



Ozanam
basketball
program

Newsletter



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

OZANAM, INC. Pittsburgh, PA

VOLUME 6

ISSUE: WINTER 2016

My O.Z.

Planting Seeds for Success

Written by: Margo Hinton



Margo Hinton

Ozanam is a training ground for greatness. When I think of Ozanam, I think of three things: My Coach, Mr. Kohlman and the Competition. I didn't realize it at the time, but these three forces came together to prepare me for success on and off the court.

My Coach

Mr. Rufus Brown also referred to as Big Daddy Ru was a 5 foot tall giant of a man. His love for the game was head and shoulders above anyone I'd ever met. Rufus coincidentally was

my grandfather's name, as well. I never knew my grandfather, but I imagined that Coach Rufus shared some of his qualities. Rufus could make you feel like you could do anything on the basketball court and in life. He had a way of pumping you up and criticizing you just enough to allow you to reach your full potential. He was a fast talker, a quick thinker and very much a comedian. I can still hear him yelling, "You're not tired! You're not tired! You just think you're tired!" His nickname for me was Gobot and he knew exactly which program to run to make me work. I'd like to thank my Ozanam coach Mr. Rufus Brown for planting seeds for success in me that I've passed on to the players I've coached for the past 25 years.

Mr. Carl Kohlman

Anyone who knows Ozanam knows Mr. Kohlman. I would consider Mr. Kohlman the Father of AAU basketball in the Pittsburgh area. Although, Mr. Kohlman had kids of his own, he managed to make every Ozanam athlete feel like part of his family. Mr. Kohlman was famous for the hoagie sale that helped families cut the cost of AAU travel expenses. I can still smell that Italian dressing. Mr. Kohlman was more than the Director of Ozanam. He was a Father figure and role model for every athlete that passed through Ozanam's doors. Thank you, Mr. Kohlman for your legacy of love that I carry with me when I teach young people today.

The Competition

If you grew up in Pittsburgh during the 1970's and 80's and considered yourself a Hooper or Baller (modern day vernacular), you got no respect until you proved yourself at Ozanam. The ETW Stars, the Archerettes and the Rockettes were the top three girls' basketball teams in the city of Pittsburgh. I played for Rufus and the Rockettes. Our colors were purple and gold. We were flashy just like our coach. The ETW Stars were an elite team coached by Eddie Wilson and his band of brothers. The Archerettes were coached by John Kinsel, a referee who once fouled me out in the first half of a city league game, just to prove a point. That's how intense the rivalry had become. The players that led these teams would parlay their summer league success into outstanding careers at the collegiate level.

Karen Hall went to play for UNLV. Lisa Falloon played at Penn State University and Dionne Morris took her talent to WVU. I have only named a few of the who's who of Ozanam basketball Hall of Famers. Names like Stacey Williams would put fear into the hearts

continued on page 4

DID YOU KNOW.....?

1. Ozanam alumnus Vaughn Luton, Cornell High School, was inducted into Robert Morris University Hall-of-Fame for his stellar collegiate basketball career.
2. Ozanam participants make college visits during the spring.
3. Three of Six Pittsburgh City League girls' basketball teams have either played, coached or both coached in Ozanam Alumni. The three are Pittsburgh Allderdice, Pittsburgh Westinghouse, and Obama International.

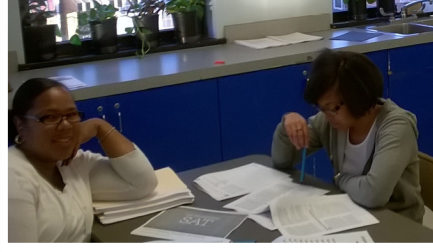


Ozanam alumnus Vaughn Luton

Ozanam Newsletter Page 2



Strength and Conditioning



SAT Prep Class



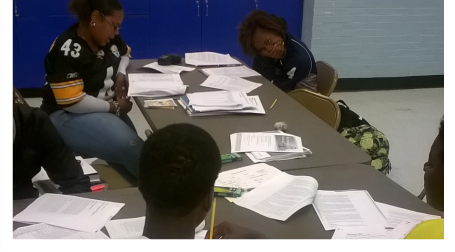
Dinner Program



Mayor with Coach Porter



Sponsorship of Hill District Football Jerseys



SAT Prep Class



High School Program Cross County Shootout



Mr. Vanucci volunteer Art Teacher



Pizza party with Dance Team

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb

19 - ASP field trip

23 - High School Basketball Spring League

29 - Black History Month Celebration

March

3 - SAT Prep Class

15 - Strength and Conditioning

25 - DC trip

April

7 - SAT Prep

Ozanam Board Members

Officers:

Milona Wall
Board President

Darelle Porter
Executive Director
Program Director

Karen Hall
Assistant Executive Director
Director of Communication
Girls Program Director

Diane Stotts
Executive Secretary
Clinical Transformation Consultant
Highmark Inc.

Members:

Howard Bullard
Former Administrator/Principal

Timothy Freeman
Director
Pittsburgh Millionaires/University Prep

Rahmon Hart
Director of Community Relations
Rivers Casino

Gary Schwager
Senior Investment Analytics Consultant
BNY Mellon

Ozanam Q.&A. With Timothy Freeman

Q. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A PART OF OZANAM?

A. *34 Years*

Q. WAS OZANAM A “GAME CHANGER” IN YOUR CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT?

A. *Most definitely. It was an escape from the streets of the Hill District. A place where we could go finish our homework. Use a computer if we didn't have one at home when most of us didn't have a calculator at home. It was a very holistic program that taught me so much. I learned the Lord's Prayer by saying it before every basketball game playing for Zonk 5 from 14-under on up. I learned that there were great players from all over the country because the incoming freshman for the local colleges and universities played OZANAM. I also learned there is a great big world outside of the Hill through traveling AAU with OZANAM.*

Q. WHAT IS YOUR ROLE WITH OZANAM TODAY?

A. *I sit on the Board of Directors.*

Q. OZANAM SPANS FOUR-DECADES, HOW HAVE YOU SEEN OZANAM GROW?

A. *I've lived and participated through what could be called the Golden Years of OZ because OZ was more than a place it was a culture of excellence. I believe that when it left the Hill and the games were played at Mellon some people lost the connection with OZ that Darelle Porter (Executive Director) and the board is slowly but surely bringing back to the area. OZANAM is a brand that everyone in western PA know and respect.*

Q. WHAT ARE MEMORIES THAT RESONATE WITH YOU ABOUT YOUR OZANAM EXPERIENCE?

A. *Just the lessons learned and the people you meet. I didn't know that Caucasians could really play and play well to where they are respected and remembered to this day all around the city. It also taught me about brotherhood and racial equality. Before OZANAM I didn't have Caucasian friends. Do you know how many meals Mr. and Mrs. Boris (Parents of OZ alums) served myself and Darelle? All the time we spent with alums Billy and Jules Caye? That would not have happen without OZANAM*

Q. HOW IMPORTANT IS THE CULTURE OF OZANAM TO A COMMUNITY IN TODAY'S CLIMATE?

A. *I think I mentioned it earlier it is very important. I believe it to be one of the most positive brands the city has ever had. It's important to let the families of not only the HILL know that OZ is alive and thriving but the rest of Western PA, because I guarantee that if a OZ alum see this newsletter they will want to help any way they can.*

Q. HOW UNIQUE DO YOU CONSIDER A BOARD MADE UP OF OZANAM ALUMNI?

A. *I believe that when you have a board made up of alumni then the best interest of OZANAM will always be the center of all decisions.*

Q. HOW DOES OZANAM DIFFER FROM THE OZANAM OF YESTERDAY?

A. *PlayStation and other video games. Most kids would rather sit in front of the TV and play basketball videos instead of going outside and pounding the blacktop.*

Q. WHAT SETS OZANAM APART FROM OTHER PROGRAMS IN PITTSBURGH AND NATIONWIDE?

A. *I don't know about the inner workings or traditions of other programs such as Kingsley center and Rucker Park in NY. The history of OZ is rich in integrity, competition, gamesmanship, and respect, so that is what I would say would and could set OZ apart from others.*

Q. HOW IMPORTANT ARE OZANAM ALUMNI?

A. *There are so many alum that have gone on to do great things locally and nationally. So having that network of brothers and sisters in to help continue to serve the children of Western PA is major.*

Q. WHAT DOES THE COMMUNITY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OZANAM?

A. *Word of mouth is usually the way we go about it along with the legendary OZANAM t-shirts that are in high demand. I also believe that local radio and press releases would help.*

Q. HOW CAN SOMEONE BECOME INVOLVED WITH OZANAM?

A. *People can share their talents and volunteer in various capacities. Visit: www.ozanamprogram.org*

Amon Hawthorn Q.&A.

HOW OLD ARE YOU? WHAT SCHOOL AND GRADE?

A. *7year, Liberty, 2nd Grade.*

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT ASP?

A. *Do your homework and eat a good meal.*

WHAT IS YOUR GRADE POINT AVERAGE?

A. *4.0*

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF THE ASP?

A. *Playing basketball on the basketball court and learning from Coach Fink*

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

A. *Go to college in New York*

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS AT SCHOOL? WHY?

A. *Math. I get to learn a lot of new things*

African American Facts:

The original *Pittsburgh Courier* was in circulation from 1907-1965. After circulation declined in the 1950 and 1960's, the original Pittsburgh Courier was purchased by John H. Sengstack in 1966. – He reorganized and renamed the paper – The New Pittsburgh Courier.

The Pittsburgh Heinz History Center will welcome anthropologist and author Yolanda Covington-Ward for a reading, discussion, and book signing “Gesture and Power: Religion, Nationalism, and Everyday Performance in Congo,” Saturday, February 13 1-3pm.

As a Philip Randolph was a trailblazer leader, organizer and social activist who championed equitable labor rights for African-American communities during the 20th century.

Nutritional Facts

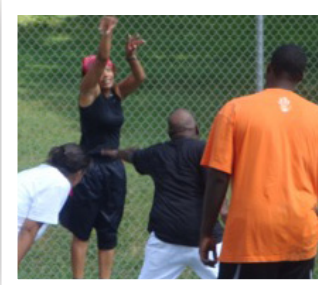
- One serving of broccoli has as much calcium as a serving of cottage cheese.
- American Heart Association recommendation for Physical Activity in kids is at least 60-minutes of moderate-to vigorous-intensity aerobic activity every day
- Children 9-18 need 3-cups of milk a day

Ozanam, Inc.
PO Box 99953 Pittsburgh, PA 15233
412.583.2249 www.ozanamprogram.org
ozanaminc@gmail.com
Darelle Porter, Executive Director
Program Director

My O.Z.

Planting Seeds for Success - continued from cover

of players before they even stepped on the court. Mary Vaughn, Joy Jeter, Jody Thorton, Carlita Jones, Felicia Young, Diane Walker, Lydia Womack, Kym Gilcrese, Joyce Beavers, Connie Hurt, Nika Williams and the list goes on and on and on of great players whose seeds for success were watered on the fertile grounds of Ozanam.



My teammates were Superstars who went on to have outstanding collegiate careers and ultimately were successful in life. I went to Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where I had a great career which culminated with a Hall of Fame Induction in 2002. I've been a teacher in the North Allegheny School District for twenty four years and I've been a basketball official for the last fourteen years. I'm an official for both basketball and lacrosse at the collegiate level. I'm a published author and overall I live a life that I love.

The lessons that I've learned from those years of competition at Ozanam are forever ingrained in my soul.

- At Ozanam, I learned the value of teamwork and how to communicate effectively to make others better.
- At Ozanam, I learned the benefits of hard work and commitment to the greater good.
- At Ozanam, I developed an internal drive and motivation that serves me well in life.

Ozanam helped me become the person that I am today. I not only owe a debt of gratitude to Rufus and Mr. Kohlman, but to every player, team, coach, spectator, referee and Ozanam staff member that nurtured me throughout my O.Z. experience.

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:

- History of Ozanam begins in 1969.
- Ozanam is committed to making a difference in the lives of the youth served and to enhance and enrich the quality of their lives.
- The Ozanam Youth Basketball Leadership (OYBL) Conference, one of many signature programs, is held late May.