



**Ozanam  
basketball  
program**

# Newsletter

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

OZANAM, INC. Pittsburgh, PA

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## Ozanam INC.

### MISSION

Our mission is to help the boys and girls of Western Pennsylvania develop into responsible young adults through positive developmental training, including educational programming, athletic competition, social and cultural activities and exchanges, academic support services, and music and arts development. We are committed to making a difference in the lives of the youth we serve and to enhance and enrich the quality of their lives.

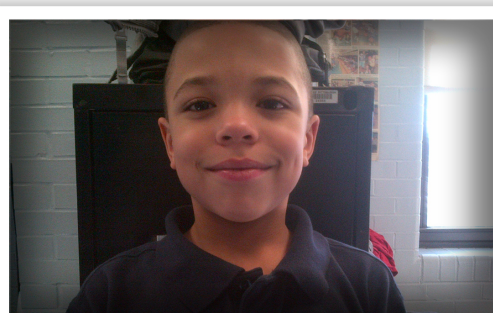
Ozanam takes pride in its staff of credible role models who grew up in the local neighborhood and have become successful. The staff works very diligently, under the direction of Curtis Cureton, Executive Director, to promote: great grades, great attendance, great citizenship, great sportsmanship, while striving for their goals.



## After School Program (ASP)

The Ozanam staff is passionate about assisting the youngsters as they prepare to become *Promise Ready*. This process is achieved with the help of Dr. Maria Townsend who is a University of Pittsburgh adjunct Professor specializing in program evaluation and President of Townsend Associates LLC. Dr. Townsend, Ph.D. and her GSPIA students, assist in our evaluation process to help Ozanam's after school program utilize data effectively and efficiently. We collect and analyze data on school and program attendance, grades, testing, and behavior.

Alvis Rodgers, Director of ASP, has noticed the benefits of the program and said "As the Director of the ASP for the past five years, I have seen the growth from the kids that we serve. I have witnessed the improvement in their study habits and grades. Along with the improvement of the grades, the kids have shown a great deal of self confidence and self-esteem. The kids understand the importance of having good study habits which leads to having good grades".



## Student Focus

Damien, who is 9 years old attends Miller Elementary School and is in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, has attended the Ozanam program for the past 3 years. He participates in both the after school program and summer learning program. Damien said, "I like attending the after school program because I feel safe the staff and tutors help me with my homework they check my homework and if I have the wrong answer they show me clues and examples that help me find the answer on my own". Damien enjoys many activities at Ozanam. His favorites are dodge ball and swimming lesson in the summer program. Damien also said, "I would like to do more arts and crafts at Ozanam".

Damien's mother, Tamara Boyd, is very pleased with the commitment and quality of the after school program and staff. She is very involved in her son's homework and knows when she is at work, Damien is safe, and he is doing his homework.

## African American Legends

Our program highlights the contributions of local African Americans who have paved the way. The ASP and the summer learning camp, led by Darelle Porter, engage in a variety of learning activities to enhance our student's knowledge of our rich heritage. Alma Speed Fox was one of our legends.

Mrs. Fox is a strong civil rights and women's rights activist. She has been involved with every march on Freedom Corner since the 1960's. Organizing demonstrations for the rights of jobs and service, she has paved the way for African Americans and women. Holding many offices and actively leading and participating in organizations promoting human rights, she has been: the Executive Director of the NAACP, Executive Vice-President of Freedom Unlimited, board member of Gwen's Girls, Equal Opportunity Managers for the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines, and the Pittsburgh Human Relations Commission, to name a few. Earning numerous awards and her name atop the NAACP building in the Hill District, Alma Speed Fox is our legend.

## Alumni Spotlight

### JON ROBERT J.R. HOLDEN

An Ozanam Alumni who played high-school basketball at Linsly Academy...played college basketball at Bucknell University (1994-98)...moved to Latvia for the 1998-99 season. Participant of the Beijing Olympics 2008, J.R. is the current President of Ten Inc. LLC and now resides in Michigan.

— [Jon-Robert Holden](#), *Blessed Footsteps: Memoirs of JR Holden*



Jon Robert Holden visits the Ozanam ASP



## High School Program

The Ozanam High School Program provides a safe haven for community youth that keeps participants busy and out of trouble. It allows Ozanam to focus on self-development which includes: basketball training, discipline, and life skills. The program also provides an opportunity for youth to be educated on various after High School options. Youth have the opportunity to engage with peer groups who are truly interested in their educational futures, by exposing them to guest speakers of various backgrounds and professions, and acquire facts on the Pittsburgh Promise Scholarship and --- educational options like the union trades. "The program also allows students to participate in community service projects, attend college visits, and provides a well-rounded experience that goes well beyond basketball training".

Darelle Porter: Ozanam Youth Program Director

Ozanam also works in conjunction with the Josh Gibson Foundation to provide service for Hill District youth.



## Board Member Profile:

Ruth Richardson is an active member of the Ozanam Advisory Board. She is the former Executive Director of Three Rivers Youth. Her many achievements include: Board of Directors of PA Council of Children's Agencies, Child Welfare League of America, YWCA of Pittsburgh, & Gwen's Girls. Ruth is listed in Who's Who of American Women, and received the Outstanding Alumni Award from George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University.

Ms. Richardson is devoted to the arts and community. She is on the Advisory Board of the Three Rivers Arts Festival Artist Market. Teaching a variety of art classes and workshops in the community, she has that passion for the arts. When asked why she joined the Ozanam board, Ms. Richardson said, "I joined the Ozanam advisory board because I believe in the mission. I was very much impressed with the leadership and dedication of Mr. Cureton. My entire career involved work with and for children, youth, and their families. I appreciate the opportunity to continue my commitment to the welfare of children and youth."

## Upcoming Events

March 18<sup>th</sup> Ozanam Attorney 3 on 3 Tournament & Reception

Summer League & Program Registration

April Quarterly Board Meeting (28<sup>th</sup>)

May 28, 2014 Ozanam Youth Leadership Conference & Summer League Registration Closed

## Thanks for your Support:

T.E.A.C.H.E.R.S., First National Bank, James Orie APOST, Department of Human Services, Duquesne University Learning Center, University of Pittsburgh, Willis Foundation, McGinley Foundation, Citiparks & BNY Mellon

## Ozanam Facts:

### Did you know?

- Ozanam served over 4000 dinners during 2012-13 after school program year.
- During the 2011-2012 school year over 70% of students regularly attending ASP had an increase in G.P.A.
- Ozanam provided 5,139 tutoring hours to students in 2012-2013.

**Ozanam, Inc.**  
**PO Box 99953 Pittsburgh, PA 15233**  
**412.389.4305 [www.ozanamprogram.org](http://www.ozanamprogram.org)**