the students.

When asked about her favorite Champs activity, 10-year-old Christal Lester lights up with excitement and talks about the Fashion project.

"We were paired up onto different teams and got to draw outfits for our countries and we learned about different things." Cayla Jones shares, "We did the Dominican Republic and Atlanta, Ga., and we looked up what people do there and what they wear in that area." "We are going to do a fashion show, too" adds Kayla Thomas, a member of that team.

Champs had such a positive response that it will be part of the curriculum again next year.

Wishing for Wheels Donates Bikes to Beacon



Several years ago, Alexandra Leavy and Nicole Neidich, juniors at Spanish River Community High School, began a project called 'Wishing for Wheels.' As caring members of their community, they were concerned with helping those who are less fortunate. With this in mind, 'Wishing for Wheels' was born.

"Our mission is to provide children and adults with used and new "wheels," such as bicycles, tricycles, roller blades, roller skates, scooters and skateboards," said Nicole.

True to their mission, Nicole and Alex delivered 15 bikes to children of the Beacon Center this April. They were met with surprised grins that stretched from ear to ear, and gasps of "Wow! Is that for ME?"

"It is incredibly satisfying to be part of a project that has such great impact on the lives of many," said Alex.

Kindergartener Tynashia Jones proudly poses with her new bike (above).

Wish List

These are items of which the Community Child Care Center is in need:

- * T-ball sponsors
- * website design
- * scoreboard
- * playground equipment
- * printing services

Please consider making an in-kind donation to the Community Child Care Center. As with financial contributions, your in-kind donations are also tax-deductible.

Junior League Funds Drumline

The Junior League of the Palm Beaches awarded a mini-grant to the Community Child Care Center on April 27, 2005 in the amount of \$2,500 for the purchase of drums for the Center's Drumline.

Approximately 25 children participate in the after-school club, using drums their instructor, Forest Jones, had brought from his own set.

"They use whatever we've got, even old buckets," Jones said. "This is a dream come true, to have a set of "real" drums!"

Children as young as 5 years old participate in the Drumline, which provides a safe, structured activity that exposes them to music and the arts. Studies have shown that enthusiasm for success in the arts will spill over into other areas, most importantly academics. Participation in the program is dependent upon their school attendance; if they don't go to school, they don't get to drum.



The CCCC Drumline's first public performance was during the 2004 Holiday Pageant, which was standing-room-only, and it brought every person in the building to their feet. (And that was with the borrowed drums!)

Be on the lookout for their next performance... you won't want to miss it!



Above, L-R: Junior League President-Elect Mary Reynolds, instructor Forest Jones, Curriculum Specialist Mary Lazier and Development Associate Jennifer Cox. Below and left: Forest Jones and the Drumline members give a memorable performance at the 2004 Holiday Pageant.

